



Every year it happens. Every year.  
The snow rots. The cold ice-grip of winter loosens.  
And the birds come back, thousands of them. Ducks,  
cranes, geese and swans. Tens, hundreds of thousands  
of them.

And its a damn good thing, too.

For in the villages across Alaska, the Spam, the canned  
tomatoes, the peanut butter are frequently gone from the  
shelves of the village store. Even in the old days, though,  
spring was a lean time. A time when the families ran out  
of seal and dried fish.

Where snow machines ran a few short weeks ago,  
boats now travel the rivers and ocean. Eskimo families en-  
joy the harvest from the spring whale hunts, while Indians  
along interior rivers are getting their gear in shape for the  
fishing season. In many villages, families are planting gar-  
dens, building houses, enjoying the warm sun and the long,  
long days.

At long last, summer is back to Alaska's villages.

And for the first time in our fifteen years, the Tundra  
Times decided to welcome summer weather back with a  
special issue we are distributing free to all Alaska villages  
and highway communities north of the Alaska Range.  
The Tundra Times hopes that villagers and rural Alaskans  
will enjoy these articles about agriculture and gardening,  
fisheries and subsistence, and summer building projects as  
much as we enjoyed putting the issue together for you.

Front page full-color photographs are courtesy of the  
Commercial Printing Company. At left, Reggie Joule com-  
petes in the high kick during the World Eskimo-Indian  
Olympics. Below, hunters watch for whales at a spring  
camp near Point Hope.

Relax, sit in the sun, and read over this newspaper,  
complements of the Tundra Times and our advertisers.

