

# Letters from Here and There

## Writer Discusses Boarding

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16th February, 1974

Tundra Times  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Editor, and Others,

Thanks for passing on my request for information about wind power used on the tundra.

Your paper is getting better, or else, I am just beginning to see what is good about it.

You have two articles in the February 6 issue that I plan to use much. They are: "Boarding programs are proven failures," and, "Alaska Native Sciences."

As you have discovered, the blight of the Euro-Asian culture has been for ages, the idea that, "The native is inferior, whether, persons, plants, animals, and water. And, it must be civilized and brought up to date."

In the South 48, as the school centralizers have their way, and schools are consolidated and kids hauled and tabulated, we find that the use of marijuana and other dope goes up with it.

An untold amount of our personal and social problems not only in this nation, but over the world, is due to the fact that we ignore the native culture values. For instance, rheumatism, hear failure, poor eyes, falling teeth, goes up as we shift from locally produced diets to the centralized and processed.

With this, we shift to dependence on central controls for government, education, religion, and work. So, we hunt ways to dodge. Expect an increase of a racketeer invasion with these new payments. With this will go dispossession, one way or another, and all sorts of crime.

Now a word of encouragement: We saw a switch in this among the Indians of the Pawnee, Oklahoma, Indian Agency, 1939 - to now. The young men decided to "Give up (their) valuable time and take a job." They began working at jobs, or making their own. So, they have closed the boarding school at Pawnee. Hospital loads are down. Reservation police are dismissed. Booze and dope use has faded. In 1942, the favorite undertaker at Ponca City, went broke and to California. I was there and saw most of this.

Sincerely,

Don J. Klingensmith  
"Chief Gets Job Done."

## 'Independency' on Island

Box 219  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
February 15, 1974

Mr. Howard Rock  
Editor, Tundra Times  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Rock:

I was pleased to read the letter made by Mr. Paul Rookok of Savoonga on your letter of Comment's section of Tundra Times. Naturally, he is ultimately expressed himself that the St. Lawrence Island is going to be different from the rest of the villages that effects by the

Natives Settlement Act. During mid November, the people on the Island took one day to make decision whether to crawl for the Act or for the massive lands that will lead them into best choice they thought they would take.

Results been observed by the small agencies from Nome areas observers. The choice was good enough to learn the next day that MIGHTY St. Lawrence had unanimously taken the entire Island which resulted to over millions acres on surface and subsurface. In regards to that voiced victory, I'm certain that every soul minded citizens had took their steps for tomorrow and not the past anymore.

Thus, we are completely independent resource Island now separating us from the mainland communication and weariness to ease. Citizens had decides that this is might as well accepted by the entire force of St. Lawrence Island. "Independency" will be the word from now on and respectfully will be carried on like that at last.

Barriers have been discarded from mainland's recognition and their longing eyes on the island. But not that so, we just decided we are going to envelope ourselves into mysterious moment that never happened before on the Island. We'll start from the day of August, 1906 when Teddy Roosevelt was high prime President and assures the Congress how many Islands in the Bering Sea Strait.

Then of course the missionaries already came ashore on these respected Islands and look or Fur Traders pass by and see what they seen on their journeys. Basically, St. Lawrence Island was invaded by the Czarist ships whom they were sailing under the Russian Flag. But "Catherine The Great" or Danish has so many names they can loan to Russians during their explorations, they just simply advised Mr. Vitus Bering to go ahead and name the island after their noblemens and kins. Sir Lawrence is quite the long name in the Danish culture and whether the native islanders had accepted that during their parleys with the explorers.

Assurance were made by the U.S. Congress that is there any live stocks or valuable resource on the Island? And who's the direct translator and interpreter for the Native Islanders? Thanks God we have numerous God gifted people beening in the area during that crucial time. Dr. Sheldon Jackson an famed missionary for the Presbyterian was reluctant to come ashore to Island and meet with the natives.

Dr. Jackson purchased thirteen Reindeer Herds from Siberia and started the Reindeer husbandry for the native people on the Island. This growth of herds were amounted to high caliber of skilled herdsmen and developing home grown industry for the St. Lawrence Islanders. It was appreciable for the people to have some source of establishment they are seeking to learn from the famed missionary.

Churches were built, schools, and most overwhelmingly the Reindeer Commerical Store. Later, the President proceeds to the congress to adopt a legal Trust Act to St. Lawrence Island and declared on the Island as "a Reindeer Reservation". During this decade, the herds were sudden diminished and afouled to few. My considera-

tion is to enlarge the remaining herds again and this is the hard to accomplish for certain circumstances.

We will have to find some economic potential to upgrade this misgap while the other natural resources effects. Consequently, we are beening placed into self determination way. Our priorities will segmented to different aspects of developing, (1) economized the resources (2) self governing methods (3) establishing status quo (4) restructure the local villages governing bodies.

Obtaining maximum RIGHTS from the State and Federal policy on evaluation on minerals and other natural materials can develop into St. Lawrence's major resources and industry. (5) securing internal relations to other villages on the Island.

The obligation is now open to the islanders on behalf of the clause changes or title on St. Lawrence as "Native Reserve" effective that November's election. To best of my knowledge, I hope that the State will not put a immediate taxing forms to the island. Then of course the determination would have to come from the Boundary Commission or Community Affairs. The law makers can make the choice of that. I wanted to see the young people of St. Lawrence Island to develop themselves as a majority citizens of the island.

We have the greatest Arts in the world that can capture the true identity of ancient craftsmen. We must utilize the ancient arts and set a vast margin promotion to it. Trans Alaska, Native Settlement might even focus on this wonderful attention in their respected villages. Some counterplans even will produce in villages to eliminates the arts and crafts since they are the recipients of the claims act. I do not degrading their interest but to urge their leaders to upgrade the true natives identities.

It's wonderful to have Alaska Natives Settlements, and there is lot of chances are now available to the villagers and Regional Corporations. We'll have the best opportunities in Last Frontier at Last.

Respectively Yours,  
Allen Alowa

## Glacier Water for Stickman

Nulato, Alaska  
February 18, 1974

Dear Friend:

Well, I have been reading all winter how much money we were going to get and how much we got, but I haven't seen any money yet.

I'm still living in my mother's house which is ready to fall down, and packing glacier water from Mukluk Slough. Years ago, when I was 12 or 13 years old, we wintered over at Inokoi River.

I used to hunt with older people. When I get a little tired, like from snoeshoeing or running ahead of a dog team, the first thing that happens is I get thirsty.

So, when we come to a creek with glacier water, I go for water. Glacier water is open under the snow because the creek is running water on top of the ice.

The older men tell me not to drink that glacier water because you are going to get weak from it and you'll never make it home. When I started on snow, they said the same thing.

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And while they rested, they didn't want me to rest, because they said I would get stiff and could not walk very far, and they would have to wait for me.

Now I have been drinking that glacier water for two years here at Nulato. It's easier than making a water hole at 50 below. The thermometer is between 50 and 60 below since after them guys came back from the moon. That's December weather in February.

It's getting pretty bad here for gasoline. I have no dogs. If my sno-go quits, I'm stuck for wood. I might have enough gas until the break-up. I only have 25 gallons left. I have to make it last.

I also have 100 gallons of fuel, two drums. So don't worry about me, buddy. I'll visit you again if I run short of fuel.

By that time, I'll be needing another good bath. Take a bath every three months, then you can stand a lot more cold.

There will be a lot of activity here in March when the Iditarod Race teams go by. Also, potlatch and dog races or carnival, I heard.

Fred Stickman, Sr.