

Letters from Here and There

Businessman Clarifies Position

Michael R. Johnson Gallery
108 South Jackson Street
Seattle, Washington 98104

Mr. Joe Hotch
Box 525
Haines, Alaska 99827

Dear Mr. Hotch:

I am sending you this second letter to clarify my position regarding my business in S.E. Alaska. Although we have not met, I know that you must be very concerned to have written to me and also to have sent copies to several newspapers.

I am a successful businessman in many endeavors but my one lifelong interest is in art and the preservation of objects such as those in the village of Klukwan. I have a deep appreciation of Tlingit culture and art through a lifelong study and many years of travel in S.E. Alaska.

It is quite true that I have offered unprecedented amounts of money for some objects. There is a great concern by many individuals and museums that the few objects left might be lost to future generations, because of fire or deterioration. As you know, many of these objects are kept in empty houses without heat control or fire precautions. Of course I understand that it is very expensive to bring out these objects in the old time way, and now almost impossible to afford to keep up a clan house as well as a private home.

I am not suggesting that the Tlingit people do not respect and feel proud of their heritage. Most Tlingits I know take great pride in their background.

You said in your letter that it is degrading for Tlingits to sell tribal artifacts. I must again remind you that my interest is in saving the old objects, many of which are in need of repair. I am not trying to buy the traditions which only a Tlingit can inherit. In the old days, when a chief wanted to show his position, he had new carvings made to replace the old ones. This has never been a shameful thing. Perhaps it is time to regenerate some of the old traditions and save the older objects as well.

There are now fine carvers who can replace the older objects with new ones of equal quality. I know also that there are many people in Klukwan who are deeply concerned about the future of the old objects. Perhaps the many thousands of dollars which I am offering could actually build new tribal houses and create carvings to help regenerate some of the old clan and tribal traditions.

I take exception to only one part of your letter of May 27. Those who know me will tell you that I have never purchased any objects from anyone who has been drinking. I deeply regret that others in the past have done so.

I hope that my activities can be appreciated as a sincere form of admiration for great Tlingit Art. I would be happy to meet you at any time and talk further about these matters.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Johnson
CC: Chilkat Valley News
Voice of Brotherhood
Tundra Times
Alaska Daily News
Mr. Victor Hotch
Mr. Dick Hotch
Mrs. Mildred Sparks
Mrs. Martha Willard.

Salvation Army Plans Capital Improvement

June 19, 1975

Tundra Times
510 Second Ave., Room 220
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Howard:

As a member of the Executive Committee of The Salvation Army Advisory Board of Anchorage, I would like to interest you in the first Capital Improvement Campaign of this fine organization that has served needy Alaskans for more than seventy seven years.

Priority goal of the campaign is to raise the balance of \$85,050 needed to complete the purchase and remodel a 4,000 square foot building with parking lot at 728 East Ninth Avenue in Anchorage for a Salvation Army statewide services headquarters.

The total cost of the vitally needed facility is \$220,050 of which \$11,000 has already been received from local contributions and \$125,000 as a grant from The Salvation Army Western Territorial Headquarters.

At the present time, the statewide services headquarters of The Salvation Army is located in part of the community center facilities at 135 East Eighth Avenue in space needed for a social services bureau to serve Anchorage and for growing senior citizen activities.

If the Capital Improvement Campaign exceeds \$85,050 the overage will be used towards acquiring emergency shelters, rehabilitation and community centers and construction of cabins at the statewide camp.

The Capital Improvement Campaign will be conducted by volunteer members of The Salvation Army Advisory Board of Anchorage so that expenses can be kept to a minimum.

Enclosed you will find further information on the campaign. Your generous contribution and/or pledge over the next two years will involve you in the statewide humanitarian services provided uniquely by your Salvation Army.

Yours sincerely,
Virgil E. Knight

Vice Chairman
The Salvation Army
Advisory Board of Anchorage.

Questions 13th Region

Anacortes, Washington
May 23, 1975

Judge Oliver Gasch
United States District Court
Washington, D.C.

Judge Oliver Gasch:

I am questioning your authority on being able to order a formation of the Thirteenth (13) District? I believe as Stockholders in the Alyeska Pipeline, we have all the right to protest a Thirteenth (13) and as our rights to vote for or against it. I am pretty well assured the Thirteenth (13) will not be put in. Because we do not reside in Alaska now or maybe in the future does not mean we will give up our Heritage. The Thirteenth (13) as far as we are concerned is just a waste of our inheritance. Why should Seattle be included, it is definitely not a part of Alaska any more than New York or Hawaii or any other State!

I would appreciate an answer to this question put before you.

Sincerely,
Ms. Clara Lindquist
303 Q Avenue
Anacortes, Washington 98221
Phone 206 293 6823