

What others say...

Alaska-Siberia exchange

To the editor:

House Joint Resolution 31 passed the Alaska State Senate recently. This is a legislative resolution supporting a Siberian Eskimo crossing of the Bering Strait and cultural exchange between Alaska and Siberia.

It also urges the president of the United States and Alaska's Congressional Delegation to assist such activities. This resolution passed the Alaska House of Representatives earlier.

I note that HJR 31 is a verbatim duplicate of Senate Joint Resolution 41 that was introduced previously in the Alaska State Senate by Sen. Willie Hensley.

Certainly, Reps. Heinrich Springer, Niilo Koponen and Kay Brown, the sponsors of the House resolution, are to be commended for recognizing the

importance of the idea and securing HJR 31's passage in the House of Representatives. Perhaps a resolution with House sponsorship was the best means to ensure a favorable outcome in the House of Representatives.

The swift movement of the House version through the Senate indicates Sen. Hensley supported it, even though others besides himself would be credited for the resolution's sponsorship.

I am sure Sen. Hensley's unselfish work for this important resolution is greatly appreciated by all who have worked for the reunification of Siberian and Alaskan Eskimos and for the improved relations across the Bering Strait for all people.

Sincerely,
Laurence A. Goldin
Juneau

Praise for Swetzof

To the editor:

I want to commend Paul Swetzof for his commentaries that are published in the *Tundra Times*. He knows what he is talking about and gives good information, insight and analysis.

I hope that he keeps up the good work. The issues clear up some with a few facts.

In service,
Dave Lacey
College

ANB celebrates Diamond Jubilee

To the editor:

The Alaska Native Brotherhood celebrates its 75th anniversary this year — its Diamond Jubilee. The ANB was organized in 1912.

It is considered to be the oldest Alaska Native, American Indian organization in the United States — the oldest that is formally organized with a constitution and bylaws, as well as elections.

The 75th annual convention will be hosted by the Sitka ANB, Camp No. 1 in Sitka, Nov. 9-14.

Sitka ANB and ANS members are excited about hosting the 75th anniversary convention. Planning for the convention has begun. A joint planning session with the ANB grand president was just recently held in Sitka. The Sitka ANB and ANS have set up several committees and have held several planning sessions already.

The recognition of ANB's 75th anniversary should be a year-long event, and all camps are urged to promote recognition of it.

The ANB's accomplishments are many. We could not list all of them, but, just to mention a few:

- Gained recognition of Native rights as citizens.
- Won the right of Natives to vote.
- Integrated public schools.
- Brought the Indian Reorganization Act to Alaska.
- Brought hospitals for Natives to Alaska, now under Indian Health Services.
- Got the "Equal Rights Law."
- Initiated the Alaska Native land suit, which led to the Tlingit-Haida land suit and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.
- Organized the Native Boards of Health, which are now the health corporations such as SEARHC, Alaska Native Health Board and National Indian Health Board.
- Provided an "Open Forum" for its people to discuss any issue.

Appropriately, the convention theme for this year is, "The Voice,

(Continued on Page Three)

What others say...

Writer opposes 1991 amendments to Native claims act

Dear Senator Ted Stevens:

A Senate committee has scheduled hearings to be held on a bill which would amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. HR 278, a bill from the Alaska Federation of Natives and Sen. Frank Murkowski's substitute bill will be among those considered by the committee.

I am opposed to any amendments to ANCSA which don't reflect the best interests of the Alaska Native peoples. These proposals, I understand, contain no provisions which would:

- Adequately protect the lands from taxation.

- Protect the lands from condemnation by the State of Alaska.

- Allow the secretary of the Interior to hold tribally owned lands in trust.

- Be neutral with regard to the self-governing powers of the Alaska Native tribes.

If any of the above proposed amendments become law without these needed and protective provisions, it will effectively destroy the Alaska Natives' objective of keeping and holding their lands as well as Congress' intent of viably settling the claims of the Alaska Native peoples.

The corporate concept used in set-

tling the claims of the Klamath, Modoc and Menominee Indian tribes has been a dismal failure. There is little or no reason to believe that the corporate concept will work or succeed for the Alaska Native tribes because of the lack of natural resources, lack of adequate education and the scarcity of population statewide.

This approach will only cause further exploitation of Alaska's Aleut, Indian and Eskimo peoples, and it will add another chapter to the long and shameful history of the U.S. government's dealings with Native Americans.

Please consider the American Indian Policy Review Commission Report of 1975, which recommended that the U.S. government should adopt policies which would protect and strengthen tribal governments.

I urge you to correct the injustices in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act before we are dispossessed of our lands and our cultural heritage. You should seek and listen to the Native people from the villages for advice on these important matters.

Sincerely yours,
Frank R. Peterson Sr.
KaliSpell, Mt.

• Alaska Native Brotherhood to celebrate 75th anniversary

(Continued from Page Two)

the Message, the Forum."

ANB Grand President Richard Stitt is encouraging delegates to introduce themselves by their Tlingit or Native name and identify their Clan House before they speak at the convention.

Each day there will be time allotted for historical segments to be presented by various people. Details of this still need to be worked out. Generally, segments will cover pre-ANB, the impact of ANB and local camps.

GRAND CAMP

ALASKA NATIVE BROTHERHOOD
INC.

ORGANIZED 1912

Each camp is encouraged to provide a listing of their charter members and history of their camp.

The Grand Camp is putting together a booklet entitled, "A History of the Founders and Past Grand Presidents."

The Sitka ANB has a special 18K

gold bracelet made by Louis O. Minard, a master Tlingit metal carver. The center design is based on the design used for the 50th anniversary ANB medalion. The bracelet will have engraved on the inside: 75th Anniversary, 1912-1917, Sitka, Alaska,

November 9-14, 1987.

There will be other items, such as cups, pens or pencils. In fact, cups are available now.

A lot more planning will be done, the process and celebration have begun.

For more information you can contact ANB Grand President Richard Stitt, 9462 Brady Place, Juneau 99801; or Sitka ANB, P.O. Box 72, Sitka 99835.

Sincerely,
Frank Williams Jr.
Sitka