

*"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it."* — Voltaire

# Tundra Times



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## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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## ENROLLMENT

MURRAY, KRAFT & ROCKEY, INC.  
Advertising & Public Relations

2702 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, Phone: 279-3516

January 19, 1973

Mr. Howard Rock  
Tundra Times  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Editor:

As you are aware, this agency has contracted with the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Alaska Native Enrollment Office to conduct a communications program designed to inform Alaskan Natives outside the state of their benefits under the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act. Mr. Morris Thompson, Area Director for the B.I.A. in Alaska, oversees the program which is administered by John Hope, coordinator of the Native Enrollment program. Specific responsibility for locating and enrolling Alaska Natives living outside the state lies with George Walters, Assistant Coordinator.

Though the agency is only responsible for pursuing the out-of-state communications program I thought you might be interested in an informational summary of the program, specifically as it affected newspapers outside the state.

Enclosed are two samples of public service announcements that were made available to publishers (in both color and black and white; in three versions). They have been dispatched to over 1200 newspaper editors, to Armed Forces editors, and to national magazines. Specific national magazines requesting the public service advertisements, include REDBOOK, U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, TIME, NEWSWEEK, SUNSET MAGAZINE, PARADE MAGAZINE, and many others.

But, the newspaper public service advertising program was only a part of a multi-media public relations communications program designed and implemented by Connel Murray, Agency President, to inform potential Native Enrollment applicants. The agency brought a motion picture crew to Alaska from Hollywood last summer to film public service announcements featuring Cher Bono. These were recently sent to 500 television stations outside the state, and to some 91 Armed Forces television stations.

To reach radio listeners, the agency's production facilities in Seattle coordinated with Chief Dan George and Jay Silverheels, famed Indian actors, in doing public service announcements for radio, which were dispatched to over 2500 radio stations in the United States and Armed Forces facilities.

To complement the public service program, the agency's Public Relations Department conducted a periodic news and feature release program. Professional writers and photographers produced material which was then dispatched to a list of 1600 newspapers across the country. The result from that particular effort has been a steady flow of applications to the Enrollment Office in Anchorage.

Instrumental in assisting the home agency with implementation of the program were its affiliates in Seattle, Los Angeles, San Diego, New York and Washington, D. C. The Washington affiliate, Jim Thomas, is a Tlingit Indian (master of ceremonies at last fall's Tundra Times' banquet).

The communications program is now at its peak with all phases of the multi-media effort now in full force outside the state. All this is designed to provide maximum visibility to potential land claims applicants, prior to the cutoff date — March 30.

While you are, of course, welcome to use the attached public service advertisements in your own publication, most Alaskan Natives in the State have already been contacted and it was my specific interest to inform you, from an editorial point of view, of the program now approaching its climatic phase; for it will surely have impact on the whole Land Claims Program from now into the indefinite future.

If I may provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to ask it, Howard.

Sincerely yours,

Dave Harbour  
Public Relations Director

## Summary of Settlement Act—

### Withdrawal of Lands, Township Blocks, Etc.

(Part Six: The sixth installment of the "Summary and Analysis of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act", a booklet prepared by the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, describes the method by which withdrawals of land were made for selection by the State of Alaska under the Statehood Act, by the Federal government for inclusion in its land systems, and for selection by the Village and Regional Native Corporations under the Alaska Native Land Claims Act.)

#### WITHDRAWALS OF PUBLIC LANDS

Upon passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act on December 18, 1971, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to make certain specific "withdrawals" of public lands in Alaska, to classify them, them, and to "protect the public interest" for a period of 90 days.

Public land is defined in the Act as "all federal lands and interests therein located in Alaska, except the smallest practicable tract, as determined by the Secretary, enclosing land actually used in connection with the administration of Federal installations, and land selections of the State of Alaska which have been patented or tentatively approved under the Statehood Act."

Within nine months from the date of the Act, the Secretary was to withdraw up to 80 million acres of unreserved public lands suitable for inclusion in the National Park, Forest, Wildlife Refuge, and Wild and Scenic Rivers systems.

#### TOWNSHIP BLOCKS

Around each of the Eligible

Native villages, he was to withdraw five townships square, or a 25 township block. From these withdrawn lands the villages, the regional corporations, and the State are authorized to make specified selections and obtain patents.

There were approximately 220 villages listed as having 25 or more Native residents at the time of the 1970 census. Within two and a half years of the Act, the Secretary was to review the list to determine the eligibility of individual villages.

The basic 25 township block may be increased if the village lies in two or more townships. It may be decreased if, within the block, there is a large military reservation, a portion of a National Park, a Wildlife Refuge, lands which have been patented to the State, or a body of navigable water.

#### DEFICIENCY WITHDRAWALS

In such cases, the Secretary is directed to withdraw additional "deficiency withdrawals" in the amount of three times the deficiency, from "unreserved vacant, and unappropriated public lands." These are referred to as "in lieu selections."

If the village is located partly within a Wildlife Refuge and selects land within the Refuge, the wording of the Act appears to indicate that the Secretary may not draw additional lands after the initial selection to fill the village quota within the Refuge. Whereas, he is normally instructed to make deficiency withdrawals as close to the center of the village as possible, he must add the required land back to the Refuge first, then set aside additional land for the

village.

#### ASSUMING FEDERAL RIGHTS

On other federal interest land in Alaska, mining claims, homesteads, or trade and manufacturing sites which have been entered under Federal law but not patented, the Federal land may be subject to eventual Native selection.

If Natives acquire land subject to a federal or mineral or surface lease, they have a right to the rents and royalties, and a right to full ownership of the land if and when the lease terminates.

In general, it may be said that with a few exceptions, Natives may step into the shoes of the Federal government as to any lands they may acquire.

#### OVERLAPPING INTERESTS

On January 21, 1972, the State of Alaska filed selection applications for some 76 million acres of land, bringing into focus the provisions for reconciling selections made by the state with those made by the village and regional corporations.

The Act called for the creation of a joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission to help identify areas suitable for permanent inclusion in parks, refuges, forests, wild and scenic rivers, and to make recommendations regarding the best distributions of State, Village, and Regional selections.

Any of the land not permanently included in one of the four federal systems may be released from withdrawal within two years. The state and regional corporations may make "initial identification" of lands in these areas, but they will not be processed as long as the original withdrawal remains in effect.

#### THE SPECIAL PURPOSE GRANT

A special section of the Act provides for an additional 2 million acres withdrawal for six purposes. First, for cemetery sites and historical places. Secondly, for conveyance of 23,040 acres to special Native groups not incorporated at the time of the Settlement who may subsequently choose to do so.

Natives residing in Sitka, Kenai, Juneau, and Kodiak could incorporate and receive up to 23,040 acres located in reasonable proximity to the municipalities, and surface estates up to 160 acres of land occupied by a Native individual as a primary place of residence on August 31, 1971.

An individual Native living outside of lands withdrawn by Section 11 and 16 may acquire up to 160 acres as his homestead if he applies within two years from the date of the Act.

No new allotment applications may be filed under the 1906 Indian Allotment Act and that Act is repealed. However, any allotments still pending will be processed, but a Native acquiring land under the old 1906 Act will not be eligible for the 160 acres grants provided for in the new Special Purpose Grant within the Land Claims Settlement Act.

In those grants to individuals the subsurface rights go to the regional corporation. Finally, any portion of the 2 million acres not used for above purposes will be allocated to the regional corporations on the basis of population.

NEXT WEEK: Village and Regional Corporation Selections and the Concept of Checker-boarding

## REA Loan Program Withdrawn

On December 29, 1972, the Nixon administration's Office of Management and Budget eliminated without warning several programs, including the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) 2% loan program.

Alaska's two senators, Gravel and Stevens, have urged Congress to reinstate the program, pointing to Alaska's unique developing needs. Without the aid of the 2% loaning power of REA, it would have been impossible to bring electric power to sparsely populated areas of bush Alaska.

"Many co-ops cannot afford to pay the higher interest charges that will result," Gravel said.

Gravel told the committee the average monthly electric bill in Alaska is \$25.56 as compared to the national average of \$11.13. Termination of the 2% loan and substitution of the interest rate could add an additional \$2.50 to customer bills in some parts of Alaska.

Senator Stevens told the committee that Alaska "vitality needs this continued assistance." If the program is abandoned, electric rates for at least 60% of Alaska will increase from 15% to 20%.

"No one would deny that the REA opened up rural America," said Mike Kelly of Golden Valley Association, a co-op serving rural areas in interior Alaska.

Kelly said, "In some areas of America the work of REA might be said to be done, but

in Alaska, REA was just beginning to have its effect."

This latest casualty of the Nixon cuts may yet be reinstated by the Democratic Congress, if Alaska's congressional delegation convinces their colleagues of Alaska's critical needs.

## LETTERS

Nulato, Alaska  
Feb. 5, 1973

Dear Mr. Rock:

I am admiring this 16 by 20 photograph of our new school which we were promised a long time ago. Beautiful picture but WHERE is our beautiful school building, No. 22, is scattered all over town. One building is before my time has been condemned but put back into use because of lack of classroom space. It was built in 1892.

Regarding physical education — did you ever play soccer at 50 degrees below? Most inexcusable of all approximately 130 children eat lunch in five shifts in a 14 foot by 14 foot shed half full of food cases where the inside temperature is below freezing in winter.

I want prompt consideration of these unfulfilled promises. The children need the new school and facilities.

Any assistance you can give to rectify, or help, in this situation will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,  
Josephine Mountain