

Letters from Here and There

Fred Stickman Is OK But He Is Getting Cabin Fever

Nulato, Alaska
Nov. 14, 1972

Editor:

Hi Mr. Rock, how is my friend the editor. Hope you're doing OK. I'm doing OK here but I'm getting cabin fever. I hope to see you before the winter is over.

You know Howard, this Yukon River is a big river. Some places over a mile wide. And you can set a fish net anywhere and any place on the river and catch all the fish you want. Just to prove it to you and others, I set some hooks and fish net in front of my house and catch all kinds of fish. I can't have a license, only driver's license.

But still there's something that "stinks here." The Earth Movers have a contract here to build one mile road and widen the airfield. There is not one local man working here when I came home. Not one Indian —

all whites. The Tanana Chiefs and AFN don't even come around and see what's going on. I don't know what all the meeting is all about. I don't think they accomplished anything as I was at the meeting myself. It's just a waste of money. They're using all my money and everyone else's money.

How come all these smart young punks sold our land for \$500 million and 40 million on credit to the government. Can't the government pay the \$500 million cash? You know the government is smarter than the Indians and Eskimos. They hired Emil Notti because he was too smart for them. Now he found out and he quit.

Can I buy Alaska for \$500 million on credit? Why did we sell it and no money? I'm still waiting for mine. I was born March 31, 1907. I was 65 years old 7 months ago and I don't get no pension check. I worked all summer 2/3 of my

wages went for tax and I have nothing now.

I went up to Galena, Alaska three times to see the social worker and he turned me out on the street without no help. And he was also a white man drawing big salary sitting down and I worked hard all my life and I can't get a job like that.

Well anyway, I'm going trapping again in the land that belongs to someone I don't know who. I sure like to find out who owns this land 100 miles square where I trap. BLM was going to do this and that to our land after we sold it but we didn't get any money yet.

Well friend, if you don't put all this letter in, put some of it in anyway. It's up to you. You're smart. And if you leave some out, send my letter back with the Tundra Times.

Thank you friend and best regards to all Fairbanks.

I'm getting bored here.

Fred Stickman, Sr.