

letters

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Supports Carlos Frank

Stickman Wants into Politics

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to you about the complicated case of Carlos Frank: Native Religion vs. Game Law.

First of all I would like to say that we Athabascans, both Alaskan and Canadian Athabascans, have been practicing our religious and traditional Native life styles long before the first Athabaskan seen the first white-man.

It seems to me that it would be stupid if the local, state and federal courts would convict a brother like Carlos Frank, just for trying to help out his Indian brother, who had just recently passed away.

Ever since the village of Minto moved to a new site, and the state and B.I.A. helped put a road into the new village, I've seen more white people pouring into the village and taking advantage of whatever they can get their hands on. I've seen it happen not only at Minto, but other places just as well.

When will all this end? I would like to see the day when the state and federal governments would just leave us alone and let us live the way we want to live, and quit this land-grab that we have seen, heard and listened to all these years.

One day a long time ago I was listening to a bunch of old Indian men talking about Congress and the whole circus that goes along with American system of living. This one old man suggested that they should pass a bill, saying that the bill would be called "The Leave Us Alone Bill."

I sure hope Carlos Frank wins his legal battle against the forces of the dominant society. He's got my full support, good luck Indian brother, and stand tall.

Thank you for your time and support.

Gordon G. Riley
Minto, Alaska

Dear Editor:

As I'm ready to quit working soon, I wanted to get on the Board of Village Corporation, which I did. Then I tried to get on the Council the other day but no one nominated me, and there is always a reason for me to do or write or say something.

The village is going dead, no fun, like dog races, etc. For instance, too many loose dogs. Curfew snow machines is getting nuisance here. If you're sick, like some one is real bad, the snow zooming by the window and around this sick man's house between 2 & 4 a.m.

Also got on the board last year so I can find out about this D-2 land. Now I want to go on the Board for Doyon, (1) so I can visit Fairbanks, see what's happening to our money, (2) when are we going to get our next check, (3) find out how to make money, how much we make, and a lot more make friends with the other members instead of knocking them or Doyon all the time. It don't do no good. So this way I hope all the stockholders vote for me so I can talk to them.

I know we need some one to talk, or ask questions about Doyon, like my people always ask me what they're doing with our money. Maybe Doyon will send me to Washington to see or say a word or just to shake hands with my Democratic friend, the President. That's all I need before I croak. Maybe that way I'll get to sell fish.

Last night I read Fred Pete's letter in the News-Miner about the post office at Selawik. Two years ago the postmaster told me post office don't open till 9 a.m. Then I came home, start thinking. I just came home not too long ago from Fairbanks. I knew he was lying or something. So I went back and told him: The post office open at 8 a.m. all over Alaska. Now the other day I went to Koyukuk for C.O.D. for the store I was working. The postmaster told me post office don't open till 9:30. I was just wondering about all the years back. When I carried the mail 1930, the post office was open all day and all night waiting for the mail to come in. Sometimes when it snow too much, postmaster stay up all night for nothing. I worked in a store for 2 weeks. I work 21 hours a day. You can wake me up at all hours, except close 5 to 8. If I run a business I like to work 7 days a week all hours open, closed only when I sleep. My friend in Fairbanks work 7 days a week year after year round. I like to try that. Just to show these stores, post office. Always lock up, closed, sign by the door. They don't want to accomodate the customers, just knock us. Seems like they don't want to see our faces.

I remember the time I got money order at 11 p.m. here. Store's open till midnight. No more. Only place we use to go and gossip, talk about our neighbors.

We need new snow machine laws. Snow machines run good around the houses but take it out and get in the overflow of water in the snow like I did yesterday. I had to get in the water with leaking boot and pry it up, put skids under. No fun with snow go out there 10 miles from village. I need some help. I just got a letter from Social Security at Richmond, California. They overpaid me \$7,982.20, \$665 for 1973, \$2,871.50 for 1974, \$3,096.40, 1975 and \$1,349.50 for 1976. I'm stuck now. I don't know what to do. I can't even sell fish. Can't get no license. The hippies get license, but not me. I use to fish for the mail carrier's dogs.

Send a copy to News-Miner. Thanks. Maybe I'll get some votes for Doyon Board.

Fred Stickman, Sr.