

Letters to the Editor

Paradise, California
May 6, 1969

Dear Mr. Rock:

Thanks for your editorial of April 25th.

The writer has lived through national prohibition from the start to the finish. I will say that honest and well meaning people started it, but it was passed and slammed into the constitution by trickery and political trickery finally repealed it after even the illiterate persons saw the damage done by that law.

The voters of Kotzebue will soon realize that they made a mistake, but before they are willing to admit it, other towns will be coaxed to follow suit. That is the way it was done in the states. Areas were dried up under Indian Treaties. Then the argument was, let us vote the whole state dry and the business that feed to the wet areas is bound to come back to us.

Finally in 1919 the argument was, let us vote the whole country dry before our boys return from Europe. It was the primary action to be blamed for that terrible depression and it took another war to pull us out of that.

Even the dryest dry should realize that in case of local or county option, every potential moonshiner, bootlegger, or blindpigger will vote dry with the honest dry and the applicant for a star to enforce that law.

An honest system of licensed persons to handle liquor from the distillery and brewery to the glass on the bar is the only thing that can be reasonable expected to help the situation besides education.

Whole states were impoverished by trying to enforce prohibition. They surely missed the licensed revenue.

Yours truly,
Albert Enzmann

May 13, 1969

Dear Editor:

1955 a contract was let out at Galena Alaska, for two airmen barracks, mess hall, warehouse, alert hangar, water tank, etc, two year job. I had 13 dogs to feed so I had to fish for them. I build a fish wheel.

In the meantime, the men went to Galena to go to work where they work the year before. They came back when the fish was running heavy started to fish. They couldn't get job because different company got the contract. They didn't want to hire Indians.

So when I was through fishing last part of July, I put my stuff in the boat and started for Galena early Saturday morning. I was going to show that I was going to get a job some way. I didn't go back to the base till Thursday 5 days after I got there.

I went up to the labor foreman. He said what you want. I said I want a job. He said you're not a laborer, you're a carpenter. He said the carpenter foreman is looking for you. It was the general foreman. I talked to everyone for five days at Galena. Some of them I told, or said, someone was going to be out of job, if I didn't get a job.

So someone behind me told someone and the word got to the foreman that there was a good carpenter looking for a job, but I was celebrating before I got back.

After I worked several days, my oldest son wants to work. I told him to see the labor fore-

man. He came back and said he didn't want him because he's non-union. My son was in the Army for three years just got out. He was 20 years old. Twice as strong as me and had twice as much schooling and couldn't get a job.

So that night I sat down and wrote a letter to my friend in Washington. It didn't take long to get an answer. Three days. When my son came with the letter, I opened it and I dropped my hammer and I told my son, "If you don't get a job, I'm not working."

We took the letter to the superintendent. He said to try him for two days. He worked five months.

So that fall we went home where they were voting for a new chief and councils. I went around the village for a few days asking my friends to vote for me, so I can get jobs for them. I got six votes and I vote for myself.

That's when I quit try to help. I was asked two different years to go to Tanana Chief Conference with my expenses paid. But this time I'm going to Tanana for a physical check-up.

FRED STICKMAN, SR.

May 12, 1969

Dear Editor:

In about two and a half weeks, we get out of school and I'm very glad. We get out on the 29th of May. When does the school in Fairbanks get out?

This summer I'm going to have fun. We'll go up to the garnet ledge and get garnets for the tourist boats. We'll all go out fishing in our big troller and maybe sleep over night on the boat and then we'll have a lot more fun. Last summer we had fun. The summer before that we had fun also. We went to Minnesota to visit our relatives.

Enclosed is a check for the 60 papers.

Sincerely,
Ernie Riach