

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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HOWARD ROCK WILL BE TUNDRA TIMES MILESTONE

As storm clouds south of Fairbanks began to gather over the Tanana Valley last Tuesday and ink out any evidence of another crisp and bright spring evening, it was unknown to many people that this was nature's overture to the passing of a great Alaskan.

Shortly before midnight, a close friend and a member of the family saw and heard the last labored breath of a man who struggled valiantly in a fatal combat against cancer. Fortunately it was a breath that climaxed a last and well deserved, restful period in his convalescence to final peace.

Although the cancerous infection took, bitter control of the small frame, the artist-humanist-editor always managed a slight smile to friends during visitations. It was a smile that familiarizes one with a voice that commanded attention. It was a transcending voice that led to the establishment of this paper.

It was a voice that spoke knowingly about the thoughts of the Native people in their continuing struggle to preserve a life that would approach a perfect balance between man, himself, and the land that he loved.

Howard Weyahok was a Rock. A solid Rock. He founded this newspaper in 1962, with the help of Dr. Henry S. Forbes of Milton, Mass., and Tom Snapp of Fairbanks, and others.

At the age of 51 when many others begin to lean on their oars and coast, Howard Rock started a whole new career, learning the newspaper business from Snapp, sailing into uncharted waters with what may have been the world's first newspaper published by an Eskimo.

But it was more than the voice of a lone Eskimo. Howard spoke for all the Natives-Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut alike. The Tundra Times spoke for the Pribilofians, for the Tyoneks, for the Tsimpsons, for the Athabascans, the Tingets, and the Haidas. It reached across the borders and spoke for the Eskimos in Canada and Greenland and Siberia.

Howard had a strong faith in the ability of the Native people. There was no question in his mind at any time that the Native people would make a success of the Native Claims Settlement Act to which he had devoted so much great personal energy. He observed with deep pride the varying activities of the Native corporations.

In his editorials he underlined this pride of the Native heritage and in the news columns appeared the events that chronicled the unfolding of the Native destiny.

In the early years of the Tundra Times when the paper ran out of money, Dr. Forbes sent more to bail it out. And then came the day which Howard dreaded. Dr. Forbes wrote that it was time the Tundra Times received its support from Alaskans.

Howard Rock, with the moral support of his board of directors, agreed that the paper had reached the end of its rope, but decided to tie a knot and hang on.

The paper continued to publish, continued to fight for the rights of the Natives. It fought long and hard for the land claims legislation—and, with the help of alot of people, both Native and non-Native, the Land Claims passed.

But the Tundra Times was in debt, deeply in debt. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner continued to print the paper in spite of the huge, almost insurmountable unpaid printing bill of nearly \$15,000.

A normal person would have given up. But not the Rock. Not Howard. He continued to work, to struggle, to seek new ways of raising money.

Again with the encouragement and hard work of the

(Continued on page 15)

Letters from Here and There

Howard Albert wins snowshoe races

April 14, 1976

Varina (Rose) Albert
209 Wickersham Hall, U of A
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Editor:

This spring is the third year in a row that Howard Albert, Age 18, from Ruby won the mens snow shoe race in Galena with the same pair of snowshoes that he has been borrowing from Harold Esmailka Sr.

Howard is the son of Phillip Albert Sr. Howard has always been an out door person, he quit school when he was a freshman in high school because he got bored and didn't want to live away from Ruby. When he went home in the middle of first semester Dad said son if you don't want to go to school your going to learn how to trap.

For the past few years Dad has been showing my brothers and sister the country. He showed them how tuff and how easy it is to live off the land and from past experience he taught them all that he knew about trapping, the first year they went out they caught 60 beaver and the next year their luck 200 martin.

Since the first time Dad took the boys out trapping, Howard started raising dogs he started out with his eight year old pet dog Yukon. His leader Darcy came from Emmet Peters famous leader Nugget. Darcy threw good pups, I'll say that about where Howard got started. He bought dogs from here and there and like all dog mushers he worked hard to feed and train them.

The first dog race Howard won was first place in the mens dog race in Ruby this spring. Billy Jr. from Ruby who has one of the best teams down there sure gave Howard good competition. Howard had the flu when he got in the dog race but that didn't keep him from getting in the snow shoe race which was right after the dog race. But to our surprise brother George who has been giving Howard good competition in running for the past few years didn't give Howard a chance in the snow shoe race he came in first and left Howard to come in second.

Today so many of the young people show a great interest in dog mushing and other out door activities in Ruby. Which I think is farout.

Sincerely yours,
Varina Rose Albert

PLU student finds TT a million dollar link with home

Xavier - Box 237
Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, Wa. 98447
April 19, 1976

Dear Howard:

The Tundra Times newspapers have been my million-dollar link with home since I have been away at school. I just wanted to write and express my delight at

receiving the new-filled papers. The Tundra Times brings back fond memories of my long gone association with the newspaper. How time has flown!

I am most anxious to return home for good. Being "Outside" has made me appreciate Alaska for the incomparable state that it is.

I commend your newspaper. It outdoes the Nome Nugget any day in delivering significant news about my fellow Alaskans. I hope Nome does not think my loyalty is misdirected. We all have our favorites!

Sincerely,
Mary Keller

A special thanks to the staff of Bassett hospital

April 22, 1976

Col. William L. Martin
Post Commander Fort Wainwright
Fairbanks, Alaska 99703

Dear Sir:

We would like to thank you for the fine, professional treatment given by the staff of Bassett Hospital to Tundra Times Editor Howard Rock, and for the unusual compassion these people showed.

With sincere appreciation,
Family and Friends of Howard Rock

Limited entry question discussed

OLD HARBOR COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE LIMITED ENTRY
P.O. Box 109
Old Harbor, Alaska 99743

Dear Fellow Alaskans:

We, the Committee to Preserve Limited Entry, consisting of one hundred twenty fishermen, born and raised in the State of Alaska, who live year round in the city of Old Harbor, who's main income consists of salmon fishing, are trying to stop the repeal of Limited Entry for the reasons understated.

As it is well noted that Kodiak Island, and other regions as well, have in the past several years had a sharp decline in the Salmon catch. It seems most strange that people should want more boats and more gear coming into Alaska. Do they want to kill the salmon off completely? As it is, and the way it's going, we will have to take pictures of the salmon to show our grand children what we caught for a living.

It is said that only a few fishermen want to keep Limited Entry so they can control the industry, this is NOT so. These men are trying to preserve a dying industry. An industry that made Alaska the great state it is. It will most certainly die if not for some type of control.

If it is not controlled by Limited Entry, the fish and game will have to step in and control it by closing certain areas and then limiting the

fishing time to a couple days and then just a few hours. We have seen this happen in other regions where there are too many units of gear, thus creating a heavy burden on the tax payers of Alaska, who will have to subsidize the many fishermen and their families who's main income is the salmon fishing by Welfare. Money, that could well be used on education, roads, and building a better Alaska, will have to be spent on welfare recipients who have had a poor salmon season due to too many boats, to much gear, and not enough fish.

We do not want this to happen, but if we open our eyes to a few years ahead this could most certainly be a reality if the present law is repealed.

We do not want welfare, we do not want to be a burden to the tax payers. We want to hold our heads high and be proud that we are sons of fishermen, and want to make our living as our forefathers have.

We know from fact that there are many outside fishermen waiting to come to Alaska to fish if it is repealed to take from the state a part of it, to take it's fish, it's money, and it's heritage, leaving nothing.

On the bad years they will not come, they will instead stay home and stay with their present jobs and businesses or just vacation, as many are in it for monetary gains only and will come in the big years such as the one forth coming. They don't spend their money here, they don't raise their children here, they couldn't care less if we the year round Alaskan lives or starves, as long as they can come and take what they can, then go to the south and live good during the cold winter months. They are not concerned about building up a dying Alaskan industry back to what it once was.

When the salmon industry does once again regain it's strength by Limited Entry and other means of restoration, we can foresee allowing more permits to those who want to fish here in Alaska.

People are mislead to believe that the younger people who want to fish can't and their sons won't be able to fish because of limited entry. There will be no industry for younger fishermen

to get into.

Our sport fishing and tourism industry will die if the law is repealed and the law closes the streams to sport fishing due to over harvesting.

Fellow Alaskans, we urge you to open your eyes to the matter before you. It is a serious one and can affect the lives of many Alaskans and the future of our children of Alaska.

We are not a political organization nor do we receive funds to campaign on political matters. We are a group of Alaskan fishermen dedicated to preserve the economy and the heritage of a dying industry in Alaska.

OLD HARBOR COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE LIMITED ENTRY

Ron Berntsen, Chairman