

Letters from Here and There

Letter to the Editor:

The break away of the Arctic Slope Native Assn. appears to me to be at a very bad time.

They may feel that they are not getting a just settlement. They may think they have a "unique" problems.

Let me out line a few of our "unique" problems.

We live in the Chugach National Forest. We are not able to get 160 acres of land due us in the Native Allotment Act. The A.S.N.A. as individuals can and should file for their 160 acres. The A.S.N.A. still has the right to do this. We do not. Why? Because we are in a National Forest. To be able to file on 160 acres now you would have to be about 90 years old. The land was taken away too long ago. By creation of the National Forest.

We protested the leasing of Forest Service land in our area for home sites. These protests have fallen on deaf ears. Why? Because they are under the Dept. of Agriculture. And not under the Dept. of the Interior. They do not seem to recognize the land freeze.

In the land claim bill we are tied to a group which has extinguished title to their land. We in the Chugach National Forest have never been compensated for any of our land.

Due to this we would only receive one township, if that. Where other towns and villages would receive up to two.

These are just a few of the problems we have run into there are many more.

We haven't always agreed with the way things were going, but we have stuck with the A.F.N. in hopes that we could get a fair and just settlement for all of the Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts of Alaska and we will continue to do so.

Yours truly,
Gilbert Olsen
President
Chugach Native Assn.

Nenana, Alaska
October 22, 1970

Dear Editor: or Friend, Mr. Eskimo: Hi Rock:

I got a letter or card from Tundra Times to come to the banquet when I got laid off at Galena.

There had been a lot of talk, kicking in front of me about hunting, etc. That's been going on for several years. So I said I'm going to the banquet to meet the Governor Keith Miller and Ted Stevens, they said they were going to be there. I was going to really blow my top in front of the people instead of with a pencil and paper.

They must a knew I was

coming, maybe they dreamed about me. Someone was there for them, including one lady.

Three years ago I went, or we went to the Republicans banquet in the Eagles Hall, that's when Hickel was running for Governor. We shook hands with eight of them with their wives, that's when one of them asked me if I was working. Although I was working at Eielson, I said no. He said if we get elected you'll have a job. I have been laid off four times since then.

Republicans can lie. I won't call them liars. That's too much. If they get elected again, they be trying to chew us down to maybe 5 million acres. Why don't them Republicans give us our 40 million acres instead of trying to chew us down.

I don't know where all the hunters came from, but they were killing games and fish around Galena, Koyukuk River, all over. They get free gas, outboard motors, boat, rations, etc. That's where all the tax money goes.

I made \$860.00 and my check was \$560.00. I'm 63 years old. People or someone having fun with my money. Why don't they put me back to work. I have 1½ years yet to work. Help me, I want to work. Thank you.

--Fred Stickman

Alaskan Heritage Writers' Association
c/o Mrs. Emily Brown
Room 114, Wickersham Hall
University of Alaska
College, Alaska
October 28, 1970

Merlin B. Spencer
Daily News-Miner
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Mr. Howard Rock
Tundra Times
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock and Mr. Spencer:

I would like to acquaint you with the Alaskan Heritage Writers' Association, and to ask for your help in furthering the cause of our organization.

We are a non-profit association dedicated to the preservation of Alaskan native culture. Our purpose is to collect and record any and all cultural remnants of Alaska's native people in order to preserve them before they are lost forever. But to do this we need the co-operation of all Alaskan natives.

Your assistance in helping us inform the natives of our organization and its aims would be greatly appreciated. Anyone who can help us by donating such things as native songs, legends, folk tales, games, or material artifacts, is urged to contact me, Mrs. Emily Brown, at my campus address. We would like to enlist the help and memberships of as many concerned natives of Alaska as possible. Thank you for your assistance.

*Sincerely Yours,
Mrs. Emily Brown

Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska
October 30, 1970

Dear Future Governor:

We been wanting to write you before election, even if you are elected you will not give us any housing program. We been trying to build your own houses, charging from Fairbanks plywood company.

Some of us are still being in

sod houses because we don't have enough courage to charge that much to get plywood. Why don't we get a housing program? Because we don't holler or because our council don't have enough money to go to all the meetings.

Water, our water is the worst thing in our Alaska and nobody cares what happens to us. Just telling us they will do something about it but all we get is promises.

Electricity, all the villages are getting electricity except our village of Anaktuvuk Pass. We read in Tundra Times everyone is getting something from the government but not Anaktuvuk Pass.

The above is our opinion.

/s/ signed:

Amos Morry, Mr. Danny Hugo, John Morry, Anna Morry, May Kakinya, Betty Morry, Jack Ahgook, Billy Morry, Robert Paneak, Marie Paneak, Ben K. Ahgook, Rhoda Ahgook, Rebecca Mekiana, David Mekiana, Elizabeth Ahgook, Lela Ahgook, Noah Ahgook, Riley Morry, Jane Rulland, Maggie Morry, Johnny E. Rulland, Olive Morry, John Hugo, Riley Sikvayagak, Rachel Sikvayagak, Dora Hugo, Susie Paneak, Allen Hugo.

705 Muldoon Road, Space 154
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
October 23, 1970

TO: President of Alaska Federation of Natives
FROM: Tony Joule, Individual Member
SUBJECT: PLEA FOR UNITY
ATTN: Don Wright and Eben Hopson, Executive Director

When Alaska Federation of Natives was founded and established now the way it should function all the affiliated associations wholeheartedly consented that AFN be a central functioning body (whatever title is appropriate). That means that AFN is a Symbol of Unity for all the affiliated associations and its people. Great or small, fortunate or unfortunate. The "splitting" should have no part in hindering our progress.

A body without head cannot function.

AFN, which is composed of Native people of Alaska, is the only channel through which the native people can be understood. AFN promotes Health, Education and better opportunities for livelihood for its people.

At no time there should be discourse for disunity. AFN is our HOPE for all of our native people. We must all think of our people who are poor and unfortunate.

All of our organizations must stand together however much the differences may exists. They can be ironed out.

Tony Joule