

Reader wary over Ft. Wainwright brigade

Dear Editor:

An article in one of the local newspapers prompted me to write. It's about the new Light Infantry Brigade that's moving to Fort Wainwright. No doubt, the army would create more jobs, increase the economy, and protect us from the Russians. What I want to do is to remind my people of what happened back in the 50's. The young people came from the villages all over Alaska to work and left their families and lifestyles behind. There was even a place to go that a girl could go to sign up for a date with G.I. Inevitably, some got married and were excited to be off to some exotic place like Puerto Rico, Hawaii, or the smaller 48's. Upon arrival, some found families they were un-

comfortable to be with. The environment was vastly different, the people there spoke different, ate unknown foods, and worst of all they found prejudice. They became unhappy and homesick with no one of their culture to communicate with. Some took to the streets and drink and as a result were disowned by their new families. The fortunate had return tickets and came back to us a lot wiser to families that understood. This won't happen to all our young ladies but the ones it does happen to keep this letter in mind and also keep in mind that a Native woman ages faster with drink.

Sincerely,
E. Calahan of the
Street people

Tribute to John Paul, Sr., offered

To the editor:

To the guests, elders, and children, also the following classmates:

Annie Frank
Ralph Walker
Maggie Richards
Nick Dementieff
David Walker
Walter Whitley
Margaret Dementieff,
Sister-in-law

This is the final tribute to John Paul, Sr. These remarks and comments can be verified by anyone of the above persons.

At an early age John became an orphan. So he was raised and cared for by Big Paul (then the chief of Holy Cross or better known as Deloycheet) and Mary who was his auntie. He was raised in the original traditional ways of the Native lifestyle; which was not with modern appliances, electricity or prefab homes. From his Aunties and respected Uncle he utilized resources from the land around the old village which was located across the river and the now Holy Cross area. These people were the original people of the Deloycheet who were not relocated to the area. John Paul, Sr., is the last male of this tribe who can say this without any reservation. The lifestyle which is being renovated to a different lifestyle went to the barter system to the cash system. John did many small jobs and trapped to raise his 10 children by hard honest work. He made the transition to a cash system. He was never known to take advantage of anyone. If he needed anything, he made it by hand (examples: such as; boats, sleds, caches, nets, fishtraps, and many other necessary items).

When the Day Navigation Company terminated, he then took employment at Bristol Bay for 16 seasons. He worked for the cannery and was on 24-hour call. He worked without complaining of the hard work. He

never questioned anyone; he just did his job to the best of his ability. At the end of each season he thanked the company each season for his employment.

One year, many years ago his daughter and son-in-law passed away. He then had to rear 6 grandchildren. The youngest being no more than 3 years old. He provided the family with both food and wood using from the land many resources; never wasting any portions of the wild meats or furs. He trapped in his younger years with his uncle at both Deerhunting Slough and the next year at the Forks of Lucky Point Slough. This provided them with a means of conservation of wildlife through alternation. He trapped all his life.

John had the responsibility of being the traditional Holy Cross chief for numerous years and was never retired. He also had a great sense of humor "The harder he worked the happier he seemed." He was also Santa Claus for many years. The last time was in 1983.

You can always remember John Paul, Sr., by two words, "Thank You." This takes a special man to really mean those words. His gentleness and kindness to all mankind will never be forgotten.

John was neither rich nor poor for he lived the true traditional ways: dancing, singing, and sharing with all mankind. He was also the Native language teacher here for about 3 years: Ingalik the Athabascan dialect of the Holy Cross area.

His survivors are six children:

Mary Jane Simpson	Sitka
Joe Paul	Holy Cross
Rita Paul	Holy Cross
Mary Ann Melak	Anchorage
Phylis Gregory	Holy Cross

Also 22 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. He was 76 years old when he passed away.

Dollie enjoys Tundra Times

Dear Tundra Times:

I am writing you a letter to tell you that it sure is nice to have a newspaper as Tundra Times: I would like to say that Tundra Times is really enjoyable to have in Alaska. Please keep up your work in the Tundra

Times as we enjoy the Tundra Times here in Northwest of Alaska.

I just wish to say I enjoy Tundra Times

Sincerely,
Dollie A. Hawley
Kotzebue, Alaska
99752

Letters to the editor are gladly accepted and will be printed on a space-available basis. Letters must be signed by the author, and must be accompanied by address and/or telephone number. Name and address may be withheld from publication, at the author's request, under certain circumstances. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length, and for profane or libelous content. Send letters to: Tundra Times Editor, P.O. Box 104480, Anchorage, AK 99510-4480.