

# Letters from Here and There

## **AVEC Mgmt. Hurting People**

Shungnak, Alaska 99773  
December 17, 1974

Dear Howard,

The way AVEC is being managed is hurting the people. AVEC has given very bad service to rural Alaska and gotten away with it simply because bad service is better than no service at all. There have been no good examples and so all the villages know is what AVEC has given them. I read with interest the story by James Ede of Selawik as appeared in Tundra Times December 4, 1974.

I know of some of the happenings he tells of and it is the truth. We have only one generator running now as the other two were continually overloaded and finally burned out. Our village AVEC man had to quit due to the heavy work load and very low pay. The prices are way too high. Our State school is entirely dependent upon electricity to have school at all. Recently the kids missed six days when the power quit over the Thanksgiving holiday.

I think it is a good time now

to ask Tundra Times to call for a special legislative investigation of AVEC. It is time someone complained and we should all thank Mr. Ede. I hope your newspaper can ask our new administration to look into this matter of electricity for the villages and correct the situation.

Thank you,  
Peter MacManus  
Shungnak, Alaska 99773

cc: James Ede, Selawik

## **May Experience Big Changes**

1101 W. 23rd Ave.  
Anchorage, Alaska  
December 23, 1974

Dear Mr. Rock:

A few lines to say Merry Christmas to all at Tundra Times. Also to Eskimos and Indians in the outlying villages. Some in the villages may not be aware that we are going to experience a very big change from the life we been living.

This is when we start learning to do without knowing this now you will be ready for the worst to come.

Don't expect things to get better. These things has to happen and with faith you will make it. They call it depression.

In the Holy Bible it is called the greatest tribulation which was never experienced.

Millicent Evans Gray

## **Airline Bush Freight Handling Not So Good**

North Slope Borough  
P.O. Box 546  
Barrow, Alaska 99723  
December 20, 1974

Mr. Raymond Peterson, President  
Wien Air Alaska  
International Airport  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Dear Mr. Peterson:

May I start off by offering my congratulations to you and your fellow officers for having such a

profitable year for your airlines. May I also convey thru you to your staff my wishes for a Happy Yuletide Season and another successful year.

In the midst of all this clamor and expansion, increased revenues, tremendous profits, oil boom, we tend to forget or overlook the desires and particularly the services rendered to the very people which has kept the airlines afloat thru hardships.

At this particular point I wish to point out to you, not that you needed to be told, that the services your airline renders to the City of Barrow has become totally inadequate primarily because you have chosen to accommodate the big money interests first.

For instance, your airline provides a flight from Anchorage to Prudhoe with a departure every morning except Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and a flight that departs at 2:00 p.m. except Saturday, and on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday a departure at 9:00 p.m. plus the flight that departs Anchorage every day for Barrow, also stops at Deadhorse. This is exactly four to one in favor of the Prudhoe Bay area.

The reservations from Barrow to Fairbanks or Anchorage as of late have been booked solid during the last month for weeks on end.

Which means that although there remains up to a dozen seats open at departure time in Barrow many of our local people cannot get on because the flight is full by the time it leaves Deadhorse.

I also understand that you have a considerable amount of freight backlog in Fairbanks and Anchorage destined for Barrow.

Under these circumstances one cannot escape the thought that when there is that much traffic of both freight and passengers, the airlines should at least provide adequate amount of space for passengers to accommodate the City of Barrow.

As a matter of fact, you have forced on the people of Barrow and adjacent villages who have to utilize your airlines for travel to Fairbanks or Anchorage a tremendous inconvenience for having to stop at Deadhorse on their way to these cities. It happens every day.

It is a sacrifice being made involuntarily by our local citizens to accommodate your airlines.

As I mentioned earlier the Deadhorse area enjoys four flights a day while the local people of Barrow and adjacent villages are forced to share one of them.

I particularly want you to know that recently I have learned that the State, upon proof of need, can approve an intra-state service to any airline to provide service to any area.

I also want you to know that this letter will start a chain reaction, which will lead to a request to the State thru the Alaska Transportation Commission to grant a permit to another airline to service this area.

The real situation in Barrow is that it is impossible to reserve a seat two days in advance because as earlier stated your flights from Barrow have been booked for weeks on end.

This is fine and dandy for you but you are treating the segment of the population that will continue to support your airline when the oil boom has gone and disappeared.

I would hope that you will

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give this matter immediate and serious consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
EBEN HOPSON, Mayor  
North Slope Borough

cc: Bud Hagberg, V.P., Sales &  
Traffic, Wien Air

Jim Nabers, Station Manager,  
Barrow

Noel Wien  
Sigurd Wien  
Merril Wien