

Letters from Here and There

Stickman Home Eating Muktuk With Moose

Nulato, Alaska
Dec. 26, 1974

Dear Friend Howard Rock the Editor:

I came home 23rd. Everything was froze in the house. Yesterday, it took me 15 minutes to make up my mind to go to outside toilet. I held it back too long. Anyway, I was sober Thanksgiving and Christmas and maybe New Year. I never had any trouble with my stomach since I quit the booze. I hope more slack off the bottle. It would be better.

I heard the groceries is sky high. This is the first year I don't have to depend on the stores.

The radio is coming in good.

I got tired of White man's grub at Cold Foot and also got tired of the White man. Too many from Outside, Africa, Europe. All the bull cooks, I like to know how they got up there. Some carpenters from Anchorage and Southeastern Alaska. As long as the Union is in the Slope the Indians and Eskimos will have a hard time to get up there. It's hard for me to stay up there in the winter. I can't spend the money anyway. They wanted me to stay for Christmas and New Year, double time days.

I heard NANA got contract. What's the difference? They hire White men I noticed.

My friend tried to get me a different job because they don't like to see me work out in the cold. They said I was too old to work outdoors in the cold. They don't know I'm up there for my physical course, also the money. So I made an application with one of the counselors the job they wanted me for. I heard they had three reasons that they cannot give me the job, reduction in pay, not enough schooling and 67 years is too old.

Anyway Howard, I'm home eating seal oil, muktuk with moose, king salmon, subsistence living, till I get tired of that soon. I don't know what in the hell I want. Nothing. Sometimes I want to die, sometimes I want to live.

I didn't go to Midnight Mass. I heard the new church was full. I went to Mass Christmas but the church looked different. Looks to me like a Protestant church. There is no sanctuary, low ceiling, nice and warm, but I miss the old church. Just like I was in different church.

Last Sunday I was in church in Fairbanks for Mass to make a little donation 6:30 a.m. The priest had long hair, another thing I can't stand is long hair. At Cold Foot sometimes I couldn't tell the difference between men and women. The women dressed like men, that's some of them.

Well, I heard the new school is open but they had Christmas program before time so the teachers can celebrate the holidays I guess. The new laundry is in operation.

— Fred Stickman, Sr.

Fish and Wildlife Office Adds Public Affairs

United States
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Alaska Area Office
813 D Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Sir:

The Alaska Area Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recently established an Office of Public Affairs.

Although such an office has long been needed, it is only in recent years that the role of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska has become so complex and interwoven with the functions and responsibilities of other agencies, corporations, and industries. Citizens of Alaska, as well as those in the remaining 49 states and Canada have more than a passing interest in the activities, policies, and the programs of the service.

This letter is to serve as an introduction to the people serving this new office.

Robert L. Stevens has filled the position of Public Information Officer. Mr. Stevens is a veteran of 10 years with the Fish and Wildlife Service, working eight years with the Division of

Wildlife Refuges in the southeast United States. He has been in Alaska since 1972 participating in the studies of the nine proposed wildlife refuges recommended to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior.

A staff of three has been designated to assist Mr. Stevens in this most important task. Craig Rieben, filling the position of Public Information Specialist comes to use with a background in radio, television, and journalism. Chief among his many responsibilities will be news releases and other news media contacts.

Elaine Rhode, writer/editor, has been preparing written material for the Fish and Wildlife Service for four years. Since coming to Alaska in 1972 she has written 10 brochures and a film script — all related to the refuge proposals mentioned earlier. She will be preparing displays and printed matter for informational, interpretative, and educational purposes.

Cathy Pourchot, Public Information Clerk, will be responsible for correspondence, within-agency communications, scheduling of programs, and other Public Information and secretarial duties. She has prior Alaskan experience in our Division of Wildlife Refuges.

The passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

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