



Tundra Times

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Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak

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Fairbanks, Alaska

Bethel suffers power failure

Gov. Jay Hammond Was Orating as Village Power Abruptly Failed

By LAEL MORGAN

Since early last fall Bethel citizens have been planning ceremony and celebration for the long-pending visit of Gov. Jay Hammond, but no one expected it would be quite as memorable an event as it was.

"Hammond was giving a speech when everything just blew all to Hell!" recounts astonished Bethel Mayor, Eddie Hoffman. "A fuel line had broken at the power plant and splattered all around, catching fire. The building burned down.

That was Dec. 2 when temperatures were relatively mild for Western Alaska, but this week they plummeted to -30 below zero and Bethel's problems have become critical. At this writing Bethel representatives are meeting with government agencies in Anchorage seeking help, but many fear the town won't be able to generate full power for a long time to come.

Currently Bethel is running on two 900 kilowatt generators flown in immediately after the accident on loan from Alyeska Pipeline Company.

The capacity of the old plant was 5,500 kilowatts which

leaves the community with a severe power shortage.

"The Bethel Hospital blew up one of its standby generators and is flying in an emergency unit," Hoffman reports. "FAA (The Federal Aviation Agency) is on its own but pretty shaky for power, too, we understand. Northern Commercial ran a cable to keep the grade school temperature up but school has been closed here. May open tomorrow."

The airport runway lights were down for a while and citizens lined up car headlights for night landings. Today that's no longer necessary Hoffman said.

Another plus is the Bethel Native Corporation which protected its major investment, a handsome hotel-apartment

(Continued on Page 6)



THE WORLD'S ONLY four-year Eskimo institution of higher education, the Inupiat University of the Arctic, has its central office in Barrow Alaska. This building houses the university files and administrative offices.

—Photo by SUE GAMACHE

The farthest north institution—

Goal of the Inupiat University

By SUE GAMACHE

"The primary goal of the Inupiat University," according to Bill Vaudrin, president, "is to provide the kind of education that will enable graduates to live comfortably in any of the variety of life styles, ranging from the traditional subsistence way of life of the early Inupiat, to urban technocratic society, and any combination of the two."

The Inupiat University is the only fully accredited four-year Eskimo University in the world.

The entire board of directors is composed of Eskimo representatives from the villages of the North Slope; and the student body, faculty, and administration are predominantly Eskimo.

The Inupiat University is headquartered in Barrow, Alaska,

the northern most community on this continent, and is

(Continued on Page 6)

Willard Bowman Dies



"Willard Bowman is going to have to recover because we need him," a colleague told the Tundra Times last week when it became known the veteran Anchorage legislator was battling for his life following a summer-long illness with cancer.

But Bowman lost the bout on Wednesday, Dec. 3, leaving a void that will be difficult to fill.

"Alaska has lost an outstanding public servant," Gov. Jay Hammond said. "During his years of public service in Alaska, Willard has been one of the important forces molding the future of our state. His demonstrated leadership in the legislature will be sorely missed."

Bowman first came to the attention of the Tundra Times in 1965, while serving as executive director of the Human Rights Commission when he investigated reports that Aleuts of the Pribilof Islands were being ill-treated by government agencies that controlled sealing operations there.

The information had grounding and later Bowman worked with the Tundra Times in an expose and crusade for equal citizenship for the Aleut people. The campaign resulted in

(Continued on Page 6)

Musk Ox Transferred to Unalakleet

FAIRBANKS—In fierce winter weather, 49 cows from the University of Alaska's musk-ox herd here were successfully transferred to Unalakleet this past weekend, providing that Norton Sound Native community with a new basic industry.

"We feel wonderful—all arrived in perfect condition," said John J. Teal, director of the university's musk-ox

domestication project. "There was fine cooperation from every direction."

Forty-seven of the 49 animals flown to Unalakleet by Alaska International Air Hercules are pregnant and will calve next spring. Two flights—one on Saturday, the other on Sunday—were required to complete the transfer of the individually crated musk-oxen.

(Continued on Page 12)

Editorial Comment—

Willard Bowman -- A Great Humanitarian

One settles down to probe his thinking capabilities and realizes that he is unable to set down in writing—whether that writing should be a requiem, a eulogy or an honor for a departed friend. He decides that what he wants most to do is a difficult plateau to achieve.

(Continued on Page 2)

PROMINENT MAN PASSES—A great public servant passed away. One of his greatest jobs was his part in investigating the Pribilof situation as head of the Human Rights Commission.