

Letters to the Tundra Times

Native Arts Institute

10/23/79

Dear Mr. Richards:

Just received the 10/10/79 issue of the TT. Was especially interested in the article on page 2: "Institute of Alaska Native Arts is a reality."

The invitation invites me to participate....

Has anyone suggested that the "leadership" of such an endeavor should come from recognized Alaska Native artists regardless of the media of their talent who have the time and opportunity to accept the responsibilities and duties that this leadership would demand?

Are there presently any facilities in Alaska that exclusively display for exhibit and sale Alaska Eskimo, Aleut, and Indian art works? If so, perhaps some

Stickman

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December 27, 1972

Dear Editor:

"Lots of people tell me that I'm a lucky bastard. They don't know how tough it is for me sometimes ... don't have one cent ... Them white people in the office act just like little school kids. Just like the money is coming out of their pockets. They don't know how much they hurt the old Indian. That's me."

Fred Stickman, Sr.

†

January 31, 1973

Dear Editor:

"Unemployment is killing me. I should be out my trapping cabin ... Well, Howard, let me know when I'll get my money. We'll take a trip to Europe."

Fred Stickman, Sr.

February 28, 1973

Dear Editor:

"I washed clothes this morning with washboard because I'm too lazy to haul water for wash machine. Too bad ... It's pretty hard for us poor Indians to win."

Fred Stickman, Sr.

†

May 4, 1973

Dear Editor:

"Now what I'm writing you about is we shot a mallard duck May 2 (soaked with diesel oil) and we couldn't eat it yet. I'm going to try it anyway ... I hope some of these guys would look into it."

Fred Stickman, Sr.

†

September 19, 1973

Dear Editor:

"I have been here trying to figure out why they don't want us to sell a few fish. I heard two reasons. Not much fish caught ... The other is they blame the Russians and the Japs fishing. That's both wrong ... I lived on the Yukon 66 years now and I know they're a lot of fish came up the Yukon more than any other years on the river."

Fred Stickman, Sr.

day I could one or several of my paintings to the facility (0) for exhibit.

My artistic forte is in abstracts, and I've won a number of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place awards, and once I won Best of Show and 1st place in oils for a painting (9"x12") of an Indian Medicine Man, in the Bi-annual art shows here at Folsom. The only pieces of homeland representations I've done are: an auk (or puffin), a whale scene, my interpretation of "The Raven", a painting by an Eskimo that featured in a past issue of Alaska Magazine, and an ancient whale boat that I did for Ilung Lena (Lena Andree of Dillingham, Alaska) from an old, old photograph that she sent to me several years ago and asked if I could do a painting of it.

She seemed pleased at the way it turned out. Although I can, and do, do landscapes and still lifes and portraits (characters) I only do them because of the good market for them here. My abstracts come from the core of my being and spirit-they are my way to express all that I feel and see and hear about this world gone mad that we live in today.

I really would like to know more about the IANA and look forward to more information.

Keep up the good work TT staff, you're doing an excellent job. Really enjoy Grace Swooko's legends and news items. Really appreciate the tribute to Old Man Stickman. It was always refreshing to read his letters... I'll miss him, too.

Walk in Peace,

Art Tahl

Box B40988

Reprosa, CA 95671

Imperial Russian Document

Dear Editor:

I was very interested to read in Tundra Times about the recently discovered Imperial Russian document showing that the Russians did not have control over most of Alaska or over the Natives who lived on the land (with the exception of the Aleuts).

Since you can't sell something you don't own, what the U.S. paid Russia \$7 million dollars for was to make up a title to the land, making the sale of Alaska a fraudulent transaction.

More evidence of this fact is contained in a recently reprinted book entitled 'The Russian American Company' by S.B. Okun (Ictagon Press). This book is available for \$14.50 by special order from any bookstore. S.B. Okun is a Soviet researcher who had full access to Soviet library archives and original records of the attempted Russian occupation of Alaska. The book is as exciting a history as you will ever read.

The book graphically describes how multinational corporations, like the Russian American Company, are the cutting edge of imperialist expansion. The culture of the indigenous populations, especially the Aleuts, was destroyed to make way for the profit structure of the company. Okun also points out that the white workers that were brought over by the company were getting screwed almost as bad as the Natives. The sea mammal resources of the Alaskan coast were des-

troyed in a blind rush for short-term maximum profits.

The book includes an analysis of the sale of Alaska and identifies some of the U.S. corporate interests behind the purchase. It also relates some interesting remarks by Karl Marx on the strategic importance of Alaska to international conflicts of the day.

This book would be excellent reading for anyone analyzing the intentions and strategies of the current generation of multinational corporations as they move in at an accelerating rate on the land and sea resources of Alaska. It doesn't seem to matter which country they come from, they're all after the same thing which is maximum profits.

Sincerely,

Paul Fuhs

Alaska Common Ground

Collective

Box 8703

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Wien Air rate increases

City of Bethel

P.O. Box 388

Bethel, Alaska 99559

(907) 543-2297

October 29, 1979

Mr. James Flood, President
Wien Air Alaska, Incorporated
4100 International Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Mr. Flood:

At a recent Council meeting, the Bethel City Council addressed the fact that there have been three rate increases for air fare between Bethel and Anchorage by Wien Air Alaska.

Prior to August 18th, the round trip air fare on Wien Air between these two points was \$158.78 and after September 24th your firm began charging \$192.00, which represents a 21% increase in a little over a two month period. If this percentage increase were annulized, it would compute to 112% increase in one year.

Comparing the long established Bethel/Anchorage route, we are paying \$192.00 for 796 air miles or 24.1cents per mile, while the newly established Anchorage/Seattle route costs \$158.00 at a distance of 2,800 air miles at 5.6 cents per air mile. We realize that it is more cost efficient to operate the longer distance routes, but it is beyond our comprehension that it can be 430% more expensive per mile to operate the Anchorage/Bethel route as compared to the Anchorage/Seattle route.

And, in addition to the revenues that Wien Air receives from the Anchorage/Bethel route, doesn't the Federal Government subsidize this route, therefore, making it cheaper for your company to operate this route? While the Anchorage/Bethel route has received the three above mentioned rate increases, why has the Anchorage/Seattle route received NO increases within the same time period?

It is the opinion of the Bethel City Council that the rate increase that Wien Air Alaska has implemented on the Anchorage/Bethel route are unreasonable and unfair and they have advised me, as City Manager to (See LETTERS, Page Nine)

● Letters

(Continued from Page Two)

inform your firm as well as all City personnel that the employees of Bethel will no longer fly with Wien Air Alaska unless