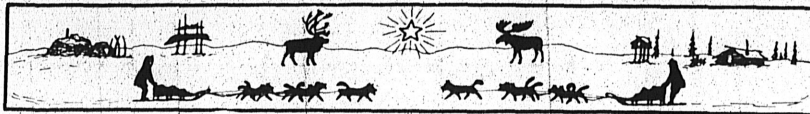


Inupiat Pitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktang The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

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Fairbanks, Alaska

SOS GETS GRANT FOR MILLION



LEAVING ON A JET PLANE at 5 a.m. Sunday for the 8th Annual Festival of American Folk Life in Washington, D.C. were four top Alaska Native athletes with Laura Bergt of Fairbanks. The gentlemen, from left, are Rober Kunuyak, a former Diomedes resident now of Fairbanks, Reggie Joule, Kotzebue; Lester Bodfish, Wainwright and Freddie Titus, Minto. The four will demonstrate Native games at the festival, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution.

— Photo by MARGIE BAUMAN

Gruening Man of Talents, Ideals

By MARGIE BAUMAN

"Ever since Nixon took office, the war has gone on with increased fury," shouted Ernest Gruening. "Twenty thousand more of our boys have been killed."

His voice reached out in the chilly spring morning across the Anchorage park green, to a youthful crowd clothed mostly in blue jeans and fatigue gear; a crowd who turned out in the drizzly overcast day to protest with the former U.S. Senator the war in Vietnam.

Hands stuffed in the pockets of a black trenchcoat; the 85-year-old statesman stood hatless, challenging the young people to support the one man who "would end the war without any ifs, ands or buts," — U.S. Senator George McGovern of South Dakota.

It was mid-day, 1972 and the grand old man of America's last frontier was speaking out as strongly as ever against the Vietnam war. It was that stand back in 1968 that cost Gruening his U.S. Senator post, at the hands of fellow Democrat Mike Gravel, at that time no dove on the war.

It was, but one of a number of unpopular causes that the 87-year-old statesman took on in his lifetime — a lifetime ended June 27, when former Senator and Governor of Alaska Ernest Gruening died of cancer in Washington, D.C. Dorothy Elizabeth Smith Gruening, his wife of nearly 60 years, was at his side when death came and she was joined quickly by Senator McGovern, who stayed to talk with her for the next hour.

In the nation's capital Monday, July 1, Gruening's family and friends gathered to eulogize Gruening for his lifetime of battles in the interest of social justice for mankind.

"As time passes, we can hope that Ernest Gruening will energize new generations to reject wars as their number one priority and to rejoin the human race," said U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

"Alaskans are proud of this great man who was yours and who was ours..." Alaska Gov. William A. Egan told the family and friends of Senator Gruening gathered at Washington National Cathedral. "We will always remember that from the day he came to Alaska, things changed. From the day he came to Alaska, attitudes changed. That was the kind of man he was."

They changed, the attitudes — but some of them not without a fight. As governor of Alaska for nearly 14 years, Gruening established a significant track record in the field of civil rights.

Significant to Alaska's Native peoples are his many battles in their behalf — including the equal treatment bill, sponsored by Gruening, which became the law of Alaska in 1945. The bill forbade discrimination in any public establishment on the basis of race, creed or color. It made such discrimination a misdemeanor punishable by fine and/or imprisonment. As he put it in his message to the Legislature that session:

"First let us live up, at home, to the principles for which American boys of every race, creed and color are giving all they have. Let us get rid of the soul-searing race discriminations in our midst to the extent that we can do it by legislative action," he said.

When he wasn't studying legislation, battling for statehood, writing books or speaking, Gruening was always busy in other endeavors, for he was a

man much ahead of his time. He was one of the first persons to advocate statehood, to call for land planning in Alaska and to cry out for a highway route to Alaska before World War II had begun.

Born in New York City Feb. 6, 1887, Gruening graduated from Hotchkiss School in 1903, Harvard College in 1907 and Harvard Medical School in 1912. He left medicine to become a journalist and went on to become managing editor of "The Nation" magazine from 1920-23, before taking on the national publicity director's job in the LaFollette Progressive Presidential campaign of 1924. He founded the Portland (Maine) Evening News in 1927 and served as its editor until 1932; then briefly as editor of the New York Evening Post.

In 1933, Gruening was appointed advisor to the U.S. delegation to the Seventh Inter-American Conference at Montevideo, where the "Good Neighbor" policy for Latin America was established. In 1934, he was named director of the Division of Territories and Island Possessions of the Department of Interior, serving there until his appointment as governor of Alaska in 1939.

Gruening came to Alaska with his wife in that year.

The Gruenings had three sons — Ernest Jr., Peter Brown and Huntington Sanders Gruening. Only one son, Huntington, survives. One of his sons, Clark, practices law in Anchorage with Stanley McCutcheon, long-time friend of the senator.

Gruening was reappointed, twice as Alaska governor, serving until 1953. In 1956, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, then re-elected in 1958 and 1962.

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Extra Funds to Assist Rural Native Students

By BETZI WOODMAN

ANCHORAGE — A grant of \$1,112,268 will be awarded the State-Operated School System (SOS) for the next fiscal year under the Indian Education Act. The amount is about \$300,000 more than the district received last school year and is some \$140,000 more than anticipated.

The funds will be used to improve educational opportunities and experiences of rural students. There are about 5,700 Native students within the organized borough, according to SOS.

Cooperative efforts of school staff, community members, advisory school boards and Native organizations determine at the local level what specific methods will be used to develop programs under the Act.

This total community involvement has been one of the program's biggest assets, says Elmer Yazzie, chairman of both the statewide Indian Education Parent Committee and the Glennallen Parent Committee. "In Glennallen we have seen greatly improved communication between the school boards and the community," he says.

"We had to make our own Indian Education Parent Committee in the region, so everyone

had to be involved.

"The program has allowed us to work together to solve common problems and each others' problems and we are inspired by each other when things go well."

Funds are allocated to the district on a per capita student basis, but it is the role of each regional Indian Education Committee to look at the educational priorities determined by each community, to identify objectives shared by all — which then become regional objectives — and then to allocate the regional funds to the various communities.

The eight regional coordinators with the program met in Anchorage last week to evaluate progress to this time and to figure out future needs.

A late starting date for the district's program this past school year was the cause for many local programs being at differing

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Anaktuvuk Pass Wired, but— Residents Are Overpowered

By LAEL MORGAN

Anaktuvuk Pass, an isolated little village in the Brooks Range, enjoyed the luxury of electricity just long enough to miss it.

It happened a couple of months ago when, with due ceremony, the North Slope Borough installed a generator and everyone got "wired."

"We enjoyed electric power about five days but it was kind of funny," recalls one resident. "Refrigerators didn't seem to run right and when we plugged in the movie projector, the sound was slow. We stepped up the generator to make the sound work but then the light bulbs blew. I don't think that generator was ever right."

Finally everything blew and the machine died a violent death, taking with it most of the radios and tape decks in the village.

"We're thinking of suing the borough or maybe the electric company," considers Riley Morry who was representing Anaktuvuk for the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation in Barrow at the time.

"That generator was supposed to be producing 120 volts and I heard it went out producing 5,000!"

The borough duly sent a man to repair the generator but nothing much happened.

"He took a couple of parts off it and seemed pretty upset. Just got on the plane. Never said goodbye to anyone," a villager reports. "It's been a couple of months now and we haven't heard anything."

No one's particularly worried about the lack of electricity at the moment. They've done without

electricity in that country for several hundred years already and, after all, there's sunshine all night long, so who needs operating light bulbs?

But all those electric washing machines and ice boxes purchased in anticipation of electric power are a sore point with villagers. And they surely could use a little electric light to help them through those long winter nights.