

# Letters from Here and There

## LETTER OF THANKS

Kalltag, Alaska  
Dec. 13, 1973

Dear Mr. Rock:

The family of Goodwin Semaken would like to thank the many wonderful people who came to our assistance when our home was completely destroyed by fire last month. The kindness and generosity of the people lightened our sorrow.

There is no way we can express our gratitude for the wonderful way everyone responded to our needs. A special thanks to Fr. Corigal and Mrs. Rita Bailey.

Gratefully,  
Goodwin Semaken

## FINDS FAMILY

Dec. 12, 1973

Dear Mr. Rock:

You and your wonderful paper, have help find part of my family that has been separated over 30 years. My brother has been found by way of the Bristol Bay Native Corp., Dillingham, and the kindness of Mr. Ted Angasan, deputy director of said corp.

My mother's sister, Mrs. Katie Temmerman of Dillingham is a very good friend of Helena M. Andree who knew my parents and brother as well as myself when I was a small boy. She read that plea of mine in the

Tundra Times you so kindly printed.

Mrs. Helena Andree is employed by the Bristol Bay Area Development Corp. as program coordinator and also as a counselor on their alcoholism program.

I now have an aunt and six cousins I didn't know existed. And a brother, Richard Martin Lombard, whom I've been lost to for about 20 years. I was going to take out an ad in the Tundra Times, as well as a subscription with my first Natives Claims Settlement check.

Being a destitute convict in prison, I could only wait. Raised in orphanages, foster homes, etc. after a family tragedy in 1939 this is the first I've known of my mother's people. Thanking you again, and all of your fine staff for all you've done. I pray your holiday season will be as happy as mine.

Your friend,  
John L. Lombard  
P.O. Box B48584  
Repsa, Calif.  
95671

P.S. No word yet from the enrollment office

## TAHL THINKING ABOUT ALCOHOLISM

William A.A. Tahl  
P.O. Box B40988  
Repsa, Ca. 95671  
17 December 1973

Mr. Howard Rock, Editor  
TUNDRA TIMES  
P.O. Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Mr. Rock:

In the past several years I've read and heard a lot about the alcoholic problem confronting [some] Alaska Natives. Included in what I've read and heard are alcoholic programs projected towards relieving this problem; however, I've yet to hear or read anything about the results of these programs. Are they proving to be effective programs? Are Native People (and non Native people) responding to the programs? Are the people that create these programs pursuing their goals energetically?

Alcoholism is a great concern to me. I'm in prison today because I couldn't handle liquor (it handled me) and the result of that led to my imprisonment. I never considered myself an alcoholic because my conception of an alcoholic was the typical dirty, unshaven, sickly-looking tramps and bums that line the streets of the cities slum districts. I was never like that so how could I be an alcoholic.

However, today I have a pretty good insight on what an alcoholic is. The tramps and bums and winos of the slums are just one kind of alcoholic: the most obvious kind. An alcoholic is any person that is dependent (to any degree, and whether the person admits it or not) on liquor. One could be housewife (regardless of class, i.e., upper class, middle class, lower class) or a businessman; a hunter or trapper, the grocer or landscaper. In other words, it could be anyone in any walk of life. The alcoholic can be a large consumer (drunken binges), the person that has to have the martini

(continued on page 14)