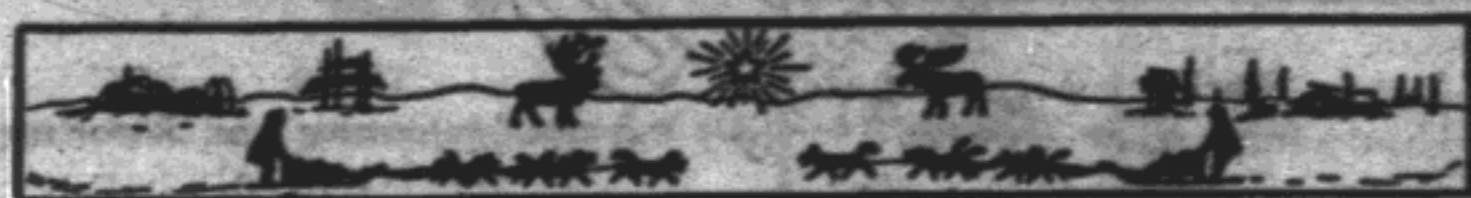


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

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. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Clare Anderson, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, assistant secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

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

ANCHORAGE LAND HEARING ...

(Continued from page 1)

efforts of the State, the Department of the Interior and the Governor's Native Land Claims Task Force Committee based on the suggestion by Interior Secretary Stewart Udall that the monetary portion of the land claims solution be awarded by sharing the income of the United States from the Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leases and the native people. The idea has met with mutual concurrences of the parties concerned and this might cause the juggling of the earlier land bills and, perhaps, cause them to fall by the wayside.

If such an eventuality occurs, it should be the undivided duty of all concerned to sell the new bill to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and to its able and estimable chairman, Senator Henry M. Jackson of the State of Washington.

One of the big MUSTS in the selling job will have to be the proposal to share the Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas monies with the native people and which is, in fact, the central and main meat of the bill. There looms a definite possibility that this might be a hard nut to sell. In the background lies the Bureau of the Budget that is known to look with disfavor any proposal to use the shelf royalties for special purposes and for this reason, legislative efforts along this line have gone nowhere.

The shelf money idea of the bill, of course, is meant to expedite early relief of abject poverty so common among the native people of Alaska. Other alternatives, which will surely be sought if the above idea fails, such as the procedure through the Court of Claims, will be time consuming and which can last for many years and along with it, the prolongation of the misery among the native people.

There is another reason for the selling job. If Congress fails to act on the compromise bill, the cooperative spirit that has been established between the native people, the State, and the Interior Department can fall apart at the seams and along with it, dim the prospects for land settlement in the foreseeable future. Progress that has been gained, painfully at best, can be lost. It could hurt the native people a great deal.

There is a great need for a concerted effort to penetrate the problem areas for proper approaches. Perhaps a means for conciliatory talks at highest levels possible can be asked for to air the urgent need for early relief of the damnable misery of our native people. This should fall as a responsibility for all concerned. To affect penetration of problem areas can mean a brighter future for the state as a whole. Perhaps the Anchorage hearing can be one to pave the way toward a fair consideration by Congress for early solution to land problems in Alaska.

Fairbanks-Nome Ferry-Highway On Legislation

Legislation has been introduced in the State House of Representatives that would initiate a Fairbanks-Nome Ferry Highway system. The concept is to build a transportation system that would cost only about a third as much as an all-land highway between Fairbanks and Nome that has been under proposition for some years in the past.

Under the plan, a 30-mile highway would be built out of Fairbanks as an extension of the Elliott Highway to a suitable ferry landing on the Yukon River above the town of Tanana.

From there, a ferry route for 200 miles to the village of Koyukuk at the confluence of the Koyukuk and Yukon Rivers would continue the route where it would connect with a 170-mile highway at Koyukuk to the old ghost town mining community of Council to which a road has been built out of Nome.

As a primary sponsor of the proposed legislation, Rep. Mike Bradner, with co-sponsorship of Reps. Tom Balone (D-Nome), Willie Hensley (D-Kotzebue), Terry Miller (R-Fairbanks), Don Young (R-Ft. Yukon), George Hohman (D-Bethel), and Ed Orbeck (D-Fairbanks), introduced two bills, HB-396 and HB-395.

HB-396 calls for an appropriation of \$50 thousand for a route study for the highway between Koyukuk and Council.

HB-395 calls for \$500 thousand for construction of the 30-mile highway from the Elliott Highway near

(continued on page 6)

More Native Scholarships Asked of UA

State Representatives Willie Hensley, Mike Bradner, Gene Guess, George Hohman, John Sackett and Jules Wright introduced a bill, HB-392, last week asking that the University of Alaska offer not more than 35 new scholarships annually to rural students of Alaska.

At the present time, 15 rural scholarships are being allowed by the university but the lawmakers think this is not near enough.

"These scholarships may be made in varying amounts, but the number of scholarships has not kept pace with the tremendous increase of native students at the U of A," said Rep. Bradner.

The bill, addressed to the Board of Regents of the university, instructed that body to give preference to natives residing in the rural areas who desire to receive training in the field of education.

"If there are more than 50 applications," the bill said, "the board shall award 50 scholarships to those applicants who have the highest scholastic record or who the board determines are the most qualified among the applicants and who are financially unable to obtain a higher education without assistance."

Bethel Resident Criticizes Jacobs

Box 181
Bethel, Alaska
January 23, 1968

Dear Editor:

The Executive Director of Alaska Legal Services, William Jacobs, should have checked on the source of the few rumors he heard before calling them facts. His so-called 'continuing battle' with the Bethel City Council should read as his battle with ignorance. There is a need for legal services in this area, however, no one wants to be convicted on the basis of malicious rumors as the City Council has been by Mr. Jacobs.

Does everyone who is interested in the Affairs of State have to go to Juneau this time of year? We are interested in our city. We also have confidence in our councilman, some of them have been elected for second and third terms. Every council has been a very fair representation of different interest groups in Bethel. If Mr. Jacobs had taken time to obtain a few facts he would know this. He also would know like everyone living in Bethel knows that the non-native voters definitely do not all vote for the same councilman as Mr. Jacobs infers.

There has always been a member who is able to act as interpreter if necessary. The agenda for the meetings is posted in advance. When extremely important or controversial issues are on the agenda, the meetings are held in both languages. All meetings could be held in both languages however, the need just isn't there most of the time. At times there have been over 500 voters for city elections, only three could not vote due to language. Consideration was given these three voters. Less than 1 per cent didn't seem to justify printing ballots in both languages.

Since Mr. Jacobs is not a Bethel voter, what authority does he have to initiate a referendum? Language is a minor problem. I hope the council will pass up Mr. Jacobs challenge and continue to challenge the problems which effect a much greater percentage of Bethel citizens such as: housing, sanitation, unemployment, health, education and especially the welfare of the young people.

As a result of many hundreds of hours of work by our councilman Bethel has a fine Special Education Program. Head Start has been a success. Our pre-maternal home has made it possible for expectant mothers to wait near the hospital preventing situations like the following (A young mother didn't want to come to Bethel and wait in a crowded house too long. She waited too long and died following delivery in her village) The city has built and maintained playgrounds and playground equipment. Last summer they hired a recreation director, a music teacher, a life guard for a favorite swimming hole and contributed to a water safety program. Plans are in the making for a new community building. The citizens have a right to be very proud of their council, it's goals and achievements.

Mr. Jacobs is twenty years behind the times. He does not deserve his seven word title or the support of our tax dollars. Legal Services was not created as a means of condemning the Bethel City Council and by so doing insulting every voter in Bethel on the basis of a few malicious rumors.

/s/ Marilyn Laroux

Mrs. Eunice Shriver Calls for Availability of Measles Vaccine

Mrs. Eunice Shriver, sister of the late President Kennedy and wife of Office of Economic Opportunity Director Sargent Shriver, this week called to Senator Gruening's attention the need of making the measles vaccine available to all.

In a letter to the senator, she pointed out how and why

this should be done and gave the statistics which indicate the need for increasing the availability of the vaccine in Alaska.

Senator Gruening immediately wrote the commissioner of the Department of Health and Welfare, Juneau, asking that he take appropriate action.

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