

NATIVES' I.Q. IS RAPPED

Woman Says Eskimos, Indians Think Like Young Children

(Editor's Note: The California woman, Mrs. Lee Fishback, editor of Team and Trail, wrote to Owen B. Hunt, publisher of the A-V magazine, and spied off a steady stream of untruths and half truths about the Native dog situation in Alaska.

For the edification of our readers as to what extent a misinformed Lower Stater will go, even so far as to say that our Native people react like 8-year-olds, the following letter is being reproduced. See editorial.)

EDITORIAL

SECONDHAND INFORMATION ON NATIVE PEOPLE HARMFUL

The views of the people in other states regarding our Native people continue to be tragically stilted because of the irresponsible misinformation given them by Johnny-Come-Lately's ideas of how we live in Alaska.

(Continued on Page 2)

Secondhand Information . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

The gullibility of the listeners in the Lower States, without bothering to check for themselves, continues to harm our people. We are being pictured as people very low in intelligence in comparison with other human beings. The assumption that we react like 8-year-olds is not the first time we have been evaluated as being.

However, even with the assumed intelligence level of an 8-year-old, the Native people of Alaska have done remarkably well in solving ~~some~~ of the most formidable problems in the world. As one example, they did them so well that the armed forces of our country have now recognized the classic ability of the Eskimos, Aleuts, and Indians to survive in various parts of Alaska, especially in the Arctic. This is a great credit indeed to our people who are continually deemed to possess substandard intelligence. Some of the world's great explorers many times, in order to survive, have in the past consulted our 8-year-old mentalities and managed to live to tell the tales of their great achievements. With this fact in mind, even with the inferences that our mental abilities are way below par in comparison with other humans, we can come pretty close in saying that we are probably the most learned Arctic authorities in the world.

We also choose to differ emphatically with Mrs. Lee Fishback, editor of the Team & Trail magazine, who contends that we are continually raising substandard dogs. The Alaska Native people by far are not unmindful of the animals they still think indispensable in their livelihood in Alaska. They do the best they can to take care of them but they are sometimes handicapped by nature that refuses to yield or they are hampered by game laws that are not always applicable in our state. Under more or less ideal conditions, they have always stored food for themselves as well as their dogs.

In the way of breeding, our Native people have not done too badly in the establishment of strains of northern dogs that have been proving their worth every year in the annals of racing in the Lower States and in our own state. It would seem rather doubtful that such famous dog mushers like Dr. Roland Lombard could have achieved what they have been able to do without the strains of dogs they acquired from Alaska. With careful breeding, and ample time in which to do it, they have developed winning teams that sprung directly from some of our smallest villages.

Contrary to the belief that we raise substandard dogs, we have seen from actual experience that our Native people practiced selective breeding. When a neighbor owned an exceptional animal, they sought to breed it with the best of their own. With the results of this well known practice, there may not be too many substandard animals that are below par. We have always liked good dogs and we bred them for excellence in performance and durability. This is being practiced today.