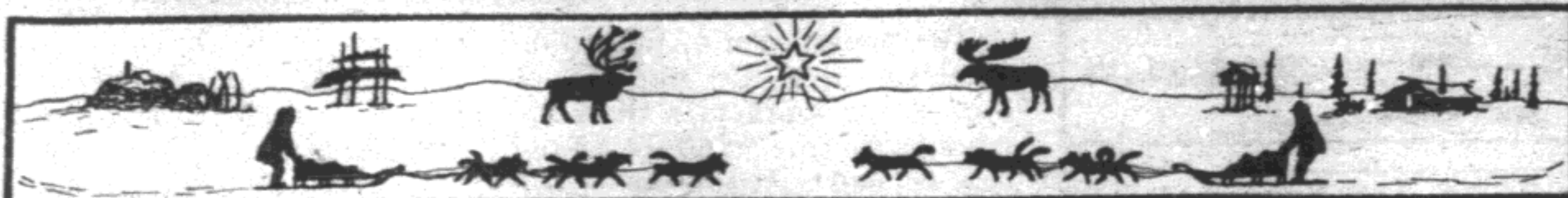


Tundra Times



Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak

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Friday, January 2, 1970

Fairbanks, Alaska

Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting
HAIDA
Yaunk yawn sue
Speak the absolute truth

UAW'S REUTHER BACKS CLAIMS

Portage Creek Village Needs D-4 or D-7 Cat

Portage Creek, a village on the Nushagak River, has a chance to increase its contact with the outside, if it can find a cat—that is, a caterpillar tractor, D-4 to D-7.

The cat, as the machinery is known, is needed to construct an airfield. Currently, the river serves as the village's airfield, but during the fall and spring planes are unable to land there.

An experienced cat operator has agreed to train men in the village in the operation and maintenance of heavy equipment.

If located this winter, the cat could be brought up the river in the spring or summer and the airfield completed in the fall.

Anyone able to provide information or assistance should contact Skip Deegans, VISTA, Portage Creek, Dillingham, Alaska 99576.



FAMOUS PRISON—The former maximum security prison, the Island of Alcatraz, was jolted out of obscurity recently when 300 San Francisco Bay area American Indians invaded it and claimed it as their own by right of prior discovery. The Indians would like to establish the former prison into a cultural center. Read the unique story of an Alaskan Eskimo who took part in the Indian-Alcatraz affair on Page 4.

—Photo By RICHARD GARCIA

Walter Reuther Also Nods to 2 Per Cent Royalty Proposal

The growing support behind Alaska's native land claims now includes Walter P. Reuther, President of the International Union (UAW).

In a letter in December to Sen. Mike Gravel of Alaska, and other members of the Senate, Reuther urged "to fully attend to the resolution of the Alaska native land claims issue with a view toward justly, generously, and finally assuring these native peoples a solid base of economic security and growth."

Significantly, Reuther also supported the 2 per cent royalty as proposed by the Alaska Federation of Natives as a share in revenue.

"Most importantly," Reuther stated, "we believe that a percentage of revenues, in perpetuity, from land development in Alaska must be the basis for Native participation in Alaska's future economic development."

"The experience of the 'lower 48' states makes it clear that a nation or a state cannot prosper if its minority citizens are not full participants in its growth and progress."

Reuther said that today in Alaska, the Congress of the United States has an opportunity to provide for the future welfare of 60,000 native Americans in a way which permits them to develop and prosper as a people and a culture, and which would permit the U.S. Government to take pride in its treatment of a minority who have a long-standing claim to their country's land and resources.

"The Alaska native land claims bills," he said, "now pending before the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee provide that opportunity. A generous monetary and land acreage settlement would provide the Alaskan natives with a sound economic foundation for their future progress."

Sen. Gravel acknowledged Walter Reuther's letter with a letter of thanks of his own.

"I consider the land claims the most important piece of business to come before the Congress in many years affecting Alaska, perhaps the most important bill since the Statehood Act

(Continued on page 6)

RurALCAP Lauded For Excellent Bush Programs

In a recent letter to Senator Mike Gravel, Carl W. Shaw, Acting Western Regional Director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, stated that, "vast improvements are now being made in the operation of RurAL CAP and its subsidiary regional corporations."

The letter also stated, "We are encouraged by the excellent work now being done by the staff. Many internal improvements in fiscal management personnel and staff assignments have been made. In addition, the CAA (RurAL CAP) has just completed an outstanding planning cycle for its 1970 grant application submitted to this office."

Shaw's letter was written in response to an inquiry by the Senator.

Byron Mallott, Executive Director of the Rural Alaska Com-

(Continued on page 6)

Pre-school for Tots Formed by Nenana Mothers

Several Nenana mothers, with help and encouragement from Mrs. Phyllis Alexander Adams, met together recently to plan a program for pre-school children three to five years of age.

Mrs. Adams, a University of Alaska graduate teacher, volunteered her services as the teacher to launch the project, and with the assistance of two mothers, the pre-schoolers meet from one to three in the afternoon each Tuesday and Thursday.

The children, numbering between 10 and 12, are presently learning numbers, letters of the alphabet, how to share and play together, preparing them for their entrance into first grade.

The program started when a need for preparing children for public school was recognized. The mothers pay \$1.00 a month per child, help the teacher, donate toys and materials. The school is held in the Episcopal Parish Hall for a token rent to help with heat and lights.

The Nenana Native Council has agreed to donate Bingo proceeds one night a month to the school and a benefit raffle has been held, so it is hoped that it will be possible to continue this important project.

Mrs. Edna Ketzler is president of the Mothers group, Jane Burke, vice-president, Mrs. Jessie Brown, treasurer and Mrs. Bonnie Reed, secretary. The mothers meet with the teacher the first and third Mondays of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Episcopal Parish Hall.

Anyone interested in learning more about the program may contact any of the officers above, call 832-5857 or write to Nenana Pre-schoolers, Box 354, Nenana, Alaska 99760.

Writer Spreads Mud—

'Mrs. Disgusted' Labels Natives 'Lazy, Dirty': Attorney Replies

Dear Mr. (Attorney):

You make us sick working for the lazy, dirty natives. Perhaps you want to line your pockets. Don't see Russia or Canada helping them out. They put them to work.

Do you expect us whites that raised our families keep Alaska going and clean up after these natives. I think the decent people will move out and leave you with natives. See what happens then.

Mrs. Disgusted

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

December 26, 1969

Dear Mrs. Disgusted:

Thank you for your letter. Attorneys in a democratic society have an obligation and a duty to represent their clients without fear of judicial or public displeasure, even as to those clients whom you believe to be lazy and dirty. And I intend to do so, as

would any other attorney.

Alaska is challenged with the opportunity of building a quality society for all Alaskans, a society in which each Alaskan has the opportunity of making full use of the talents God gave him, and a quality society in a quality environment. No society can guarantee that no one will be lazy or dirty, but we can and

Senator Kennedy Addresses Senate on Native Land Issue

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has urged the Senate "to make a fair settlement" of the native land claims issue before time runs out.

Addressing the senators in mid December, Kennedy said, "It is perhaps the nation's last, best chance to close with dignity and justice one of the sordid chapters in our history—our shocking treatment of America's first inhabitants."

The Massachusetts senator explained that if the 91st Congress does not act on the matter, the Department of the Interior has

indicated that it will, in effect, lift the current land freeze and continue the transfer of public domain land to the State.

After briefly reviewing the background of the land claims situation, Kennedy turned to the bills designed to settle the controversy now before the Senate.

The most important of these, he said, was filed on behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

"Alaska Natives seek justice, not charity," he continued. "They do not ask to be given lands, but they ask for the right

to retain a portion of that which belongs to them."

"They do not ask to be given money or compensation.

"But they ask as a matter of justice, that compensation be paid to them in return for their agreement to extinguish their aboriginal claims to vast portions of the state."

In its bill, the Alaska Federation of Natives is asking for formal legal title to 40 million acres, \$500 million in cash, and a 2 per cent royalty on the gross rev-

(Continued on page 6)