

"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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Lost VISTA Volunteer And an Old Eskimo Strange Encounter Leads Into Extensive Analysis of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

Lands End Village
State of Alaska
October 30, 1973

Dear Howard:

Well, Wally and I have been very busy trying to prepare for the coming winter months. The work is hard and requires much physical endurance, but it is also rewarding to know one has done a good day's work. Wally and I can see the results of our work and will benefit from it later. When the wind is blowing, it is 40° below, etc. Wally and I will be sitting in our warm cabin enjoying the warmth of our work.

Sometimes I wonder if the people who are working in the Regional offices or BIA offices making good money think as we do after they have done a day's work. Hopefully, we will benefit later from the work they are doing now.

As you probably know, Howard, in December they're having a convention in Anchorage and at the same time money authorized under Section 6 (a) will be released to the Natives.

Over 130 million dollars will be available for distribution to the regional corporations. That is a lot of money. Howard, I am used to dealing in a few cents and an occasional dollar, and I know many of my native friends can say the same. What is going to happen to our way of life once we begin to receive lumps of money in these amounts? Will the poor remain poor and the new well-to-do become more comfortable in the life style they are fast embracing?

Wally said the great White leader from Washington will also certify the Alaska Native Enrollment complying with Section 5 of AN ACT. This is sad because after that is done, all Natives enrolled will have a number and all Natives that are not enrolled will be left out in the cold. It will be a sad day for the Native people when the Secretary types and signs his name to that enrollment document.

As for this old man, I think, tomorrow, I will take Wally and show him the beauty that covers this land at this time of year and at the same time try not to foresee what activity will disrupt my village's peaceful, sleepy atmosphere, before winter sets in. Take care, old friend.

Your native friend,
Naugga Ciunerput

Letters from Here and There

Community Museum

October 12, 1973

Dear Editor:

In the last issue of the Tundra Times you announced the publication by Kate Duncan on initiating a "Community Museum." It is an excellent bit of work and I highly recommend it. However, it may give the impression that there is not too much training required to administer a museum properly. In Alaska, with our rich archaeological sites, a museum (with hotel accommodations, good presentations, etc.) in a small community can attract many tourists. The profit to the community can far exceed the income a few get by selling precious artifacts piecemeal — which incidentally is contrary to State and Federal Law. But for a museum to preserve, catalog, maintain and utilize these things requires that you have an administrator trained in archaeology, history, museum science and office administration.

For over a year, I have advocated not only a regional policy for the protection of archaeological sites, but a two-year training program for Native technicians. A two-year program could train them to operate a museum properly, but also leave the graduates the option of going into historical - anthropological research or private business. Perhaps now it is time for Native corporations to pick up the ball and run with it — by providing funding for a limited number of training programs so that if the community has a museum, it can really be a benefit to all the people.

Kate Duncan's booklet is a good start, but trained personnel can carry out her ideas to the long-term benefit of the communities.

Yours truly,
Wally Olson
Asst. Professor of
Anthropology
Juneau-Douglas
Community College

More About Claims Act

7th & 8th Bilingual Class
Allakaket School
Allakaket, Alaska 99720

To Everyone who's concerned:

This is about the letter "Getting Involved" by James Huntington. We read the letter by James Huntington. Where did you get the Education?

We would like to know more about Land Claims Act. How else would we get involved if we don't know anything about it.

We hope we don't stay home and eat of mom and dad's table. We have to learn to make our own living, so help us now, to learn more about the Land Claims Act.

We'd like to go to Fairbanks to tour the Doyon Limited and Tanana Chiefs Offices and the staffs who are working in person.

We would like to see how they work The Boarding Home Program, since most of our students go through there and we will be the next ones to go.

And we would like to see what they are working on. But due to lack of funds we couldn't go as everyone knows or does anyone have the time to show us these things that are valuable

to us.

The total weight of 13 of us is 702 pounds in case you are trying to figure out how big airplane to send.

Henry Williams
Christine Williams
Sally Sam
Morris Bergman
Sharon Williams
Emily Bergman
Rudy Moses
David David Jr.
Chuck Edwards
Valerie Williams
Catherine M. Henzie
Lindberg Bergman

Stickman: I'm Also Out of Oil

Nulato, Alaska
Nov. 21, 1973

Dear Friend Mr. Howard Rock:

Well, I see where Ugashik and Pilot Point ran out of fuel. How about Fred Stickman here at Nulato? I bought 13 drums of fuel oil, 2 drums of gas and a case of lubricating oil from Standard Oil Co. of California, two months before freeze-up time. I didn't get my order and I don't get my money back yet. Maybe National Guard will haul it.

Anyway I'm able to haul wood yet and buy oil from the Mission here, but when you have to keep house for yourself, wash clothes, cook, water and wood, etc. It's miserable. I also had cabin fever, started to be an alcoholic, lazy to get up, till I got a job on the new school. After I got to work, got in shape, they closed the job down. I worked 20 days and felt like a new man. Quit alcohol for 20 days.

I'm still living in the same house that was built before I was born. Unalakleet, Kaltag, Holy Cross, they have all running water, new houses, etc. Nulato, Alaska, nothing.

I'm still drinking Yukon River muddy water. Too lazy to go to Nulato River. Also too far for me.

I haven't got anything from the Land Claims Settlement. So I am starting a new corporation. The name: Gains Group of Alaskan for Individual Native Settlement, Stickman, President. Maybe we'll have some action then. Then young fellows president like Doyon, Tanana Chief, Fairbanks Native, etc., all they're doing up there is sitting down talking and answering the phones. They have no time to talk to me as a visitor from Nulato. I feel sorry for them.

That's why I'm writing this letter. What they're going to be

BIA Grants Fairbanks Native Assn.

The Fairbanks Native Association has received \$268,860 for general assistance to natives through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, according to a release by U.S. Rep. Don Young.

Since 1971 the Fairbanks organization has won contracts to administer the assistance program for the federal agency, and this year the budget has been increased.

"We managed to negotiate for an out-reach worker to get into the community and find out what the unmet needs of the native people are," reports Mrs. Georgianna Lincoln, executive director of FNA.

at 66 years old. I'm still working 6 days a week, 9 hours a day, all for tax, manual labor not sitting behind the desk answering telephones. Where is physical condition? They have to have more hospitals for them.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

Institute Can Perpetuate Cultures

FAIRBANKS — A \$25,000 feasibility study of an institute of Alaskan Native Arts could pave the way for a center to perpetuate the Native cultures, the arts and traditions within Alaska.

Led by Laura Bergt, a Fairbanks woman who serves on the national board of regents of the Institute of American Indian Arts at Santa Fe, N.M., the study group will take a hard look at the needs of Alaskans to preserve and encourage study of Native cultures within the state.

Official word of the grant came Oct. 15 from U.S. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, who began seeking the funds months ago with prompting from the Indian Arts and Crafts Board.

Tundra Times editor Howard Rock, a commissioner on that board, noted in a letter to Stevens that "the need for such a facility is great . . . It would be a center for the perpetuation of Native cultures, the arts and traditions. It would enhance the spirit and drive of our Native people."

Results of the survey will be included in Bureau of Indian Affairs plans for a possible central institution for training of Native artists and exhibition of their work.

Bergt feels that the resulting institute "should assist the Alaskan Natives in retaining their own cultural identity, utilizing their traditional methods and values, while extending their cultural values by learning the newest and innovative educational methods in the scientific and technological worlds."

"Too often," said Bergt, "we have seen an Alaskan Native youngster processed from his Native culture through a non-Native culture and education, thus becoming confused and eventually suffering an identity loss. For too long, the Alaskan Natives have been fed full of unused knowledge because "learning" without thought or a full perceptive understanding or appreciation of a foreign culture, while smothering their own culture, is self-defeating.

"The Native must learn about himself, thus enabling him to develop an understanding appreciation for the traditional Native culture, the present Native culture and the future care and growth of his heritage in keeping with and even going beyond, the times. The value of Native culture, or lack of it, has its effect on the Native because it is his heritage, his atmosphere, his personality and his life," she said.

Named to serve on the survey team with Bergt are Tom Drake of Nome and Mary Jane Fate of Fairbanks, both active in Native affairs.

TT wants you!

subscribe