

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

# Tundra Times



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Wednesdays.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99707. Telephone 452-2244.

Second class postage paid at Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors, Executive Committee: Howard Rock, President and Chairman of the Board; Chris Anderson, Executive Vice President; Elfrieda Kushida, First Vice President; Daphne Gustafson, Second Vice President; James Immel, Treasurer; Mary Jane Fate, Secretary; HOWARD ROCK, Editor.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regular Mail (Including Alaska, Canada and other states) .....	1 Year \$10.00	6 Months \$ 5.50
Air Mail (Including Alaska, Canada and other states) .....	1 Year \$21.00	6 Months \$12.00

Member of the American Indian Press Association

## Editorial Comment—

# Natives' Knowledge of Their Lands Is Vital

Alaskan Natives at long last seem to have put their feet in the door, so to speak, as far as their knowledge of their environments are concerned. They will be given a chance to have their input in the operation of at least one United States agency. We will comment further on this in the editorial.

Through the years in the past, it became downright discouraging when the powers that be refuse to recognize the Alaskan Natives' knowledge of their lands — who know their areas intimately through centuries of give and take in a country that is, and has been, severe, dangerous and inhospitable. This land has been a testing area where stout hearts and persevering souls had grappled endlessly from times immemorial to wrest ways of life best suited to enable the Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts to learn to live in harmony with their grudging environments. They have done this very well indeed and thereof lays the rich knowledge of what the land is all about.

This is an important fact that should be tapped to further understandings in plans for the future. Insights can be gained for great deal better approaches in efforts to perpetuate rich resources such as Alaska's unequalled animal heritage so all can benefit far into the future. There are land uses that need to be settled so we ourselves and those in the future can be secure in the use of our lands. This, we believe, can be attained to the best possible extent by consultations and inputs by our Native citizens. Technical knowledge alone from Washington or elsewhere cannot begin to solve everything. This is a common knowledge judging from past mistakes in approaches to problems emanating from, more or less, sub-tropical Washington.

Look at the efforts to solve the miserable housing situation in Alaska. Designs for dwellings have been assigned firms situated in southern states by people who have no knowledge how severe Alaskan climate can be. They invariably produce dwellings that would work well in the southern states.

When these houses arrive in the Arctic areas and put to use, they have always proved to be almost useless. This is money going straight down the drain. From here on, why not involve Alaskans, both White and Native, in the designs and constructions of dwellings because Alaskans know how to build them.

Along this line, although it does not concern housing, there is a promising idea at long last that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is beginning to move to utilize some Native individuals' knowledge of game situations within the state. With its considerable expertise FWS has gained through the years of its operation in the State of Alaska, this step should be a definite plus to wisely administer its vast responsibilities within its agency's assignments. It could not help but give that entity the nod of approval from the Native people. We hope that FWS will persevere forward and continue to tap the good knowledge of Native folks in the way of environmental matters. Setting a good example in this venture can be a vast step toward getting things done for the good of all Alaskans.

—H.R.

# Letters from Here and There

## BSNC Backs Replacement of North Star III

Bering Straits Native Corporation  
P.O. Box 1008  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
February 27, 1975

Mr. Morris Thompson  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20245

Dear Commissioner Thompson,  
The Bering Straits Native Corporation would like to indicate its strong support for the acquisition of a new vessel to replace the BIA Ship the North Star. In this time of sky-rocketing inflation and rapidly increasing village supply requirements, the North Star provides the only feasible alternative to expensive small scale air freight. In fact, given the condition of most bush air strips in our area, a great many of the most necessary types of improvements in the villages cannot be effected without marine service such as that provided by the North Star. We would like to urge your immediate attention to arrangements for replacing the ship in view of its currently expected 4 to 6 years of remaining useful life. Should hearings be held on the needs of villages in North Western Alaska for marine transport service, we would like to request that you provide us with adequate advance notice for a complete presentation of our views on this matter.

Sincerely yours,  
Jerome Trigg, President  
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION

cc: Secretary Morton, Senator Mike Gravel, Senator Ted Stevens, Clarence Antioquia, Governor Hammond, Seattle Times, Tundra Drums, Kotzebue News, Tundra Times, Mr. Roger Lang, Representative Don Young, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Arctic Slope Regional Corp., NANA Regional Corp., Calista Corp., Aleut Corp., David Jolly, BIA; Don Dorsey, ANICA.

## Wilderness Society Against Easements

The Wilderness Society  
1901 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
March 14, 1975

Honorable Rogers C.B. Morton  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:  
The Wilderness Society is deeply disturbed by current activities of your Department regarding the reservation of corridors and easements in the State of Alaska for a wide variety of so-called public purposes. We are particularly disturbed by: 1) The apparent rush to withdraw transportation corridors crisscrossing the State designed primarily to benefit the oil industry; 2) The apparent disregard, in this action, of your December 18, 1973 recommendations to Congress on

the "d-2" areas; 3) the obvious attempts to thwart the granting of free and unencumbered land title to Alaskan natives; and 4) The lack of public review of your transportation corridor and easement proposals, disregarding the national interest in the public lands of Alaska.

While the Wilderness Society would support an easement program designed to assure public access to future land dedications pursuant to Section 17(d) (2) of ANCSA; public access to existing units of the National Park and National Wildlife Refuge Systems; easements along major navigable rivers; and withdrawals along rivers containing potential wildlife and scenic river values, we simply cannot support your present plan of massive transportation corridor withdrawals and easements within Native village land selections.

In our view, your corridor proposals violate the intent and purpose of ANCSA (which is, after all, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) by casting a shadow over lands selected by Alaskan Natives that needlessly delay their entitlement. This proposal also frustrates the land selection rights of the State of Alaska; and breaches your own "d-2" recommendations, thus, frustrating Congressional consideration of them. In addition, the absence of a draft environmental impact statement on these major Federal actions clearly indicates your unwillingness to provide proper public review of this undertaking.

We do not view selected field hearings in Alaska as meeting the requirement of full public disclosure of this ill-conceived plan. The American public at large has a stake in Alaska's future and must be asked to comment not only in response to announcements in the Federal Register and by the Department but at scheduled public hearings throughout the country. Ample time for public review of the corridor and easement plan, as announced, must be provided.

In summary, The Wilderness Society urges you to call a halt to this plan as not being in the public interest. We also urge you to act post-haste to assign title to Native village selections which are already three months past due, reserving easements on Native lands only where needed to provide public access to existing and proposed national parks and national wildlife refuges; along navigable and potential wild and scenic rivers; and in selective areas where public safety might be an important factor.

Sincerely,  
Harry B. Crandell  
Director of Wilderness Reviews.

## Schizophrenic: Some Rural Spokesmen

SRA-BOX 156  
Palmer, Alaska 99645  
March 20, 1975

Dear Mr. Rock:  
My check for renewal is enclosed. I find the Tundra Times continues to provide a commendable communications service by covering people and a vast area of our state which our major daily papers care to acknowledge only as some unfamiliar actors on a remote stage.

With some trepidation I would

like to comment on what appears to be schizophrenic behavior on the part of some rural spokesmen. Roads into present roadless areas are challenged for the social, environmental and economic impact they will have on a community. Such a healthy skepticism to roads is to be admired. However, what response there may be roads somehow fails to appear when the subject of communications, particularly television, is brought up. The systematized operations of television has an impact on a community which runs far deeper and is far more pervasive than roads.

I would wonder if "Sesame Street" is any less culturally and socially irrelevant and erosive than the "Dick and Jane" readers of years gone by.

Television is essentially a one way medium, but an ever present one, once it arrives in a

(Continued on Page 11)

## A Book Review—Great Upon The Mountain

CRAZY HORSE  
VISIONARY, WARRIOR,  
HERO, REVEALED IN NEW  
BIOGRAPHY

They called him "The Strange One." His mystical visions foretold the coming of automobiles and airplanes 100 years before their invention.

His mystical "shield" in battle helped him rally his people to overcome hopeless odds at the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

Crazy Horse, the extraordinary Sioux leader, is portrayed by Vinson Brown in GREAT UPON THE MOUNTAIN ( Macmillan, March 24), not a traditional biography of facts and dates, but a study of a charismatic leader.

At 15 Crazy Horse had his first vision, foreseeing the decline of the tribal system and the ultimate union of all men. He saw himself leading his braves through a hail of bullets and his death at the hands of the Indians whom he had spent his life defending. He also foresaw himself entangled in a forbidden love affair.

Brown's narrative weaves together fact and legend to illuminate the life and traditions of a doomed Indian nation. There are glimpses into the mystical practices of the Sioux such as "seeing" in darkness. Descriptions of buffalo hunts, religious ceremonies, initiations and marital customs further reveal the complex and beautiful Indian culture.

Today, sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski is carving a likeness of Crazy Horse atop a wild stallion into the Black Hills of South Dakota. The 30-year project, scheduled for completion in 1977, will be the largest statue (563 feet) in the world, a monument to his historic man... and right in the heart of land stolen from the Indians.

Vinson Brown is a writer, naturalist and keen student of the Indians of America. He has published over 20 books on wildlife, plants and the American Indian and holds a master's degree in biology from Stanford University.

GREAT UPON THE MOUNTAIN  
The Story of Crazy Horse,  
Legendary Mystic and Warrior  
By Vinson Brown  
\$5.95

Publication Date: March 24, 1975.