# Letters from Here and There

### There Is Indeed A Molly Hootch

Emmonak, Alaska August 5, 1974

This is in relation to the article about the AFN Human Reicle about the AFN Human Resources Conference on education in the unorganized borough in your July 24th edition. The article mentioned the case of Molly Hootch v.s. Alaska State-Operated School System. The part I'm writing you about is this:

"There is a rumor that she is a fectitious person symbolizing a fective person symbolizing.

"There is a rumor that she is a fictitious person symbolizing rural students in that position." That rumor of course isn't true since I'm Molly Hootch. I'm very much alive. Marshall Lind would also tell you I'm real and not a fictitious person as he was my teacher several years ago. I went to Dimond-Mears High School at Anchorage for the first 2 years but I finished my 11th grade year here at Emmonak. I'll also finish my senior year here. nak. I'll year here.

appreciate Christopher Cooke, my lawyer, writing and telling you that I'm very much a real person but I wanted to write to you personally so you wouldn't have any doubts.

Sincerely, /s/ Molly A. Hootch

#### Molly Hootch's Lawyer Confirms Her Existence

HOPPNER, BLAIR & Attorneys and Counselors At Law Post Office Box 555 Bethel, Alaska 99559 (907) 543-2850

August 2, 1974

Letters to the Editor Tundra Times Box 1287 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Sir:

I am writing to correct a statement contained in the article about the A.F.N. Human Resources Conference on educa-Resources Conference on education in the unorganized borough in your July 24th edition. The article mentioned the case of Molly Hootch vs. Alaska State-Operated School System, a lawsuit seeking local highschool oportunities in all Alaska Native communities, and then said: "There is a rumor that she is a fictitious person symbolizing rur-

"There is a rumor that she is a fictitious person symbolizing rural students in that position."

As Molly Hootch's lawyer I would like to say that she most definately is a very real person. Molly lives in Emmonak and has Molly lives in Emmonak and has just completed the 11th grade. At one time she was a boarding student in Anchorage, but after the lawsuit was started a high school program was set up in Emmonak which she attended this next school year.

monak which she attended this past school year.

Since her suit is filed as a "class action", however, you correctly note that she and the other plaintiffs do represent all Alaska Native school-age children living in similar circumstances, in other words in communities without local high school onporin other words in communities without local high school oppor-

Marshall Lind, who is also mentioned in your article, was an elementary teacher in Em-monak several years ago and Molly Hootch was one of his

students. Now as Commissioner of Education, Dr. Lind is a defendant in her lawsuit. Very truly yours,
RICE, HOPPNER, BLAIR &
HEDLAND

Christopher R. Cooke ...

#### Authentic Native Handicrafts

U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic

Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Washington, D.C. 20235

Mr. Howard Rock Chairman, Village Art Upgrade Committee University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock:

This is in reply to your letter dated July 1, 1974, concerning the proposed rules to designate "Authentic Articles of Native Handicraft and Clothing," pub-Handicraft and Clothing," published in the Federal Register on

June 3, 1974.

Due to public response three oint hearings on the subject will be held in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service. The hearings have been tentatively scheduled for mid-September, 1974 in Anchorage Name and 1974, in Anchorage, Nome, and

Fairbanks, Alaska.
When final arrangements have been made, notice will be published in the Federal Register.

Sincerely, Robert W. Schoning Director

#### Church Torn Down: Fred Stickman Is Sad

Nulato, Alaska August 1, 1974

Dear Editor:

The church here was rebuilt in 1923 by a carpenter from Ruby, Alaska, the big mining town. How I remember the year town. How I remember the year was, my brother took them to Ruby and I went up to school and him to work out at the mines on bridge. They whipsawed the logs for bridge at Greenstone. And the sanctuary and altar were rebuilt by Brother Handweller at February and the sanctuary and alter were rebuilt by Brother Horweedle and Father Baud.

How many people had, we had funeral for in that church. Good many in all these years. And I've been thinking one of these days I was going in there, but they beat me to it — they tore it all down.

tore it all down.

It sure is sad for us, the old people when they tore it down. It reminds me of all my family and I'm one stickman left out of our family. The bum one is left. Lots of folks say that they were lucky they didn't get killed. For me it's a little different. I'm lucky if I get killed even though I hate to get killed. Everything will be all over for me. No more work, no more hard times. I'm tired of many things, no road, no inside toilets, things, no road, no inside toilets, no water, no housing, no cook, no water, no housing, no cook, no women, no nothing, just pure misery, miserable word. Because there lots of gnats now, lots of fish, lots of ducks, lots of gas, lots of fuel now, and lots of long hair boys and lots of loose mongrel dogs that is, just enough to make life miserable.

I quit going to funerals, potlatches, because I used to get

drunk and celebrate someone's funeral. So I quit four months ago, try to give a good example to boys where I made ornery mistakes. I cut my hair real short but still nobody cuts his hair. We sure need to haul wood. We have a half a — road about 20 miles that could be fixed easy if we had the equipment. That's where the state took the equipment to Koyukuk about four years ago for the New Koyukuk, but the ground was mucky. It's good and solid now. People don't like to move from the village including myself. We don't realize we'd had running water, no trouble for fuel, etc. But who wants to live modern? Some do, some don't. I like to live poor. That way I'll, or might, go to heaven, who knows, only God.

I heard the silvers are coming up the river. They haven't reached Nulato yet. People is getting ready to raise hell for fish eggs. That means they're going to kill lots of fish. No fish for next year. Easier and lot more money to make on the North Slope, instead of monkeying around with the fish.

We have stockpile of gravel down here if we could just spread

We have stockpile of gravel down here if we could just spread it around the village so the kids will have gravel for their sling shots.

I'm not voting this year so vote Democrat for me. And I'll thank you very much for it. Fred Stickman, Sr.

#### Awareness of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

July 26, 1974

Dear Howard:

Again I write you with mixed feelings, this time it's with grief and a growing awareness of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse no longer alien to our land and culture. Reading of this problem in the newspapers is one thing; getting letters from personal friends in regards to it is another!

Within the last two weeks

Within the last two weeks I've heard from two Native families struck hard by addiction. From my own experience I know the suffering these people are going through. In some cases it only ends in prison or death . . . For other family members, the pain lasts a lifetime.

As a Native Alcoholic myself, I can tell you there is no cure for alcoholism. It can be arrested though. Having worked with Drug Addicts I can tell you the same holds true, they cannot be cured.

Again, they can arrest their problem. An alcoholic is a drug addict. Both suffer addiction, What everybody should know Howard, is that it's so damn much less of a strain on families and society to prevent addiction in the first place.

Preventive action should start in our schools. Native Corpora-

in our schools. Native Corpora-tions should put more effort, (time/money) and most impor-tant, people to work on this growing threat to Native culture. Being a prisoner in Folsom Prison in California for an alco-hol-related crime has made me more aware of how great this problem is becoming. Every bus bringing new men into prison carries alcoholics and drug adcarries alcoholics and drug addicts.

The shame of it all is there's no cure for these men in prison

(Continued on page 8)

## LETTERS .

(Continued from Page 2)

... There's also a greater shame, most could have been prevented.

Anyone interested in this problem, needing help, or wanting to do what they can to help combat it could write: Mrs.

Helena M. Andree, Vice President of the Native Commission on Alcohol & Drug Abuse, P.O. Box 77, Dillingham, Alaska

99576. Sincerely, John L. Lombard P.O. Box B-48584 Represa, Calif. 95671