

Starring article appreciated

Dear Tundra Times,

We were thrilled to see the article STARRING COMBINES, ALEUT, RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN CULTURES by Philemon Tutiakoff in volume

XXII Number 65 of the Tundra Times, April 1, 1985.

We would appreciate it very much if you could send us ten more copies of this issue for our library collection.

You've got a great paper and

we enjoy reading each issue.

Donna Duggan
Librarian

Unalaska School Library
Unalaska, AK 99685

Hunter disagrees with editorial

To the editor:

This letter is addressed to Michael K. McCabe, NRA General Counsel, Institute for Legislative Action and Tom Fulgham, Editor, American Hunter.

This letter is in response to Mr. McCabe's editorial in American Hunter's Jan. '85 issue.

Mr. McCabe, I can tell you're a man who's used to flush toilets and easy living. And I disagree with your article, totally. I don't know where you got your information as to how the Eskimos of Western Alaska live. Have you come out here and counted us that do hunt? Me and my handful of brothers compared to you and the thousands of thousands of your fellow sports hunters, or brothers?

When you talk of the "plunge of the four species of geese on the Pacific Flyway...Is almost exclusively due to illegal spring hunting & egg-gathering by the local Eskimo people," I have to laugh at your idiocracy. I noticed that you didn't mention the thousands of thousands of sports hunters in the Lower 48. Just think of all that horde down there compared to the handful of hunters up here.

Do you have any real idea what the percentage is of us hunters vs. your lot that do hunt geese? I also noticed that you didn't mention the number of geese that your thousands might've wounded and later died. And the lead shot they (geese) might've ingested and died from lead poisoning down there. Think about it.

In some hunting areas down there I've heard that a guy can shovel lead shot out of lakes, etc., near shooting areas. Any true hunter knows that some birds will ingest gravel or sand to help

digest their food. You know, I wouldn't be surprised if some of the geese down there ingest concrete for the same purpose. Not to mention lead shot.

I also noticed that you didn't mention the various forms of pollution down there too: noise, chemicals, etc. And don't tell me these don't affect geese one bit. Also, very importantly, you failed to mention your neighbors to the south. Don't tell me you didn't know that they have unlimited bags. Haven't you seen advertisements stating "no limits" for Mexican form of sports hunting?

How about the original wintering grounds for the geese? I wouldn't be surprised if one of your kind parks his Mercedes where a wintering ground might've been. I also believe that wildlife, let alone geese won't fare too well near any forms of disturbances, pollution, etc.

If you're to blame me for the decline in the geese population, then next time please don't hesitate to include the above. O.K.? As far as I know (and I think a lot more people than you will agree with me) a lot of the natural resources have rapidly declined or altogether vanished after your kind came around. And not due to the Native people. Let history speak for us.

You also said "Such practices have long historical roots." You're damn right! And no one, especially you is going to stop me from my right to hunt to survive. Nor is some bureaucrat that hasn't lived my way of life. Wouldn't you rather hunt to survive than go "sport" hunting? Probably not. Mine is called subsistence hunting.

When we go hunting and not just for geese, we traditionally (and I firmly believe in it) give

some of our catch to the less fortunate-elders, widows, etc. That's right, give and not sell. I've learned that most of your kind don't give out freely too much, you only expect payment, services or the kind. The only time you're willing to give anything away is when you can "write it off" or it'll make you look real good publically. Of course during holidays or special occasions too. I don't hear you saying you give to the less fortunate or that you give part of your groceries to the hungry.

Often when we go hunting our very lives are in constant danger or it's uncertain that we'd get anything at all. You see we don't have supermarkets and aren't filthy rich to buy goods from stores all the time. When we go by boat which are often small, light, and open, we expose ourselves to the might of the elements. Sometimes we get stuck out in the boondocks due to the weather. Mostly we make it home. Once in a while someone doesn't.

You see Mr. McCabe, we don't go out in air-conditioned 4-wheelers, airplanes, etc. Nor do we go out to the open sea in yachts or cabin cruisers. Nor do we sit in blinds with half the comforts of home. We go out because it's necessary and not because it'll be fun. And certainly not because we want to break from the office or what ever.

We're called subsistence hunters for a reason; It's what we know, it's our livelihood and it puts food in our stomachs. And you, a sports hunter, I'm sure you know the meaning of sport.

Here's how Webster's Dictionary describes it...

'sport: to make usu. ostentitious display of: show off...to amuse (Continued on Page Nine)

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(Continued from Page Eight)
oneself...to mock or ridicule something...

²sport 1 a) source of diversion: Recreation...Physical activity engaged in for pleasure 2) a particular activity (as hunting or an atheletic game)

As to how Webster's describes subsistence:

subsistence 1 a(1): real being: EXISTENCE...(2) the condition of remaining in existence: CONTINUATION, PERSISTENCE...b: something by which an individual is what it

is...2: means of subsisting: as a: the minimum (as of food and shelter) necessary to support life b: a source or means of obtaining the necessities of life

Now take a good unbiased look at our differences.

Also the Alaska Federation of Natives exists for a reason; to make sure we don't go extinct. So when it takes the necessary steps on our behalf we expect it to do it's job despite outside interference or evils.

As for the Anchorage law firm of Ross & Gingras that offered to

represent NRA in their lawsuit to try and put an end to our way of life, it says something about them don't it? And it'll look good too: Big sports hunters want to deny Natives their food.

With all the millions you sports hunters have to throw around you'll probably get your way too. At least in court, I might add. Ross & Gingras kind of remind me of Brutus in ancient Rome. In regards to their very existence in our great state: If it wasn't for us and Alaska I'm sure they wouldn't be up here getting rich,

after all, we the Alaskans and Alaska are the reason they're in business of here.

So Mr. McCabe, before you attack us and blame us so that you can continue to engage in hunting for pleasure think about what I wrote. Or better yet live out here and try to hunt to survive. And leave your bank accounts at home. I'm sure you'll see the immense differences in our lifestyles real fast when you try to live side by side with us.

Oh yeah, don't look for the neighborhood Safeway or

McDonalds out here too. We don't have those or the like.

Mr. McCabe-give me a million dollars each and every year and I personally promise you that I'll never ever shoot or point a gun at another of your (?) endangered species of geese for the remainder of my life. I promise. I'd like to be eating steaks, lobsters, prime rib, fancy food, have a yacht, fancy cars, etc., etc.

Rudy Kairaiuak
Subsistence Hunter
Chefornak, Alaska