

## Woman Regrets Discontinuation Of Food Column

August 1, 1967

Mr. Howard Rock  
Editor, Tundra Times  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock:

Thank you for permitting space in the Tundra Times for a nutrition education column. This opportunity was the culmination of a dream of more than two and one half years; one which had been discussed and approved by my two immediate superior officers, neither of whom are with the Area Office at this time.

I regret that I will not be able to submit materials for other columns for the next three or four months because of administrative requests which limit both my time and attention for this educational feature. It is my hope that after this period I may be able to resume the column. Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Ethel Mae Griggs  
Public Health  
Nutritionist  
Northern Area

### Other Voices—

## Suppression of Natural Speech Gains Nothing

Dear Editor:

Your editorial on the forcing of English upon native groups is most timely and important and I hope gains wide circulation everywhere, because it is putting the finger on the most dangerous thing that educators are doing to various tribal and cultural groups everywhere.

By suppressing the natural speech of these groups, they will gain nothing important but will cause the younger generations to lose a bit that cannot be regained by their descendants.

Having done this, they will find that the English or American language will not continue the same in various group areas for many years, but will gradually change until it becomes again a widely ranging variation of speech.

We inherited our speech primarily from Scythia the middle East where it spread it's influence both east and west to Europe, India and way points as migrations and trade continued. The basic elements of the speech in all these areas is the same, but the tonal qualities are utterly different. Check in these various languages the pronunciation of words that are common to all human groups—"father, mother" etc.

We say father or mother, the Italian and Greek became "padre and madre" and in earlier form "fater and mater", the east Indian folk "pithri and mithri" and in Europe you'll find "vater und mutter" and all sorts of variants.

Speech will continue to change according to local customs and habits through the future as it has for thousands of years before. The meaning of the words clings to the cultural modes of the people and will continue to do so.

Each group transmits it's ideals and customs in it's own language and when you take that away from them they lose much and gain only temporary benefit.

Alaska has a system of totemic tribal groups and a wide variation in range of native speech. It also has in these various groups a highly developed culture, as one can see from their wonderful artifacts. I have only been here a short time, but I realize that there is an endless field for study and investigation of these various groups. Their culture is different from ours but they are highly civilized and we should recognize this and hope it will continue to operate instead of being temporarily muddled and confused by the language problem we are trying to force on them.

—A Student of Mankind  
(name on file)