

LETTERS FROM HERE AND THERE

Newtok, Alaska 99559
January 7, 1972

Mr. Richard P. Birchell
Superintendent
Bethel Agency
P.O. Box 347
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Dear Mr. Birchell:

We have noticed that every teacher teaching in Newtok is overworked. Beside having to teach they have to stand by the radio for RCA and do a lot of paperwork after classes. This usually takes up most of their free time and weekends. Most of this paperwork lasts until one or two o'clock in the morning. This is very tiring.

Teachers do not do a good job of teaching when they are very tired and sleepy. This is of course not the teachers fault because the Bureau of Indian Affairs gives top priority to this paperwork and second priority to what is happening in the classes. Most of this paperwork does not concern the students they teach, but concerns personnel, plant management, supplies, communication etc., etc.

These teachers should be able to spend more time with their own students, making lesson plans, and other classroom duties. A clerk-typist employed in the school here, would make this possible.

Because of these reasons, and many more, the Advisory School Board of Newtok makes the following recommendation. We suggest that the Bureau of Indian Affairs make every possible effort to find a way to hire a part-time clerk for the Newtok school.

We would appreciate hearing from you concerning this matter.

/s/ John Charles
Recorder
For Newtok Advisory School Board

cc: Tundra Times

Box 314
Eielson AFB, Alaska

Dear Friend Howard the Editor:

Friday Nov. 5th someone heard a message for me to come to work here. So next day I brought by sno-go in the house, grab my screw driver, pliers, and hammer, my bread and butter, and chartered Galena Air Service for Galena.

Sunday I came to Fairbanks with Tanana Air Taxi. Next day Nov. 8 I went to work.

So now December 23rd, I had Christmas spirit, I decided to visit Nulato and see how everything was around my house. I was out to International Airport 6:30 a.m. Bought my ticket at Wien's desk. To my surprise I was pushed in Tanana Air Taxi 7-place plane and cramped behind seat with my knees up to my chin.

When we arrived at Galena terminal, all the students going for Christmas was there. Bad weather—icing.

Next morning, and every morning for three days, 7 a.m. was sleeting, that's half rain. So the poor students didn't get home till after Christmas on Sunday.

I asked the station manager if Wien were supposed to pay for

our lodging. He just laughed at me. There were times we could have made it, but there were couple of minor accidents I heard, on account of this.

Instead of using skis now, they're using wheels in winter time. How could you land on the river in case of emergency with wheels?

I got in overflow below Koyukuk 12-16 inches of water and they're working almost 24 hours a day trying to keep these runway clear, and as long as the wind is blowing, it's a hard thing to do.

This is the reason, I heard that they had minor accidents.

Airlines and state they're getting out of line. It should be against the law to fly winter time with wheels. I remember 1937 or 1938, somewhere in there, when Pan American was flying the Pilgrim with Bill Knox pilot, Fred Milligan and Johnny Anderson, mailman.

One winter Bill Knox never missed a day all winter. How I remember so well. I helped him to change from skis to wheels at Nulato going to Nome and changed them to skis for Nenana.

Although we had our midnight mass at Galena, I missed, and lost my Christmas spirit, no organ no singing Christmas carols. So in order to get my spirit back, I borrowed a tape recorder and sang a few songs and took it to Nulato day after Christmas.

When I was, or started to go to school I learned Latin, I used to answer the priest in Latin, sing all through the mass in Latin. I bet I could go through the whole mass in Latin, how they changed everything.

I go to mass now I'm lost. I sit or kneel, stand, I couldn't find the page, then I put the book away, thinking how things are changing. I just sit there like a bump on a log, lost in church.

Goodbye Howard Rock and I hope God bless us.

—FRED STICKMAN, SR.

Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives

Letter to the Editor:

It has been alleged that there is possible administrative action pending by the U.S. Department of the Interior to close Mt. McKinley Park to private vehicles (cars, pickups, etc.). On January 13, 1972 I introduced House Joint Resolution No. 81 opposing this action.

If this action is taken, Alaskans and Alaska's ever increasing numbers of tourists will be deprived of being able to explore the park at their leisure. It is my thinking that the park has not experienced any traffic problems due to persons being able to enjoy the flora and fauna in the park in their own vehicles and none is expected in the foreseeable future.

All visitors to this magnificent park should have the opportunity of exploring and witnessing the many natural phenomena to be found there at their own pace. It is my sincere belief that the alternative, that of taking conducted tours through the park on a group basis, is an undesirable and unnecessary one.

I would appreciate receiving comments from all interested Alaskans.

Sincerely,
/s/ Leslie E. Swanson, Rep.
House District 15
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801