

"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—

The World Eskimo Olympics of 1969

The 1969 World Eskimo Olympics is history having had its two-day run ending last Saturday. Although the Olympics encountered difficulties in locating a site for the performances, the program came out as one of the most pleasing in its eight-year history.

Commendations are due those in charge of the uniquely native cultural show especially its young chairman Thomas Richards, Jr., who at 19 years of age steered the program to its highly successful performance despite the shortness of time in which to make preparations. Young Richards' committee, composed mostly of young people, also did a fine job under a maze of difficulties.

We would also like to commend Dr. William R. Wood, president of the University of Alaska, for his valuable support in providing the Patty Gymnasium for the performances of the Olympics events and for providing housing for the performers along with eating facilities.

Daphne Rylander Gustafson did a superb job of working with Olympics queen contestants. She would be first to admit, we are sure, that she had excellent help of other able women. As a result, the pageant was presented in its finest form to date.

Demonstrating its ever popular public appeal, the 1969 World Eskimo Olympics performed before capacity crowds. The 2,500 seat capacity Patty gym was filled to the brim on the last day of the performances proving once again the popularity of the program. The UA gymnasium proved to be the best site the Olympics ever had for presenting its unique native events.

Other Voices—

Anyone who has read the history of the westward expansion of the United States will readily admit the relationship between the U. S. and the Indian nations was one long series of broken treaties and land grabs.

The Navajo people, along with many other people of major and minor Indian groups, were pushed into areas in which it is impossible for a white man to make a living and the Indian people dwell there only to eke out a survival type of existence.

The news media in general is that of the white man and little is heard of the viewpoint of the Indian plaintiff in land claims cases.

Few persons in the state and federal government were particularly interested in settling the cumbersome land claims cases until the huge oil discovery in the Prudhoe Bay area, with certain of the native claims having been tied up in court, ignored, lobbied against or otherwise delayed for decades.

Now that it is important to the state and federal agencies to have the native claims solved, we read such statements as, "Settlement of Alaska native claims must shortly be resolved or it will seriously hamper the development of Alaska," and "It's time to let them (the natives) become first class citizens instead of beating them down."

Gov. Miller recommends that the Alaska Federation of Natives not receive the two per cent overriding resource royalty; not receive a land settlement of 40 million acres, but receive something less than the Department of Interior's proposal of 27 million acres; not receive patent to 160 acres of land; that villages not receive exclusive rights to harvest fish, wildlife, berries and fuel on land granted to them.

There is no doubt that state's stand will influence public opinion, and seems that if the natives have help like this from the state they certainly don't need help from their adversaries.

—WRANGELL SENTINEL

Oil Firms Plant Grass on Slope

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Aug. 12—The two companies which announced a major oil discovery on the North Slope of Alaska just a year ago are cooperating in a large-scale experimental seeding effort to try to introduce new and hardy varieties of grasses on the tundra of that frozen Arctic area.

In their joint effort, Atlantic Richfield Company and Humble Oil & Refining Company aim to try to increase the fertility of the soil and find a seed or seeds which will "take" in the severe climatic conditions of the Slope. They want to establish the same vital ground cover as the tundra in areas which could be subject to artificial disturbance due to oilfield activity. The companies plan to make their findings available to government agencies and others operating in the North.

Atlantic Richfield is operator for the project.

The tundra, it was explained, acts as an insulating medium which keeps underlying layers of silt and water frozen throughout the summer. Disturbance of the tundra, which has a poor fertility factor and very short growth cycle, could cause the substrata to thaw and start surface erosion.

Weeks of planning and study by officials of three major Alaskan based agencies and the ARCO Chemical Company division of Atlantic Richfield preceded the start of the tests, regarded as a pioneering effort in the field of conservation.

Said Ralph F. Cox, Alaskan manager of Atlantic Richfield: "This is an all-out effort, in cooperation with the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Institute of Arctic Biology, both of the University of Alaska, and the Arctic Research Laboratory

at Point Barrow, to try to grow and maintain a good cover which is even harder than native tundra, and at the same time provide more and better feed for area wildlife."

Scores of varieties of cold weather-hardy seeds were reviewed and analyzed, along with extensive soil tests of the composition of the tundra to arrive at the final selection of seeds and fertilizers.

While those seeds selected are foreign to the tundra, they flourish in the frigid climate of other states, as well as in the Canadian and Russian Arctic.

Thus, in recent days agronomists sowed hundreds of pounds of 13 carefully selected varieties of grasses and sedges over acres of tundra in the Prudhoe Bay area of the North Slope.

Each seed variety was planted in two sections—one with fertilizer the other without, for control purposes.

In addition, a few small plots were sowed with seeds treated with various concentrations of a special growth inducing hormone—gibberellic acid.

The grass seed was sowed by hand from the ground, but the fertilizer—special mixes designed to counter the deficiencies noted in the soil tests—was spread by helicopter from 600 pound capacity bins suspended from the under-bellies of the aircraft.

The fertilizer came from ARCO's Fort Madison, Iowa fertilizer producing complex.

The job took three days. The agronomists operated from a special camp set up near Prudhoe Bay, which is 390 miles north of Fairbanks.

If any of the seeds take, there should be signs of growth soon.

"But," said Cox, "it will be

approximately this time next year before we know which seeds, if any, survived the severe Arctic winter. If only one seed can be made to flourish in that intense cold, we feel we will have made a major contribution to environmental conservation in Alaska."

North Pole

Registers Kids

For the new school year, the North Pole School will accommodate school children from all grades, kindergarten through grade eight.

Registration dates are the same as for other schools in this area, August 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and August 19 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

All elementary students (K-8) who live between Richardson Highway-Badger Road and Moose Creek Bluff will attend North Pole.

Deep Sleep Beneficial

The "rest cure" for TB went out with the pill age.

Today treatment for TB focuses on isoniazid and the other pills that fight TB germs. But rest, especially deep sleep, has benefits for everyone, whether sick or well. Benefits unsuspected until very recently.

Research into sleep and dreams has turned up some surprising evidence. Some of it suggests that a special kind of emotional learning takes place during dreams. Dreams—in some way not yet understood—are part of the brain's effort to absorb and reorganize emotionally intense experience.

In one experiment, Dr. Ramon Greenberg, of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Boston, showed a gruesome film of an autopsy to two groups of subjects.

Then he measured the emotional tension caused by the viewing. He allowed one group to get a good night's sleep that night. But he awakened the second group each time their brain waves indicated they were about to dream.

The next day all subjects were shown the film again. The first group who had been allowed to dream, were much calmer the second time. But the other dream deprived group showed just as much anxiety at the second viewing as at the first.

Dreams, it seems, help digest the past.

Dreams occur during sleep at regular intervals, about every 90 minutes. The electrical waves of the brain become as active as when the sleeper is fully awake.

These periods—called REM sleep because of the rapid eye movements that take place—last for 20 to 30 minutes at a stretch. They are now considered so important that ads for sleeping pills in medical magazines tell physicians how much REM sleep the pills will produce.

Rest alone does not cure TB. But deep sleep and dreams are part of healthy living.

Now He Has a Choice

By REGINALD SOOLOOK

I am an Eskimo who has a problem. My problem is not so much that I can speak, or for that matter, understand (well enough to live comfortably without having to consult anybody how I should say it or what the other is saying) my local dialect; but I can't write it down on paper so others could understand.

I can communicate rather well with my parents. They reared me from the day I was born. They spoke to me in Eskimo; told me what I should or shouldn't say or do in Eskimo. And I replied in Eskimo.

That was effectual communication and quite effective!

They made one great but forgivable mistake. They didn't teach me how to write in Eskimo. Great—because it's just great. Forgivable because they themselves didn't know how to write in Eskimo. I am thankful they didn't. I hate to think of the transition I would have to make. I have enough problems with the present way of writing, and even speaking and understanding it.

This does not mean I would have liked to write in Eskimo.

But what did my parents do? They started to speak whatever English they knew and told me that I have to go to school. "Go to school for what?" I asked.

"So you can learn to write in English," they answered.

But I didn't know English. What good would it do me if I didn't know how to speak in English. Speaking in Eskimo, they insisted I go to school. So I went to school.

I was an Eskimo, speaking Eskimo, living in Eskimo sod house, eating Eskimo food and at times, using Eskimo clothing and going to government-run school which in turn were English speaking Caucasian teachers who taught English to the Eskimo-speaking Eskimos.

So I was taught a foreign language and how to write in that language—English. But they failed to get across to me that if I was to succeed in this English-oriented country that I was to learn to speak and write in English. Maybe that was to come later but none did.

Later, I found out that I have to master some technical and scientific words to master a trade or profession. This was perhaps (if not THE) the greatest jump from the everyday monologue in a small native village to that of a language which has over 450,000 words and different usages to each one of them.

Collocated communication—that's a soul-searching job for me.

Now that I know a little of what it is all about, I found that I have a choice—a choice of what I am now and what I can do or be if I can sacrifice some of my time to attain this goal—better and worthwhile education. Do away with the tradition of need to that of tradition of competition on a basis that more can be done if the individual wishes to exceed beyond the perimeter of his living (bare subsistence and existence).

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