

Teacher, Anthropologist Runs for North Star Borough Assembly

Niilo E. Koponen, principal of Barnette School, is a candidate for Seat A on the North Star Borough Assembly in the election to be held Tuesday, Oct. 3rd.

The Koponens homesteaded on Chena Ridge in 1952.

Niilo worked as electrician on the gold dredges and as a surveyor and bull-dozer operator before becoming a school teacher in 1957.

He did anthropological research among the Copper River Indians and was one of the founding members of the Alaska Native Rights Association.

The ANRA became part of the American Association on Indian Affairs and Niilo was

appointed to the AALA Alaska Policy Committee. He has been active on behalf of native land claims and improvement of native education since 1954 and worked for improved native job opportunities while an official with the Fairbanks Mine Workers Union before that and the American Federation of Technical Engineers (Surveyors Union) after that date.

He went outside for four years in 1962, working first as a doctoral student and later as a faculty member at Harvard University. Offered reappointment, Koponen instead chose to return to Alaska in 1966.

Musk Ox Calves...

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owls, etc.

"By comparison, the knee-deep grass of Nunivak island could support tens of thousands of musk oxen."

The expedition arrived at Slidre Fjord on August 20. The men went north via Resolute Bay.

"Five of the party of nine men flew to Slidre Fjord by a twin Otter aircraft. Four went north on the Canadian icebreaker MacDonald arriving on August 25," said Teal.

Discovered by Norwegian explorer, Otto Sverdrup, Slidre Fjord country is a mountainous region choked with drift ice and occasional iceberg.

There, the capture of 15 calves took place with the use of a helicopter to separate calves from adult musk oxen. When this was done, the men run them down and tackle the calves that weighed about 180 pounds.

Some of the time, Teal said, calves could not be separated from their adults and had to be driven on foot into gullies or other suitable ground formation and roped.

"We hoped we did not slide into the adults that would have quickly killed us," said John Teal.

Twenty-eight calves were captured to get the correct ratio of 12 females and three males. The rejected male calves were freed and painted white on their rumps so they would not be recaptured.

Teal said those released "were so angry that they would take on anything in sight, charging both men and helicopters."

One helicopter was lost for two days on the north-west coast of Axel Heiberg Island on the way north to join the expedition. It was found after a two-day search by a Super Cub.

It had crashed on August 25 after hitting its tail rotor on shale. The occupants had to walk back to the expedition's headquarters for 22 miles in dense fog that had rolled in from the ice of Greely Fjord.

After that, helicopters from the icebreaker Labrador

were used to get to the herds and to bring captured calves back to camp.

As the last calf was captured on August 29, winter began in the deep Arctic. Snow fell and foul weather descended over the whole of the northern Canadian Arctic islands.

All the captured calves were flown south to Fort Chimo by DC-4 in a ten-hour flight arriving on September 3.

On arrival, crates were hurriedly placed upon Eskimo Peterhead boats and taken five miles downriver to the station at Old Fort Chimo, racing a 38-foot tide on the way.

They were then released into a large pen and soon felt at home and came forward to drink milk from nipple cans. Up to the time they were released into the pen, the calves had never seen real grass or bushes.

The arrival of the calves at Old Fort Chimo created a lot of interest. Eskimo people in outboards visited the station at all hours. Some of them had to stay overnight after being caught by high tides.

They came to see the animals and discuss their value and economic possibilities based upon the Cashmere-type underwool, or qiviut, and the products spun, knitted, or woven, from it.

As in Alaska, the Old Fort Chimo project will be the introduction of a type of social change and not merely biological research.

"Success depends primarily upon the decisions which will be made by the Eskimo people themselves," said John Teal. "The Institute will be acting mainly as consultant, supplier of animals, trainer of herdsmen, and supplier of markets for musk ox products."

Men in the expedition in addition to John Teal were: Peter Strong, Greenwich, Connecticut; Lansing Holden, Manhasset, New York; Burgess Smith, Farmington, Connecticut; Duke Watson, Seattle, Washington;

James Buckley, Sharon, Connecticut; Robert Madden, Washington, D. C.; Lars Aby, Stockholm, Sweden; and Roger Le Jeune, St. Foy, Quebec.

Robert Madden joined the expedition to photograph the operation for the National Geographic.

Lars Aby, winner of the Stockholm Art Award for 1966, took movies for his country.

LONELY GRAVES—The graves of two persons, apparently those of a whaling captain and his wife, lay silently on the tundra east of the village of Point Hope.

The graves were surrounded by thousands of tiny Arctic flowers that had just started blooming.

ASCAP BOARD PRODUCTIVE MEETING...

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village needs."

The above idea was emphasized by Sam Taalak, general manager of the Barrow Utilities, Inc., who addressed the board by invitation. He gave a brief outline of the history and development of the locally owned utilities cooperative from a beginning with a loan of \$200. to the present \$800,000 corporation.

William Neakok, teacher director of the Barrow Head Start program, brought the board's attention to inequities in the Barrow program, causes due to program planning that have been done by persons unfamiliar with Barrow and without consultation of local interested persons.

Max Brewer, director of the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory near Barrow, addressed the board on the afternoon of September 19, emphasizing the importance of the local native population in the employment picture of the Laboratory.

He pointed out to the gathering that the present day Arctic picture is one where the native population is the stable group while the white man in the Arctic is the nomad coming to the area to work, sending his money outside, and leaving when the work slacks off or terminates.

Brewer pointed out no lasting or permanent economy could be developed in the area unless it is permanently involved with the permanent residents, the native people.

Just prior to the adjournment of the board meeting, the group chose the city of Ketchikan as the site for its annual meeting on October 23-25.

"This will be the required annual meeting and at which time, the most important piece of business to be considered by the board will be the selection of a new director," Hugh Nicholls said.

Nathan Perselay is now acting director of the poverty agency. He is acting in that capacity after Flore Lekanof resigned the directorship last month.

On the evening of September 20, the board was given

a dinner by the Vennell Corporation at the invitation of Art Bowman, superintendent of Vennell operation at Barrow.

One evening was also set aside in which Pete Sovalik and his Barrow Eskimo dancers performed for the board.

After a series of story dances by the Sovalik group, the board members were persuaded to join the final motion dance.

Attending the ASCAP board meeting were: Dan Lisbourne, president of ASCAP; Nathan Perselay, acting director; Marlene Johnson, San Francisco Target Area Representative; Al Ketzler, Nenana, Interior Target Area Representative; Emil Kowalczyk, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Juneau.

Jeff Jeffers, State Depart-

ment of Education; Leo Brown, State Department of Labor; Dr. Chapman, Department of Health and Welfare; Farrel Campbell of the AFL-CIO; Rev. Jones, Council of Churches; Hugh Nicholls, Arctic Slope Native Association; and Miss Carol Bahr, ASCAP secretary.

Non-board members attending the meeting were: Kris Lethin, State Director of OEO, governor's office; Wallace Craig, Regional Superintendent of BIA, Fairbanks District, who appeared briefly; Mrs. Lee Perselay; and H. L. Brown, father of Leo Brown.

Nenana Freezers

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because moose are now in back country chased there by the flood. According to Nenana hunters, moose are choosy as to what they eat and will have little to do with vegetation that had been covered with mud and silt caused by the flood.

Normally, the animals forage quite close to the riverbanks and more accessible to the hunters.

Jack Doyle, a fisheries biologist at the University of Alaska, is planning to do driftnetting to add to the community fish catch.

Doyle is to be assisted and guided by Thomas Albert in areas where fishing is known to be good.

The emergency winter food program in Nenana is under the direction of council president, Richard Ketzler. Al Ketzler, Richard's brother and former chairman of the Tanana chiefs and who is now a member of the board on the Alaska State Community Action Program, is supporting the emergency food program.

Outside of emergency food-gathering, the native people of Nenana prefer the natural foods they gather, like salmon, whitefish and moose which they are presently getting.

In general, the people of the village are helping themselves in flood recovery. Much has been done in rebuilding homes and they are still cleaning the interiors of houses to make them livable for the winter.

