

A little bragging

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Tundra Times is a newspaper of the Native people of Alaska. It has been recognized as the voice of our people. It didn't get there and earn that designation by treading softly, shyly and by being apologetic in nature but it earned that recognition by being bold and outspoken when it felt it must.

The newspaper has stuck -it's neck out-far out sometimes-many times fully expecting it to be chopped off. It did this all for the sake of our Native people. It has stuck it's neck out into areas of power and dared to fight for the good of the Natives when it felt that some treatment of our people was not quite right. It fought hard and in many cases, influenced efforts to right wrongs. Look about and see improvements being made and in those improvements, Tundra Times probably had it's finger in the resulting effort.

The nature of the Tundra Times is not be brag about things it has done but it has found out that no one else, in many cases, will do so either. As distasteful as it seems to us to brag a bit we feel we must at times so our people can be more aware of what we are trying to do. Other wise, we'll get lost in the shuffle and we'll be taken for granted. Many times our people seem to take us with an attitude of, "So it's there. What of it?"

We are not saying that all of our people have this attitude. Many of them are aware that the newspaper is doing something good for them. Some of our Native organizations are beginning to line up behind us but some of them haven't. There are also far too many of our people who have, "So it's there. What of it?" attitude.

We find this hard to take many times. We have worked hard-too -a great part of the time. We are continually suffering from lack of adequate help because the newspaper cannot afford to hire more help. We have worked our fingers to the bone in order to keep the Tundra Times publishing because we know that if it's lost, the Native people would be the real loser. Whatever acceleration of efforts on improvements of the Native lot would be hurt deeply.

Tundra Times is that important to the Native people of Alaska. It is a spearheading media for the needs of our Aleuts, Indians and Eskimos. It can do this effectively because the staff has good knowledge of Native situations in our state. It has good insight on their ways of thinking. It has compassion for their feelings for their cultures-compassion for their ambition-compassion for their needs.

Dr. Henry S. Forbes is dead. He was the man who enabled the Tundra Times to keep publishing. Although he died on August 15, his financial assistance will continue until the end of December. His family has kindly agreed to continue his commitment until that time and then it will cease. After that time, we will need the backing of our Native people and their friends. This can be done by accelerated circulation and this can be achieved by subscriptions-the more the better. Expanded circulation can assure for us more advertising and this can be added income and a great need. There is nothing 3,000 to 5,000 more names on the subscription list cannot fix. We would be assured of keeping the Tundra Times publishing, therefore continuing to benefit our Native people.