

Letters from Here and There

Why Not Good Pair of Mukluks For This Man

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Howard Rock:

I'm in a dilemma. I am a post Polio "fout." I can not wear regular shoes — or even "tenny runners" (tennis shoes).

So for 2 1/2 or 3 years I've worn moccasins.

Today I woke up to physical rain — outside again. My present moccasins are Oglala made — but they sure aren't water proof.

Can someone up there come up with lighter weight "mukluks" that are waterproof. Down here we can't use the warm of a real mukluk — even in winter time.

No one knows how to water proof these moccasins down here.

I have 2 fusions and 2 pins in the left foot. And weight drives me crazy. I can't tolerate more than a few minutes at a time of it.

I guess you say the damage is from the waist down on the left side. (1 1/2 short)

I don't know where else to turn.

Would it work to make the sole out of a water proof skin — and the top out of regular leather?

The Navajo boot works better than the regular instep tie design for me — but I'll take whatever works.

Please, can some one help me? It isn't fun walking in wet feet.

Thank you.

Ishna Mani

P.S. Naturally, I can't afford a small fortune to buy!

Stickman Too Old To Love or Learn

Galbraith Lake, Alaska
April 26, 1975

My Dear Friend:

Well, Howard, I've been called for jury duty May 5th so I'll be in Saturday. I can not make the 9 weeks on the slope.

The rumors here is a big layoff by Green Contractors April 30. That's the last day on the contract.

Also heard the steward on the job gets layed off last, so I'm steward.

I got the Wien's ticket from the University to come to school April 29th & 30th but I can't come in for that. I'm too old for school now, besides I can't understand what its for and besides I cannot learn very much in 2 days.

I'll return the airplane ticket when I go in.

No sign of spring here as yet.

There is one think I don't like here is when they move someone in my room. Last year when I first hit Old Man's Camp on the slope, one day when I got off work there was a long-hair blonde sleeping naked in my room. He was one of the surveyors, and he was out for 3 days camp out and not much sleep. This is how he was passed out naked.

Next they moved a colored man in my room. You know there are a lot of people that don't like to stay in the same room with an Indian, that's me.

Gee, sure hate it, but I have to put up with it.

And another I don't like here is no radio reception. I get Nome and Anchorage around midnight but too much static. I sure miss theradio.

Lot of girls here but only 2 I know. But what a 65 year old man got a chance with those hungry guys on the slope. I have just as much show as a snow ball in hell.

Fred StickmanSr.

Wants Limited Entry Repealed, More Positive Programs

April 29, 1975

Dear Editor:

Limited Entry is a governmental attempt to solve the problem of too many boats by creating a new bureaucracy instead of trying to find the real roots of the problem, which on closer examination

turns out to be the failure of other governmental bureaucracies.

Last year was the first time in my working life that I didn't pay income taxes, because Uncle Sam and Alaska said, Dave, you are doing the country a favor by buying a boat. I used the Investment Credit and took 7% of the value of my shrimp boat and deducted it directly off my tax bill. If I should have good seasons the next two years I could put all profits into a Capital Construction Fund set up by the NMFS, promise to build a new boat or make major improvements in my old boat, and for two years continue to pay no income taxes. The fourth year I could buy a new boat using a low interest, low down, long-term federal loan, and not even have to sell my first boat since I could have a substantial down payment in my Capital Construction Fund. Also, since Congress has just raised the investment credit to 10% I would have a new big tax break with my second boat, and continue to pay no taxes.

These are some of the ways that processors and fleet builders have over-capitalized our fleets. I'm an independent Alaskan fisherman—I like my boat and don't want another, so this and future years I'll be paying taxes and subsidizing the fleet builders and competing with.

This is the problem of our way of promoting growth—particularly when applied to our fishing industry. I imagine McDonald's avoids paying taxes as long as he keeps building more hamburger stands, and the hamburger-eaters might keep growing in number, but we only have a limited number of fish, at the present.

Fishermen are out there catching not just fish, but dollars. Most fishermen's minds are like a cash register—they know the payday before they hit the dock. Instead of the government's handling fishermen dollars with tax subsidies and write-offs, it should eliminate the subsidies and let our industry get back on an even keel, and then maybe in the future take away a few dollars in taxes and plow that money back into more fish. That would be a natural form of limiting entry that would help the fish and the fishermen and cut down government costs instead of this present uncoordinated, multi-headed monster that is driving us crazy, wasting our money, doing nothing for the fish, and pitting brother against brother. Let's repeal Limited Entry, work to eliminate the tax gimmicks, and get on with some positive programs to help the fish. Limited Entry is an attempt to hold down the lid on a pressure cooker with force instead of simply turning off the fire.

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(14 years an Alaskan; nine years full-time commercial fisherman; owner/operator F/V BONANZA; B.A. in Economics, 1964)