

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



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Member of the American Indian Press Association

Editorial Comment— Oppressive Situation Of Havasupai Tribe

How would you like to feel that you're not feeling at home, or you're not welcomed, in your traditional lands you have occupied since 700 A.D.? How would you feel that you're under a squeeze into a 200 acres of arable land for which your own people, 325 of them, are under an intense competition that threatens to undermine your ancient cohesion — and — at the same time 70 households are forced to live in 54 houses?

This is an oppressive situation under which the Havasupai Tribe of Arizona are forced to exist because the National Park Service is, apparently, wanting to add additional acreage from the traditional lands of the Havasupais until the already huge Grand Canyon National Park is created to more than 1.2 million acres.

The Havasupai position paper reads in part: "In early April the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is scheduled to consider legislation (S.1296 as amended) that could shatter our future, the 425 Havasupai Indians of Arizona, 'the people of Grand Canyon.' S.1296 would enlarge the Grand Canyon National Park to include more than 1.2 million acres without settling the land question of the park's human inhabitants."

It seems to us that some of our national congressional members would be jumping the gun if they favor the enactment of S.1296 before providing a fair settlement of the land question of the Havasupai Tribe. This one cries out for a fair and equitable treatment with honest consideration of the oppressed and original people of Arizona's Grand Canyon.

At some time since the year 1300, Havasupai Tribe has occupied some 3 million acres of the Grand Canyon area. This point of interest alone needs a hard look. And since 200 years ago, this acreage has been eroded by governmental actions to some 251,000 shaky acres up to now, mostly under permit system. This is an insulting slap in the face of the tribe that has chosen to live there since the year 700 A.D.

"Our people," continues the position paper, "now use and occupy 251,000 acres of that park and the adjacent Kaibab National Forest. We have used these lands for 1,300 years as our homeland. Today our people have had this ancient use placed under annually renewable permits surrounded by excessive restrictions. The administration of these permits by others has curtailed our life there severely and a continuation of this system can only push us further into poverty and dependence."

The Indian people of the Havasupai Tribe are asking Congress for trust title to 251,000 acres of part of their traditional lands. They have already given up a great deal of land dear to them for the sake of the Grand Canyon National Park. To allow them trust title to lands they ask would rid them of constant and burdensome restrictions they have had to live under. It would give them a chance to live in their own distinctive way of life free of fears of further loss of lands. They have been told that if they get trust title, they would abuse the land. This is a shallow evaluation of the Indians whose reverence to Nature is a well-known fact. The renewed respect to the soil on which they live would give it color and vitality which had been lost to a great extent under the pestiferous restrictions to which they have been cruelly subjected.

Letters from Here and There

Kivalina SOS School has Woes

Kivalina State-Operated School
Kivalina, Alaska 99750
March 29, 1974

Hon. William A. Egan, governor
Office of the Governor
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Egan:

We the school boards of Kivalina SOS school, and the residents of Kivalina do have a problem on our high school.

Last fall we were authorized to operate 11th grade but did not receive any funding for learning material and equipment. So Brian Paust, our high school teacher, got busy spending his own money from his pocket to get what little learning material for the high school students.

We as school boards do greatly appreciate Brian's earnest concern for our high school students. Therefore we are asking for funding from State-Operated School System. If failed or ignored to be funded from SOSS we as residents and school boards plan to sue the state for complete high school in Kivalina.

Last fall on the month of November dates 9th or 10th we submitted an high school order and we have not heard a word ever since the high school order was sent to Anchorage. Just in case you was not informed by anyone that Kivalina High School have not been funded ever since it started that is grades 9th through 11th.

At this time we would like to know what is being done with the high school order.

Also at this time we are only asking for our high school order be funded for next year so we can start planning ahead of time.

Enclosed you will find in file folder pictures taken of our high school in Kivalina some of which the teachers call wind tunnels when the weather is stormy.

We as concerned local residents and school board do hereby sign our names as follows.

School Boards
Chairman Samuel P. Barr
Vice Chairman Mildred Sage
Member Russell O. Adams
Leona Baldwin
Andrew Baldwin
Tommy Adams Sr.
Angeline Adams
Cora Wesley
Nellie Swan
Jerry Norton
Ernest S. Hawley
Bob Hawley
Sarah Hawley
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Vera Chesley
Oscar Sage
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Chester Bundy
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Caleb S. Adams
Louise S. Hawley
Louise L. Hawley
Dorothy Koenig

Nelda C. Koenig
Enoch A. Adams Sr.
Betty Norton
Oran C. Knox Sr.
Emeline Knox
Ramond Hawley
Winona Hawley

cc: Tundra Times
Chuck Degnan
Governor Egan
Willie Hensley
Marshall Lind
Chris Cooke

3½ Million Coupons to Go

March 26, 1974

Dear Mr. Rock:

Your March 13, 1974 issue has a woman — Mrs. Audrey Totaro inquiring about collecting coupons for Angoon, Alaska fire truck drive.

We are now up to the one million mark and still have 3 1/2 million to go before the requirements of General Mills of 4 1/2 million are met. The Board of Directors of Southeastern Alaska

Community Action Program (SEACAP) appreciates the printing of the article on behalf of Angoon's fire truck drive.

With your concern of Native people and the help of your staff I'm sure Angoon, Alaska will achieve its goal and attain the fire truck.

I remain yours sincerely,
Fred Boyd
Deputy Director/SEACAP

Narcotics Worry Interior Eskimos Pres.

Association of Interior Eskimos
P. O. Box 80931
College, Alaska 99701

Governor Egan
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Egan:

I am deeply concerned about the increasing amount of narcotics being introduced into the northern native communities. At this time, I am making an official

(Continued on page 6)

A New Column— Your Dental Health

The contents of this series of "Dental Health Talks" was originally prepared by the American Dental Association. They are made available for Tundra Times through the Public Health Education Office of the Alaska Native Health Service.

It is well known that our dental health program in Interior Alaska has not yet reached everyone needing dental services. This is especially true about the people in the rural communities. However, everyone understands how important it is to take care of our teeth which is a part of our total well-being.

No. 4 — Plaque and Tooth Decay

Tooth decay has always affected mankind including our prehistoric ancestors. Yet it hasn't been until fairly recently that scientists began finding out what causes this most common problem.

It seems that we carry the seeds of our own decay with us. The cause of decay, scientists tell us, is the bacteria that naturally exist in our mouths. Billions of bacteria live in the sticky, almost colorless film of plaque that is continuously forming on everyone's teeth.

Dental researchers now believe that three things are necessary for a cavity to appear. They are bacteria in the mouth, fermentable carbohydrates (sugar) and a susceptible tooth.

What we see as decay is essentially the destruction of our teeth caused by acids. Bacteria thrive on sugar. When you eat or drink something sweet (or that contains fermentable carbohydrates) the bacteria are given food to grow and multiply and produce acid.

Tooth enamel is the hardest substance in the human body. But since the acid from bacteria is kept in constant contact with the tooth by the sticky plaque, it is almost as efficient as a drill in making a hole in the tooth.

So efficient is the production of acid that there is some indication that the most damage occurs within the first 15 minutes after sweets are eaten.

This is why dental experts advise us to limit sweet snacks between meals and why you should clean all bacterial plaque from your teeth, at least once a

day. To accomplish an adequate cleaning, both dental floss and a toothbrush are necessary.

After the acids have eaten a hole in the enamel of a tooth, the bacteria move in to continue the disease process. Next, the underlying dentin is attacked and then the acids penetrate to the pulp where the blood vessels and nerves are.

Dramatic evidence of the role that bacteria play in the decay process can be seen in animal experiments. Animals that are born in germ-free environments in laboratories and kept in isolation away from all exposure to bacteria can eat unlimited amounts of sugar without developing cavities.

But within a few weeks after they are exposed to some of the bacteria that normally exists in the mouths of humans, the animals develop extensive decay.

Similar dramatic evidence of the role that sugar plays in the decay process can be seen in the Eskimos in Alaska. They had few problems with decay until they began eating the same kinds of sweetened foods that most other Americans eat.

Unfortunately, most of us have teeth that are susceptible to decay. A few people seem to have a genetic resistance to decay no matter what kind of food they eat.

Scientists are trying to learn the reasons for this resistance in order to help prevent cavities in the rest of us. So far, the only thing we know that helps our teeth resist decay is fluoride.

(Next article: "Plaque and Periodontal Disease")