

# Letters from Here and There

## Article Served A Good Purpose

Ms. Lael Morgan  
Tundra Times  
Chena Building, Room 220  
510 Second Ave.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Ms. Morgan:

The article regarding power generation at Anaktuvuk Pass village that appeared in the Tundra Times Wednesday, July 3, has been forwarded to me by Borough Mayor Eben Hopson for comment.

We, as you know, are the North Slope Borough's Consulting Engineers for utilities and are responsible for the electrification of Anaktuvuk Pass. I think your article served a good purpose. You aptly described the "repair man" the Borough sent to repair the engine-generator. He was a cheechako and didn't get the job done, but I'm happy to report we prevailed and his firm did send a man who, with our Engineer, repaired the faulty generator. The village now has three (3) reliable operating generators — one is stand-by for the school, one for summer loads, and one for winter operation.

There are many problems in providing an electrical system for a village that has never had power before. There's engineering, construction management, installation, logistics of getting all the materials and parts for the system to the village, village labor to mobilize, and the training required for a member of the village to operate and maintain the plant. With all the planning and effort, there can still be heart-breaking incidents that may occur when faulty equipment arrives from the manufacturer. This occurred with the Anaktuvuk Pass generator. The problem was not serious, but it's most distressing to have a part malfunction that leads to articles such as yours that deter and retard, rather than assist, the development of rural Alaska. This is especially true when your reported facts are in error or not representative. I know this is not your intent and I'm aware from the article in the August issue of the Alaska Magazine that you're sincere. We are also, and after 33 years of doing "our thing" of helping the people of rural Alaska I would be happy to share with you some of our experiences that we have had in the "bush".

If we can provide you with any data or information regarding our projects for the North Slope Borough or Anaktuvuk Pass please call on me. The pot is always on for mug-up.

Very truly yours,  
STEPHANO & ASSOCIATES  
INC'  
ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS  
Ralph R. Stephano, P. E.