

Letters to the Editor

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Alaska that native persons and organizations involve themselves directly in efforts to prevent economic development from being destructive of human and environmental values. The native person (as the "first conservationist") can contribute most significantly in this effort. It is not only that the native has much to teach us about good conservation practices generally, but his intimate knowledge of natural forces, wildlife and vegetation, and of the remotest areas of Alaska are precisely what is needed on which to base recommendations (and legislative proposals) for the protection of these most precious resources.

Mr. Editor, the time grows short for initiating appropriate action in so many of these areas . . . We must all work together in this crucial realm of conservation.

I believe, moreover, that the conservation movement provides the ideal vehicle for bringing native persons together with all sectors of the population to serve an indisputably mutual interest, and that from this shared experience of working together to protect the environment will flow other benefits probably beyond our present reckoning.

I believe that the land is the basic tie that binds us—we all belong to it, and it to us—and if, as in the past of human history, our common humanity was not enough to bring us all together as members of the family of man, perhaps a felt-recognition of our inseparable relationship within the ecological community will help us to achieve that end.

As you well know—and as the very existence of your newspaper attests—it has not been sufficient for a people to present a valid claim to justice, to point to the wrongs which have been committed and which continue to be done. What must be done, it seems to me, is to establish an area of shared concern between the peoples involved. Once done, other mutual efforts and corresponding benefits will surely follow.

It seems to me, then, that the land can indeed be the tie that binds us together. And, as all great movements begin with small but important steps, I wish to suggest that the active involvement of native persons as members of the conservation societies of Alaska will be a significant beginning step—and one that is crucial to the future development of Alaska.

Please allow me to ask that serious consideration be given to these thoughts.

Respectfully,
Charles Konigsberg
Anchorage, Alaska

Wales, Alaska
September 23, 1969

Letter to the Editor,
Tundra Times:

I have read with interest all the items that concerns the AFN also the Native Land Claims.

On your Sept. 12 issue: I want to commend those young Eskimos and Indians that have picketed the lease sale. For not being afraid to let everybody know of their opinions and their rights.

And now let's take when the Russians discover Alaska. But, incidentally, they found it was owned by the Indians, Aleuts, and the Eskimos.

Now give this a serious consideration. Who owns the land? The one who found it, or the ones who had been living on it for years and years?

And come to think of it, I have never read or heard of any negotiations, or agreements of the Natives of Alaska turning

SCHOLARSHIP

Archie Gottschalk of Naknek, freshman at Alaska Methodist University, was the recent recipient of the Zeck Ostrosky Memorial Scholarship.

The Scholarship fund, sponsored by the Bristol Bay Historical Society of Naknek, was created in memory of 8-year old Zeck Ostrosky, who was killed in the tragic Wien Airlines F-27 crash last winter. Zeck was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ostrosky of Naknek.

Gottschalk is a 1969 graduate of Bristol Bay High School. The scholarship states that the recipient, selected by the Bristol Bay Historical Society, must be a graduate of Bristol Bay High School.

Vincent Price . . .

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the studio to reschedule the filming so that he could spend more time in the state.

In keeping with the theme of the banquet, "Cultural Contributions of the Native People of Alaska," Mr. Price will speak on the importance of a culture to a people, and to Alaska Natives.

over their land to the Russians. And this is my opinion and belief that the Alaskan Natives have a substantial legal right to the land.

And my last statement; if anybody thinks that I am wrong. Put it on the Tundra Times. And I will take back all the statements if I am wrong.

And we can bet that Alaska was sold and bought without the knowledge of the majority of the Alaskan Natives.

/s/ ROY OKPEALUK

501 Moore Hall
University of Alaska
College, Alaska 99701
September 23, 1969

Congressman
Howard W. Pollock
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D.C.

Sir:

In Tundra Times published September 19th, I read a portion where it stated that you "opposed to the 2 per cent over-riding royalty proposal advanced by the Alaska Federation of Natives as part of a land claims settlement."

If you claim to be Alaskan, then I declare that you are Alaskan for outside secret partners by virtue of your congressional representation for Alaska. You certainly do defend unto death our right to say, but not what is good for all Alaskans. What a hell of a way to keep Alaska going by keeping the poor depleted, and keep the rich from the poor. What sort of a politician are you?

As I recall the history of Alaska, the first immigrants to Alaska were forgotten by White House in the middle and the late nineteenth century. For awhile the immigrants enjoyed immunity from White House, but could not stand it later without rights to their lands and benefits for local use. That President Harrison had fooled the immigrants for awhile, but they hadn't been fooled, because they knew what they were talking about. Ol' Harrison was only an inch away from the powerful grips of the immigrants.

Now that you presumably represent Alaska, you are doing to the natives exactly what Ol' Harrison did to the immigrants. Remember that you are only an inch away from the powerful grips of the true Alaskans—not natives or whites, but true Alaskans.

Memorandum,
John Angaiak



VINCENT PRICE IN ALASKA—Arriving in Fairbanks Wednesday on his first trip to Alaska, noted actor and art critic Vincent Price (left) was greeted by Tundra Times Editor Howard Rock (right). He made the special trip to speak

at the Tundra Times Seventh Annual Banquet Saturday in Anchorage, at the Anchorage-Westward Hotel Ballroom.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph

Tough Musk Ox Trek Successful . . .

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they were captured," the professor said.

The small vessel, easily surmounted criticism from Norwegian papers, one of which claimed the voyagers would not capture one musk ox in three months of trying.

The real challenge came from the weather and ice conditions. "In order to get to northeast Greenland, we had to go through 120 miles of drift ice even to reach the coast.

"The big problem on the expedition was the weather. It was about to cave in on you at any moment. You can easily get trapped up there," Teal added.

The expedition's ship had succeeded where others failed. The professor explained that ships were still trapped on ice conditions so poor that they are rated among the worst in modern history.

Having conquered the ice, Teal and his fellow capturers traveled inland by helicopter to the huge cliffs and spacious field where the musk oxen were thickest.

The three capturers other than Professor Teal were Peter Strong, President of the American-Scandinavian Foundation of New York; Jim Buckley, brother of conservative columnist William F. Buckley; and Larserak Skifte, a Greenland Eskimo student at the University of Alaska's Musk Ox Project.

"All our captures took place under the most amazing conditions. In some places, there were five-thousand foot cliffs dropping straight into the sea," Teal said.

"As to my technique, I have been more primitive than I ever have been before. Of the 41 animals we captured, I tackled exactly 27 in the open fields.

"My favorite thing now is to walk up to the calves in the open fields and tackle them. There is some danger from the adults, but to capture a musk ox, you have to think more or less what a musk ox would think," stated the professor.

"It is kind of mystic," Teal added.

He staunchly opposed the use of immobilizing drugs in any form.

"We never use immobilizing drugs because of the danger of killing the animals.

"In all my expeditions, I've never used immobilizing drugs and we have always been successful," Teal said.

In order to meet the requirements of the Bardue Station, Teal had to maintain a distinct

ratio between the males and the females. As he explained it, this was one major problem of the expedition.

"Because of their plumbing, you cannot tell the sex of the young musk oxen until late September. On the very last day, we wound up catching eleven animals in order to get two to bring home.

"We have to paint their rear ends white so that we don't catch them a second time," he said.

Teal outlined several of the more significant conclusions of the expedition. "The overwhelming question in this country is what do the animals eat. Most of the landscape is gravel and rock. Maybe, every two miles there might be a small patch of half-inch tall grass.

"They eat grass, but they don't need very much. Nature has adapted this animal to the Arctic north."

Teal added this observation might prove to invalidate the claim that the musk oxen are over-ranged at Nunivak Island.

He noted another observation: "We saw piles of bones where Norwegian whalers in 1928 and 1929 apparently thought you had to shoot all the adults to capture the calves."

Despite the isolated butchering, the animals were not depleted. "We were particularly impressed that the range of the musk ox is so sparse that no man could believe they could be alive there, but that is where they occur in their largest numbers.

"Five to eight per cent is the largest calf crop of the musk ox in most places. There, they were ranging to twelve per cent. The herd in Greenland numbers more than 10,000."

As they searched for the musk ox, the men discovered places where in modern times existed tribes of Greenland Eskimos.

"We also did some archaeological work on the expedition," Teal said. "We found places where men, Greenland Eskimos, lived 600 years ago. It was a very fragile existence. They needed their seal and their caribou."

After capturing forty-one musk oxen within six days, the animals were placed in the hold for the voyage to Norway. Here, they met with other difficulties.

"Our next biggest problem was to get out and through the ice. Going back, we had to penetrate 200 miles of Arctic pack ice. We were lucky to get out. There are still ships trapped in that ice from this summer.

"We went through three days

of heavy storms to get all the calves back to Norway. We didn't lose one of them. In the hold, the musk ox were in the best place of all," Teal said.

He described the Norwegian reception as enthusiastic. "Europe in general seemed to go ape over the whole thing," he said.

"We established a station at Bardu under the direction of men trained at the University of Alaska. We hope it will bring benefits to all the poverty stricken people of Scandinavia."

The Bardu, Norway, musk ox station is the fourth established by the Northern Agricultural Institute. The original pilot program was the Huntington Center, Vermont station, in operation since 1954.

The University of Alaska Musk Ox Project has made Alaska home base for the Institute's stations, which now encompass the entire non-Soviet northern arctic.

A breeding-educational station, men trained at the University manage other outposts. Larserak Skifte, the Greenland Eskimo, was trained at the University and was instrumental in establishing the Bardue station.

The Institute plans to open a station in south Greenland, at Sukkentopper. When it does, young Skifte will be its manager.

"The Norwegian station was the first time where the so-called native people end up teaching technology to so-called modern peoples," Teal stated.

"We hope the guys we train will act as missionaries, go back to their villages, and teach their people how to use the products of the musk ox. Their are 27 families in Alaska that make a substantial part of their income from musk ox wool. There are six such families in Quebec.

"Welfare is a situation that native people hate more than anything else. Musk ox can be the solution.

"Our great delight is that we are in the have-proved stage, and this is just the first stage of it," said Teal.

With the Greenland expedition, Professor Teal and the Institute of Northern Agricultural Research have ventured in their expedition to all the major areas of the Arctic.

"It was, by all odds, our most dangerous and our very best expedition ever," Teal reflected.

As the Institute pursues its goals, the rest of the world watches with interest—the northern Eskimo populations watch with anticipation and new-found hope.