

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



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Cultural Treasures

By WALLACE M. OLSON

In the process of land selection and withdrawal there lies a potentially serious threat to the native heritage in Alaska. Scattered throughout the State are literally thousands of prehistorical sites which are virtually treasures of the cultural heritage of Alaskan Natives. As the lands are made more accessible and industrial and commercial development take place, these sites are going to be seriously disturbed, if not destroyed unless precautions are taken immediately.

Throughout the years many of the sites have already been pillaged, looted and destroyed by unthinking and selfish people. In some cases, unscrupulous individuals working under the guise of archaeology have destroyed more than they have preserved. In other instances, Native residents have pilfered sites to obtain ancient artifacts for resale to curio dealers and other visitors. This on-going process has destroyed forever places and artifacts which are not only of academic and scientific value, but are often-times the only visible remnants of the past. In a sense, they are non-renewable cultural treasures.

With good reason, many Native people do not want "outsiders" or non-Natives to dig up historical and prehistorical sites and would prefer to have Native people working on the reconstruction of their cultural past. However, there are only a very few trained Native archaeologists and cultural historians who might carry out excavations and research in the most profitable manner.

Looking back at the past and even more recent experiences, unless there is some legal control with strict enforcement, after the withdrawal of lands, many places are doomed to destruction. On the national and state level, laws have been passed to insure that historic and prehistoric sites and artifacts are protected. The laws are known as the "Antiquity Acts".

In view of the threat to the cultural heritage presented by growth and expansion — industry, tourism, population expansion—I would like to submit the following recommendations for your urgent consideration.

1. That historical and prehistorical sites and artifacts be considered basically as, "sub-surface" resources and, as such, be under the control of the regional corporation.
2. That the regional corporations immediately draft a regulation similar to, or based upon, existing "Antiquities Acts", and that they empower State and Federal law enforcement officials to enforce the regulation.
3. The basic goal of the "Antiquities Acts" has been to preserve these cultural treasures for future generations and to restrict private individuals and collectors from personal profit and gain from excavating or removing these artifacts for sale. In the same manner, each region should plan on establishing a secure regional corporation make arrangements with a reputable museum within the State of Alaska to preserve the items and to protect them.
4. That regional corporations, perhaps in conjunction with State and Federal agencies, set up a training program for Native students who want to work in archaeology, ethnohistory, museum work (preservation and display). Since there are regional variations, it may be best to have three training centers, one at each of the Regional Centers of the University of Alaska.

BIA Area Director On Enrollment

We're hoping that through articles in your paper and other papers, radio interviews throughout the state, through wires to people who haven't returned their applications from out-of-state yet, and through an AP story we've released, that the word will get out to people to let them know that March 30 is the final cutoff date to make application to be eligible to participate in the Native Claims Settlement Act.

It's an exceedingly important deadline. We're concerned that

everyone in the state, out of the state, and in the many countries of the world are aware of the deadline so that if any of them still have their applications for some reason they they would get to work on them and get them in to Anchorage by the 30th. They have to be RECEIVED in Anchorage by the 30th. The regulations say "received at the Enrollment Office by March 30."

During this final drive we're sending wires to all of the

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Tom Richards, Jr.'s Column--

Gov. Wallace Was Early Supporter of Land Claims

(c) 1973 by
THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.

OLONGAPO CITY — Alabama Governor George Wallace, in the summer of 1971, told the Alaska Federation of Natives that he was in agreement with the settlement terms sought by the AFN for the Native land claims. He additionally said that he would encourage the members of the Alabama congressional delegation to support legislation sought by the AFN.

The Wallace letter was one of

the earliest replies to mailings sent by the AFN to governors of the states in which support was solicited for the Native position. The Alabama Governor's offer to assist Alaska Natives in fighting for a just settlement is one of several sources of support which was not widely publicized.

Another little known fact about the history of the claims settlement has its setting in the first serious attempt to unify Natives on a statewide basis to press for a settlement. When

the AFN was initially organized, at a time when few people recognized its potential and shared its objectives, State Senator Willie Hensley of Kotzebue bought a ten thousand dollar life insurance policy on himself and named the Alaska Federation of Natives as the beneficiary.

Other gestures of support, also made by people who weren't concerned about receiving recognition, should perhaps be brought to light at this time. Dr. James H. McAlear, associate professor of biology at Catholic University, is a nationally recognized expert in the field of electron microscopy. He is married to the former Anna Riley, an Eskimo born in Unalakleet. During the summer of 1971, Dr. McAlear sold a family heirloom, an original sculpture by James western artist Charles Russell, to rent office space in a building across Washington's Dupont Circle from the offices of the National Congress of American Indians. Anna volunteered her services as a full-time secretary.

The offer of Washington office space for the Alaska Federation of Natives was extended to Don Wright on behalf of the Alaska Natives living in Washington. Although Wright refused the offer in favor of renting a suite on Capitol Hill, and although the McAlears had serious misgivings about AFN concepts such as the establishment of corporations to handle proceeds, they continued to assist the lobbying effort by performing many unpleasant by necessary tasks.

Mrs. Rita Gravel, wife of Senator Mike Gravel, quietly sat at a typewriter to join members of the Alaskans on the Potomac in "working parties" where huge volumes of mailings were produced for the AFN lobbying program during the hot and humid summer days of 1971. Members of the Senator's staff, notably Bea Ortel, Tom and Gil Smythe, and Ray Paddock, did not hesitate to help out.

There was a non-partisan response to urgent demands for the less attractive requirements to support the lobby. Adeline Katongan and Jack and Marjory Quisenberry in Senator Stevens office and Frank Peterson in Congressman Begich's office didn't have to be prompted when the need for manpower arose.

Wien Consolidated Airlines, one of the state's largest employers of Alaska Natives, did not try to extract any public relations value when it agreed to send Captain Billy English and my father to Washington to meet with members of the Congress and demonstrate that Alaska Natives are a competent people.

Support extended by some people often went unnoticed even by the AFN itself. Gwen Owl, Editor of the "Cherokee One Feather" of Cherokee, North Carolina, penned an incisive rebuttal in that tribal newspaper to an editorial in Field and Stream Magazine last year which condemned the land settlement and urged the Congress to repeal the act.

Subsistence Protection--

Legislation Attracts Attention

By SENATOR JOHN SACKETT

JUNEAU, AK. — Without question, subsistence legislation placing mandatory geographical subsistence areas of 25 miles has served the purpose of directing attention to the need for subsistence protection. My sponsor substitute eliminates that provision.

The additional intent was to force the Board of Fish and Game to act immediately to identify those areas of greatest need by holding hearings in rural Alaska, an act which has never occurred, in order to allow local residents input to game management decisions and to force the board to administratively identify and meet the basic need of subsistence protection.

I felt that I had to make a drastic move in order to get the State and the Department of the Interior to direct their attention to this problem. Now that they have begun to do so, my need for mandatory provisions does not exist.

It was never my intention to be racial with "intentions of splitting the races in Alaska." Too often we forget that non-Native people have a long history of residence in the bush. Mistakenly, we assume that anything rural or bush is necessarily Native. This is not true.

Were it the case that there was sufficient game and fish to satisfy the needs of all our resident hunters — commercial, sports, and subsistence — then there would be no need for legislation to protect any particular type of hunter. However, we all know that this is not the case entirely, for if it were, then the commercial and sport hunter would not be so concerned. They would find game for their particular needs elsewhere instead of around a village and conflicts and problems would not exist. The very fact that subsistence legislation is such a controversy indicates that the resource is limited.

Making priorities is not with out precedent. At the present time, the State recognizes priorities in the utilization of all Alaskan resources. We allow resident preference over non-residents. We currently are examining limited entry into fisheries. In the area of game resources we make a distinction between commercial and sports utilization, etc. However, existing game laws and administration do not presently allow for a higher priority for subsistence hunting in spite of its unquestionable necessity.

One must start with the premise that there are residents in Alaska who have no alternative method by which to live, do not

have a cash economy and yet must feed themselves and their families. This is fact and anyone who states that this does not exist would be ignoring a very obvious situation within this State.

Why there is such a large subsistence group; and why they do not have an alternative way to feed their families is a problem that the State has been wrestling with for a long time. As a state government, we have been successful in creating methods by which to give a person the opportunity to hold a job, work full time, and provide a means of livelihood in urban centers. There still remains, however, this large group of people that unfortunately do not have that opportunity. Viewed with compassion, this situation cannot be ignored. A means must be found with which to alleviate the problem. Senate Bill 99 strives to do this by protecting traditional subsistence lifestyles until such time when these people can find another means of existing.

The general highlights of my bill are:

— For a period of one year, the commissioner has the power to establish zones adjacent to or in close proximity to rural communities.

— In addition, he may establish other zones for those not living in rural communities; trying not to conflict with commercial fisheries in doing so.

— The determination of zones is initiated by petition from the local governing body or by 25 or more citizens who don't live adjacent or in close proximity to rural communities.

— The commissioner has the power to limit species of fish and game.

— Fifteen days after effective date of this act, he calls for applications. Within 30 days, the commissioner must hold hearings (local) and within a reasonable period makes his determinations.

— The commissioner has authority to adjust length of season so non-subsistence hunters may hunt within same area. He or Board of Fish and Game may change the boundaries of subsistence zones. Also no zone may be larger than needed by permittees for that zone.

— After one year authority under this act passes from the commissioner to the Board of

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CORRECTION

CORRECTION: In last week's story on Careage North, we listed Serathena One as coming from Kaltag. Serathena is from the village of Kalskag. Also, in the bottom photo, the woman with the small boy is identified as Elizabeth Ettress. She is, instead, Lucy John, 100 years old, from Ft. Yukon.