

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Tundra Times



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Friday.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Telephone 452-2244.

Entered at the Post Office at Fairbanks, Alaska, as second class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. publisher (Howard Rock, Laura Bergt, Thomas Richards, Thomas A. Snapp, and Albert S. Kaloo); HOWARD ROCK, editor; Thomas A. Snapp, assistant editor; contributing editors, Guy Okakok and Hugh Nichols.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$ 8.00	6 Months \$ 4.50
Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$19.00	6 Months \$10.00

Editorial— The Charming Lady — Alaska '67 —

There is something that is extremely elusive to an artist who wishes to produce a work of art. He may be a great craftsman in his particular medium. Something else besides skill enters into the execution of an art piece—a slice of life if you will, but this is most difficult to achieve. Sweat and tears, plus a generous amount of inspiration, are some of the necessary ingredients in a work of art but to coordinate them into an inspirational appeal comes close to delving into the mysteries of life itself. To reach out to that extent is to approach immortality.

To apply the above in connection with the Alaska 67 in Fairbanks would be absurd to some people but we believe the execution of the centennial site comes very close to achieving a work of art.

Something—something charming happened that went beyond the planning and building of the Alaska '67. Whatever anxious moments, perhaps frayed nerves of the people responsible in its erection, that "something" permeated through every corner and section of the site, and most likely, unknown to those who worked feverishly in its preparation.

When the ceremonies were over for the official opening of the centennial celebration center last Saturday, that "something" was ready to welcome the visitors with open arms. It was like coming to see a warm, valued friend who had been missing for many years and the reunion was at once poignant, exciting and happy. There was even a touch of charming frivolousness, but culture and learned quality dominated that encompassed the cultures and traditions of old Alaska and the wonders of the present.

The Alaska '67 reminds one of a charming lady whose ancestry no one could quite pin down because her charm seemed to have sprung from many fine stocks of our state as well as from the complex and bustling activities of today's world. She personifies Alaska without artificiality but reflects its interesting and varied characteristics.

Alaska 67 is tiny compared with her rich, flamboyant, sometimes indifferent, sister expositions of the past and present, but she makes up for whatever lack she may have by presenting herself with a rich personality, dignity and charm. She is uniquely a true product of our state. She is Alaska's best foot forward to show people from all corners of the world what this north country is all about.

Letters to Editor

Dear Mr. Rock,
Although I seldom write a letter to the editor, I must write to tell you how much I enjoyed your poem, Keshorna, which I found in the May 26th issue of your Tundra Times. It is a beautiful and moving requiem. I had not realized you were a poet—among your many accomplishments.

Regards,
Mae (Mrs. Bruce) Kendall

Dear Mr. Rock
I am writing primarily to comment on the latest letter to the editor from 12-year-old Harold Riach. I think it is most remarkable that this Korean boy, one of five adopted children in the family who has lived here less than two years has the ambition, talent and interest to learn to carve totem poles (which are very good) and learn the legends and history of the Wrangell Tlingets from Mr. Tom Ukas.

Perhaps his initiative will serve as an example to the native young people here who apparently have no interest in the arts and legends of their forefathers.

We have continued to enjoy your paper as we have moved from Barrow to Galena and on to Wrangell and hope that when we reach Wainwright in August, several copies will be awaiting our arrival.

We have greatly missed the Arctic, the village life and the wonderful Eskimo people of whom we are so fond.

Therefore we are sure we will enjoy teaching and living in Wainwright. Perhaps our two little Barrow born Eskimo sons soon will be speaking their native tongue, though their parents have found it quite impossible.

Congratulations to you and your staff for the wonderful service you are doing for all the native people of Alaska. They went far too many years without being heard.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Larry Fisher,
Wrangell

Dear Editor,
Yesterday the tourists came on the ship "Prince George." They were from Canada. I think they had a nice time in Wrangell. Many tourists said that Chief Shakes, his house and the natives' history was very interesting.

Today school is over. Tomorrow we have to come back for our report cards. I'm sure most of us will go to seventh grade in the fall.

Enclosed is a check for \$8.00 for the 80 papers.

Sincerely,
Harold Riach,
Wrangell

Dear Sir,
I have read an article in Scholastic Scope about your paper you are printing for your people. And what you are doing for them.

I've lived in Alaska 37 years, raise my children there and always intended to live there all the rest of my life.

(continued on Page 6)

Village Unhappy About State's Broken Promise

(Editor's Note: The following letter was written on May 23 to Governor Walter J. Hickel by the Teller City Council. Quite a number of people in Alaska believe the state school system is superior to that of the Bureau of Indian Affairs but the councilmen of Teller think otherwise.)

* * *

Governor Walter Hickel May 23, 1967
Governors Office
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Governor Hickel:

This winter we the Teller City Council agreed to give the State five acres of our land to build a good bigger school on for our kids. That school was approved over a year ago. It was supposed to be built this summer. Now the Department of Education says it won't get built till next year. Always excuses. Always delays. Promises. Promises. BIA school at Teller Mission is better. At Wales too and at Shishmaref see and Gambell. And those kids have hot lunch not dry milk always sour like the State. And the BIA teachers don't move all the time. Three teachers in fourteen years at Teller Mission. Here new teachers about every year always every two years.

We don't want to let the State have our five acres now. We want the State school to get out and let the BIA take over our school. It can't be no worse and it might be better. BIA Area Field Office is in Nome so is Plant Maintenance Office. They are closer to help our school better. Nobody comes around pays any attention to our school. State School Board members lives in Nome. Never checks up on our school. Nome has bum school too. School Advisory Board don't have any power. Education Department don't pay any attention. Right now we got good teachers. Two are leaving. May 2 new ones come no good like we had sometimes. Our dogs are smarter than some school teachers we had here. State School isn't good enough. Senator Blogett says so. We been thinking it it over he is right.

State get out right now. Go away. We write to Mr. Bennett, he is an Indian he knows we have problems. Maybe BIA can help us more like in other places. Thank you.

Very Truly,
Frank Topsekok, Vice-Pres.
Teller City Council

cc: Mr. Robert Bannett, Commissioner, BIA
Senator Bartlett
Senator Gruening
Tundra Times.

Though Not Always Agreeing, Reader Says Times Hits Points

Box 1125
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
26 May 1967

Editor
The Tundra Times
Fairbanks, Alaska

Sir:
I have been a faithful reader of your newspaper for some time and, while I have not always agreed with you, I felt that you usually pointed out the salient points of those issues of importance to the native peoples. With regard to one important recent issue, however, you do not seem inclined to comment. That is, the failure of the House Appropriations Committee to fund Senator Bartlett's native housing program despite the President's inclusion of it in his budget.

The item was eliminated because the House Committee felt "plans and standards for this program need further refinement..."

That reason that this all-important program was not funded is something to speculate on. Although former Alaska State Housing Authority officials have reported that plans and standards were almost completed before the Hickel administration took power, none were submitted. Therefore, perhaps some of the fault lies there. In addition, no state official was sufficiently concerned about the bill's passage to appear in support of the program at the House hearings.

On the other hand, we must remember that we no longer have that dedicated Alaskan public servant, Ralph J. Rivers, representing us in the House where his seniority, experience in congress, position in the majority party and devotion to duty

(continued on page 6)