

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

Tundra Times



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Editorial Comment—

AFN MUKLUKS NEED SOLES

Like old mukluks, the Alaska Federation of Natives is once again due for a new sole if they are to continue serving as the statewide entity representing Alaska Native interests. To date the mukluks have traveled many miles on behalf of both profit and non-profit Native concerns, but unless they are re-soled, the AFN mukluks may fail.

Originally the AFN mukluks had soles of Emil Notti caribou skin. That sole was silently strong and warm. And while the early AFN miles were hard, the strength of the new mukluks kept Native efforts hot despite land-freeze chills that even forced then Governor, Walter Hickel, to acknowledge Native rights before he could be confirmed as Secretary of the Interior under Richard Nixon. But the Notti soles were thin after four years of service.

In 1970, Don Wright moose hide soles took on the job of protecting the Native feet during the push for a land claims settlement. The AFN mukluks treaded through the halls of Congress and forced their way into the conscience of America before again having to be re-soled after the settlement was finally reached in December of 1971.

Willie Hensley walrus soles were then tacked loosely to the mukluks because AFN could not afford to buy thread to keep Hensley leather attached. After six months without a salary, Hensley managed to convince the regions that although they had much work of their own, they still needed a statewide umbrella organization to serve Native interests. Roger Lang bearded seal was then sewn on and now appears to be nearing the end of its usefulness.

Mukluks never have it easy. They get walked in, walked on, covered with dirt and snow and ice. But good mukluks are important and the AFN mukluks have more than proved their utility. Now it's a matter of deciding what kind of leather to use.

What the old mukluks need is some of the leather like that which originally made a just claims settlement possible for Alaska Natives. Perhaps the new soles should come from any one of the now prosperous regional corporations which have depended upon AFN leather in the past to get them where they are today. Indeed, it's time for some of those Native leaders who helped in the early land claims push, and now are serving as corporation leaders, to put their sole where their heart is supposed to be.

What about the old leather? We've already seen that Hank Eaton makes pretty good leather, as does John Borbridge, John Sackett or Sam Kito, Ted Angasan or Joe Upicksoun. So why doesn't one of these long-time Native leaders step forward and walk a mile or two in the AFN mukluks?

Plenty of storms still lie ahead as regional and village corporations take on responsibilities assigned them in the claims settlement. AFN has the job of directing the continuing drama of claims settlement and Native self-determination if those goals are to mean anything. And all that's needed now is just a little sole.

—D.L.

A Book Review— The Cook Inlet Collection

Thirty-three vignettes gleaned from hundreds of historical documents have been combined into book form to offer readers a sweeping view of 200 years of history in the Cook Inlet region of Alaska.

"The Cook Inlet Collection—Two Hundred Years of Selected Alaskan History,"

edited by noted historian Morgan Sherwood, capsules the region's development from the time of the first visits of European explorers up to recent controversial court decisions about the ownership of offshore resources in the Inlet.

Each of the book's stories focuses on a different aspect of the area's history, covering, for example, the first explorations by Capt. James Cook, Russian activities, gold and coal mining and the beginnings of petroleum exploration in 1892. The 222-page book also includes a section on the tales and legends of

the early Tanaina Indians.

Mr. Sherwood, now a professor of history at the University of California, Davis, was born and raised in Alaska. He currently divides his time between northern California and Kachemak Bay, off Cook Inlet.

He previously authored "Explorations of Alaska, 1865-1900," and he edited "Alaska and Its History."

"The Cook Inlet Collection" is available from Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, P.O. Box 4-BEE, Anchorage, Alaska 99509. The soft cover book costs \$4.95.

Letters from Here and There

Blasting Cap Accidents

State of Alaska
Dept. of Education
Pouch F-Alaska Office Bldg.
Juneau, 99801
April 9, 1975

Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Editor:

Your help is needed to eliminate blasting cap accidents involving school-age boys and girls. The numbers of injuries attributed to blasting caps is quite small, almost negligible, as compared to any other accident cause . . . but these results can be lastingly tragic.

We know such mishaps can be eliminated. The combination of education and enforcement of improved regulations for explosive storage and security has cut the reported numbers of blasting cap accidents injuries nearly 60% in the period 1970-74 versus 1965-69.

The Institute of Makers of Explosives has provided the enclosed article for use in the education program. We would appreciate your printing this public service message in a future issue.

Sincerely,
Vern Williams, Coordinator
Learners Assistance.

What Happened To \$900 Million?

Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
April 8, 1975

Dear Editor:

People all over the state, including those of us in the legislature and administration, are asking the same question: What happened to the \$900 million from Prudhoe Bay? The answer is not very simple. But regardless of the answer, there is no reason to let it happen again. HB 324 and SB 297, authored by Representative Hugh Malone (House Finance Chairman) and co-sponsored by some thirty other Representatives and Senators, are an attempt to stop a repeat performance. The bill would establish a permanent fund composed of mineral bonus lease sales (such as the Beaufort Sea).

The permanent fund provides that bonus monies could only be invested in secure liquid investments and state loan programs that are designated by law as eligible. The interest income could be reinvested or utilized in the normal state budget. We envision state loan programs that now exist for fishermen, veterans, AHFC, tourism, and small business . . . plus other proposed programs

such as housing and community electrification loans.

We should not attempt to use a future bonus sale to fund our projected state budget deficit in 1976-77. There are many different methods of raising needed funds — sale of options on oil or gas, tax on oil and gas in place, borrowing on anticipated pipeline revenues, etc. The worst possible course of action is to count on using future bonus sales to fill this deficit. If the sales fall through, as even the oil companies admit is possible, our deficit will be worse than ever. Gambling on the amounts of future bonus sales to fill state annual budgets just doesn't make fiscal sense.

An added benefit of the creation of a permanent fund is that it might curb our insatiable appetite to increase the state's budget. At the rate we have been increasing the state budget over the last four years, there will not be any extra state funds as many people think, in 1980 when Prudhoe Bay is pumping at full capacity.

The prudent course of action for Alaska at this juncture in history is to place future bonus monies (excluding royalty, severance or ad valorem oil revenues) in a permanent fund. These bonus monies are a "windfall profit" to the state and its citizens, and should be invested in loan programs within Alaska so the money can benefit future generations of Alaskans. The average Alaskan will reap substantially more if loans are directly available than if we create more bureaucracy to filter the money to them.

If you think that HB 324 and SB 297 make sense, let your legislators and Governor know.

Sincerely,
Terry Gardiner
Representative

It's Cold On The Pipeline

Galbraith, Alaska
April 9, 1975

Dear Friend Howard Rock:

Well Howard I just want to let you know its still cold'n hell up here on the Pipeline. You know I came up here the third time without a parky.

I didn't know I was braking the pipeline law. Too much to lug around besides you cannot work with parkie, too clumsy.

You know I'm getting pretty cranky, almost every blessed day. Then I got no wen to get mad at, then I'm mad at the weather. Then you kind of have to ignore the people. Strange people. If you say one word to them, then they start asking you questions.

First of all, are you Eskimo, where you from? I'd say Nulato. Where is that. Then I get mad. Nobody here knows where Nulato is. It's nothing but a fish camp. Too small to notice I guess for the dumb people here.

I don't see no maps, or thermometer here.

Well I've been here 2 weeks today. Its a nice camp, but I don't think we'll have summer here. No timber here. Bum place for mosquitos.

Lot of work here, but no Indians. Don't need no Chief here.

Well I wish you good luck Howard and may God Bless you and me.

We had Easter Mass last night, Father Gurr. Only six of us. You know Howard I was born on Easter Sunday 1907 that's the

same day Jesus rose from the grave. The priest reminded us of it.

Fred Stickman

Men Go To North Slope

Nondalton, Alaska
April 6, 1975

Editor, Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Sir:

As I sit here and observe the young men of this village, young men who were raised to be hunters, go off to the North Slope, Fairbanks, and other far away places to take pipeline and pipeline related jobs, I cannot help but be reminded of the history of colonialism in virtually every continent of the world, where under the guise of "wage employment" people were transported hundreds of miles from their homes, away from their families, away from the land they knew as their own, to work as laborers in an outsider's profit-making industry for the benefit of people even further away.

In the Pacific islands, for example, native people were shipped en masse to islands with totally different ecology, language, culture, for the purpose of working on various colonial enterprises, with the end result being total disintegration of the native cultural systems.

As if taking the young people away from their homes to "educate" them in high school was not bad enough, now under the slogan "hire natives first" they take them away from their villages and their people and what's left of their culture again, and give them huge salaries, and what do they expect will happen to these people in the process? How can they ever go back to their own culture—their social ties are twice broken—they can work at the jobs and make the money that they have been made to think they need only by leaving their home, family, life style, land, and working 12 hours a day at a completely meaningless job to them.

Can they ever go back? Or will some find a solution within themselves and refuse to be taken in and destroyed by the forces which have destroyed virtually every other native culture with which they have come in contact.

Joan Tenenbaum

No Sign Of Spring

Galbraith, Alaska
April 12, 1975

Dear Howard:

I just want to let you know this might be my last letter from here. There is no sign of spring here and I'm getting enough of 23 below zero every morning. It's a long winter.

I asked for transfer 2 days ago but no word, so I might have to just get ready and leave.

I have a nice job, good money, good grub, maid service, etc. But I went to Old Man Camp last fall September 3, thinking to stay till first week in November, so I went with no parky. Too cold, too windy, then I quit, then went to Cold Foot 48 below.

I quit again. Besides, no gambling here. First time I play

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