

*I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it.*

# **A Salute to Our Village Newspapers**

During the last two years or so, there has been quite a few village newspapers that have started publishing. The contents are usually spontaneous expressions of the village people in their own words and many of them are written in a most amusing manner.

All of the village papers are done with a ditto process or by mimeographing with drawings by village children or by adults. Most are published by school children with teachers or VISTA Volunteers as advisors. Others are village enterprises such as the BLACK RIVER "MURMERS" CHALKYITSIK NEWSPAPER. A state school at Anaktuvuk Pass has a little publication it calls, THE NUNAMIUT NEWS, "Deep in the heart of the Brooks Range wild country." The latter is done entirely by the pupils of the school and its editor, eighth grader Pat Hugo, doesn't pull any punches. Editor Hugo wrote an editorial on cleanliness in the following manner:

"Some students should try to keep clean at home and at school. The students should wash up every morning before coming to school. Some students should try to change clothes when the clothes they're wearing get dirty. They should try to keep clean because we have inspection in school. C stands for clean and D is for dirty. The ones that are the most dirtiest..." (Editor's Note: At this point, Editor Hugo proved to be much more nervy than this editor.)

Hugo continued:

"...I should say they should or could wash better in the morning. They should try to keep clean because they might get germs if they eat with dirty hands. So I hope you keep clean. Take a bath every week if you get a chance."

On the other hand, Chalkyitsik Newspaper, Chalkyitsik, Alaska, is a good example of a village publication. That one is edited by William Fredson who has really tried to make it a success. He is actively trying to increase his little paper's circulation. He is also planning to sell advertising space. The earnings of the paper are used for village projects.

The "Mummers" prints newsy village activities with occasional Indian legends of the area. Its school activity section is done with news items written by school children in their own words.

"Our little paper has quite a circulation also," wrote editor Fredson, "Not as extensive as the Tundra Times but it goes to such places as Park Avenue in New York, Washington, D. C., many other states and also to other villages and cities in Alaska."

We salute the village newspapers whose news is direct and to the point and which are pleasurably amusing.