

"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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Other Voices— Native Land Ownership

During the forthcoming years many misunderstandings are going to occur between native and non-native over the question of ownership of land, and the relationships that are going to exist in the future.

The recent incident at Galena where in essence the local residents took the law into their own hands due to the inaction of the state government and their regulations on fish and game and also the lack of action by the Secretary of Interior to protect the subsistence rights of the Alaska native, does serve as a very good indication of possible clashes that may continue to occur.

With the passage of the land claims act there is now a new relationship between the native and the non-native in the ownership of land, and this new relationship must, through the process of education, be made known to the general public.

The native population received 40 million acres of land in the state of Alaska and most of this land is around and surrounding the present villages. This land is in fee simple title, giving the owners, the natives, full and equal ownership to this land comparable to the rights that present land owners in such cities as Fairbanks and Anchorage enjoy today. This situation is not conjecture or wishful thinking — it is fact, and as soon as this is understood by all of our Alaskan citizens that this is a new groundwork, we can all together develop the entire state.

Another point that we are trying to make known to the public is that there is a distinct need for the native people living in the villages to continue to live off the land in order to exist. There is no cash economy available, allowing them to shop for goods and services comparable to the way of life that urban-oriented residents are familiar with. These people must live off the land in order to live at all, and even as they strive to do this life is on a bare subsistence level. If this situation is understood by the general public then hopefully they will understand how the native in the village feels when they see a large number of people coming into their village and a situation developing whereby the very base of their existence is jeopardize and endangered.

Definitely over a long time there will be changes to allow the rural people an opportunity to develop other alternative methods of making a living, one obvious vehicle being the regional and village corporations and their proper management and and development of services geared to a responsible transitional movement.

We are not opposed to the progress of the state in all fields: however, this progress must be regulated so as to insure a maximum of our participation in view of our goals for our people. We want to be an integrated part of the development program of future operations. As major land owners we have that opportunity to have regulated participation, and on a schedule where we can receive the maximum benefits off our land and still protect the present life styles until they are replaced by an alternative source.

— JOHN C. SACKETT
President, Tanana Chiefs Conference

Exciting Collection of Stories— FAIR CHASE Contain Fishing, Hunting Tales

FAIR CHASE With Alaskan Guides is to be released September 28 by Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, publishers of ALASKA magazine, THE MILEPOST, The ALASKA JOURNAL and other publications.

Written by Fairbanksans Hal Waugh, a master guide, and Charles J. Keim, a registered guide and University of Alaska journalism professor, the book is a collection of exciting hunting and fishing stories that covers about 20 years of wilderness adventures shared by the authors.

With friends and clients they climb the dizzying cliffs of the Kenai Peninsula hunting mountain goats, and tread the alder thickets of Kodiak Island in search of the great and dangerous brown bear.

They stalk white Dall rams in the Wrangell and Kukokwim Mountains, and puzzle over a camp-living black bear that had to be shot in self defense.

They toss try flies to fighting grayling, wingshoot ghostly ptarmigan and toss metal spoons at

toothy pike.

The book will especially appeal to those who love Alaska's wild lands and its wildlife and to those who believe in the concept of fair chase.

Containing 216 pages and 114 illustrations, FAIR CHASE is available for \$3.95 at book stores or from Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, Anchorage, Box 4-EEE.

LETTERS

TANANA CHIEFS
CONFERENCE

Walker S. Johnston
Alaska Railroad
P.O. Box 7-2111
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Johnston:

It has come to the attention of the Tanana Chiefs that the Alaska Railroad has allegedly misused and trespassed upon certain lands which the Athabaskan Indians consider to be sacred. We would like to protest this present situation and ask that this problem be rectified as soon as possible.

When the Alaska Railroad was building the railroad from Anchorage to Fairbanks they moved the cemetery at Nenana from the river bank up on the side of the hill where it was almost inaccessible, especially to the weak and elderly people. Secondly, they placed a power line with power poles directly between several graves.

While we as an organization do not wish to impede the progress of government and industry, we do feel, in the light of human compassion, that the heritage and religions of all people should be observed and respected.


We would like to request that the Alaska Railroad assist the residents of Nenana in building an access road to the cemetery and also remove the power lines and poles.

Please let us know as soon as possible as to the actions that the Alaska Railroad plans to take and we hope that you will be able to comply with the wishes of the Nenana residents.

Sincerely,

John C. Sackett
President

cc: Mitch Demientieff
Mike Gravel
Ted Stevens
Nick Begich
Tundra Times
River Times



HOMELITE

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UNIFICATION CHARTER COMMISSION ??? WHY ?? WHAT FOR ??

For the information of voters in the upcoming October 3 election, the Joint Unification Steering Committee of the Fairbanks North Star Borough has prepared the following questions and answers:

Question: Why is the question "Shall a Charter Commission be formed?" on the ballot?

Answer: To let the voters decide whether they want a Charter Commission to come up with a plan for unification. This plan will then be submitted to voters.

Question: What is the purpose of a Unification Charter Commission?

Answer: To prepare, adopt and submit to the voters of the Fairbanks North Star Borough a proposal for unification.

Question: Will a majority of "Yes" votes for the formation of a Charter Commission result in unification?

Answer: No, it would only allow the elected Charter Commissioners to develop a unification charter and present it to the public for vote.

Question: How will the voters have an opportunity to participate in the preparation of a unification charter?

Answer: By attending mandatory public hearings conducted by the elected Charter Commission. Additionally, all charter commission meetings will be open to the public.

Question: What is the make-up of the Charter Commission?

Answer: The representative composition of the Charter Commission will be as follows:

- 5 - representing the cities (City of Fairbanks and City of North Pole)
- 3 - representing area outside cities
- 3 - representing borough at-large

11 - total members

Question: Have any other areas in Alaska unified?

Answer: City and Borough of Juneau — unified July 1, 1970
City and Borough of Sitka — unified December 2, 1971
City and Borough of Anchorage — voters approved the formation of a Charter Commission but rejected the proposed charter

Question: Will a majority of "Yes" votes automatically result in the formation of a unification charter commission?

Answer: Not necessarily so . . . no charter commission can be formed without a majority of "yes" votes by people in the borough outside cities and a majority of "yes" votes by the people in the cities.

Anyone having questions about the formation of a Unification Charter Commission is encouraged to submit them on a post card addressed to:

Joint Unification Steering Committee
Fairbanks North Star Borough
P.O. Box 1267
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707