



HEAP BIG . . . ?— It is not known at the moment whether Peter P. Three Stars is a chief or not but he looks something like one in the picture. Pete is a member of the board of directors of the Tundra Times.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR. Photograph

# Pete Regains Two Stars Divested as Penalties

By HOWARD ROCK  
Times Editor

Since becoming the member of the Board of Directors of the Tundra Times some three years ago, Peter Three Stars has had some unusual experiences during board deliberations, all of them rather comical.

The rotund, jovial Three Stars has taken them with a shrug of his half-ton wide shoulders and a snicker with a sarcastic touch.

The latest encounter Pete had with the board involved his name, "Three Stars."

Three Stars is a busy man as Tribal Operations Officer with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Fairbanks District. His assign-

ments take him far and wide into cities and deep into the bush.

Recognized by his peers as an astute and excellent board member, his trips many times cause him to be absent at the Tundra Times board meetings.

"Pete hasn't been to these meetings for some time. I think we should penalize him and take away one of his stars," remarked a board member about three months ago.

The board concurred and Pete became "Peter Two Stars." He subsequently lost another.

"Mr. Chairman, I move that the board unanimously by voice vote reinstate 'Peter One Star's'

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# Pete Regains Stars . . .

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two other stars so he can be 'Peter Three Stars' once again."

The motion was made at last Friday's board meeting by Prof. Jimmy Bedford, comptroller of the Tundra Times. It was seconded and passed unanimously. This was made as a reward because Pete has started to attend board meetings again.

A month ago, BIA awarded Pete a 20-year pin for meritorious service. Tundra Times wrote up the story. The story, however, included that the newspaper's board had divested two of Pete's three stars because he had been absent from board meetings.

The story of the incident traveled clear into congressional offices in Washington, D.C.

"I am anxiously awaiting news of your earning back two of those three stars which you lost. Be sure to keep me posted.

"Congratulations on receiving your twenty-year pin. I am sure it is your devotion to duty that has made you miss those board meetings and not a lack of interest."

The note was signed, "Mike." It was a brief letter from U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel of Alaska.

After reading about Pete's name difficulties, Congressman Howard W. Pollock of Alaska wrote to Pete:

"Hi: I've been reading about you . . . and thought you might like to have this clipping. If I can ever be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me."

Peter P. Three Stars is a Sioux Indian from South Dakota. Being a Sioux also got him into a comical hot water as well as somewhat being serious. So much so that the incident began to take on legal overtones.

The board consulted the Tundra Times bylaws and pointed out that the Board of Directors specifically called for eight or more Alaska natives and seven or less non-natives.

"Mr. Chairman, I would like

to know this. Are we operating legally with Pete Three Stars sitting on the board as an Alaska native?" queried the Vice President of the board Thomas Richards, Sr., an Eskimo.

The rest of the board members sat puzzled for long moments when they realized that Pete, in fact, had been sitting on the board as an eighth member of the Alaska native section of the board.

In the meantime, Pete sat slumped over his dinner plate with a querulous smile on his face. Pete, as a Sioux, is a distinctly swarthy man.

"Mr. Chairman, in that case, I suppose," wondered a non-native woman secretary of the board, "we'll have to classify Pete as a white man."

Pete Three Stars looked up from his plate, chuckled and looked around the table with a wide grin on his face.

"What are you talking about? Look at me. I'm not a white man. You know, you guys as members of the board of a native newspaper, are discriminating against me. Up here, I work with natives, I eat with natives and I'm on the board of a native newspaper."

A board member said that Tundra Times was operating under state regulations, that it was questionable that Pete was an Alaskan native; that since the board doesn't exactly know his status, he should be replaced with a true Alaskan but that he be retained on the board as an alternate until a vacancy occurred in which event he would be reinstated as a full board member.

"You guys are really splitting hairs now," Pete said. "OK, you guys win I guess, but I still don't feel like a white man."

"We love you just the same, Pete, and we appreciate you," soothed a lady member of the board.