

Writer Impressed. . .

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bottom. Later I did join some of the men in tugging the raised 50-ton whale up on the ice and that made me feel good. I was probably the weakest of the tuggers but my hosts good naturedly cheered my efforts. Then when the cutting and portioning of the whale took place I just sat and marveled at the way the entire village seemed to be involved. The good luck of one crew turned out to be good luck for everyone.

The second observation is probably a cliché. It has to do with the endurance and fortitude of the people. I am 36 years old, and though I smoke a pack a day, I am in reasonably good shape. But the youngest child in Mr. Tuzroyluka's camp, his seven-year-old daughter, Lisa, put me to shame. Where others, who slept less than I did, could run easily, I huffed and puffed, trying to keep up.

I also held the somewhat dubious distinction of being the only one in the party to fall through the ice. That happened just after the whale was harpooned and in my excitement to record the drama on film, I didn't watch where I was stepping. I ended up waist-deep and very embarrassed — also very cold. Later while my clothes were drying I was teased with good humor by the crew. By that time I realized I had escaped frostbite and I joined in the laughter.

And that brings me to another point. Laughter. There was an awful lot of it. Laughter is

the pleasantest human sound I know and it did a great deal to warm my spirits.

One more point. The children. Everywhere I went in the village, they would come and talk and play with me. One boy, Carl Rock, who was four, showed me how he drop kicks cans. Then I kicked. Then we played, just as if we had been friends for years. It came time for him to go. He asked me if he could kiss me. It was a kiss given in beautiful innocence. I will never forget it. The children were unafraid, delightful, shining like candles. They were the way all children should be. Here at home, they are not always like that.

Finally, I'd like to publicly express my gratitude to the Tuzroylukes and their friends. They fed me, kept me warm, humored me, graciously put up with my sometimes stupid questions. They taught me more I think than I have learned in any single week of my life. And probably most important, by their obvious love and devotion for each other, for their neighbors, they rescued me from a severe bout of cynicism. Just when I was thinking that the technology of the twentieth century was erasing all human values, at a time when I could see all about me signs of moral decay and corruption, they lifted my spirits and made me proud to be human. Even though I was just a visitor, their graciousness made me feel welcome in the human race. I thank them for that.

Nondalton Natives. . .

(Continued from Page 1)

to \$3.50, especially in Alaska, is not very high.

Then we must consider the high prices paid for living essentials in the village. Every pound brought into our village has a 16 cents/lb. price tag attached to it in airfreight alone. The conception of meat and fish being had for nothing in our village is false.

At \$1.65 to \$2.00/gal. for gasoline and great distances with snowgods, knocks this mislead in the head. With mentioned job opportunities and prices as they are, do you believe that our people would deny themselves, the riches of \$700-\$800 a week?

The comment, if made by one of our residents, "All the State of Alaska ever gave us is flush toilets in the school," must have been uttered by someone lost to reality.

Statements, similar in slant, are wedges that split up

the people of Alaska. And coming from natives its interpretation becomes more devastating. Where, else but in this state, is a village our size of 200 population able to employ two teacher aids, two bi-lingual instructors, two cooks, a custodian and three adult vocational education instructors, all natives and part-time employees, besides four classroom teachers and a principal in a school of 72 students?

Does mentioned picture indicate that the State of Alaska has forgotten us?

Sure, we would like to have steady employment where we could be with our families just like in any other American community. But for us this is not possible.

Yet, given an opportunity, we shall attempt to do our best to support our families.

— Submitted by the people of Nondalton)

Editorial Comment—

(Continued from page 2)

ment maintenance and repair. After they were graduated, they had no trouble finding jobs. And even today, five years later, they are employed and doing well.

These men and their families are stable members of their communities, they are a tremendous asset. It is hard to understand why — in light of the apparent success — we did not have many more village men undergoing similar training.

We think it is safe to say that the present boom will last more than three or four years. There is bound to be other pipelines and feeder lines, other road construction, and so on. And while we have procrastinated, it is not too late to do that that we should have been doing all along: provide a massive program for training Alaskans for Alaska type jobs. Expenditures for such a program would pay dividends beyond our wildest expectations.

— T.A.S.

Second Edition Of THEATA Now Available

FAIRBANKS — The second annual edition of **THEATA** — a magazine of non-fiction articles written by freshmen Native students at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks — has just been published and is available to the public.

THEATA is an acronym for Tlingit, Haida, Eskimo, Aleut, Tsimshian, and Athabaskan, the names of each of the major Native groups in Alaska. All of the student contributors to the magazine trace at least part of their ancestry to one or more of these Native groups.

These students are enrolled in classes established by the university's Student Orientation Services, an organization designed to ease the rural student's transition to college life.

Many of the compositions these students wrote for their English classes dealt with aspects of Native life their instructors recognized were not generally known to non-Natives. Thus **THEATA** was conceived, to collect some of these valuable accounts that would otherwise be lost.

As with the first edition published last year, the second edition contains articles relating what it is like to live off the land and describing the changes, not all of them beneficial, that modern civilization has brought to the villages.

There are stories about whaling and walrus hunting, trapping, berry-picking, tanning of animal hides, potlatches, Native games, impact of the snowmobile on village life, and Native art and literature.

Sarah A. Isto, instructor of English, who organized the student publishing effort last year, was advisor for the second edition of **THEATA**. So well received was the 1974 edition, that it went into a second printing. The magazine is totally self-supporting through sales.

The new **THEATA** can be purchased at gift shops and bookstores around the state and by mail, by writing **THEATA**, Student Orientation Services, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

The 92-page magazine sells for \$2.95 a copy; \$2.10 if 10 or more copies are ordered. Shipping charges are included in the price.

Letters

(Continued from Page 2)

I hope that my writing, as a citizen of another Alaska city, is not regarded as presumptuous. What has prompted me to write is my view that your library and our own borough's health department are the two finest municipal services currently offered in the state. I apologize for the length of this letter, and hope that its length does not preclude sharing with the assembly.

My very best wishes for a productive review by the assembly.

Sincerely,
Duncan L. Read
P.S. If it need be stated, I barely know Ms. Gavin, and am not prompted to write by my personal concerns for her.
cc: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
The Pioneer All-Alaska Weekly
Tundra Times

Gravel's TT Report

By Mike Gravel
U.S. Senator, Alaska

Last month this column, on two separate occasions, dealt with the need to protect Alaska's fisheries and fisheries. This need is no distant, hazy goal . . . the Bristol Bay residents are facing a dire catastrophe, and they are facing it now, today.

The Bristol Bay salmon fishery is closed, and it may remain closed for several more years.

FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY

There is absolutely no reason why Alaska fishermen should pay for the federal government's mistakes. For years, we've been saying that Alaska's fisheries face a major crisis. For years, we've been pleading with the federal government to take action to protect us from the invasion of Alaska fishing stocks by foreign ships. Bigger and bigger catches by foreign distant-water fishing boats have meant a rapid depletion of the sockeye salmon stock. The salmon simply can't be replaced fast enough through the normal reproductive cycle.

AN EMERGENCY

The situation, as predicted, has reached emergency proportions. Bristol Bay has been closed to all commercial salmon fishing, because of drastically reduced salmon runs.

In 1970, the Alaska salmon harvest amounted to some 68.5 million fish. Just three short years later, the harvest was down to 21 million. This year's harvest will be far less — probably the smallest catch since 1899. Too many fish have been taken, and they haven't been caught by Alaskans.

GOVERNMENT INACTION

I have written to President Nixon, urging him to declare the Bristol Bay area a national disaster. Such a declaration would serve two purposes: First, it would force the federal bureaucracy to take notice of just what is happening in our state; second, it would make Bay residents eligible for federal assistance.

The White House reaction so far: Watchful waiting.

Well, the time to take a "wait-and-see" attitude is long past. We're talking about human lives — well over 4,000 residents, 2,500 of whom work as fishermen or cannery employees. These people, some of whom are Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos, need economic aid just to get through the next few months without the salmon industry.

CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION

Now we're trying another tactic, in an attempt to get around Washington's slow-moving bureaucracy and Japan's, Russia's and Korea's fast-moving fishing fleets.

This week, I introduced two bills in the United States Senate. One would authorize federal payments to the Bristol Bay fishermen, to compensate them for their loss of livelihood. It will require millions of dollars, which is much more than the State of Alaska can afford. So it is time for the federal government to start to live up to its responsibilities.

The second bill is aimed at renewing the depleted sockeye salmon stocks — with the help of the unemployed fishermen in the area.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS?

Mr. Nixon's desire for international agreements to protect Alaska's fisheries sounds quite nice. Don't get our allies upset at us, he says.

But we have waited too long already. It's too late for negotiations to solve this problem. We must act now to protect our own interests.

Waste Water Discharge Permits

Six federal facilities in Alaska will soon be issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wastewater discharge permits that will place them on pollution clean-up schedules.

The largest of the six facilities is the 11-building Public Health Service Alaska Native Hospital in Kakanak.

The proposed permits, as presently drafted, require that:

— The Bureau of Indian Affairs day school at Kalskag stop any discharge of untreated waste to navigable waters by July 1, 1977.

— The Bureau of Indian Affairs day school at Alakanuk

also stop any discharge of untreated waste to navigable waters by July 1, 1977.

— The Bureau of Indian Affairs day school at Grayling by July 1, 1977 provide secondary treatment of its wastewater and monitor that treated wastewater to insure proper treatment.

— The Federal Aviation Administration station in Yakutat provide secondary treatment of its wastewater by Nov. 1, 1976 and monitor the treated wastewater to insure proper treatment.

— The U.S. Forest Service Auke Village Recreation Area near Juneau, provide secondary treatment and monitoring by June 1, 1977.

— The Public Health Service Alaska Native Hospital in Kakanak, which already operates its own sewage treatment plant, must monitor its discharge to be certain that the effluent meets the secondary treatment standards required by the EPA permit.

All the proposed permits are based on EPA's tentative determinations which are open to challenge during the public comment period which expires June 16, 1974.

Information on the draft permits is available from EPA's Alaska operations office in Room G-66, Federal Building, Anchorage 99501. Comments on the permits, all of which will be considered before the permits become final, may be sent to Regional Administrator, EPA, 1200 Sixth Ave., Seattle, 98101.

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