

Businessman Appeals for Reindeer Meat Inspection...

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it can have it federally approved. It's a State problem anyway from the employment standpoint."

Johnson said that if there was an establishment of meat inspection in Alaska, there could be three to four hundred native people employed in packaging, cutting, and wrapping and this work could last from three to four months yearly, even today.

Another difficulty is that Johnson and the herders cannot sell reindeer meat to Anchorage, Fairbanks and other larger cities because of the lack of meat inspection.

He said that he did get a temporary permit to sell to Anchorage last year. As a result of no meat inspection, the herders are limited to

sell to villages and the orders are usually from 25 head to 75; that if there was inspection, this amount could be increased a great deal.

Johnson also said that the Eskimo population of Alaska does not care for corral-butchered reindeer meat. Once the reindeer is corralled, it develops an unnatural quality in its meat and the taste becomes unpleasant.

The herders, on receiving meat orders, now drive their herds to accessible areas and "range-kill" the supply. This manner of butchering retains the natural meat flavor.

Two years ago, Hooper Bay people received some corral-butchered reindeer meat which they couldn't eat.

"They fed a lot of that to the dogs and last year they had to ship a supply of them back to Anchorage," Johnson said.

He said he now has 12,000 pounds to be delivered to Hooper Bay, that 15,000 pounds have already been delivered to Bethel and 2,000 pounds will be delivered to Lower Yukon and St. Michael.

"Our company tries to sell meat outside of Seward Peninsula. We want them (the herders) to have a first crack at it in this area, but if they can't due to transportation problems and other problems, we supply the meat," said Thomas Johnson.

He said that the biggest herd in the Seward Peninsula was the Golovin herd owned by Sigfried Aukongak that numbers over 14,000.

In Deering, Alfred Karmun and Charlie Clark have 3,000 and 2,000 respectively. Paul Hadley of Buckland has 3,000 head and Fred Goodhope's Cape Espenberg herd numbers at 3,000 head.

The Teller herd of the late Johnny Kakaruk, now managed by his sons, numbers 8,000. There are other comparatively small herds in other areas.

LOUD HOLLER

Thomas Johnson has been quite vociferous in the past when it came to establishing a meat inspection service in the State.

"If a person hollers long and hard, somebody is going to hear him eventually," he said. "Let's face it. I can say 96 per cent of our people in the Northwest are unemployed."

There are signs now that Johnny and others, like Martin Olson of Golovin, are being heard. Last week, the Nome Employment Development Conference passed the following recommendation:

"That immediate action be taken by the State of Alaska in cooperation with the Reindeer Herders Association and the Arctic Native Brotherhood to facilitate the implementation of the reindeer industry including:

"A. Obtaining federal inspection for meat processing, development of appropriate and proper facilities for such processing and upgrading, and improvement of airports to permit adequate transportation arrangements for the industry."

Newest Land Bill...

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Alaska Federation of Native Associations.

It is conjectured that the new bill would insure testimony by the native people along the lines of the Anchorage bill.

Land claims hearings will be conducted by Senator Henry Jackson of the State of Washington in Alaska locations some time after the current session of Congress adjourns.

'Outreach' Going To Fort Yukon And Chalkyitsik

Frank A. Peratrovich, Outreach representative of the State Department of Labor, Employment Security Division, is planning a visit to Fort Yukon and Chalkyitsik in the near future.

He plans to spend three days in Fort Yukon to get applications for work training. He will spend two days in Chalkyitsik.

He will also visit employers in the villages to see if they have projected job openings for some of the people in the area.

Peratrovich was recently at the village of Wainwright working on a similar assignment.

While there he learned that eight polar bears had been taken by hunters in eight days. He said the villagers were very happy and thought that this might be some kind of record.

One Eskimo woman was one of the persons who bagged a polar bear while her husband got another.

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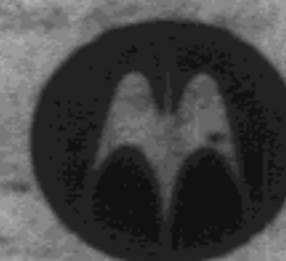
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