

Letters to the Tundra Times

land grab

July 24, 1980

Dear Editor:

To all Alaskan Native Hunters, Trappers and Fisherman.

So it's happening again, Your land is up for grabs. I am not referring to the land discussed in The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; the land you have always (and hopefully will always) survive on. The land I'm talking about is the so-called "State" and Federal" lands that everyone is fighting over due to D-2 legislation. It is also your land.

It's the land some of you still have your trappines on, or your fish camps. It's the land you hunt on. It's the land you make snow blinds on in the spring during duck hunting. It's the land were a beaver builds his house but knows no difference between "Native, State and Federal" land. It may be called "state" land to some or 'federal' land to some, but my belief is it's still your land. The land you have understood and respected for centuries.

In 1971 when the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act was signed, sealed and delivered some of you thought it was a good deal, some thought it was a rip-off. It's been 9 years already to have seen the beginning results of the "Act." There's much more to come.

I have one thought, and this is I see no difference between this "Act" and a "treaty" like the over 400 treaties made and broken by the United States Government to Native Americans across the continent. In other words, the U.S. government is not treating you any

different than how they treated "stateside Indians".

Just because this "Act" was signed doesn't mean you don't have some voice or control over what goes on with other pieces of land. You do have control and a voice over what is done with "state" and "federal" land. The control is in each individual trapper, hunter and fisherman.

I listen and I hear the people who want Alaska land for development. That would affect your lifestyle. I hear the conservationists with their arguments, that, in its outcome, may affect subsistence lifestyle.

Where is everybody? Stuck in their offices? I never hear your side of the land issue anymore. I never hear the voices of the hunters, trappers and fisherman. It's not over. Your struggles and heartaches with the government over land is not over.

No matter how tired you are of hearing about D-2, you should think of the land grab that could happen. Where are your voices? Where are your arms and legs?

Your grandfathers and my children are the rightful land lords. Your land lord struggles are not over.

In Respectful Brotherhood.

Mrs. Rudy Hamilton
Shageluk, Alaska 99665

archives

July 29, 1980

Tundra Times
639 I St.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you in the hope that either you or your

readers may be able to assist us in our efforts to locate and preserve historical records. Last year the University of Alaska, Anchorage established an Archives and Manuscripts Department in the University Library. The purpose of the department is to collect, preserve, and make available for historical research, papers and records on the history of Alaska.

We are seeking records which document the social, cultural, economic, political and historical development of the area and state. We are attempting to locate diaries, journals, correspondence, various literary works, business and organization records, and so forth. It would be our objective to organize, preserve, and maintain the records in a secure environment for use by researchers. Too often records of individuals and organizations, especially the more recent ones, are not considered of historical value.

We are asking you and your readers to assist us in locating and identifying records for preservation. If any of your readers have or know of records that can document aspects of the economic, social, cultural, and political development and history of Alaska, we ask them to please contact us at the University. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dennis F. Wallé
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