

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

Tundra Times



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Editorial Comment—

Chief Justice Boney And the Bush Justice

The Native people who knew Chief Justice George F. Boney of the Alaska State Supreme Court feel a keen sense of loss because he did not have time to realize the full fruition of his efforts to upgrade bush justice for the folks in rural areas. Justice Boney died in a tragic boating accident last week not far out from Anchorage where he had lived.

Although Boney was a relatively newcomer to the State of Alaska, he was quick to realize that something was amiss in the way of justice that had been applied to Aleuts, Indians and Eskimos of the state. When he came in a position of authority as the Chief Justice of the state, he began looking into the shortcomings of bush justice. He deplored what he found out there and immediately tried to do something about it. He sought courtroom space and other improvements in the bush areas by contacting the state legislature, even lobbying for funds so these things could be realized. The man cared a great deal for what he believed needed for the Native people in the rural areas. It is a tragedy indeed that he did not have time to realize fully what he set out to do.

Chief Justice Boney, no doubt, set a good foundation for better things in the way of justice in the bush. To get these things started needed a man of his stature. He cared and we are deeply grateful to him for initiating such a venture. We hope that the impetus he started will be continued by those in the position to keep it going. It can then be a living memory for the man who dared to believe in better bush justice.

Emil Notti Resigns

Reaction to the recent resignation of Emil Notti, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services, poured forth as Notti prepared to devote his full-time efforts working with land claims settlement legislation.

Citing personal priorities, Notti said he regretted "leaving state service while there is much work yet to be done," but added that he felt he could be of greater service to Alaska at this time by assisting the state and regional Native corporations meet federal deadlines for implementing land claims.

Byron Mallott, Commissioner of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, and First Vice-President of the Alaska Native Foundation, said the Foundation's Board of Directors was "pleased and proud" to learn of Notti's decision.

"As Executive Director of the Alaska Native Foundation, Mr. Notti will add immeasurably to our capability to respond to the challenge and promise of

the landmark land claims legislation," Mallott said.

Governor William A. Egan, in accepting Notti's resignation, stated, "We regret very much to see Deputy Commissioner Notti leave state service even though we recognize he is going to a most important position. He has done an excellent job as Deputy Commissioner. I have had the warmest personal relationship with Mr. Notti and am sure that this relationship will continue across the years."

Commissioner Frederick McGinnis of the Department of Health and Social Services who praised Notti's contribution to the Department and the State said, "He has been a most valuable ally in matters related to health and social services in Alaska. Our Department and others in state service will miss his substantial abilities, his creativity and his eager willingness to serve the public."

"Personally," he added, "I will be losing a valuable friend and co-worker."

Notti, who has headed the

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NATIVE NEWS FROM OUTER SPACE — The story of the Tundra Times goes out by satellite radio as Bonnie Altenhein, moderator

of the library show, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?, questions editor Howard Rock about the early days of the paper.

Tundra Times Staff Goes on Satellite

Each week the Tundra Times newspaper goes out by plane to hundreds of readers in bush areas and major cities of the state.

Last week Tundra Times went out to the bush by a far different vehicle, a satellite! "Allakaket, do you read me? Over."

Who reads the Tundra Times? How large is the circulation? How did this unique paper come into being? How did a man go from a career as a talented Eskimo artist to that of an equally talented editor? How does a reporter get a lead for a story?

Bonnie Altenhein of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Library asked these questions of the Tundra Times staff in a 45 minute weekly satellite radio show called WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

Editor Rock gave a brief history of the paper, quoting from reporter Lael Morgan's newsletter which calls the Tundra Times an amazing "survival story". Operating on a shoestring (or a mukluk tie) the paper approaches its tenth anniversary in October, surviving many crisis, political, economic, and otherwise.

Frank Murphy who heads up the advertising and public re-

lations department, outlined the spheres the paper reaches, all the way from Barrow at the top of the world to Washington, D.C.

Circulation figures are not meaningful in Alaska, says Murphy. Although only ten papers may go into a village of 200, they will be well-worn at the end of the week, having been shared and passed from hand to hand.

The small paper has the reputation of being the most widely read Alaskan paper in the nation's capitol, reaching cabinet members, senators, and on rare occasions the President.

Tundra Times' editorials and articles have been read in full into the Congressional Record, influencing national legislation.

Describing the Tundra Times as a people to people paper, Jacqueline Glasgow said many of the stories come directly from the villages, from word of mouth, from Native leaders, through personal phone calls or wires from legislators, and from many friends and supporters of Howard Rock.

"The Tundra Times," said Ms. Glasgow, "is the freest press in Alaska. This is due to the tremendous courage and integrity of its editor. As a reporter, I have never had a word I wrote censored, suppressed, or cut for any but aesthetic reasons. The Tundra Times tells the truth."

When moderator Altenhein called the roll of villages listening in, Anaktuvuk Pass was among those that responded.

Pat De Marco, village teacher called in to thank Tundra Times for publicizing the condition of the airstrip, damaged by heavy rains. A story in the newspaper was instrumental in expediting the arrival of a caterpillar grader to repair and maintain the strip.

Tundra Times' staff, accustomed to thinking in terms of "readers" rather than "listeners" enjoyed this experience in a new media under the sponsorship of the borough library and the satellite project, an experiment destined to grow with Alaska.

LETTERS FROM HERE AND THERE

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
Box 800 - Palmer, Alaska 99645

August 1972

Dear Friends:

August is Fair Month in Alaska. The first fair to make its appearance this season, Haines Southeastern State Fair, was opened with Governor Bill Egan present. The fair was held in a new location, with a main building for arts and crafts. These displays were numerous and completely filled the new building. The produce and vegetable displays were greatly varied and as high in quality as those of our more established fairs. Their horse show was well attended and well received. The entire City of Haines supported the fair. Credit for organizing the fair should go to Chairman Bob Cameron, Vice Chairman Tom Helms, Treasurer Kathy Street, Secretary Barbara Campbell and Directors Allie Cordes and Micci Sietters, and the Manager of the Fair, Ruth King. It was a pleasure to work with these people and the Division looks

forward to helping them again next year.

According to Frank Stowman, Tanana Valley Fair Board President, Fair Week for the Tanana Valley in Fairbanks broke all attendance records. Thursday, August 17th, there were 12,000 people who paid admission. The exhibits were the best ever. The vegetable display was the finest I have seen in the twenty years I have visited the fair. They displayed a 45 pound cabbage and some of the largest zucchini squash, radishes and turnips grown in that area for years.

Now we are looking forward to the Palmer State Fair, August 25 - September 4; the the Ninichik State Fair, August 26 - 27; and the Kodiak Rodeo and State Fair, September 2 - 4. These fairs have done a lot for agriculture in Alaska and have furnished a source of entertainment for all people in Alaska.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM G. LEWIS
Director of Agriculture