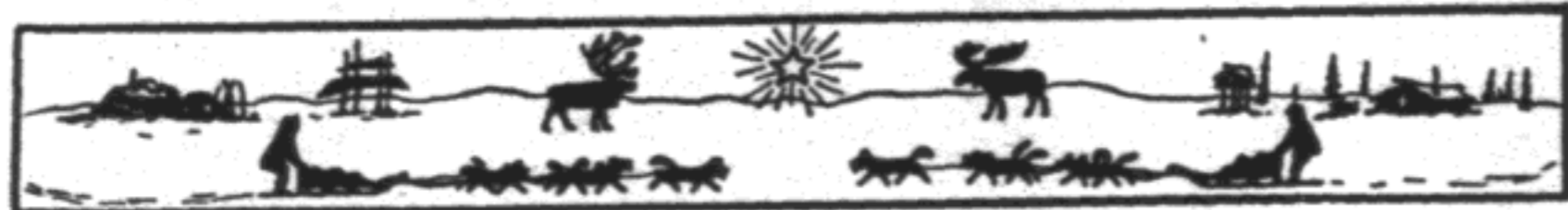


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Friday.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Telephone 452-2244.

Entered at the Post Office at Fairbanks, Alaska, as second class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mary Jane Fate, assistant secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$ 8.00	6 Months \$ 4.50
Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$19.00	6 Months \$10.00

Editorial—

The Air of Expectancy

The preparation in Congress to settle Alaska's native land claims is beginning to be the focus of many eyes in the state. The native people and the Alaskan public as a whole will not be the only interested populace that will be watching. Much of the world might set their eyes on what will transpire in the Halls of Congress as it thrashes out the final settlement plan on lands and compensation for Alaska's native peoples who will be relinquishing their lands they have historically used for a return of a small percentage of them and for an economic base for their future.

The seriousness of the job on hand has begun to make itself felt by the ranking members of Congress. Things seem to be pointing to the fact that there is a sense of urgency and will to do a good job among the senators and congressmen. This development can mean that a foundation has been laid that no halfway measures will be made, thereby setting the stage for historic effort by the lawmakers to forge a settlement plan that could be leafed firmly in the pages of history.

This important development has its source—the surprisingly thorough job of selling the moral and legal status of the native land claims to much of the general public of the country by the Alaska Federation of Natives, its team of attorneys and many interested persons many of whom are prominent. This has been the revelation that the responsible segment of the nation's public has been aroused toward the urgency and need of settling the native claims equitably and generously. Such men as Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington State, especially as chairman of the important Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, can hardly ignore the public will.

The land claims solution effort by the native people and their friends has attained the high level of excellence in approach. It was done with dignity and with patience for detail. It was done with eloquence of speech by the well informed and articulate native leadership. It was done with sophistication little of which was expected of them.

The work of the proponents of the claims was done so well that it might be difficult to breach by the opposition. Much of the work was done many times under hostile conditions. It's a wonder that it was done at all to its present level of achievement. A great deal of soul-searching was entered into. It was difficult to stand tall under the circumstances. It was difficult to wade through the shallowness of opinions of those who opposed the native effort.

The search for justice has been well laid out by the leadership, their attorneys and their friends. How well the impression has been made will soon unfold on the floor of the Senate and later on the floor of the House of Representatives. The air of expectancy has set in among the native people and the Alaskan public in general. A considerable portion of the Lower 48 public is also very much aware of the land claims issue. Foreign countries that have their own aborigines on the lands they have conquered or

Teacher Mobility Stabilizes

The Department of Education reported that the number of professional workers in all public schools for the 1968-69 school year totaled 3,710. Of this number 741 taught in Alaska for the first time. These figures represent a 20 per cent turnover of staff. This compares to 22.4 per cent in 1967-68.

Of the 344 teachers teaching in the rural schools, only 48 were new to Alaska. This represents a very low turnover of 14 per cent, as compared to a 25 per cent of rural teachers in 1967-68.

Commissioner of Education Cliff R. Hartman indicated that a number of factors contribute to reducing mobility of teachers in rural areas. The Alaska Rural Schools Project at the University has provided in-service training and opportunities for advanced

degrees.

The increase in salaries has been a contributing factor. Improved living conditions for teachers and better teaching facilities also enhance holding power. Federal programs have been instrumental in providing more equipment and supplies and other teaching aids.

The State-Operated School Agency has been able to provide more personal contact with teachers in the rural areas, all of which improves rapport, working conditions, and helps to eliminate "cabin fever." The Commissioner reported that the small school districts, such as, Yakutat, Pelican, King Cove, and Hoonah, have a high turnover rate each year. Some of the factors listed above, working in reverse, undoubtedly contribute to this high

mobility rate.

It is interesting to note that 11 teachers who taught in district schools during 1967-68 transferred to the rural school system in 1968-69. The Commissioner pointed out that the State should continue its efforts to retain public school professional workers.

Administrative and instructional continuity of staff is important in developing and implementing curriculum and instructional improvements on a year-to-year basis.

Attitude of the community towards teachers, towards the school as an agency, working conditions, and employee housing are all factors that are as important as salary in reducing teacher turnover.

Wisconsin's Winnequah School Pupils Ask for Pen Pals

Winnequah School
800 Greenway Road
Monona, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Rock:

My students are studying about Alaska in Social Studies, so we wanted to write a request for pen pals who will correspond with us. We very much appreciated your printing of our letters last year because the response from your readers was gratifying.

My students last year felt that they learned a great deal about Alaska through the pen pal letters.

Will you once again print these letters in your paper? Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Okray

707 Greenway Road
Monona, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Rock:

Please put this letter in the newspaper. I would like a pen pal. If possible I would like somebody my age. My age is 9 and I was born in 1969 March 27. I hope you like my picture.

Love,
Bonnie Jo Beer

4904 Rothman Place
Monona, Wisconsin
December 8, 1969

Dear Mr. Rock:

I would like a pen pal soon and I was wondering if you could get me one soon. I like to write letters alot. Could you put my picture and my letter in the paper?

My name is Lisa Jean Hume. In school we are studying Alaska and in Social Studies I'm studying pen pal and I have to get it done soon. So will you tell me what you do and how you do it?

And if you have papers that you don't want could you please send me them so I could see how much difference there is from ours. I hope you have some papers that I could have so I could do my report with them.

Sincerely,
Lisa Jean Hume



MRS. OKRAY



KAREN LUKER

501 W. Dean Ave.
Monona, Wisconsin

Dear Pen Pal:

My name is Karen. I have brown eyes. I have long brown hair. I like poetry so I will write you my favorite eskimo pomes.

There is fear in
Feeling the cold
Come to the great world
And seeing the moon
Now new moon,
Now full moon—
Follow it's old footprints
In the winter night.

And when you write back please tell me about what you like, what you do, do you like where you live or would you like to live here.

Sincerely,
Karen Luker



BONNIE JO BEER



LISA JEAN HUME



ANNE GHERING



TRACEY JACKSON

4311 Shore Acres Road
Monona, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Rock:

I would like a pen pal. I am 9 years old. My birthday is Nov. 12. I have one sister and one pet. My pet is a dog who is 4 years old. I am in 4th grade and my teacher is Mrs. Okray. I have brown hair and brown eyes. Please put this in the paper.

Sincerely,
Anne Ghering

706 West Dean Ave.
Monona, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Rock:

I want a pen-pal. Would you please put an add in the paper? I am ten years old. I have blue eyes and dark brown hair.

Sincerely,
Tracey Jackson

moved into will be watching, let alone those aborigines or original inhabitants of those lands.

The Congress may well perform before one of its larger audiences in its history. How well it does with the issue at hand will be under watchful surveillance. Has the stage been set for a historic effort by Congress? The stuff with which to do it is there. Finest minds of the nation are there to tackle the problem. We also know they have the capacity for compassion and conscience for justice.

WANTED: Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; potlatch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years of age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Drive, Los Angeles, California 90028.