

Letters from Here and There

Many Invited to Rural Media Conference

Alaska
Rural Media

Howard Rock
Tundra Times

Dear Howard:

Through the attached letter, invitations have been sent to several hundred communities and human services organizations throughout Alaska announcing an Alaska Rural Media Conference to be held in Fairbanks on the University of Alaska campus from July 22-25, 1975.

With funding support through the Alaska Humanities Forum, the conference planning group intends to provide an open forum for the discussion of the many issues surrounding the increasing use of communications media in rural areas of Alaska. Also included in the conference will be workshops that deal with actual production and application techniques of the various modes of media communication.

Responses to the initial information letter have given us a wide variety of topics and suggested workshop facilitators. Your name was among those suggested. We ask your consideration in assisting in the development of this conference through being a workshop facilitator in the area of your special media interest. A rough outline of the conference agenda is attached to give you a feel of

what the conference format will be. Some of the workshop suggestions submitted thus far are also included. Please feel free to add or change the titles for the session you wish to work in.

We would like to be able to support all our workshop facilitators to this conference, but we are limited in funds, so we ask that you inform us as soon as possible if you need assistance in travel and we will accommodate those that need it most. We are sure that your involvement in the conference will bring about enough self-satisfaction and reward to justify your trip.

Summer's coming on and our time is limited. We request a response at your earliest convenience indicating whether or not you will be able to attend, need for coverage of travel expenses, and an overview of the workshop you would like to participate in (including an idea of the optimum size, suggested attendees, discussion elements, and any equipment and/or materials needed.)

Telephone confirmation by May 30 to either of the numbers listed below would be ideal and appreciated. Call collect if you wish. We will respond immediately upon hearing from you. Thank you for your consideration.

Conference Coordinators:
Paul Sherry
Community Health Development
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 452-1746 ext. 26

Richard Yamada

Cross-Cultural Education
Development Program
University of Alaska
Fairbanks 99701
(907) 479-7694

Our Address:
Alaska Rural Media Conference
c/o X-CED
7th Floor Gruening Bldg.
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Cottage Prog. In Kodiak

Kodiak Area Native Assoc.
Box 172
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
May 20, 1975

Howard Rock, Editor
Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Howard:

I'm sure you are aware of the Cottage Program down here in Kodiak, so I won't go into too much detail about it but an overview.

In September, approximately fifty-one (51) rural students from six (6) villages were brought into Kodiak for their secondary education. It is now the end of the school year and we still have forty-six (46) students from the villages still in the cottages.

The Cottage Program is without doubt in our minds the most successful boarding home program in the state.

Attached is the final test in the Land Claims class by a sophomore student from Larsen Bay. We are very proud of this student and his attitude toward both education and the Land Claims Settlement Act.

If at all possible, we ask you to print this final report in the Tundra Times. If all students had this attitude toward education in rural Alaska, problems would be almost non-existent.

If you would like further information on our Cottage Program please feel free to write at any time.

Sincerely,
KODIAK AREA NATIVE
ASSOCIATION
Hank Eaton, President
William A. Anderson
Education Director
• • •

NLC-3 per.
Final Test
May 19, 1975

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What I Can do to Help the
Alaskan Native Movement

The first thing anyone should do to help the Alaskan Native movement is get an education. Everyone possible should at least get through highschool, but a further education could be very helpful. The people without education cannot understand the Claims Act clearly. To them its just a check now and then, and some land. But the Alaskan Natives must start business to prosper. In the future, there could be many jobs for educated Natives if business ventures are started. So, to get an education is the main way for an individual to help the Native movement.

After an education, you may get a job in your local corporation to help make it more sturdy. If the corporation is sturdy, your share holders will be leading lives of work and destiny, instead of unemployment and worrying about the next fishing season. If people have any ideas about how to make more jobs, they should share their thoughts with the corporations. More jobs mean less welfare, unemployment and BIA checks, which will get the Native people off their fannies and into the busy world.

These are my views on how to help the Alaskan Natives. There are many bright young people who don't know it. They should be urged to get involved, all they have to do is try. They will be helping themselves.

— Nick Laktonen