

Letters from Here and There



Kasigluk Church

Church Needs Repair

Easter 1974

Dear Friends;

We are writing to you on behalf of a small Christian community located in Kasigluk, Alaska. Kasigluk is an Eskimo village of 250 persons, located 20 miles west of Bethel, near the Kusokwim River.

Because I was a former VISTA Volunteer in that community, they have asked me to help them raise \$7,000.00 for the renovation and expansion of their church.

The following is a quote from a recent letter that I received from them. "The Church was built in the summer of 1933 in the month of August. The size was 18 ft. x 24 ft. It was paid with mink pelts and we bought an organ with our Church money. We added 8 ft. in the year of 1953. The foundations are rotting fast, floor joists are beginning to get rotten, windows are falling apart, the roof leaks, wind blows through the cracks around the windows in winter, and snow comes in through the cracks around the windows. The walls are warping and rotten areas are visible. Benches and pews squeak."

If there should be one who would donate a little please have them send their donations to:

Mr. George Keene,
Church Elder
Moravian Church
Kasigluk, Alaska 99609

Please ask those who donate money to also send us their name and address, for we would wish to thank them.

In addition to the almost complete renovation of their Church, they plan to add a room for their children's Sunday School service and buy a larger oil stove so the adults and children can be warm during the winter months.

I am sure that you are aware of the recent Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act and of the news concerning the trans-Pacific pipeline. Obviously there is not money in that Settlement Act for Church activities, and the economic impact on individual income is still a long way off. The trans-Alaska pipeline will have little if any impact on the village of Kasigluk. The distance of the pipeline route from the village of Kasigluk is approximately the same distance as Washington, D.C. to Indiana.

We apologize for having to copy this letter, we know it would be difficult for any one church or individual to contribute the total of \$7,000.00. We would appreciate your consideration of this request. The community hopes to raise the money by the end of May, so

they can order the building materials and have them shipped up on the summer barge to Bethel. They will contribute the labor, tools, design, and land.

If you would wish any further information, please feel free to contact us:

Mr. and Mrs. Joli Morgan
1042 "H" Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone No. 277-7981

Respectfully yours,
Joli Morgan
On behalf of the
Kasigluk Moravian Church

Favors Capitol Move

May 16, 1974

Dear Editor:

Alaska is on the move so let's move the Capitol. The Indian or Eskimo has never taken a stand on the movement of the Capitol in the past. This year the Indian and Eskimo can make his feeling known. All the leaders who I've spoken to since last fall were one hundred per cent in favor of the Capitol movement. I am for the Capitol move for several reasons.

The first reason is we must get the Capitol located where all the people of Alaska will have an equal chance to get to the Capitol, rich or poor. Now only the rich can get to the Capitol.

The second reason is you need to have \$500 in your pocket to get to the Capitol and back from Galena. Where is the poor going to get the \$500 from to try and make his views known?

The third reason is someone stated it's going to cost the people of Alaska \$500 million to move the Capitol. It's no strain off the Indians from the village.

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He doesn't get anything from that hole dug in the side of the mountain called the Capitol, does he?

The fourth reason is the Governor and the whole Administration is hiding in that rich man's hole and here's a good chance for Commissioner Bruce Campbell of the Department of Highways to spend his \$500 million that he wants to spend so wildly on unwanted roads. He could spend the money on the Capitol movement, then, he can make more roads around the new Capitol. Here's a chance for the State of Alaska to pick a place that all of Alaska can be proud to call their Capitol.

Here's a chance for the Administrators to invest some of the so-called oil wealth in Alaska instead of investing \$18 million in some other place and dropping \$7 million in one deal. Plus, using all of the \$900 million. Also, the tax in four years on Administration expenses. I don't have to tell you the millions and millions being spent every year on the Capitol improvements where there is no land to build on and where they are dredging out the bottom of the channel to have something to build on. This cost money. They don't have to fool around with the poor and listen to the poor people's problems. Look at what the village got out of Juneau compared to the cities in this past Legislative Session.

Let's move the Capitol so we can all start out new and now. There might be a place in the corner of the room for the bush people and that will be a hell of a lot more than what we have now.

A Capitol movement now is no different than a move tomorrow where a little money could be put back in Alaska and a little less in those big money packets.

Every Indian, Eskimo and Aleut, whatever you are, all of you poor people can join us. We can and should move the Capitol to some central location in Alaska.

There's one thing for sure. It can't be any worse for the poor. it can only get better. This is an election year and don't believe half of what you hear from those two-tongued boys who will promise you everything and give you nothing. Vote for your own people. Your own people will give you better than an even break. You have got a better chance for getting something for your village from one of your own people, so if he wants to run, put him in.

Sincerely,

James Huntington

Regional Director

Koyukon Development

Corporation, Inc.

P.S. I have never met any of the instigators for the Capitol move. I hope I do have the chance sometime to talk with them because we do need this move.