

'School, School, School, That's All I Read'

Nulato, Alaska
November 2, 1967

Dear Editor:

School, school, school, that's all I read every time I pick up your paper. Indians are not educated that's why they can't get jobs. I wish them fellows that write think first and know what they're writing about. Why don't they come down and see me?

I was pulled off the job twice at Fairbanks, 1953, when I was working for a construction company. They wouldn't let me join the union. That's when I first went to work for the U.S. Air Force. Then after that, I worked with a student lawyer, who got me in, and went back to work on the Chena Building.

Down at Galena was worse, 1955 and 1956, I was only the one working as a carpenter, no laborer. They took their men down from Fairbanks and the people was hungry there. There was a few Negros from Fairbanks. They were unloading the barges around the clock, Sundays and all. What a hungry bunch.

That's when I went after them and I hired five men including my son. The Carpenters Union tried to pull me off the job. Some union members won't even work with me. Twice I wanted to quit but the superintendent fired the worst one and I stayed on.

I went to 6th grade and I know you don't have to have much or any schooling to be a carpenter, plumber, electrician, truck driver, dozer operator, mechanic, etc. I done all this with no schooling. That's why it makes me sick in the stomach everytime I read your paper.

We need something more than schooling in our villages, cold storage, water well, instead of throwing money away for schooling. Too much schooling is no good; you get too smart for nothing and lazy. You live longer if you use your muscles more like me.

Well, I guess I'm through working for the rest of my life. A man that's 60 years old should have it made. Although I haven't, I'm going to take it easy and live off the land, that is if the game wardens leave me alone. I have no hunting, fishing or trapping license. That's another thing I'm against. I'm not buying license to trap on my own ground, even if it's 25¢ a year. I don't want to be pushed around too much when my father and forefathers was here trapping before the Whites.

I was in jail, \$600 fine for this and I still ain't going to buy one as long as I live. I hope they get away with this, then I don't have to pay anybody to tag my skins. That's

what I do everytime I trap. I rather give the money to Red Cross, church, etc.

Well, it's a good thing them Republicans don't come around to see me. That way, it save me walking four miles to vote for them.

-FRED STICKMAN, SR.

Get To Work Now—

Attorney: Prepare For Land Hearings

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November 3, 1967

Letter to the Editor
The Tundra Times
510 Second, Room 220
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Dear Sir:

Senator Gruening said in Anchorage that Senator Henry Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Interior Committee has agreed to hold hearings of the full Interior Committee in Alaska on the Native Land Claim Bills after Congress adjourns. These hearings will be scheduled for Anchorage but can be held in other cities, if there is enough demand.

These hearings are very important. Every village should attend the hearings and present the reasons why it should have the land it claims. Many villages will not be able to attend the hearings and they will not be able to present their case. But it is important that as many as possible do so. Many villages will find it easier to attend hearings if they are held in Fairbanks, Bethel, Kotzebue, Barrow, Southeast Alaska and elsewhere. Each village that wants a hearing near the most convenient place to it should write Senator Henry Jackson, Chairman, Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C., to tell him where they would like hearings held for their convenience.

Every village that can present its case should begin working on it now. Spokesmen for the village should be selected and they should begin writing out what they will say, or at least outlining it. It will be helpful if copies of the statement can be handed to the Senators at the time of the hearing.

A map should be prepared showing the limits of the village claim and showing trails, abandoned village sites, graveyards, traplines, camps, fish camps and other evidence of use and occupancy. A good map can be prepared in this way using USGS quadrangles and marker pens. The village spokesman should also be prepared to put the map up on the blackboard so the whole committee can see it at one time and then describe the use that the village has made of the land.

Photographs, especially old photographs, can also be very helpful to illustrate the testimony of the village spokesman.

It is very important that as many villages as possible begin this work now. These hearings will be an outstanding opportunity to present the case for the Natives of Alaska before some of the most important men in the United States. Men who have the power to decide whether the Natives will get justice and what they are to receive. It will be a great mistake if we get to the hearings and are not prepared.

One final matter. Some villages might like to invite the Senate Interior Committee to visit the village. I think this would be a good idea. If you decide to do this, send the invitation to Senator Jackson.

Very truly yours,
Barry W. Jackson