

"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— Supporters of Settlement

There is now a movement unprecedented in the history of Alaska aimed specifically at helping the native people of the state and that is the work of the members of the "Supporters of Settlement," a group of influential non-native men and women who are working for an equitable and prompt settlement of the native land claims. All of the members of the SOS are solid citizens from all walks of life and many of them are prominent people of Alaska. The expressed purpose of the organization sums up to the idea that if the land claims are settled generously and fairly, everyone in Alaska will benefit.

Perhaps the formation of the SOS is a crossroad—a vista through which something better for all can be realized in the future. It can be a gesture of a wish to get along better in the land of diverse population and diverse cultures. It is, perhaps, a germination toward a realization that all peoples of Alaska can work on a more equal basis born of a pretty good atmosphere of getting along together, among a good percentage of whites and all minorities that make up the population of our state.

Although the climate is considered good for getting along together, there are pockets of racially diverse views of which most of this can be pinpointed among the Alaska white population. There are also some feelings of this nature among the minorities. Although these exist, it is generally considered that racial attitudes can be overcome—that this problem is not insurmountable. Any racist advocates, should there be any anywhere in Alaska, should be watched because their views and wishes are not needed in our state. We should try to build our Alaska without such curses and try hard to make it into a uniquely harmonious land in which to live where all men can work on equal basis.

We applaud the members of the Supporters of Settlement for their open-minded approach in their work for an equitable settlement of native land claims in Alaska. It is the kind of work that could have far-reaching effects in the future for all of us. The newness of the effort is refreshing and its continued effort based on fairness and equitable aims can be of lasting benefits for all.

Native Women Revitalize Crafts

(From RURAL OPPORTUNITIES)
Alaska's native women residing in several areas across the state are trying to revitalize the crafts and heritage of their people while stimulating a new economy at the same time.

Thirteen women are participating in the skinsewing project at the Rural Alaska Community Action Program's Norton Sound Regional Community Center in Nome. Mrs. Emma (Mike) Will-o-ya was hired by RurALCAP to teach the course.

The women are making mukluks, after-ski boots, slippers, seal skin and fur hats, parkas, Eskimo fur dolls and beadwork. All the work is original and meticulous.

To date they have been kept busy filling orders through the "snowball" method—the completed product attracts the attention of others and they order too.

The Center Director, Mrs. Verna Mickelson, said the sewing class was originally started in September because there was an interest in the dying craft and industry.

Then, there was a desire to have a place to market their handicraft at a fair cash price.

"From the beginning the course has turned into a self-sustaining one—proving that the people are willing and want to help themselves," said Mrs. Mickelson.

Mrs. Forbes Expresses Appreciation

Mrs. Hildegard Forbes acknowledged this week the honor given her by the stockholders when they voted to name her the Honorary Chairman of the Board of the Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. recently. The company publishes the Tundra Times.

"I was very much touched when I read in Tundra Times that the shareholders had named me to be honorary chairman of the Board," Mrs. Forbes writes.

"I hope you will tell the Board members when you next meet that I consider this a great honor. Of course I realize that it is in part one more recognition of what Dr. Forbes did for the paper and for the Native people of Alaska, but I like to think that it shows that the shareholders understand how deeply I care that the paper will succeed in the days ahead. I read carefully every issue . . ."

Mrs. Forbes is the widow of the late Dr. Henry S. Forbes who financed the publication of the Tundra Times. Dr. Forbes died last August.

Mrs. Forbes was made the honorary chairman after the 12-year-old Scott Sutherland, a stockholder, said at the annual stockholders meeting:

"I move that we make Mrs. Forbes the Honorary Chairman of the Board."

The motion was quickly seconded by Prof. Jimmy Bedford and it passed unanimously.

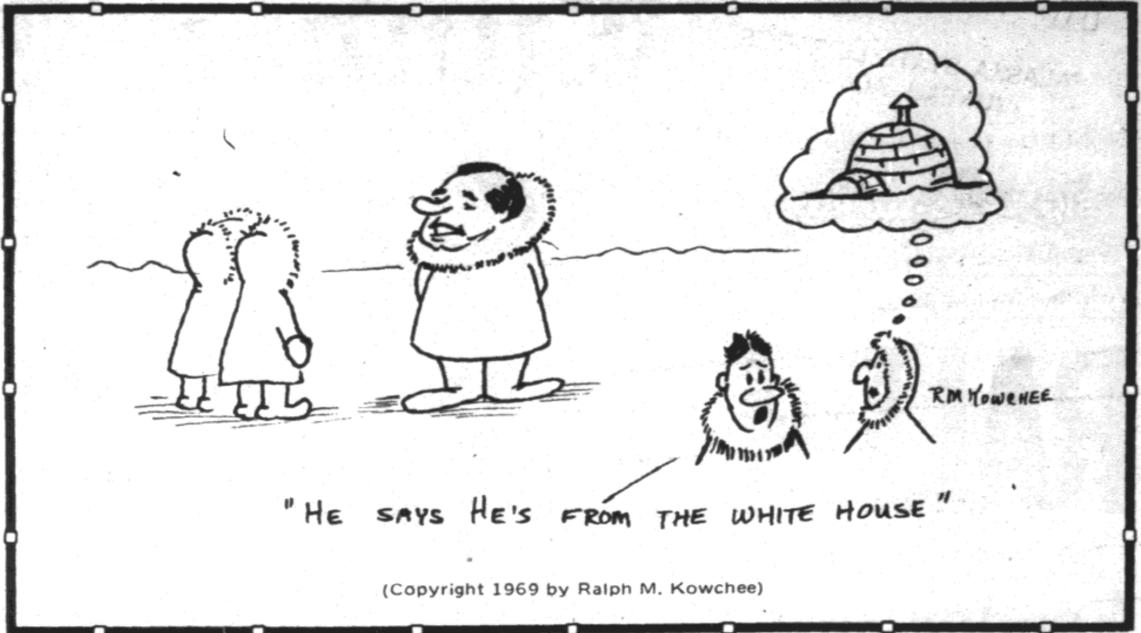
Hoonah Receives Follow-Through Grant for 1969

The Hoonah City School District has been selected to receive a Follow-Through Grant for 1969.

Follow-Through, a division of compensatory education of the U.S. Office of Education, has been operating for the past four years. Federal funding was provided for projects after research indicated that "Head Start" participants were losing ground after entering into regular classroom situations.

The State Department of Education submitted the names of three Alaskan communities as candidates for Follow-Through grants.

Hoonah was selected because the city exhibited quality preschool, early elementary and Title I programs; a willingness to involve parents and other community members significantly in decision making; a close working



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Letters to the Editor

Kake, Alaska
February 21, 1969

Dear Mr. Rock:

"Mere drop in the bucket," or "A few cents in a million," is the expression rightly used by many natives when referring to Native Land Claims compensation offered.

Example: Southeast Tlingit and Haida land claims settlement. Mere Pittance!, if distributed on a Per Capita bases. Some of our local fishermen paid larger Federal income tax that year. Do not think that our fishermen are rich. I am referring to the few that were lucky enough to get on a top boat in a good season.

Eben Hopson's article in the Feb. 14th issue of the Tundra Times is another example. He states, "While we, the Natives are forced to wait and sit, in spite of our screams of injustice on proposed land claims."

Yet responsible people read with deaf ears. They argue before finishing an article: "Too much, too much! How can we make any money from your land if you ask for too much?" All thought of Democracy is lost before an article is read through.

How could I or the average native argue and convince the congressmen, lawyers and justices of a right we believe in? It is like throwing a snow ball on a hot fire. Our arguments disappear before we are understood. Obviously we must be an avalanche to convince them that we only want what is rightfully ours.

In line with the editorial in the Tundra Times, Feb. 17th, that stresses communications between Natives and Tundra Times; and that Native leaders be heard, I am hoping that this little snowball article is the start of a very, very large snowball. All regional native organizations and community leaders should be well informed and heard from.

Let those that oppose tear apart this article given in, as we say, "broken dish" language. If he says, there isn't any injustice, then the laws he believes in must be for the rich alone.

Very truly yours,
Louis Austin

Note: The most or one of the most popular radio programs is problem corner. Ira Blue, in the Hungry Eye, in San Francisco is another popular radio program. I just wonder if this type could be adapted to the newspaper. This would be one way of increasing communications between communities and increasing sales. I know I have a subscription, but if I did not have, I would surely buy a paper. I would also be very interested in what other regional leaders write. Letters to the Editor is very good. Perhaps that should be increased.

March 4, 1969

Dear Editor:

As fellow workers of Professor Don Charles Foote, who died last Saturday following an auto accident, we believe Alaskans should know of the contributions of Dr. Foote to Alaska and to mankind.

The study of human geography was his specialty, which led him to spend two years studying human and biological life patterns in the area of Cape Thompson. This study was financed by the Atomic Energy Commission to determine effects of a nuclear blast (Project Chariot) proposed for the purpose of creating a harbor.

During the two-year period of the study, Dr. Foote and his wife lived at Point Hope in the same manner as the Eskimo people of that community, and came to know and understand them and

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relationship between the school and community action agencies; a high concentration of children from low income families; and a willingness to select a particular program approach and to work with a program sponsor in its implementation.

Superintendent of Hoonah schools, Donald MacKinnon, will be meeting with representatives

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WANTED: Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argilite carvings; pot-latch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years of age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Drive, Los Angeles, California 90028.