

*"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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## Editorial Comment—

## A Great Man Passes

"Is there anything we can do for you, for you are the one in trouble now."

The above historic uttering was spoken by the late Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Her husband had just died and she had summoned Vice President Harry S. Truman to the White House and told him that the President had died. She uttered the above words when Truman asked, "Is there anything I can do for you?"

At that moment, massive and infinitely complex problems fell on the shoulders of Harry Truman, a simple plain speaking man who seemed like a sorely under-equipped man to take on the man-killing burdens. The great World War II in Europe had just been over. The war with Japan was still going on — and there was Harry Truman. He succeeded the sophisticated, knowledgeable President Roosevelt. Those were terribly big shoes to fill.

This editor was in Elouina Air Base near Tunis, Tunisia as a radio operator when the news of the death of President Roosevelt came through. He, along with legions, was stunned. When we heard the first formal speech of the new President Harry Truman, we were not impressed. He didn't seem like a good speaker, nothing like Roosevelt. He slipped over words and we said, "Who in the hell is he?"

We had this feeling for some time but then, scarcely more than three months, there was a change in the man. He seemed to have taken a tight grip on the reins and generated a new feeling among the Air Force radio personnel. We soon knew that we had a real boss back in Washington.

President Truman learned the workings of his office in amazingly short time. What made this remarkable was that a vice president in those days was one of the least informed in the officialdom of the United States government. When he was sworn in as President, he didn't even know about the process of development of the atomic bomb. This device was to figure greatly during his tenure in not too long a period since becoming the head of the nation.

Awesome decisions were in the offing for the new President. He implemented the Marshall Plan that expedited the recovery from the destructive World War II in Europe. He made the heart-searching decision of using the massively destructive device — the atomic bomb — that razed the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. This action ended the war in Japan. He fired the highly thought of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur who at the time commanded the Army against Japan. There were many other decisive actions Harry Truman made. He also won over Thomas Dewey when many thought he didn't win.

But one of the greatest qualities the man from Missouri had was his humanness. He was blunt. He protected the honor of his family. He amused people by playing his piano. But above all, he was a common man's President. He fought to better their lot. Common people recognized this quality and encouraged him by shouting, "Give 'em hell, Harry."

Harry Truman stands to be one of the greatest presidents his nation ever had. His was an awesome period of upheaval which he met with great courage. He truly fulfilled his own saying, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

# Outline of Claims History--

## Author Lauds Congressman Begich for Claims Work

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.  
[Copyright 1972 by Thomas Richards, Jr.]

OLONGAPO CITY, R.P. — Although the groundwork had been completed prior to 1970, the most critical period during the settlement of the Alaska Native land claims came during the summer and fall of 1971.

With the exception of the proposal of a two per cent mineral royalty in perpetuity, the settlement enacted by the Congress at the end of 1971 was nearly identical to that which the Alaska Federation of Natives originally sought.

The success of the Washing-

ton lobbying effort during 1971 can be attributed to three factors:

(1) The appearance of effective Alaskan representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

(2) The success of the National Council on Indian Opportunity in winning support from the Nixon Administration for the Alaska Native position on settlement legislation, and

(3) The ability of the Alaska Federation of Natives and other Alaska Native interests to remain appraised of factors affecting the progress of legislation.

Even before he became a lame-duck congressman, Howard Pollock incurred the ire of former House Interior Committee Chairman Wayne Aspinall because of infrequent attendance at committee meetings and his inattention to committee business unrelated to Alaskan affairs.

He angered the ranking Republican on the committee, John Saylor of Pennsylvania, such that Saylor vowed during one meeting never to allow a settlement of Alaska Native claims.

When he arrived as a freshman congressman after his 1970 victory, Nick Begich immediately sought to improve Alaska's position on the House Interior Committee and the critically important Indian Affairs Subcommittee.

He won the confidence of senior members by attending all committee meetings and by showing interest in matters which were important to his colleagues, although they had little effect on Alaska.

He earned respect also while compiling the best voting attendance record of any legislator ever sent to Washington by Alaskan voters, by making over ninety-nine per cent of the roll calls.

From the beginning, Begich made it plain that his primary goal for his first term in the Congress was the passage of legislation to fairly resolve the Native claims.

"I don't want to leave any-  
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## Carbon Monoxide Levels

### May Pose Potential Health Hazard

Representatives of the State Division of Public Health and the Fairbanks Medical Society wish to advise the public that carbon monoxide levels in the outside air currently being recorded by State and Borough measuring units are in the range that may pose a potential health hazard for some individuals.

Particularly susceptible are those individuals having a medical history of:

- (a) Chronic lung disease, such as emphysema and;
- (b) Cardiovascular or heart disease.

Citizens are encouraged to avoid prolonged exposure as much as possible by minimizing

the length of time spent in areas of highest carbon monoxide concentration.

Anyone who does experience difficulties such as chest pain, difficulty in breathing, dizziness or chronic headache should consult their private physician.

Excessive carbon monoxide levels may also exist within the home as a result of incomplete combustion of fuel and an absence of proper ventilation.

Anyone who suspects this condition may exist may contact the Environmental Health Section at 452-1595 for a household survey to be made at no charge.

## Letters from Here and There

### Stickman Thanks 'Nice People'

Nulato, Alaska  
December 22, 1972

Dear Friend Mr. Howard Rock:

I just lost about all my Christmas spirit when the U.S. Army came Dec. 19th with a big load for Christmas with the house chopper. Next day, Dec. 20th, the Air Force came with another load. That cheered me up. I don't know how to thank those nice people with a big heart for thinking about us poor people in the village. If it wasn't for them, I don't know what kind of Christmas we were going to have.

But in the other side of the world they're different people. The ones that think only about money, money, money. What's money? Money cannot talk to you. Them lawyers want millions from us poor people and we don't get one red cent yet. Can you, Howard? What's wrong with these lawyers? I thought they're supposed to be smart. Is that what God made this world for? For these greedy people. One hundred dollars an hour? I can't believe it. They must be nuts. What they're going to do with that much money? They can't take with them when they die. How can a man spend a million.

Howard, I'm living in my Mother and Dad's house. It was built, no one knows when, before I was born. About 70

years old. The wind almost tore it down the other day. But I still slept in there.

The wind was blowing right through the house all over.

So we had Christmas early this year. I still have till New Year to celebrate but I don't know how. Just get drunk I guess — that's the only way for a 65 year old Indian with snow white hair.

Merry, merry Christmas, buddy.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

### Thoughts Are Turning to "Rondy"

GREATER ANCHORAGE INC.  
607 West 6th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Gentlemen:

Once again our thoughts turn to February . . . the 1973 Fur Rendezvous . . . and the Eighth Annual All-Alaska Basketball Classic. This Classic, a major event of the "Rondy," will be an invitational adult tournament including all areas of the state.

The 1973 tournament will be different than 1972 due to the fact that there will be more teams and games; thus making the event more representative of all Alaska.

The games will start on Monday, February 12, and will be held in the Community Center Gymnasium. The semi-finals and finals will be held on Monday, February 19, also at Com-

munity Center Gym, taking advantage of the Washington Birthday legal holiday. Plans are for the Anchorage teams to play during the first two days, although some visiting teams will be asked to come in earlier, so please notify us in advance if it is possible for your team to attend earlier.

The major consideration for selection of out-of-town teams will be your record against other teams in your area; however, your past performance in previous Classics and the interest you show in wanting to participate will also be a factor.

We are making every attempt this year to keep the public more-informed about the outlying areas. So keep in touch . . . send in whatever team information you can, including scores and records. We will see that it reaches the news media.

A little more publicity for your areas will generate interest in the State Classic just as the Pre-Classical Elimination has done in Anchorage.

Enclosed is the necessary information. Should you want additional information, call the City of Anchorage, Parks and Recreational Dept., 274-2525, ext. 367.

Best wishes for a successful Basketball Season, and may it be topped off with a spot at the All-Alaska Classic, Gold Medal Tournament, or the Arctic Winter Games.

Sincerely,

Louis Strutz  
Tournament Director