

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



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Member of the American Indian Press Association

Bowman dies . . .

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He is discouraged and reluctantly decides that he must compose his thoughts in plain and ordinary manner. As he does, one thing is starkly evident—his long-time friend—a man with whom he had labored to better the lot of a people has departed. The writer grieves the loss of his friend who had toiled to benefit people with better ways of living. He had achieved that goal. The departed friend, at some moments during his life, certainly must have experienced a comforting feeling that he had aided in delivering better ways of life for his friends—the Pribilof Islands people of Alaska's Bering Sea.

Willard Bowman, a Black man, was the first executive director of the newly-organized State Committee for Human Rights. He took on the job some 12 years ago. In the process of his tenure in that office, he was given a job of investigating some administrative procedures being applied governing the Pribilof Aleut people. This after the Tundra Times had written extensively about living standards on the islands. There were some things wrong with the way the governing procedures were administered and Willard Bowman began to look into this situation. Some of the things he uncovered were not right.

One of the things that was not right was that a visitor to the Pribilof Islands had to get a special permission from Seattle, Wash. to travel to the islands. This requirement was discovered by Carl Moses, much to his discomfort because he was running for state legislature at the time. He traveled to St. Paul Island and found he could not get to the village to campaign. He had to fly back to Anchorage, Alaska to get the needed permission from Seattle. This was one of many things that wasn't right, and this back in 1964.

During the time of the investigation of the Pribilof situation, Willard Bowman had allied himself with the editor of this newspaper and his assistant editor, Thomas A. Snapp, in fighting for the rights of the Pribilof people. Bowman did much to bring about the desired end from the standpoint of the Native citizens. He battled those who would only whitewash a bad situation.

In the end, a great ally came forth in the person of none other than the late Senator E.L. "Bob" Bartlett. With Bartlett's help, Willard Bowman, Snapp and this editor and their friends had won a victory—the establishment of the rights as citizens of the nation of the Pribilof Islanders with the powerful assistance of Senator Bartlett.

The above achievement was but one of good things Willard had done for ordinary citizens. He was a great humanitarian. He did not live in vain. He achieved better things of life for people no matter who they were. At the time of his death, Willard Bowman was a member of the state legislature where he gained a powerful position as chairman of the State House Rules Committee. He was also a great friend of freshman Native legislators. He guided them on proper approaches of good legislation. Willard never stopped working for better things of life and by doing so, he enriched his own life.

Along with great many other people, the Native people of the state had lost a great friend. We will miss his persevering efforts, always toward a brighter fusion in lifeways.

—HR

Letters from Here and There

Writer lauds legislators on senate bill

Box 665
Bethel, Alaska 99559
Nov. 30, 1975

Dear Mr. Rock:

Enclosed is a copy of Sec. 14.08.141 of Senate Bill 35. You will see that it is the section pertaining to the establishment of Regional Resource Centers and that the legislation allows for these centers to include many services one of which is media services.

Our legislators are to be congratulated for including media services in this important piece of legislation affecting education in rural Alaska. However, I am concerned as to what plans are being made by the State Department of Education and by the legislature to insure that Area High Schools will have adequate library/media services.

As you know, there are high schools already in operation in small villages such as Ruby, Huslia, Mountain Village, Emonak and Alakanuk. To my knowledge, these high schools have little or no access to library/media services. Their teachers are seeking help from the Alaska State Library which has neither staff nor the collection to support these high school programs.

Many students attending Area High Schools in rural Alaska will plan to attend colleges and universities. Without adequate resources and library/media services, how can teachers in these schools prepare

their students for higher education?

I believe this lack of library/media services to the students of rural Alaska should be a concern of all residents of rural Alaska. I am writing to you about this matter since I am sure that you are as concerned as I that the students in rural Alaska receive a quality education. They are our most valuable resource and should not be short-changed in their education.

Sincerely,
Isabelle Mudd
Librarian

Questions power of citizens arrest

Sir:

Returning home office after a long absence. I've seen quite a lot of progress being made, whether it may be for the best, that remains to be seen.

One thing I don't quite understand is the power that is put into citizen's arrest. I have understood Gestapo style power which is centered mostly towards the Native people. One knows you can't arrest a person for just being drunk in public, but harassment is set in, and before you know it he or she is under arrest for littering, disturbing the peace (whose peace I don't know), etc. The hostility towards the Natives is unbelievable. Does one judge by a very small number? Do we forego about the Native who leaves his or her village to get a better education, to establish his own identity, whether it be big or small. We have a lot of well-respected, productive Na-

tives here in Fairbanks. You can't judge all by a handful.

These people who make citizen's arrest should look around and see what the majority is doing. Aren't they in the same shoes as is Native, or is there a difference? Will they push them against a car to a point of humiliation and if one's friend asks why is he or she being arrested, the reply, "You're going to jail for interfering."

One must feel great as lot of these Natives don't know what is going on at this point. I have yet to see a Native make a citizen's arrest on a so-called majority person, as they truly know hardships in life and won't want to inflict hardships on another person.

Last but not least if this did happen, how far would they get in court?

There is prosperity for all here in our state, but Gestapo style tactics aren't needed.

My personal advice is love us or leave us and go back and make citizen's arrests in your own state, to your own people, that is if you can't find a minority person to make you feel like an all American person. I'm proud to be an Alaskan Native.

Sincerely,
Ms. Andree Panigeo Leopold
University of Alaska
114 Harwood Hall
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Holly Near

Oct. 29

Dear Editor:

Three years ago I heard a really beautiful and fantastic
(Continued on Page 11)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The Fairbanks Town and Village Association for Development, Incorporated
The Fairbanks Town and Village Association for Development, Incorporated, will be holding its Annual Board of Directors meeting, pursuant to AS 10.20.061(b), on Tuesday, December 16, 1975, in the board room of the new Doyon, Limited offices at the corner of First and Hall Streets in Fairbanks. The call to order will be at 8:30 a.m.

During noon recess, the Association's Board will join the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce general membership for lunch in the Gold Room of the Travelers Inn. At the invitation of the Association, the luncheon speaker will be Mr. George Nelson, Vice-President for Administration, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. Mr. Nelson will discuss Alyeska's planning for demobilization of the construction effort following completion of the pipeline project.

Governor Don Samuelson, formerly of Idaho and presently Regional Coordinator for the Federal Department of Transportation, has also tentatively agreed to attend the luncheon session, and the Association's afternoon work session on transportation.

Following lunch, the Association's Board will reconvene in the East Gold Room of the Travelers Inn for informal discussion with state and federal transportation officials on construction schedules, operations, and procedures during the coming construction season. There will also be discussion of regulatory and public policy questions related to the proposed State Department of Transportation.

This will not be a public hearing. Rather, the Board will encourage the opening of new lines of communication and dialogue between state, federal, and local officials involved in transportation, and Interior business people, community representatives, and other residents interested in improving the regional transportation system. The public is welcome to attend and encouraged to participate during any part of the day's program. The annual meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. until March, 1976.

Persons desiring agendas or other information about the meeting should contact Janice Farrell, Community Projects Officer, at the Fairbanks Town and Village Association offices, 510 Second Avenue, or call 456-4285.

Sincerely,
Jerry Smetzer
Executive Director