

Letters from Here and There

Galena Defends School; Tells Off Stickman

Miss Nora Demoski
Box 112
Galena, Alaska

February 26, 1973

Tundra Times
510 2nd
Chena Bldg. Rm. 220
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Editor:

Once in a great while, usually every summer, we see Fred Stickman here at Galena. I hope I don't happen to run into him because I would want to start up a big argument with him about his last letter on Galena and the high-school that the people of Galena need so badly. In fact, we need a high-school just as much as Nulato needs a high-school. Galena do need a high-school and it's our problem, not Nulato's.

Galena has a lot of criticism from the public. I think it's time that a lot of the people who takes a different view of Galena should realize that there is a lot of good on the other side too. If a person gets hurt, or, needs help in some way, the people of Galena would get to-

gether, maybe have a raffle, bakesale, or dance to raise money to help that person. I see a lot of good, nice people here.

A lot of people talk about the newsite that is located 1½ miles up the road. It's called Alexander's Lake and some people are already living there. It's a beautiful place to live and that's another good side of Galena. It seems like the more Galena is growing and improving its community, the more criticism it receives. Alcoholism is a problem but not only Galena's. Basketball games, snow-machine races, raffles, bakesales, dances, and other activities substitute alcohol. It's not because "Galena gets everything" as the old saying goes, but it's because something is done for it. We have very little of the drinking problem now. At least it gives something for the children and high-school students to go home satisfied before their curfew hour. The older people very seldom complain about having nothing to do.

Yours truly,
Nora Demoski

Box 27
Galena, Alaska 99741
February 26, 1973

Mr. Howard Rock, Editor
Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have been reading Fred Stickman's letters for ages now, and this time he really ticked me off. It's sad that he's fighting Galena's chance to get a new school and down-grading Galena's reputation when he use to live and work here himself.

People are always talking about the terrible drinking problem and the girls running around with G.I.'s here. If everyone would just stop to think about it, there's only a mere handful (if that much) that have this G.I. and drinking problem. It's the people who come from out of town that gave us our bad reputation. If you would notice, they're the ones who drink and raise hell.

He asks, "Why Galena?" for a new school. We need a school just as bad and even worst than

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anyone. Our school now is literally trash. Students are scattered and crowded in shacks here trying to get an education. We have been suffering these facts for years now, and it's about time someone honors our needs. We wouldn't think of putting a school between the bar and liquor store or on top of the dike, or even in the village for that matter. We have several acres set aside up at the new town site, "Alexander's Lake", for our school. This is out of flood range and a darn good place for kids!!!

The children work just as hard here as any other village, and I can't think of one high school girl who runs around with a G.I. We provide other activities for our children but we need facilities!!!

Galena has access to planes everyday and a good airport, which is another good reason to put Galena on top of the priority list for a new school. We have a PHS Registered Nurse and a good clinic here, which is an advantage and a necessity for any school. These are just two of many good reasons to put a school in Galena.

Galena is always cut off of programs, such as the Bi-Lingual Aides, Teacher Aides, and Headstart, because our income is too high. Why don't they spend some of the high taxes we pay in our own community??? That's what we are all working and paying taxes for — to better ourselves, our families, our community, state, and nation. Our community, Galena, doesn't seem to be getting any of the benefits.

We're all trying hard to clean our reputation and provide activities for our children to keep them from drinking, etc., but above all, we need a new school and gymnasium!!! "God helps those who help themselves," and believe me we are working to help ourselves and Galena!!!!!!

Respectfully yours,

Agnes M. Huntington

P.S. The TCC couldn't have made a better move than to recommend a school be put in Galena!!!