

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

Tundra Times

'The Little Red Schoolhouse' ...



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

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Telephone 452-2244.

Entered at the Post Office at Fairbanks, Alaska, as second class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mary Jane Fate, assistant secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$ 8.00	6 Months \$ 4.50
Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$19.00	6 Months \$10.00

Editorial— What Could Happen If Freeze Is Lifted

U.S. District Court Judge James A. Von Der Heydt's ruling that orders the Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall to lift the land freeze in Alaska was understandably jolting to the native leaders who saw it as a threat to lands around native settlements in Alaska.

If the ruling is binding, we see dangers to the native people's lands they traditionally used and occupied because the lifting of the land freeze would allow the state to select lands possibly before the land claims settlement is affected by Congress. In such an eventuality, the state would bear watching as to the procedures it would follow in selecting lands.

The native leaders had learned by experience that the state land selection program can threaten land areas where the native people traditionally used them for sustenance to support their villages. This was proven where the village of Minto near Fairbanks was concerned.

Back about 1962, oil companies filed for oil leases in the Minto and Nenana areas and soon thereafter, oil speculators got into action. The state also began to make plans to withdraw land. Some tracts of land were blocked out and some of these proved to be in the Minto land claim area. Some of these tracts were in the process of being tentatively approved for title by the Department of the Interior's Fairbanks District Bureau of Land Management. There had been little or no consultation with the people of Minto prior to the attempted land withdrawal in the area where the Minto people claimed land.

The Minto people had to make a new claim to lands they traditionally used for support of their village because two prior claims were either inaccurately drawn up and one was lost either in Juneau or Washington, D. C. Thus the land assertion by Minto people with which they asked hearings but which they never got. Subsequently, other land assertions followed. The state in fact, by its land withdrawal tactics, triggered the imposition of the land freeze by the Interior Department.

Judge Von Der Heydt's action leads us to believe that a high level conference be held with the participation of the Alaska Federation of Natives, the state, and the Interior Department. The conference should discuss guidelines to protect the lands traditionally used by the native people of Alaska. The meeting should certainly take place if the Judge's order will be binding to have Secretary Udall lift the freeze.

If it is to be, there should be a policy by the state to fully consult with the native people as to the areas of land the state wishes to withdraw. This is no idle wish. Perhaps a watchdog committee should be established. The protection of the lands that had been extremely vital to the native people from time immemorial is a profound need if fairness is to prevail.

On the day following Labor Day, a unique and brilliantly constructed educational program will be initiated into rural free delivery area routes ala Alaskan style, for the young Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts are the "grass roots of Alaska" and the education that will be afforded them when their schoolbell rings will feed them the plant food necessary to grow into the melting-pot trees that nourish the heritage of America.

This innovation in comprehensive education is being conducted by the University of Alaska's Rural School Project

Poem— ... And His Anglo-Saxon Name Is Owen

His smile is constant
His manner vivacious
He sells papers with charm
And a pitch boy-like gracious
He stands tall for twelve
And he's straight as an arrow
He was born in Nome
Or was it Point Barrow?

He's the official newsboy
Of the TIMES known as
TUNDRA

He's still very young
And brim-filled with wonder.
He talks with coherence
And still runs each mile
With the passion for living
He's loving and learning
All this without guile.

He's a lifeblood example of
a native child
Though Western-school taught
Still draws his polar bears
Caribou and Kayaks
with crayons and paper
From his earnings, store bought.

Yes, our Ahlouahnak's exquisite
And I smile with delight
As I picture him bravely
Horse-seated: A KNIGHT?

So see, even me
Doesn't know the equivalent
of Eskimo's brave men's
Right namer: ambivalent?

To say "valoir" Owen
Is French for value AND
Rhymes for the premise OF
Our "TUNDRA TIMES."

—DARCY LEWIS

LETTERS to EDITOR

Anchorage, Alaska
720 E. St.

Dear Editor:

Just finished reading your report and photos of my home town people when Allen Rock killed a whale. How I wished I was there, too. And thinking of the delicious muktuk they will have for the year.

I have told many of my friends here about it and many of them want to buy the August issue in "Alaska Sportsman" Magazine.

I have sold my drawings of the way the whale is harpooned. My misfortune that I'm not a whaler too like my dad or the other men that have whaling crew. But I wish them all good whaling in the future, too.

Hope to see you around town in the near future or hoping to make a trip to Fairbanks someday and see your Tundra Times office.

Yours truly,
Eugene Killigivuk

in cooperation with the Alaska State Dept. of Education, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory.

Seventeen Alaska village teachers representing BIA and state-operated schools will be teaching approximately 200 Eskimo, Indian and Aleut primary grade youngsters.

The field testing teachers and sites have been carefully selected and intensively researched. The teachers, from all over the states, are experienced Alaskan teachers who have been undergoing fully oriented training programs to better handle this important FIRST!

The author of "THE ALASKAN READERS," which is the blanket title for this new format of educational material, is Virginia W. Jones, Asst. Prof. of Education at the State University of N. Y. in Oswego.

The coordinator is Dr. Robert B. Rath of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory in Portland, Oregon and the illustrator of these books is Mr. James M. Henry, Jr., a teacher at the Alaskan village of Ekwok (pronounced EEK-wock).

"THE ALASKAN READERS" have been produced in limited numbers at the Laboratory headquarters; limited because for this year, they are to be a "revision after trial" endeavor and since this is a FIELD TEST program, only a limited number of Alaskan schools will be involved.

As a result of this system, their effectiveness will be measured and needed revisions can then be made.

After the initial "testing period," the "READERS" will be available for more general use in Alaskan schools.

In order for young people to know just what school is all about, they must be able to ask questions and be answered properly to evoke the curiosity of knowledge and provoke its means of attainment.

Since a common denominator of learning is the art of communication, we have needed to get to the "nitty gritty" of their pulse beat; their environment of familiarity.

Conditioned reflex is the primary basis from which we absorb the learnings in life and to expose the American methodology system of schooling to these little and culturally different Eskimo, Indian and Aleut children would be as uncomfortable and difficult as our being confronted with their natal culture.

We have, in the lower '48, all known and loved Mickey, the mouse...we romped with Rover, the dog and mimicked Donald, the duck.

We would be assinine in our ignorance if our cherished States' educators confronted us with Tutu, the caribou (pronounced Too-Too), Sisoaq, the Beluga whale (pronounced Sis-Sawk...and silently questioning "who is Ahlouahnak, the official "TUNDRA TIMES" newsboy (pronounced Ah-Roo-Ah-Knock)?

These names were not the stuff our dreams were made of, but they are the stuff that the young and impressionable natives play with, speak about and live with.

And so with this understanding of the problem, the Alaskan Rural School Project will set forth this next week of opening classes in the grass roots area-ready, willing and very able

to teach on a "meeting ground" level and they will do just that... teach the young children!

The Western culturally-oriented methodology will be replaced by the ingenious "ALASKAN READERS" and the native children will be taught that the reason it is important to speak and read and write in English is because to achieve, one must learn to succeed in knowing how to achieve, and comprehensive education is "the staff of life" in accomplishing this.

Mickey, Rover and Donald will be replaced by Tutu, Sisoaq and Ahlouahnak.

To enable students to progress at their own pace, 12 separate readers and workbooks have been developed for use in primary grades. Drawings and stories for the series will be based on the Alaskan way of life as they know it!

The first three levels of "THE ALASKAN READERS" are completed and the fourth level will be ready by Christmas. Can there be any better Christmas present than this method of reaching out to the hearts and minds of these young native children?

These books will be used to approach the language barrier (many natives and their young ones DO NOT SPEAK ENGLISH) between the educator and the student with total concentration on hearing, speaking, reading and writing.

We have all asked ourselves "what can we do to decrease and eventually eliminate the American problem of "school dropouts"?"

I believe that there would be a tremendous improvement in this situation if all educators and students could find their individual common denominator of "conditioned reflex" environmental familiarities.

This "NECESSARY FOR UNDERSTANDING THROUGH THE ART OF COMMUNICATION" should receive top priority if we are to have a functioning world.

I want to express my admiration for the University of Alaska's Rural School Project, its researchers, its entire staff and all and any persons instrumental with its being!

I am pleased to learn that "THE ALASKAN READERS" has been born! Perhaps, it will de-cleavage-ize the generation gap! It may even create new and never-heard-of-before talents and resources!

At any rate, it makes me proud to be living here during its birth!

NEXT WEEK: at one of the field sites... "THE ALASKAN READERS" in action...THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE.....ALASKAN STYLE.

Star-spangled key to a home of your own



Buy United States Savings Bonds

WANTED: Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; Ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; pottlatch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years of age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Dr. Los Angeles, California 90028.