

WHY TUNDRA TIMES

Long before today there has been a great need for a newspaper for the northern Natives of Alaska. Since civilization has swept into their lives in tide-like earnestness, it has left the Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts in bewildering state of indecision and insecurity between the seeming need for assimilation and, especially in the Eskimos areas, the desire to retain some of their cultural and traditional way of life.

Noting the need for information to cope with civilization in an informed manner, the Eskimo Inupiat Paitot organization at its first meeting in November, pointed out:

"It is suggested that a bulletin or newsletter be published and circulated every so often to villages about what is being done within the Inupiat organization. This organization should be well established, not to be allowed to die. All the native villages should be informed what has been accomplished for the good of those villages".

Since the Inupiat meeting, the Athabaskan Indians of the interior Alaska organized at a meeting this past June at Tanana. Therefore we have decided that this newspaper shall serve them as well as other natives in Alaska.

First: It will be the medium to air the views of the native organizations. It will reflect their policies and purposes as they work for the betterment of the Native peoples of Alaska. It will also reflect their aims...their hopes. It will strive to aid them in their struggle for just determination and settlement of their enormous problems.

Second: It will strive to keep informed on matters of interest all Natives of Alaska, whether they be Eskimos of the Arctic, the Athabascans of the Interior, and other Indians and Aleuts of the Aleutian Islands.

We have also realized that an unbiased presentation of issues that directly concern the Natives is needed. In presenting those things that most affect Natives, we will make every effort to be truthful and objective.

Aside from the more serious purposes, the paper will print articles on what it believes to be an extremely important subject, the culture of the Arctic. We will cover whaling, hunting and fishing, the Eskimo dance, the dogteam, the family unit, legends, celebrations, both ancient and current, customs of the past and present and other things that fall in the category of the Arctic culture. We will include articles on the culture of the Indian and the Aleut.

Politically, the Tundra Times will follow a firm policy. It will not support any political party. Its policy will be independent. It will be non-partisan in airing the views of individual candidates. Occasionally, the paper in its editorial columns, may favor a candidate or certain elected official. If this occurs, it will be because of his stand on Native issues rather than the political party to which he belongs.