

# Letters from Here and There



January 4, 1977

The Tundra Times  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Sir:

The Wainwright Village School on the Arctic Coast is trying to save enough Campbell Soup Labels to win a new Movie Projector. As we need many many labels, the 350 people in the village just can't eat enough soup. We would appreciate any help we could get from your readers. Anyone that would like to send us labels can do so between now and March 1st. Please Send them to Wainwright School, Box 10, Wainwright, Alaska 99872, Attention: Dolly Hedderman.

We really appreciate any help we can get.

Sincerely,

Dolly Hedderman

Box 10

Wainwright, Alaska 99872

## TT Tickler

January 7, 1977

Mr. Tom Richards  
Tundra Times  
410 2nd Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Editor:

This letter is in reference to the T.T. Tickler in the January 5 issue. What's funny about it? I thought that it was an insult to Native Women, and was in very poor taste. If I read a T.T. Tickler, I want to laugh, I don't want to cry.

Please withhold my name if you print this letter.

Name Withheld

## From Stickman

January 3, 1977

Pump Station 6

Dear Editor:

This is my last day at Pump 6. The grub here is getting kind of stale here for me. I'm tired of White Man's grub. I have to go home and eat some scraps out of my freezer, what I put in last summer. I think it's stale too, but as long as its dry fish. I can eat it pretty sour, with a little Muktuk, or seal oil. I hate like h-- to leave this Pioneer's Home but after I travel for a while, I'll be back I hope. This here beats cooking for yourself, and inside toilet.

Well when President Carter fired Kissinger before he takes office beats the h-- out of me. After 8 years put a green horn in his place. But I guess it's alright if he get rid of some more Republicans, especially the ones that took the Democrats office after they died. Carter get rid of all the Republicans in the White House, and see how they like it.

Although things is going good with me especially on the pipeline at Pump 6. The reason I stayed here so long is the mild weather. I had a Blue Christmas here and Blue New Year but that's just the way I like it. Nice and quiet for 1977.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

## Interesting Customs

Dear Editor:

Out here on St. Lawrence Is., the weather has been continually cold, since 63 knot winds we had in October. That blizzard has brought ice, too at the sea. There has not been south winds all this time. When the wind is from south, it usually is mild weather. But this fall the wind has been from north and northeast all the time, that there was no high tide to worry us. As many times in November south east winds would get up to 60 knots and over and cause the waves to come close to the homes in storms but this time there was not even south east-erly winds.

There was a beautiful wedding at Presbyterian church in November. Christine Slwooko got married to Bert Oozevasuk. She is the daughter of Roger and Rebacka Slwooko. She grew up at Anchorage and Bethel, Alaska when her father use to cook at A.N.S. hospitals. The whole family is here though. They came back a year or little over ago.

There is high school going on here. When Mrs. Hickox, Presbyterian minister's wife brought out something on having the high school kids going to school here, herself as a teacher, many parents readily agreed on putting their kids there. So very encouraging school for our kids have been going on, 26 students, Mrs. Hickox as a teacher, Steve Selonski a young man and Edna Apatiki, she is from here. There also is Eskimo dance going on, about a dozen girls and boys would raise to his beat of drum so beautiful in dance. They are going to be at the Fur Rendezvous at Anchorage. Vera Kanishiro also was here for Siberian Yupik teaching for a week, also one from there where Vera Kanishire work in teaching, she is from here. The students are doing great and the parents very happy for this school going on.

The telephone here has not been working for weeks.

Gerard and Esther Koonoka has a beautiful new home build up this year. They also have a store here.

Our store manager Leonard Apongalook and his wife Millie went to Hawaii!! Boy, Leonard pass or win something on the contest and earned this inspiring vacation! When they came back I asked if there is no winter there. He said, "No."

Like every year the kids at school excitedly repeat their pieces for Christmas program to memorize the. The teachers worked hard with the kids and make the school rooms gay as they could, this year here at St. Lawrence Is., It is so much fun to watch different students in plays each year.

The high school kids did Gambell's favorite play, acting as the people here did, back in the time when white man first came. It is so much fun to see plays acting this time out, when people here got crazy over white man's stuff, like flour sacks.

Flour sack was something so good and new material that they would just cut it open and shake the flour off, to get the sack. Then when whole 50 lb. flour goes up in the wind, they would smile as they watch and exclaim, "Look as it is a blizzard!" Oh, now their descendants can't even go without bread, us or me. Cloth is very good material for any clothing, so I'd go like my ancestors if I was there though.

This year Christmas excitement was not enjoyed as we use to, there was someone missing! During this time some guys went to Savoonga, another village here on the island some 45 miles from Gambell. The guys went by snow machines. One turned back to Savoonga by walk when his snow machine stopped in blizzard. One was found after few days at a camp by the seachers. The third was Rapheal Imergan, he lost his life in that blizzard! After a week of search when it got nicer they found him pretty far from home. They brought his body home and had a funeral for him. Everyone miss him, he was a school teacher and a lieutenant, 25 years old, a young man.

Grace Slwooko

TT Gambell

Correspondent

