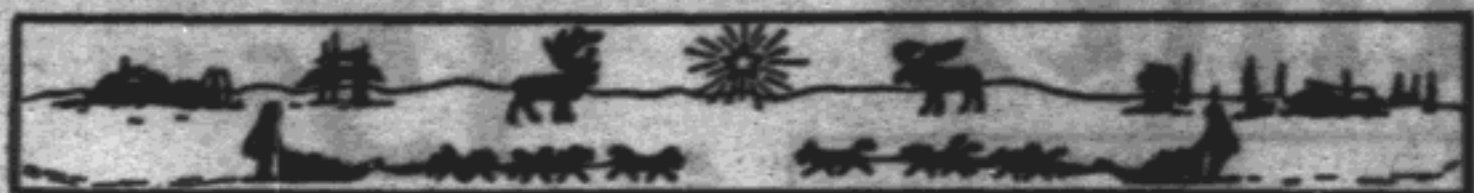


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Editorial—

Timely Tyonek Loan

With the acquisition of the \$100,000 loan from the Native Village of Tyonek, the Alaska Federation of Natives and its President Emil Netti now have the means that should provide the native people of Alaska an effective representation in working on land matters in Washington, D. C.

The Tyonek loan was timely and it may have come at the nick of time because the AFN had been in dire need to finance the needed representation—the kind of representation that would press for the strictly native side of the picture in the land situation. This is the side the influential members of Congress should know because the native spokesmen, we believe, can best present the true situation of Alaska's native people who are seeking just solution to the long standing land problem.

The natives of Alaska within the last few years have been responsible for the surprisingly swift progress toward affecting land legislation now pending in Congress. Within those few years, they had courageously taken on a sticky problem that had lain dormant for over 80 years. It had been a thankless job—difficult job.

The leaders met with unreasonable opposition that their people had no right to the lands they had always lived on since the remote past. In spite of these difficult obstacles they hung tough on what they thought was the right thing to do—what they thought was the reasonable thing to do.

We think the native leaders should be commended for their courageous efforts toward solving a problem that could be a milestone for brighter lives in the future if just solutions are provided.

These are the goals the native representation will work towards in Washington, D. C. and we are grateful, indeed, that this has been made possible by the amicable willingness of the Native Village of Tyonek to loan money that was needed badly.

Letters to the Editor

ANCHORAGE WELCOME CENTER, INC.
105 4th Ave. Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Rock:

A Participants Council was elected by 150 users of the Center after an Easter brunch, held at the Center on the 14th of April, 1968 at 1:00 P.M.

Elected were: Hugh Phillips—Ruby, Alaska, Sylvester Ayek—King Island, Alaska, David Shaglock—Kotzebue, Alaska, Frank Mercer—Juneau, Alaska, and Jim Lee—Kodiak, Alaska.

Alternates elected: Ken Paneok—White Mountain, Alaska, Julia Barnes—Cordova, Alaska, Al Chiklak—Dillingham, Alaska, Doris Neakok—Point Lay, Alaska, and Bill Thomas—Ft. Yukon, Alaska.

This Council is responsible for maintaining the Center and for keeping it open evenings and on week-ends.

On the 15th of April, 1968, an election was held for the Board of Directors at 7:30 P.M. Elected to the Board are the following: Roy Peratovich—President, Jack Frost—Vice-

Alaska Tots' Head Start Terminated

APRIL 29, 1968—Some rooms festooned with A's and B's and cutout cats and seals, and hung with crackly opuses in fingerpaint and glue, will fill with only silence these May mornings.

The children, almost 1200 sons and daughters of Alaskans in 52 villages and towns from Pt. Barrow to Hydrburg won't be coming in for Head Start anymore this winter.

The Alaska State Community Action Program's biggest set of projects, the funding and training of adults from the villages, the providing of food and cook's wages for hot lunches, and the medical and dental service for the children of Head Start, closed down April 26.

For the coming summer, plans are for only three communities—Ketchikan, Juneau, and Bethel—to conduct Head Start in Alaska.

The remainder, which means the 52 winter Head Start programs plus the more than 40 other villages in Alaska that have asked to join the Head Start rolls for the 1968-69 term, await the decision of the board of directors of ASCAP.

It is a harsh and painful choosing that must be done. But the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), from whence ASCAP derives its Head Start funds, this year sustained serious losses in Head Start appropriations, and has been forced to call for austerity and worse.

The program just ended gave, or was designed to give a head start in learning and in mere "being together" to 1180 children, most of them in or near three years of age, to help them prepare for the formal school situation they will face at five and six. The hope and the plan is to give them confidence and knowledge enough to put them on an equal footing with the middle class children who are the majority in our public schools.

It did this for a remarkable \$625 per child, which is about 40 per cent below city programs, like that of the Greater Anchorage Area School District.

The secret was that the program was built not by ASCAP, but by the people of the villages and the towns themselves. ASCAP only stood by with technical advice, funding, food and guidance and training. The people of the villages made Head Start work, sometimes with hammers and nails as they built buildings to house it, and sometimes with mere ingenuity, as they found ways to raise money and collect toys and food and clothing for their Head Start children themselves.

So austerity means little to the mothers who got up before the rest of the villagers and went down to start the stove and put together the dough for cookies and donuts and bread for the day's lunch, and who took pleasure in the grins of the children fed.

And it means less to the children who discovered how to make their own name come into existence on a sheet of paper, or how to make a friend, or how a horned toad smiles, or how good it feels to put your head in the teacher's lap for a second.

For at least a part of the 250 employees ASCAP trained from the villages and the towns, the program was a rung up toward a better job. Several teachers are now on their way to college, to begin studies leading to professional teaching careers. And many villagers trained in accounting for the Head Start books are moving up to better and bigger jobs.

A thousand things were clumsily done in the villages as Head Start happened. A thousand more were mishandled in administrative chains from the village to ASCAP. And from OEO, some of the unkindest cuts of all came—especially in funding.

As ASCAP executive director Larry Brayton said, "It is exceptional that our Winter Head Start program was good and sound throughout despite two major budget cuts—the most recent of them being a big \$100,000 slash that hit on March 3, 1968, six months after our program began."

(Continued on page 8)

President, Ruby Tansy—Secretary, Mrs. David Hickok—Treasurer, Jim Lee—Sergeant-at-Arms, M. R. (Muktuk) Marston, Chuck Homer, Willard Bowman, Bill Bailey, Huss Malik, Bill Bennet, Hugh Phillips, Sylvester Ayek, David Shaglock and Frank Mercer.

Sincerely,
Pat Locke
Director

LETTERS to EDITOR

To: The Editor

Those of us that live in Hydrburg are very concerned that in the future we will not be able to call this place our home. There was much that was sacrificed by our people when they left their homes behind them and moved to Hydrburg, for their future good and the good of their children. If the BIA continues its present course we will lose all of this and the last bit of human dignity and freedom that we have.

However, we want it understood by all concerned that Hydrburg is on the move. We will not and are not sitting back and losing what is ours. Therefore, as a community, with the support of those from the church and the State, who were in attendance at the meeting held in Juneau, April 5th and 7th, 1968, we are setting out on a course of action that we feel will bring us the quickest results relative to our presently depressed situation, which by honest standards should have been called a disaster area as a result of the non-operation of our cannery, and the lack of any other economy in our community.

We are presently beginning to communicate with other interested parties, who could process our fish for the coming season. We are also looking into the possibility of running our cannery this year, due to the expectation of a good season. We feel that our cannery could and should be operated, and we are seeking an operation for this coming season. We have also learned from the civil rights struggle in our country, that marches, sit-ins, and demonstrations get results. We are willing to take any steps necessary to gain our freedom and our dignity which has been taken from us.

Signed by the citizens of Hydrburg

3/23/68

Dear Editor—

Some of us Junior High kids are running with the High School boys on the track team. Yesterday, we ran six miles. I beat all the seventh grade kids and a few of the High School kids ooool My legs are very sore today. But we are all glad the roads are better so we don't get so muddy.

Enclosed is my check for the 55 papers I sold and 25 headlines from those I didn't sell.

Sincerely,
Harold Riach

WANTED: Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; potlatch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Dr. Los Angeles, California 90028.