

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



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# Sorrowing Parents Thank Comforting Help

Beaver, Alaska

We want to give our sincere thanks to all the people who help us during the time of the death of our beloved son Frank Ray Pitka.

Especially BIA and Native Center also Bishop Gordon and Dorothy Pitka and Sally Hudson.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Elman Pitka

## Editorial Comment—

# Importance of Sea Mammals to Natives

There is a strange and unbelievable move in the Congress of the United States to restrict, and control, the killing of sea mammals by the people of Alaska. This move, if successful, would kill the unique cultures of Alaska's Natives on the coastal regions of the state. It would not only severely restrict subsistence hunting but it would spell an end to the traditional arts and crafts that have been integral parts of the colorful cultures of our Native peoples.

Those colorful cultures and traditions would not have been established without the sea mammals the Native people hunted and depended upon from time immemorial. The animals made it indeed possible for the Natives to survive the severe environments of Alaska. Thus we have the whaling cultures of Point Hope and Barrow peoples. We have the walrus cultures of the St. Lawrence Islanders, King Islanders and Little Diomed Island people. Without these animals, the people of the respective regions would not have had food to survive. And they would not have had the warm clothing vitally needed today for the the same reasons.

The measure has already passed the House of Representatives overwhelmingly. The way it is now, it is a real threat to the way of life of Alaska's Native people. It would eat into the very spirit of the Eskimos — their cultures that have enabled them to triumph over the dangers of the Arctic.

The House version of the bill sneaked by the people of Alaska. There was little testimony from Alaska people. The Senate version of it must not come out without hearings involving Alaskans and most assuredly the Native people. There should be field hearings in strategic regions of the state. There must be an understanding of the situation — the understanding of the relationship and importance of mammals to the Eskimos. This must be done because the House version of the bill is dealing with the very lifestyle of the Eskimos.

# Memoirs of Chief Red Fox — Hoax?

In March 15 edition of the Tundra Times, we published a book review of "The Memoirs of Chief Red Fox" for that book's 95 cent paperback edition. Since then, we have found that some of the contents of the book were apparently lifted word for word from "The Wounded Knee Massacre," a book written by James H. McGregor and published in 1940.

Since then, too, McGraw Hill Inc., the publishers of the Red Fox memoirs, have stated that

## Retired Folks

State Senator Joe Josephson told a meeting in Juneau of the Governor's Advisory Committee on the Aging that it is the retired person who bears the brunt of retirement policies.

"We live in an economy which mandatorily retires everyone at age 65 and makes all the opportunities readily available for younger persons," the Senator said.

To counteract this inequity, Josephson said that the public costs of mandatory retirement should be spread more evenly. He suggested that programs such as the supplemental income for the elderly, now before the Legislature, and the federal Medicaid program would help accomplish this.

Speaking before the 14 member committee, the minority leader observed that approval of these programs would not result in additional state expenditures, rather an influx of unused federal funds.

Josephson noted that qualifications for persons applying for medical assistance under Medicaid would be expanded considerably so that even those on moderate incomes may qualify when illness occurs.

Another aspect concerns persons residing in nursing homes who are not eligible for Medicare assistance which Josephson said may become eligible under the Medicaid plan.

The Democrat said that he believed that a correlation exists between family disruption and the absence of an older generation in Alaska.

"The lack of family relationships stretching from grandparents to grandchildren has placed a very heavy strain on the family structure as we know it in Alaska," he explained, "and that has often resulted in divorce."

"It's not at all surprising to me that this state has one of the nation's highest divorce rates as well as the lowest proportions of older persons," he said.

## Offers Reward

Bob Groseclose, brother of missing nurse Peggy Groseclose, today posted a \$2000 reward to any person who provides information which leads to the recovery of his lost sister.

Miss Groseclose left Fairbanks February 11th with Dr. Tom E. Carter in a four-passenger Belanca 300 aircraft, turquois and creme in color, bound for Whitehorse, Canada.

Their aircraft was last reported over Burwash Landing on the Klwane Lake.

Search efforts for the couple were suspended February 25 following a two week intensive search of the area by a Canadian Search and Rescue team.

Carter who is known to have made the flight on several past occasions had filed a highway flight plan. Miss Groseclose and Dr. Carter are both from Fairbanks, employed at the Tanana Valley Clinic.



CHIEF RED FOX — Red Fox is shown in full regalia on the cover of the book.

they were considering to drop the book and have asked the paperback publishers to do the same.

Director Charles Trimble of the American Indian Press Association (AIPA) conducted a research on the Oglala Sioux Reservation, from which Chief Red Fox said he came, and found that there was no such person. Trimble also furnished The New York Times an eight-page document on his findings.

AIPA stated: "The central issue: the ethics of lifting valid material — and the creation of invalid 'facts' — from Indian cultures for the profit of non-Indians at the expense of historical truth."

We wish to alert our readers that "The Memoirs of Chief Red Fox" is not a book its authors said it is and our readers should refrain from buying the book.

## LETTERS FROM HERE AND THERE

### Stop Airplane Wolf Hunting

Hughes, Alaska 99745  
March 19, 1972

Mr. Robert A. Hinman  
Regional Supervisor  
Division of Game  
Alaska Department of  
Fish & Game  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Hinman:

We the People of Hughes sincerely ask that your department stop all airplane wolf hunting in this area. There are only a few wolves in this area, and we need them for furs. We know that one or two airplanes could clean out most of our wolves in a few days making it very hard for us to find any.

We have heard that it is unlawful to hunt wolves by airplane within twenty-five miles of a native village, but an airplane hunter killed ten wolves only eight miles from Allakaket this winter. Only the skinned bodies of these wolves were found next to airplane ski tracks. How can you stop this from happening if you allow men to kill from airplanes? If you can't protect us from these men then you must stop them from killing our game.

Yesterday one of our village men was hunting by sno-go six miles north of Hughes when he saw a small red and white airplane flying back and forth over the flat very low to the ground. There was a fresh wolf track on the flat and this airplane seemed to be following it. Our men must hunt for hours along the ground. What good does it do them when all they find is the skinned body of game?

Our people must hunt to live. We know that if you kill too many animals then there won't be any for anyone next year. If these men kill whole packs how can there be any next year? We have jobs only for a short time each year. We have to hunt to make a living. The men that are killing our animals don't need the money, but they are taking so much that there is little or nothing for us.

We are sending copies of this letter to other people. We want them to know that we like to have visitors come to our village, BUT we will not welcome airplane wolf hunters in Hughes.

Sincerely yours,

Hughes Village Council

cc: Alaska Fed. of Natives  
Tanana Chiefs Conference  
Gov. Wm. Egan

State Div. of Aviation  
Rep. N. Begich  
Sen. J. Stevens  
Sen. M. Gravel  
State Rep. Red Swanson  
State Sen. Terry Miller  
State Sen. J. Butrovich  
State Sen. Lowell Thomas, Jr.  
U.S. Rep. John Dingell  
Tundra Times  
Fairbanks Daily News Miner  
John Sackett  
Koyukuk River villages  
And many others

P.S. Just as we wrote this letter two small airplanes flew low over our village. They looked like they were searching for animals. What chance do the animals or do we have against this way of hunting?

### Hunting Is a Way of Life

Savoonga Native Store  
Savoonga, Alaska 99769  
March 9, 1972

Senator Ernest Hollings  
Room 432  
Old Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20010

Dear Honorable Hollings:

The Bill prohibiting the harvesting of sea mammals for trade should not have been passed without any investigation of how this bill would affect certain areas which are mostly depended on these animals for income sources. We the people on St. Lawrence Island supply thousands of other people on the main land of Alaska who are self dependent as we are with ivory, skins, and other sea mammal resources. The passing of such a Bill have done away with some of the most authentic American arts and crafts, a tradition which we are extremely depended upon for ages. There is no such thing as an overnight success in connection with the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act for us. We as the citizens of the United States are also concerned about earning a way of living. Hunting is our number one source of income presently and we sometimes do not want to beg. Perhaps our ancestors passed a similar Bill, prohibiting ivory, skins and other resources for trading. . . the reason why we did not have any money for thousands of years.

Sincerely yours,

PAUL ROOKOK  
Manager