

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

**Editorial—
The Great Lunar Walk**

"O Allingnuk, Dweller of the Moon—Allingnuk, a great and generous giver of whales.

"I, Nikuwanna, whose wife I am of Killikvuk, a young and hopeful new whaler of Tigara, implore thee for thy life-giving gift . . ."

The Eskimos of Point Hope (Tigara) on Alaska's far northwestern coast, bowhead whalers traditionally for centuries, implored Allingnuk, Dweller of the Moon. The wives of whaling captains after doing deeds of goodwill among their people to purify their souls offered vessels of pure water and held them aloft into the night toward the pre-spring Arctic crescent moon whose arc "leaned to the right" so that the point of the lower crescent was high enough to "hold water." This was the whaler's moon.

The wives of the whaling captains then prayed to Allingnuk for talismans of whales. According to the purity of the soul, the vessel of water reached higher than others and the moon dweller dropped talismans down to the upraised vessels. One, "sometimes two," would drop unerringly into the pure water. Others would fall by the wayside. The number of talismans in each vessel would be the number of whales caught during the following spring whaling season.

As did other peoples of the world, the Eskimos of the Arctic held reverence for the moon. They were awed by the mysteries of the lunar orb of the heavens. They also blessed its light-giving rays during the long winter nights. It also gave lithe spirit in the team of the huskie dogs driven in moonlight. Their tails curled up happily and a least little whistle sent them into a yipping gallop of seeming ecstasy.

Mysteries of the moon, and the Universe beyond it, have always intrigued man. And of course, collectively, the great powers of the world. The United States and the Soviet Russia have been the forerunners of the modern probe of these mysteries. They are now achieving the first mincing steps into the technology of space. The greatest steps toward this are still cradled in future history.

The epochal flight, the intricate maneuvers of the Apollo 11 crew members and its vastly important home base—the space center at Houston, Texas, landed Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin on the moon last Sunday while the all-important command ship Columbia, piloted alone by Mike Collins, orbited patiently over the lunar landing waiting to pick up the Astronauts. The amazing liftoff from it and the successful "docking" back to the mothership were achieved. The successful splashdown yesterday in the Pacific Ocean bringing the space-landing pioneers back home safely is indeed the sparkling jewel of achievement by man—the American members of our 50 states.

"This is a small step for man—a giant leap for mankind." This historic statement was uttered by Neil Armstrong after he stepped on the soil of the moon as the first in the world to do so. The statement is prophetic and one that will be enhanced with greater deeds in time to come. Armstrong's and Aldrin's footsteps on the lunar surface

Tundra Times



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.

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| 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 |

Writer Writes ADT About DDT

Box 1051
Anchorage, Alaska
July 11, 1969
0510 a.m.
Phone 277-7093

Mr. Robert Atwood, Editor
Anchorage Daily Times (A.D.T.)
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Editor:

**Editorial—
Talented Mr. Mallott**

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurALCAP) for a month or so has been seeking a new director after its able head, Larry Brayton, resigned last month. Funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity, the agency has been doing important programming of projects to aid the poor in Alaska.

The bulk of the poor in the state is comprised of mostly Alaskan natives and goodly number of the programs have to be aimed for their benefits. This had been done quite admirably under the directorship of Brayton who had a good understanding of the native situation in Alaska. Good benefits for the natives have been realized through this effort.

The Board of Directors of the RurALCAP to date has received numerous names of applicants from within the state and many from outside of Alaska for the position. We are of the understanding that the list has been narrowed down to five last week and one of the five is said to be Byron Mallott. Mallott as one of the contenders, we believe, is tantamount to being seriously considered as a likely successor to Larry Brayton along with the other four, of course.

Byron Mallott is a Tlingit Indian young man but a man with important background already behind him. He is at the present time serving as a valued special assistant to Senator Mike Gravel in Washington, D. C. as a consultant on native land claims and other native matters. He has been a mayor of his hometown, Yakutat. He has served under the state's chief executive's office when Walter J. Hickel was governor of Alaska, now Secretary of the Interior. While working in that capacity, Mallott handled assignments that involved Alaskans many of whom were native Alaskans.

Mallott knows the needs of indigent people of the state. He is already quite well known to them. He has intimate knowledge of native organizations. He is now the Grand Vice President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. We think his talents should be under serious consideration by the Board of Directors of the RurALCAP.

up to this point are brave new steps for man. The human being will not stop with the successful lunar landing. His quest for new celestial conquest will prevail and while doing so, it is hoped that modern man will not forget that mysteries of yesterday had primitive beginnings of which today's man is a definite part.

**Poem—
Makah Indians**

(From MAKAH NEWSLETTER)

We sprang from salt water
A meeting of waves.
Our men hollowed
canoes
from logs
with the bone of whale
and together rose
as one
but were many
giving thanks to the sea
with a song
we were born
startling the birds
into flight
While the seagulls
cried
circling the air
and following
the strain of our paddles
moving us
toward land.

Now our men
keep returning to the sea
filled with the rhythm

of salmon
fishing a strange beauty
through dark waters
as silver fins
leap wildly over death
seeking the savage moment
that saves
the young.

Our people will not die.
—SANDRA JOHNSON
July, 1965

I was deeply disturbed and angered by the implications and your apparent philosophy in your editorial, "Pollution's Price" of July 10: "It is still cheaper (we think?) to dump our wastes on nature and let them take care of themselves than to make the tremendous expenditures necessary to bring pollution under control." The dumping of pesticides into the Rhine River is lightly passed over as something that could never happen in Alaska with our vast supply of natural resources (including healthy people)!

In the current issue of TIME, the unwise, widespread use of DDT throughout the world is gruesomely described in text and illustrated by diagram.

I may be overly pessimistic (or realistic?) but I foresee potential similar, catastrophes in the very near future for Alaska. Witness forest industry. It appears that things can go only from bad to worse, unless something is done soon!

And what is being done? Exactly nothing of any consequence, as far as I am concerned. We do not have adequate state and federal laws regarding chemical pollution. What are our Washington and Juneau delegations doing about this? I doubt that they are even aware of the problem!

I should add that I am a research biologist formerly with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Currently, I am a member of the Sierra Club, Alaska Conservation Society, and the Izaak Walton League. Therefore, I feel I am eminently qualified to discuss matters dealing with conservation of our natural resources with the public. In the future I would suggest you contact the dedicated biologists working for the State of Alaska for sound information. These biologists are, by the way, grossly underpaid (no overtime), overworked, unappreciated, away from their families, etc. all in the cause of protecting Alaska's natural resources.

Don't get me wrong, I am all for economic development and our natural resources, of course, are the State's No. 1 money maker; but I hate to see us become filthy rich with a thick scum of DDT covering Alaska. It is simply not worth it. Is it? Or does anybody really care?

Sincerely yours,
Mike Geiger

CC: Anchorage Daily News
Nome Nugget
Tundra Times
Jessen's Daily
Fairbanks News Miner
Juneau Daily Empire
Alaska Sportsman (Jim Rearden)
Mike Gravel
Ted Stevens
Howard Pollock
Jay Hammond
Ben Hilliker
Ken Middleton
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Men will lie on their backs, talking about the fall of man, and never make an effort to get up.
—THOREAU

ARTIFACTS WANTED! If you are going to sell old-time objects, please contact the Alaska State Museum first. If you have old-time things that need special care, you can lend them to the Museum for safe-keeping and display. If your things are in the Alaska State Museum, they stay in Alaska. Contact: Jane Wallen, Director, Alaska State Museum, Pouch FM, Juneau, Alaska 99801, phone 586-1224.

