

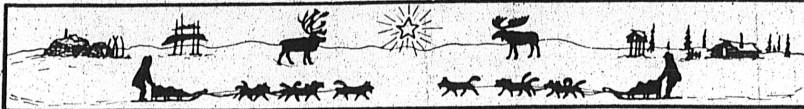
Tundra Times

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Inupiat Pitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktaug The Aleuts Speak

Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

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Fairbanks, Alaska

McGrath Man Opposes Trapping Legislation

People Liked to Stop by to Visit Kindly Ella Vernetti

A McGrath man is starting a grass roots movement and encouraging villagers to send petitions to their representatives in Congress to oppose legislation banning leg hold traps and which would also limit the sale of furs caught by such traps.

The petitions also ask the rights to continue to trap on federal and state lands.

"It's something I always wanted to do. I'm fed up with hearing some of these things going on," explained Frank Walter, a former New Jerseyite who has been trapping in Alaska for the past nine years.

Walter said the main opposition to the leg hold traps are conservation and animal protection societies, which he adds has a lot of money to lobby with though many have never seen a leg hold trap.

The legislation, which Walter said, appears annually and is gaining support and if passed would limit the freedom of the trappers and their much needed income.

"In underdeveloped areas, as Alaska, trapping is an important occupation."

Walter is assisted on the trapline by his wife, Carol, and their two sons.

To Be Ready in Dec.—Pumphouse for Galena

GALENA — Residents of Galena will have at their disposal by December a new water pumphouse, plus laundry and shower facilities.

To some 500 residents of Galena, who have been dependent on the water supply of a neighboring military base, it means a great deal.

But the project itself is a tough one, since construction workers must work with ground which is basically permafrost.

Charlie Bordner, a drill rig operator who goes with his 30-year-old drill rig on Public Health Service projects in various parts of Alaska, says the ground beneath the new pumphouse is basically about 90 per cent water.

Yet by late November or December, the project is expected to be complete and the city will even haul water for those who want to pay. There will also be garbage and honey bucket pickup, along with the other new services to the community on the Lower Yukon.

The water pumphouse project began June 20 with the digging of a well ultimately 147 feet deep, said Joe McGee, English

teacher at Galena, who is construction foreman for this job.

Next, the crew began digging holes for pilings on which the pumphouse will rest. The pumphouse itself will be about 40 by 55 feet, with a capacity of 13,000 gallons per day, although the actual capacity of the well is about 25,000.

No Capitol Move for Him

TOGIAK — Mayor Willie Echuck of Togiak signed a resolution calling for the defeat of the capitol move initiative on the Aug. 27 ballot.

The resolution stated:

"The needs of the people of Alaska are great, and the priorities of the people's needs must be carefully and thoughtfully considered and not sacrificed to an ill-conceived project.

"The real priorities of the people of Alaska are first rate schools, roadways and transportation facilities, full service hospitals and adequate law enforcement, and these critically important services and facilities would be blocked by the financial drain the relocation measure would inflict on the state."

The Togiak City resolution also warned that the state's bonding capacity and tax structure would be sorely strained if the capitol is moved.

Baby Danaco Arrives Earlier Than Expected

As it happens, the stork was early and the ambulance late.

Early Monday morning, a young Eskimo woman went into unexpected labor but she was not without assistance.

Sophie Danaco's baby girl was delivered by her husband Forrest and neighbors Larry and Bertie Pruitt at 3:30 a.m.

Little Ms. Danaco, yet unnamed, joins sister Mildred, 1½ years almost two months early. Mother Sophie is originally from Bethel.

"I'll never go through that again as long as I'll live," exclaimed a tired Bertie, an Indian from Northway now working in the payroll department at the University of Alaska.

Everybody worked overtime but received a healthy bonus.



ELLA VERNETTI — The ever kindly lady from Koyukuk, Ella Vernetti, is happily dishing out native food at the annual Fairbanks Native Association potlatch held in Fairbanks. The much revered woman passed away last month while undergoing treatment.

By MARGIE BAUMAN
Ella Vernetti was the kind of folks people just liked to stop by and see.

Made a point of it, in fact, to stop by the Vernetti Trading Post at Koyukuk and call on this hunter, trapper, businesswoman — and have a hot cup of coffee or tea in her home back of the village store.

In the nearly half of a century Ella spent in Koyukuk, she became one of the best known women up and down the Yukon. One of the busiest, too.

"I don't know how she does it," said her friend Liza Jones, left minding the store when Ella left the state several weeks ago, for heart surgery in a California Hospital.

As she spoke she was pouring still another cup of coffee for a visitor to the village, telling about how Ella ran the store, a garden the post office and cutting fish too, even at the age of 68.

Ella had been cutting fish down at Koyukuk just about a week before when she had a heart attack. Then she had to leave the village for quick medical care, first in Fairbanks and on to California. It was at Stanford Hospital in Oakland California that she died July 16 and her passing was mourned by friends and family all up and down the river.

Ella came to Koyukuk nearly 50 years ago. The year was 1925 and the young woman, fresh out of high school, planned to teach at the village school for a year, then attend the University of Washington.

But she stayed, fell in love and married the rugged prospector turned businessman Dominic Vernetti and with him raised a family and ran the Vernetti Trading Post for years.

Ella found time for trapping, hunting, and fishing. When there were no dental services available, she doubled as the village dentist, pulling teeth. And she served as midwife for the birth of just about every child in the village.

Ella was a good cook too, "a real good cook," says Jimmy Huntington, of Galena, an old friend of this gentle storekeeper. "She fed everyone up and down the river."

"All the fliers from Fairbanks to Nome or Kotzebue would stop there overnight and then continue to Nome and Kotzebue the next day.

"And all the traveling salesmen would make a point of stopping there for a few days, to play pinhole with Dominic and have some of Ella's good cooking," he recalled.

The Vernetti Trading Post itself got going in 1923, when Dominic Vernetti built it on the banks of the Yukon. It was a busy village, with the big stern-wheelers unloading their cargo into shallower scows for trips to the villages of Bettles and Wiseman.

There were nearly 200 people living there and many visitors.

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21 Graduate—Teaching Degrees

By MARILYN RICHARDS
Twenty one graduates received bachelor of education degrees which were earned under the Alaska Rural Training Corps. The informal ceremonies were held aboard the Riverboat Discovery Friday.

Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Native Foundation addressed the graduates.

Nineteen of the graduates are Native and two are rural residents who chose to specialize in the cross-cultural program. They will be recommended to the Department of Education for elementary teaching certificates.

The ARTTC program was established in 1970 on an experimental basis with the purpose to train Native elementary school

teachers. According to Raymond Barnhardt, assistant professor of education at the University of Alaska, a Native teacher ideally would better respond to the needs of a Native child.

A Native teacher would also provide a model of success and status for his Native community so that others might aspire to teaching positions. The Native teacher would also serve as a community leader and bridge the gulf between the Native and non-Native societies.

The graduates completed a four year program in their villages but spent summers on the campuses of Alaska Methodist University at Anchorage and UA Fairbanks. They were enrolled

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Fatalities High in Bush—

Steps for Fire Protection

SPECIAL TO THE TUNDRA TIMES

"I would like to ask residents of wilderness communities to note the following steps which can be taken to obtain revenue funds for the purpose of fire prevention and protection," State Fire Marshal, Ron Hendrie advised.

"Fire fatalities have been high in the small communities and we are doing everything possible to bring down this death toll. A community is eligible for funds even if it does not have a local

government. Only two forms have to be filled out."

Steps to be taken are as follows:

1. Organize a volunteer fire department.
2. Request a certificate of existence form from the Alaska Dept. of Public Safety, Fire Marshal's Office, Room N, Juneau, Alaska, 99801.
3. When received, fill out the above form. Questions which do not apply leave blank.
4. Mail back to the State Fire

Marshal.

5. If the Fire Marshal approves he will issue a certificate recognizing the fire department.

6. The Fire Marshal sends a copy of the approval to the Division of Community and Regional Affairs.

7. Community and Regional Affairs then mails a simple revenue form to the volunteer fire chief.

8. The fire chief fills out the form and sends it back to Com-

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