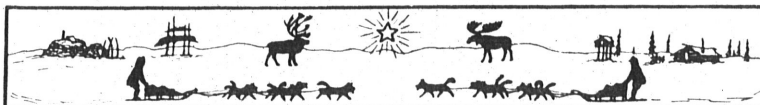


Tundra Times

Inupiat Pitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



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Fairbanks, Alaska

DEATH STIRS CONTROVERSY

Anchorage PHS Hosp. Under Heavy Attack on Native Woman's Death

By MARGIE BAUMAN

ANCHORAGE — A coroner's inquest has been called and the District Attorney's office is investigating the death of 52-year-old Violet Arrow of Shageluk at the Alaska Native Medical Center.

The investigation and inquest were asked by a group calling itself the PHS (Public Health Service) Survivors Committee, which charged that the death of Mrs. Arrow within an hour after she was admitted to the center might have been prevented with proper medical treatment.

Specifically, the PHS Survivors Committee charged that Mrs. Arrow, who suffered an epileptic seizure that day and had a possible broken hip, was refused admission to ANMC three times before she was finally admitted.

A medical consultant to the Social Development Center, where Mrs. Arrow was undergoing detoxification treatment, examined her that day and said "she is no longer a detoxification problem; she needs medical care."

In his report submitted to the District Attorney's office in

Anchorage, Dr. F. J. Phillips said Mrs. Arrow "has been having various types of seizures during the day . . . The last seizure like reaction lasted perhaps a minute and then she was comatose for five to ten minutes." Phillips added in his report that she did not have any odor of alcohol on her breath.

Dr. Robert Fortune, director of the ANMC, said Mrs. Arrow was treated twice within 24 hours of her death as an out-patient, then admitted to the hospital on request. Fortune said doctors who saw her at the center judged at the time that she did NOT need hospitalization.

Fortune said the complete medical facts surrounding her death would be made available "at the appropriate time" but

(Continued on page 6)

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Testimony on Death— Victim Suffered Epileptic Seizures

ANCHORAGE — Violet Arrow had a history of alcoholism, but a physician's report suggests she was not drinking prior to death at the Alaska Native Medical Center.

The report, written by Dr. F. J. Phillips, said the 52-year-old woman did suffer epileptic seizures on the day of her death. Phillips is a consultant to the

Social Development Center, where Mrs. Arrow had been undergoing detoxification treatment.

She had been having "various types of seizures during the day," he wrote.

"Early this morning, she had a typical grand mal epileptic seizure . . . She does not have the odor of alcohol on her breath," Phillips wrote. He also noted an apparent hip fracture and bruises on the back of her head.

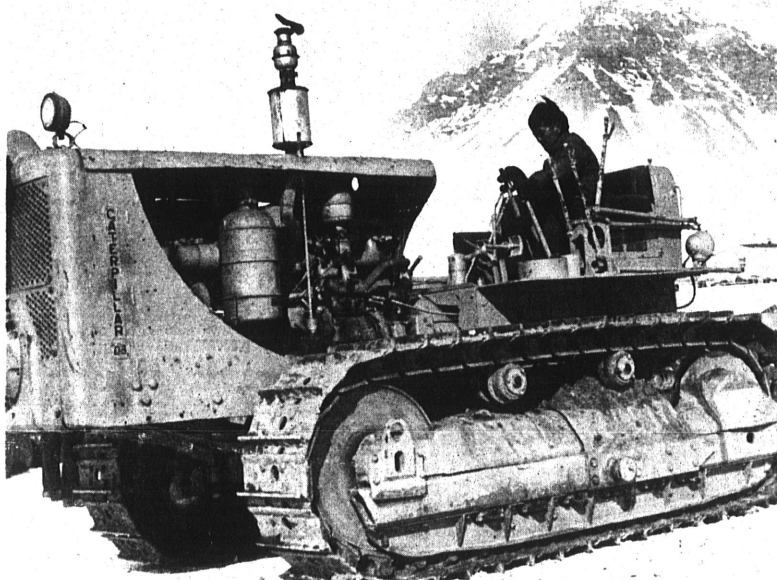
Conflicting reports from the ANMC indicate she was treated as an out-patient, but did not give the diagnosis of physicians.

Anne Bowen, counselor coordinator for the SDC, was with Violet Arrow prior to her death. "She looked pretty sick and was lying down in bed," Bowen said.

"She appeared to not be able to rise from her bed . . . she looked very ill and did not appear intoxicated. She had no alcohol odor about her."

Mrs. Arrow wanted to go visit her daughter, a patient at the ANMC, but Bill McDowell, director of the SDC, agreed with Bowen that Mrs. Arrow should

(Continued on page 6)



ANAKTUVUK GETS CAT AFTER TWO YEAR DELAY — Jack Ahgook puts the village tractor in gear after unloading from a Herc cargo plane last Sunday. The delivery of the government

surplus machine came only after much shuffling around, looking for funds to finance transportation costs.

— Photo by FRANK MURPHY

Anaktuvuk Finally Gets Tractor After 2 Year Delay

By FRANK MURPHY

How do you move a 41,000 lb. catapillar tractor 240 miles across the Yukon River, through the Brooks Range and into the Eskimo village of Anaktuvuk

Pass? One additional factor: you don't have money to pay anyone to help you.

For the past two years the residents of Anaktuvuk and the BIA have pondered this question mightily.

The only answer found was, "You don't!"

The 35 plus year-old tractor originally turned up in a government surplus lot back in early 1971. At the request of the village council, BIA selected this particular catapillar for use in Anaktuvuk Pass. The council needed it for clearing house sites, stream dredging and, most especially, for airfield maintenance.

The village airfield is Anaktuvuk's lifeline to the outside world which pumps in food and fuel during the winter months when the temperature is -40 to -70 and game is scarce. Washouts damage the strip and the villagers have been maintaining it by hand-carrying rocks to fill the holes and level the strip.

(Continued on page 6)

Interior Dept. to Work with Natives

ANCHORAGE — The Interior Department has agreed to involve Alaska Natives in the final drafting of land selection regulations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

State Sen. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., made the announcement Friday.

Hensley said Interior Department officials wanted five representatives of the Native people to be there when the final regulations are written, but added that each region would like to be represented in Washington D.C. for that session.

In meetings several weeks ago in Anchorage with Interior officials, AFN Inc. and various regions flatly rejected the second set of proposed rules and regulations, notably because of certain regulations defining a Native village and non-navigable waters within selected lands.

Regional representatives to that conference demanded that the rules and regulations be written again, with their advice taken into consideration. Interior officials also agreed to have final regulations put together by May 15th, the date AFN, Inc. requested.

John Shively, executive vice

president of AFN, Inc., called the Interior decision a "great step forward," in the relationship between Interior and Alaska Natives.

There is no question but that the Natives have the legal right to participate in the redrafting of the regulations, Hensley said, "and having the Interior Department involve us in the process will hopefully insure that there will be no litigation in this matter."

Joe Josephson Pens Column—

Answers Questions on Land Use Planning Commission

By JOE JOSEPHSON

I am pleased to answer in the TUNDRA TIMES some of the questions asked most often about the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission. Less than eight months ago, I assumed office as Governor Egan's State Co-Chairman Designee.

Certainly great progress has been made. Certainly much remains to be done. Public understanding and awareness of the Commission are essential to its success. In this column,

and future ones, I hope to help keep TUNDRA TIMES readers informed about the ongoing role of the Commission.

Question 1. How much influence can the Commission expect to have, since it is an advisory body?

Answer: The Commission is essentially an advisory agency. But in a free system of government, where power is diffused among several branches of government, divided at Federal, State and local levels, and has many centers, the distinction between administrative or regulatory

agencies, on the one hand, and advisory agencies on the others is a small one.

For example, by December 18, 1973, the Secretary of the Interior will submit recommendations for legislation by Congress which might affect up to approximately 80 million acres of Alaska land now under study as so-called "(d) (2)" lands.

The Secretary's report will advise the Congress. It will go to a committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, which in turn will advise the full House

(Continued on page 6)