

tundra tattler

NOT LIKE HOWARD — A lady from Tanana passed word to the Tattler that this new feature is cheap and unlike anything the founder of the Tundra Times would allow. In response, the Tattler is merely a formalization of round-table discussions that Howard presided over for years at his table at Tommy's Elbow Room. Some such traditions ought to sneak their way into print eventually.

ONWARD TO NOME (AND BETHEL) — The Iditarod mushers may not be the only folks headed on the trail to Nome this year. The Tattler hears the Native-owned bank, United Bank Alaska, wishes to open a couple of branches closer to the people that own the outfit. Bethel, we understand, and perhaps Nome are under serious consideration for branch locations by the growing Native financial institution.

OIL FRATERNITY — Native folks frequently enter the exclusive Petroleum Club at the top of the Anchorage Westward by invitation these days. Not so many years ago, access wasn't so easy for village types. Tattler understands that one prominent Aleut leader, in pre-settlement days, accidentally wandered into the Petroleum Club while in search of the Top of the World (located on the same floor). When informed that the club was exclusively for those in the oil business and their friends, this Aleut immediately replied, "I am in the oil business — the seal oil business." He was served. Enough Aleut stories for the time being.