

# Letters from Here and There

## *Letter to feel out boarding home program*

Mr. Ed Wilson  
Principal Teacher  
Rampart School  
Rampart, Alaska 99767

February 19, 1976

Dear Mr. Wilson:

In response to your letter to Mr. Dickerson concerning the Boarding School Student questionnaires that were sent out to all principals. I believe there is a misunderstanding and I apologize for any inconveniences.

Our sole intentions for taking this survey was to get the students feelings on the boarding home program that is in existence now. To help the Regional School to up-grade the Education of our boarding home students and all students to meet their needs. To many times we assume we are providing the best education for our kids without no input from all involved and especially the students themselves.

I'm sure once the REAA School Boards are elected it would be up to the parents and individuals involved to demand where their students should go to school whether it be at home, Fairbanks, Tanana, Fort Yukon, or anywhere else.

In general the requested survey would help us to start planning how to better approach the REAA School Board with needs. In this way we don't have to wait and see what happens but let's do something about the boarding home students now and not wait until the state decides what to do about the problems.

Sincerely,  
Nancy James, Executive Director  
3 G's Box 134  
Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740

## *Re: Historic Preservation Study*

Box 961 Auke Bay, Alaska 9982  
Feb 21, 1976

Rep. Helen D. Beirne  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

Representative Beirne:

I am writing in response to your request for information and suggestions regarding the "Historic Preservation Study" and specifically in regard to the question, "Do you want the historical societies to become a quasi-governmental agency?" My basic response to this latter question is a flat "NO!"

I agree that there is a great deal of duplication in the present program for historic preservation within our state. I think that there should be a reorganization of the structure and functions within our various departments.

My reason for not desiring to see the historical societies made quasi-governmental in nature is the fact that they do not represent all the people of Alaska equally. It is true that the organizations do not discriminate, and they actively

encourage participation on the part of all, but in fact the proportion of Native Alaskans in the societies is very small. On the other hand, a large portion of the pre-historic sites and archaeological finds, along with much of the historical material are part of the heritage of our Native people and they should have an equal voice in its preservation. I would recommend that the Alaska Historical Society undertake an extensive program to enlist the participation of a more representative number of Natives in the societies and then the question can be re-examined.

Perhaps compromises might be worked out temporarily. For example, a commission may be set up to coordinate historic preservation activity, but have among its members at least one representative from each Native Regional Corporation.

Sincerely,  
Wallace M. Olson

cc: Alaska Native Regional  
Corporations