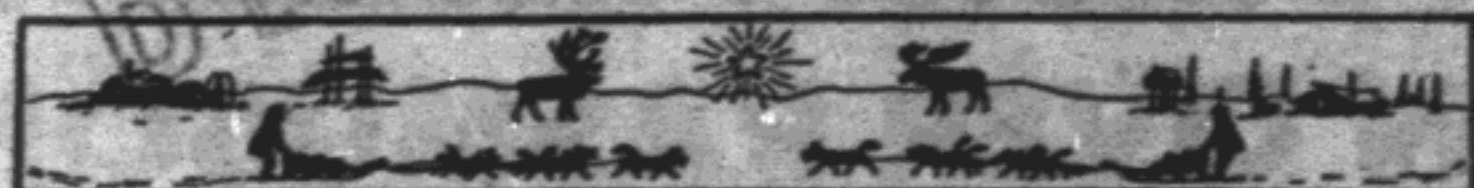


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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The Sad Exodus...

(Continued from page 1)

Yukon River. She pleaded that the message be put in the paper so people could read it and realize what native mothers have to go through every fall of the year. That time of year is the time for sadness among great many mothers throughout the state when their children make a great exodus to school "like migrating geese every fall."

Perhaps the Galena mother, having had to send her high school aged children, was a little more fortunate than other native mothers who have had to send their six, seven, and eight-year-old children to school 500, 1,000, or more miles away. Perhaps she is, also, bearing the added tug of the heart other mothers have to endure when they have to send their very young ones off to school. Anyway one looks at the situation, he cannot help but feel that there is something cruel about the operation—the wresting of little ones from their parents in the name of seeming high goal of education. It makes one wonder whether the child will have lost something—the parental connection and care he needs when very young.

A New York man writes to the editor of Tundra Times:

"I was saddened to see the enclosed news story concerning boarding of six, seven, eight-year-old children.

"The effect of separating children of this age from their homes is likely to cause great damage to their emotional development—damage that far outweighs any educational benefit that the children may derive from the school situation."

It is certain that both children and their parents lose something in their family relationship when their children have to be sent away for the great part of the year. One of the fruits of this educational arrangement may be the rising tide of juvenile delinquency in villages—something that used to be almost non-existent in the past. One hears native parents say, "Our children are losing respect for their parents. It is getting harder to control them."

We think we are close to being right when we say that more than a quarter of a million dollars is spent each year by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to transport the native children to schools within Alaska and to Lower 48. Why not put the money into 60 or more classroom school buildings in villages where they're needed? This repeated year after year could make a big dent in the lack of classroom space now existing.

In addition, we would like to suggest that the Alaska teacher orientation center at Oregon State University be moved to University of Alaska because the orientation staff in that Oregon university is ignorant of situations in Alaska. We would like to suggest further that the teacher orientation center, if transferred to University of Alaska, be staffed with natives who know their own villagers as they themselves and who have been raised by their parents. They are far better equipped to point out pertinent aspects like cultural patterns in villages. Furthermore, the native staffers would be more competent because they have been psychologically oriented by their own people.

Alaskaland Plans Indoor Skating Rink

FAIRBANKS—Alaskaland is taking another step toward its goal of community service with the announcement that plans for the indoor ice-skating rink in Seward Hall (Gold Dome) are nearing completion and that the rink will probably be in operation by the middle of November, if not sooner.

City Manager Wally Droz said that the immediate plans call for a large, round rink laid over a sheet plastic base with a snow berm around the rim. Lights for the rink will be in the center and around their base there will be a rest area.

The building inside the dome will be used for a warmup area and there will be an observation area for spectators.

Droz said that if the community indicates acceptance of the facility, it would gradually be enhanced by the addition of a refreshment stand.

It is planned to have continuous musical background for skating and a price structure is being considered by the Alaskaland Commission.

Details will be announced at a later date.

Welcome Center Plans Project

The Fairbanks Native Welcome Center at 727 First Avenue in the city, is beginning an arts and crafts project for native people or anyone who is able to participate.

Carved items, moccasins, mukluks, parkas, and other craft products will be available for sale and each artisan can have his own stand if he wishes.

The crafts project will be a weekly event every Friday at 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For details and arrangements, interested persons are asked to contact Blu Mundy at 456-7689.

Poem—Booming Ground

(From Wildlife Review)

It was early on a fine summer day when I rounded a point and came upon the booming ground. From where I moved along in the tiny boat, the island seemed a tall one, with straight cliffs climbing straight up from the sea.

I rounded the point, and there before me, sitting so very placidly, was the booming ground. I ran on towards it, shattering the silence with the engine's roar.

With a cough the engine stopped I reached for the gas can, but the silence held me.

The monarchs of the forest were here, held with great boomchains and crosslogs. A flock of crows squabbled at one end of the boom, splitting the silence with their cries.

And near the cliffs I heard another sound, the cry of an eagle returning to its nest high in the crags. I rowed to the boom, tied my boat, and strolled across this floating forest. So now, whenever I pass a booming ground, I feel regret for the beauty I have previously missed beneath the roar of the outboard engine.

—DAVID ELLIS, (age 15) West Vancouver, B.C.

When Canada Natives Meet—N.W.T. Commissioner: Will Invite Observers

Office of the Commissioner
Northwest Territories
Canada
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
October 22, 1968

Dear Mr. Rock:

I was pleased to learn that the attendance of Mr. Butters, Mr. Allen and Mr. Day at the Alaska Federation of Natives Conference and the Tundra Times anniversary banquet was so widely appreciated.

Should a native gathering be held in the Northwest Territories, Alaskan observers will certainly be invited.

Mr. Butters spoke highly of the accomplishments of his visit and pointed out that it had been extremely profitable. I, myself, look forward to the day when I find the opportunity to visit Alaska and, also look forward to the day when I can welcome yourself and Mr. Notti to Yellowknife.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely,
S.M. Hodgson,
Commissioner.

Correction—

Times' Professorial Cub Reporter Forgets Other Two Masters of Ceremony; Blames it on Pies

Last week's Tundra Times listed Congressman Howard Pollock as the master of ceremonies for the Republican dinner at which Senator George Murphy spoke.

Actually there were three emcees; Mr. Pollock, Captain Jim

Binkley, and Steve Agbaba.

Unfortunately the Tundra Times had sent a cub reporter to cover the dinner... and he was so busy eating that he seldom looked up to see who was presiding... until he had consumed his third piece of pie.

Sen. Bartlett Calls for Probe of Hiring Practices in North Slope

WASHINGTON—Sen. E.L. (Bob) Bartlett has called for a state and federal investigation of employment practices on Alaska's North Slope.

Bartlett requested the U.S. Department of Labor, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the State Department of Labor to investigate the North Slope employment situation.

Bartlett said that he had been informed that about 1,000 persons were employed on the North Slope in oil exploration, construction of airstrips, buildings and roads.

"Few of these are Alaskans," Bartlett wrote Immigration Service Commissioner Raymond F. Farrell. The senator said he understood Canadian workers were being employed.

Farrell was asked to give the senator "a report on the number of Canadians admitted for work on the North Slope, under what terms they were admitted, and where."

"It is my understanding," Bartlett said, "that a minimum of 50 Canadian laborers have been certified out of Seattle in the last six weeks."

Bartlett said that he had been informed by the oil companies that work underway on the North Slope "requires only highly-qualified persons."

But Bartlett said he had also received reports "that some of the Canadian workers are 18 to 20 years old. Obviously, I doubt that at that young age they would be considered highly qualified."

In a letter to Secretary Willard Wirtz of the U.S. Department of Labor, Bartlett asked for an investigation of wage rates being paid on the North Slope.

In addition Bartlett told Wirtz of reports which indicated that "Canadian laborers are being utilized to perform tasks which Americans are ready, willing and able to perform, and performing these tasks at wages lower than those prevailing for Americans in the area."

Bartlett requested State Labor Commissioner Thomas J. Moore to help clear up the conflicting reports of the employment situation on the North Slope.

"I think it is imperative that the facts of hiring practices of the oil companies and of the firms with which the oil companies contract to carry-out exploration and construction be gathered and made public," Bartlett said.

Bartlett urged the state to join with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Immigration Service in making a detailed study on the employment situation on the North Slope.

"Mineral wealth removed from our state cannot be replaced," Bartlett said. "Work done in removing these minerals cannot be done again. I pledge every effort to ensure that the work be done, whenever and wherever possible by Alaskans."

Never read any book that is not a year old. —EMERSON

WANTED: Chilkot Blankets; Totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; potlatch 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.