

A surprise reunion

Dear Editor:

I am always made happy when I find a copy of your newspaper in my mail box! I was thrilled to get the copy featuring pictures of the Eklutna students.

I wish to identify the little boy. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Lee and the little brother to Beatrice Lee, one of the girls in the snapshot. Mr. Lee was the ivory carver teacher and Mrs. Lee taught skin sewing. His name: BILLY LEE.

I graduated from Eklutna Vocational School in 1940. I enjoyed those two snapshots so much. It brought back fond memories of my two years spent at EVS.

Last week, almost a week after I had received my copy of the *Tundra Times* and had rejoiced at seeing those two pictures, I went to the SEARHC (Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corp.) Clinic to pick up a prescription. I accompanied my sister-in-law, Mrs. Edna Paddock of Tenakee Springs, who is President of the SEARHC Health board, who wanted to talk to the president of the corporation.

Since Edna was going to see the president, and I was driving her I was not going to change my casual attire, but when I saw how spiffy she looked I quickly changed, and was I glad!

Almost at the same time when we were approaching the entrance to the clinic we met the administrator who was accompanied by a half dozen women whom I did not recognize. It turned out the First Lady of Alaska accompanied by a former First Lady of Arkansas were being honored by a luncheon by SEARHC. They were being given an inspection tour of the facilities when we met up with them.

To make a long story short, I quickly made my way to the pharmacy, received my prescription and then walked back into the foyer which was then crowded with women. I stood alongside another senior-citizen type woman (whom I did not know) to get out of the way.

All of a sudden I found myself looking at our First Lady! She smiled at me and said, "It's so nice to see you!" I shook her hand and said, "The last time I saw you was in 1938 when our Eklutna Girls Basketball team played the Anchorage Girls team."

With that our First Lady

threw her arms around my neck, gave me a hug and said, "Oh, you guys had a good team!" She asked me if I remembered her two sisters, Gail and . . ., but I only remembered Ermalee Strutz. If we had't been holding up the line, I would have told her about the photos of the class of 1939 which featured Beatrice Lee, Flossie Evans, etc. who were such good basketball players.

I am so glad the *Tundra Times* is once again being published. I missed it so much.

And by the way, if there are any EVS students out there who would like to get in touch with former teachers I offer the name and address of:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Thompson
1404 Namassin Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22308

I also have the address of Mr. and Mrs. Al Brawner who were at EVS at the same time the Thompsons were teaching; if anyone is interested.

Please convey my best wishes to your family (your father and I graduated from EVS and then went on to Haskell Institute), your brother, the *Tundra Times* Board of Directors and the staff who gets this fine newspaper out to us every week.

Sincerely,
Constance Harper Paddock
Juneau

Mixed feelings on statement

Mr. Lloyd Hames
Sitka

Dear Lloyd:

We read your statement to the Sitka Chamber of Commerce with much mixed feelings - - anger, distaste, distrust, betrayal. There were of course, exchange of comments and feedback amongst our people, wanting to lash out, and many feeling it was not worth the time and energy. Fortunately, there were written statements by various Native leaders.

Again, there were mixed feelings on your response to the media. We have yet to learn if ALL newspapers, TV and radio received the letter of apology. After all, the comments/statements were made of ALL incarcerated Native inmates which would be Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Aleut, Eskimo, Athabaskan and Alutiq. There are 13 profit and

13 non-profit corporations, the Alaska Native Brotherhood, Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand Camps, Tlingit & Haida Central Council, Sealaska Corp., and the list goes on and on to the north of us. One of the main goals of the Native organizations has been to face and deal with biased and racial problems of our people. This is one of the primary reasons for the founding and formation of the Alaska Native Brotherhood in 1912 and the Alaska Native Sisterhood in 1923.

In facing continuing injustices once the western culture took hold was the devastation of our Native culture. Speaking of the Native language was vehemently forbidden by the churches and government, perhaps lost forever. There are many living Elders who talk of moderate to severe punishments when their language was spoken. Practice of many cultural rituals important to the Native society was also forbidden, perhaps lost forever. A culture survives when the language survives. The breakdown in family and extended family life constituted a total destruction of a great social system. Social, emotional and psychological problems set in.

In addition, and documented by various attorneys and study groups in Anchorage, there have been many and continuous racial biases in the judicial system - - the arrest, treatment and sentencing; this remains strong and still continues. Then with the high unemployment primarily in the villages, utilization of a public defender against money by the non-Native or the lack of understanding of the law and judicial system does not always result in the best or on the side of the Native person. With your short term as State Commissioner of Corrections, you undoubtedly were well aware or should have been of the percentages of incarceration of the Native person - - 75-90% alcohol related.

Now we are battling and
Continued on next page

struggling for the protection of subsistence so we could continue to harvest and use our Native foods. Diabetes and cancer amongst the Alaska Native people are the highest in the nation; nutritionists maintain this is because of the drastic change in diet. Politicians say we can utilize and consume 10-25 salmon a year! We are sea and fish people since the beginning of time. We can naturally consume 200-300 pounds of salmon plus various types of fish per year individually, easily.

We feel there needs to be feedback and action in addition to your written apology. Culturally, this is how it is done. You are in a position to speak in support of many Native issues such as the protection of subsistence of our Native foods.

We have been supportive of your business here in Ketchikan and will undoubtedly continue to do so. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
Willard L. Jones
Mary E. Jones
Ward Cove

Dividend qualifications

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regards to the blatant discrimination for a 1993 Permanent Fund Dividend.

As per Senate Bill 327, the qualifications to receive a dividend were changed from April to Jan. This bill was initiated to make it easier for the permanent fund to process claims by changing the qualification periods from Jan. through Dec., calendar years.

Jan. 3, 1992 SB 327 was introduced as legislation and signed into law March 31, 1992 by Gov. Hickel. It was to go into effect starting 1993. However, instead of making the change of qualification to start Jan. 1, 1993 to Dec. 31, 1993, the permanent fund office decided to make it retroactive to Jan. 1, 1992. In other words, the people who would have qualified for a 1993 permanent fund by meeting the original deadline date of April 1, 1992 were then considered not eligible.

The interpretation of SB 327

to be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1992 was a decision by the permanent fund office. I find this decision exclusionary and unfair. It discriminates against those Alaskans who would have qualified for the 1993 Permanent Fund by meeting the original deadline of April 1, 1992.

There was no advance notice as to the change in the qualification periods from April 1, 1992 to Jan. 1, 1992.

If you came to Alaska to live on or before April 1, 1992, you should contact your local representatives and senators. Ask them to introduce legislation to include all Alaskans who came to Alaska on or before April 1, 1992 to be eligible for a 1993 permanent fund. Please tell them to also contact other legislators throughout Alaska to see if they have received similar requests.

Sincerely,
Christina Arrasmith
Ketchikan

AIDS education

Dear Editor:

There is a lot of misinformation circulating in Alaska about the risk of HIV transmission from casual contact. This fuels unwarranted fear and anxiety which can disrupt a workplace. The only way to address such fear is through honest and open dialogue.

The best protection for ourselves, our employees and our children is accurate and honest information. HIV is a blood-borne, sexually transmitted disease which is not transmitted by casual contact or insects. There have been no cases of HIV/AIDS infection through saliva, insects, tears or other casual contact reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA (APHA/SIA, Report 1, July 1988 and in the Journal AIDS 1990.)

The mission of the Alaskan AIDS Association (4 A's) is to provide direct services to all people affected by HIV and to educate for the prevention of AIDS in Alaska. Persons wishing further information and if they want a 4A representative to speak to their

companies, call our office at 276-1400.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Rogers
Executive Director
Alaskan Aids Assistance
Association
Anchorage