

# FNA Thanks Pollock

Fairbanks Alaska Dec. 26 1220A

Representative Howard Pollock  
326 H St. Suite 5  
Anchorage, Alaska

Fairbanks Native Association deeply grateful for meeting held in Sitka on education. We feel meeting will provide impetus which will eventually culminate in proper education for people of rural Alaska. Although F.N.A. and others created matrix through which programs planned and legislation have been laid.

We are forever appreciative of the continuing opportunity to contribute our time and knowledge to areas of education such as meeting at Sitka provided. Fairbanks Native Association urges implementation of regional high school program on statewide basis.

This program appears to have clear consensus of agreement in providing 200 bed dorm facilities at Fairbanks, Bethel, Sitka and Kotzebue. This is first step in complete overall program. We extend to you and your families best wishes for happy holiday season. cc: Governor Walter J. Hickel, Senator Mike Gravel, Senator Ted Stevens, State Commissioner of Education Clifford Hartman, BIA Assistant Commissioner for Education Charles Zetters, Representative Howard Pollock.

—THE FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

## Last Communique . . .

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growing satisfaction I derive from my small part in the determined effort to bring your fine State into the Union.

Among my most pleasant memories of this last decade are those of our cooperation to build a better life for your constituents and for all Americans. As I look back on these years, I remember the high hopes we shared, and the faith we placed in Alaska's progress. This milestone in its history certainly proves that our hopes were not in vain, and that our faith was well rewarded.

So that the people of Alaska may know the fullness of my admiration for them and the depth of my pride in their achievements, I want to join in own special tribute with a personal note.

Please know that you are very much in our thoughts each day, and that our prayers are for your restored good health.

Your friend,  
LYNDON B. JOHNSON  
Honorable E.L. Bartlett  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 11, 1968

### TO THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA:

January 3rd marks the tenth anniversary of Alaska's Statehood. It is a date that brings great pride to all who took part in the unrelenting effort to bring your State into the Union. My personal satisfaction from this productive decade in your history is unsurpassed.

It is a satisfaction that derives from the fine example you have set in Federal-State cooperation, and from the great good that has come of it. Neither earthquake nor flood has slowed Alaska's growth. The enviable partnership at all levels of government was strongest in the midst of adversity, and paid rich dividends through constructive planning and wholehearted participation in the task of rebuilding.

This milestone finds Alaska prospering, and her people filled with confidence and courage. It finds us full of admiration for her people, and ready to share your determination to make your State an envied showcase of the American promise—furthered and fulfilled.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

## Borbridge Asks . . .

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### ON THE RIGHT OF PERPETUAL AND EXCLUSIVE USE AND OCCUPANCY.

Such title also carries with it the RIGHT of the tribe or native group TO BE PROTECTED FULLY BY THE UNITED STATES IN SUCH EXCLUSIVE OCCUPANCY AGAINST ANY INTERFERENCE OR CONFLICTING USE OR TAKING BY ALL OTHERS, INCLUDING PROTECTION AGAINST THE STATE GOVERNMENTS.

In short, as declared by the Supreme Court, aboriginal Indian ownership is as sacred as the white man's ownership. The established law is that ONLY the United States may extinguish aboriginal Indian ownership.

V. The "land freeze" and now the withdrawal order imposed by Secretary Udall on over 250 million acres of Alaska land have:

A. Given political leverage to Alaska's natives in their effort to achieve a prompt and equitable settlement of the land claims by focusing state and congressional attention on the matter.

The solution to this pressing issue has been deferred for over 80 years.

B. The above Secretarial action prevented the pernicious erosion of lands used, occupied and claimed by Alaska natives

pending a final settlement of the land claims.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Alaska natives and officials of the State and Federal governments should join in pressing for a speedy and equitable settlement to the Alaska native land rights question.

Pending the final resolution of this complex matter, every effort should be made to ensure the status quo by preserving native land rights from erosion.

If the revocation of the withdrawal order is anticipated, then it should be done only if (a) a congressional settlement has been achieved or (b) the alternative to leaving the status quo as to the withdrawal orders satisfies Alaska native organization leaders that their land rights are maintained.

We have more than a moral right to the land and the forthcoming compensation and our land rights should be equitably resolved not primarily because the proceeds will help to remove disparities in health, education, employment, etc.—but because we have legal or substantive rights and because United States policy and the national conscience demand that we be dealt with equitably.



CHARMING HUNTER—Laura Bergt, a beautiful Eskimo girl, is demonstrating the art of harpooning. Straying considerably from her traditional Eskimo attire, Laura is wearing a bathing suit, a common Los Angeles attire, especially on the beaches, in the best manner of feminine pulchritude. Laura does not have any trouble in absorbing the best of the Western Culture,

including refrigerators, fine rugs, hi-fi sets, color television and many other fine things. Laura also finds it easy to revert back to her parkas, nalukatuk (blanket toss), in which she's an expert, Eskimo dances and other fine facets of her native culture.

—DOLORES McCUTCHEON Photograph

## World War I, II Veterans to Get Policy Dividends

A total of 4,895 Alaska World War I and World War II veterans holding G.I. insurance policies will receive \$264,100 in dividends during 1969, M.W. McDonough, Manager of the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Juneau announced this week.

Beginning January 1, dividends will be paid on the anniversary dates of the policies, McDonough said.

Nationally, VA will pay out \$236 million in dividends in 1969 to approximately 4,250,000 veterans holding National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) and United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI) policies.

This is \$13 million more than the 1968 dividend payment of \$223 million, McDonough explained.

The VA Regional Office Manager said that the 4,786 World War II veterans in Alaska who hold NSLI policies will receive \$258,600 in dividends in 1969.

Nationally, NSLI dividends in 1969 will total \$218 million with payments averaging about \$53 to 4,100,000 World War II veterans.

The dividend to be paid the 109 World War I veterans in 1969 USGLI dividends, with payments averaging \$97, up \$18 over the 1968 average payment of \$79.

Increased interest earnings on government life insurance funds made possible the higher 1969 dividends, McDonough said.

## Laura to Promote . . .

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geles for demonstrations of the Eskimo blanket toss (nalukatuk) and to demonstrate the tricky yo-yos and other things.

During some time of the promotional effort, Laura may depart from her traditional Eskimo attire and don a cheesecake outfit and demonstrate such things as harpoon throwing and fashioning of arts and crafts of her people.

Laura will feel right at home demonstrating the blanket toss having had captured the World Eskimo Olympics crown more than once for stellar performances in that tricky and difficult sport.

She had won this on grace, skill, height and form sometimes attaining the toss height of about 30 feet and then land on the walrus hide blanket on her feet without falling or losing her balance.

George Sullivan, or Laura herself, did not say how the cheesecake versions of harpoon demonstrations will go but they should be pleasing to the viewers in Los Angeles.

This is borne out by the skillful photographs for promotional purposes taken by the Anchorage photographer Mrs. Dolores McCutcheon.

"They were going to have me wear a white fox fur Bikini outfit but they made me look too fat," said Laura recently.

When told that someone should have thought of using ermine skins for the Bikini outfit, Laura mused:

"Hmm, we never thought of that. I think you have something there."

Ermine Bikini or not, Laura

and her fellow salesmen at the Century City Alaska Travel and Trade Fair, should make a notable impression at the Los Angeles promotion.

Laura sprung from a prominent family in Kotzebue. The late State Senator William E. Beltz, first president of the State Senate when Alaska became a state in 1959, was her uncle.

Jim Binkley is the captain of the riverboat Discoverer, a stern-wheeler he operates in summers for tourists river tours on the Chena and Tanana Rivers.

Len Lawrence is in travel service business in Ketchikan.

Laura's latest job has been as office manager and secretary to the president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Emil Notti. She has worked for Tundra Times and has been an executive committee member of the newspaper's officials.

Laura's husband, Neil Bergt, is an airline pilot and vice president of the Interior Airways, the airline firm that is doing extensive freight hauls for the major oil companies on oil discovery sites on Alaska's Arctic North Slope.

Laura and Neil have four children.

