

# Letters from Here and There

## *Fred Stickman Encounters Fish & Wildlife*

Huslia, Alaska  
Sept. 29, 1975

Dear Editor:

Well Howard, my Vacation is over. I'm working now. I'll be back about the 10th of October to see you. We're leaving Huslia today for Nenana.

Soon as I got on the boat, it started to rain. It rained for several days, so we made our trip with the river rising to a good normal stage.

But before I left Nenana, the Fish and Wildlife told the fish buyer at Nenana Cold Storage not to buy any more fish. So I asked the Buyer. They were here. He said no. I said how could the Fish and Wildlife tell you over the phone to stop buying fish when there is twelve (12) fish wheels here, all Nenana Indians, want to sell fish. They all need subsistence fishing. That's the only way the older people can have money. They have no skill to make money.

I said what's the reason. He said, the people at Manley Hot Springs caught too many fish. I said, there's no Indian Village there. Manley Hot Springs used to be a white men town, mining town.

So the way it seems to me, the White Men caught all the fish at Manley and us poor Indians go to hell.

Where is all the Republicans, the Governor, we vote for. I use to know when they make the laws in Juneau year ahead. Like 1974 for 1975. Now it's over the telephone. It started happening like years ago, when 20 years the Republicans was in power. Then when the Democrats took power everything went smooth for me. That's when I appointed myself "Democrat."

I hope everybody all the Indians and all vote for Republican Governor so we can get hurt more.

Fish and Wildlife is jealous of Ed Lord because he's making a few dollars more than his living. But when you go to Nenana Ed is handing out fish all winter for us poor people.

I counted 12 fish wheels in 15 miles close to Nenana. I hope someone especially the Governor to answer my letter and just tell me where I'm wrong. When I make enough money, I'd like to go to Juneau, and Washington, D.C., to see Ted Stevens, Mike Gravel, and the Governor.

So best regards to all your staff and you. Hope to see you soon, maybe at the banquet. I like to dance with one or two of the girls with dresses on, that is if I have luck, and they ask me. I use to like to dance, but now who in the hell want to be seen with an old mug like mine. It sure is hell to get old, but that's what God put us on this world for. I like to enjoy myself but I don't know how. The ladies have to ask me I don't like to be refused, even a date. I don't know what's a date either. Best regards to all my friends especially in Nenana.

Fred Stickman Sr.