

"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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A Book Review— The Alaska Pipeline And Native Claims

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Two men reviewed this book (THE ALASKA PIPELINE: The Politics of Oil and Native Claims) and since they are quite close to the family of the Tundra Times, we are offering a second review, this time by our regular book reviewer Wallace M. Olson. The other review was written by our former writer Jeff Richardson. Jeff did a good job in his review and we are also thinking that Wally has also done a good one in writing the following review. This procedure might be a little unusual but the thought-provoking reviews (two on one book) might also provoke further thinking about the Alaska situations, so along with Jeff's review and this one of Wally's, the thought-provoking offerings should do no one wrong.)

THE ALASKA PIPELINE: The Politics of Oil and Native Land Claims. by Mary Clay Berry, Indiana University Press, Bloomington. 1975 Price: \$10.95 (in Juneau)

One doesn't realize that he or she is growing old until the events they lived through are written as history. For those who lived through the hectic days of the 1960's and early 1970's, this book will bring back a lot of memories. For those who are new to Alaska, it's necessary reading for a background to what is happening today. When the battle lines were drawn over the oil leases, access roads, Native Land Claims and State land selection, emotions often ran high. Newcomers, in reading this fine account, will encounter names like Richard Frank, Cliff Burgin, Charlie Edwardson, Andrew Isaac — men who helped shape the decisions that were made.

Mary Clay Berry is a professional writer in the best sense of the term. She has done her homework. Dates, names, places and events are generally very accurate in her book. The text is not only extremely informative, but reads very well. The book is laced with adjectives and descriptions which may upset a few people; but on the other hand, it makes for exciting reading. Its true that other writers might interpret the events differently, but at least in one book we now have a consistent and objective approach to what was going on.

The standard history texts of Alaska do not touch on this most important era in our State's history — it's just too new. Recent, popular writings often only give one aspect of this period. Mary Berry's book is much more comprehensive than others. Finally, readers of the Tundra Times will get a glimpse of the important part played by the Tundra Times and its editor, Howard Rock. Without the influence of this publication, perhaps things would have been much different.

Dramatic changes are still going on. The Tundra Times is still in the forefront of action. In a few years there will be a need for another book to supplement this one. But, for the time being, in this writer's view — "The Alaska Pipeline" is the book that many of us have been waiting for. Thanks Mary!

Wallace M. Olson
Juneau-Douglas Community College

Malpractice Insurance

The problems faced by physicians across the country in obtaining adequate malpractice insurance has spawned new confidence schemes designed to prey on the unwary.

Director of the State Division of Banking, Securities, Small Loans and Corporations, Miles S. Schlosberg, recently warned that Alaska has not escaped these attempts to capitalize on a difficult situation.

A plan has been offered to physicians in Alaska promising legal defense and payments of

judgments in malpractice suits.

Known as the Physicians Defense Plan, the company is headquartered in Van Nuys, Calif. This plan requires a substantial investment by Alaskan physicians with only the company's assurance that it will be able to meet its promised obligations.

The plan is not offered by an insurance company registered in Alaska, nor has the offering been registered with the state's Division of Banking and

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Letters from Here and There

Book Reviewer Displeased with The "Raven"

August 28, 1975

Alaska Northwest Publishing Co.
Box 4-EEE
Anchorage, Alaska 99509

Dear Sirs:

I received a notice of your publication by Dale DeArmond entitled "Raven". Two things bothered me: 1) your cover letter saying "one with a finely tuned ear for the language of the tribal houses of the Tlingits." and 2) a copy of the translated text on the color brochure beginning "One time Raven go traveling and he come to a place. . . ."

Having studied under Dr. Erna Gunther, I wonder if she honestly had a chance to read the text as it is supposedly written before she wrote the foreword? The example of the text is in many ways, an insult both to the Tlingit language and the People. It is poorly done — if the sample is representative of the entire text — in that it portrays the language as being inadequate, grammatically limited in its English translation.

As a regular reviewer of texts and publications on Native Peoples of Alaska, I would like a copy of the text that will accompany the drawings. Knowing the beautiful artistic work of Ms. DeArmond, I look forward to the prints. I am not as optimistic towards the text. Before I review the book, I will of course consult with Tlingits trained in linguistics, linguists and others to get their views. If you could provide me with an early copy of the text, I would appreciate it.

Thank you very much.
Sincerely,
Wallace M. Olson

cc: Howard Rock, Tundra Times
Michael Krauss, University of Alaska
Dr. Erna Gunther, Seattle, Wash.

Writer Learns Big at Minto Potlatch

August 29, 1975
4706 Harding Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear People of Alaska,

I'm writing this letter with happiness — to tell you a rewarding experience I had in Minto. A potlatch was held starting on the tenth of August, this potlatch was in honor of 4 people who had died within this year. It was held in the Community Hall, there they served breakfast, lunch, dinner and Midnight snack. This was amazing! The potlatch was held to the 17th.

There I heard and felt the elders of the community and surrounding communities, yearn for joy and for us to respect our many traditions. Alaska is so rich in varied cultural backgrounds and languages. In the old days, our people treated their land and traditions as they would to their own body and mind. The native born-Eskimo, Aleut, Athapaskan, Tsimpsian, Tlingit and all Indian tribes of America, have felt from their ancestors the feeling of true peace, and joy of life.

I wrote these poems for Minto, and all the people that were

present for the potlatch in the Minto Community Hall. Here they are!!

I ate and danced —
laughed and cried —
Thanking the spirits
for leading me here to Minto.
Minto — where chiefs
spoke — once more —
as their fathers went through.
Its good to know another
tradition —
I'm glad I shared it with you.

A great feast was held —
in the year nineteen and
seventy five.

It was there —
we all became Human beings —
As our elders — who were
once sons and daughters.
Spoke and begged to
the future leaders of Alaska
To have Love and Strength!
Now we are Human beings —
once more!
Our chiefs said . . .
be patient —
have Love —
be thankful —
show Love to the world!
Be greatly Educated,
be proud
and be great Leaders
in this world
of Love and Peace.

We are but a small speck
on this world.
Yet we have problems
that makes us swim
in another world of questions.
We make our problems weigh
so heavily upon us.
Cast them off!!
Let's be joyful, as once our
father's
father taught their generation,
to Show Love and Peace.

Laughter is the best medicine!
Keep smiling, folks!!
— MARY JANE BROWER

Subsistence Fishing On the Yukon

September 2, 1975

Letter to the Editor
Tundra Times

Subsistence fishing on the Yukon and Tanana Rivers will never be the same again. There along the banks lie idle fishwheels and solitary floats where fish nets should be — on the weekends. But last week Native fishermen got another slap in the face from the State of Alaska. The Health Department showed up in Nenana in his white coat and mask, declaring that the Tanana River is contaminated, that selling traditionally smoked or dried salmon is contaminated, and that the people handling the fish are also contaminated.

"So it looks like we'll have to hide our smoke houses," said a Native lady of Nenana. "I'm not so sure I even want to sell my strips to white people. They might get sick and decide to sue me," she added.

The Departments of Health and Fish & Game are decidedly this year's super cops and "aren't messing around" as one fisherman put it. Some Native people think this is happening because of the Alaska Native Claims Act. The State of Alaska seems to condone exploitation of its oil and mineral resources and yet refuses to acknowledge the fact that its Natives are historically the most conservation minded

and self-sufficient people who ever lived on this continent. If the land Claims Act gives Native people title to their own land, and the resources from it, how about the rivers — that run through it? What other regulations might the State of Alaska's Departments introduce which threaten the subsistence ways that the Natives still know? Isn't a Native a Native first and a State citizen second?

Bo Boudart
Fairbanks

Fred Stickman Is Now a River Pilot

Fairbanks, Alaska
September 5, 1975

Tundra Times Editor, Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Friend:

Well Howard, lots of people called me today. I didn't think so today. I got laid off at Delta job, lots of people said I got fired. Maybe so, but somehow, for some reason, things happened to me at Delta, like dreams, and my tools and raincoat, disappear for couple days, and they're at the same place again.

So the superintendent that fired me thought he would hurt me but he was doing me a favor. Now I have a new job on the riverboat going down the river. Vacation with pay, eating fish, ducks, geese, bear, moose, spruce hen, and maybe a porcupine or two. Besides seeing and visiting all my girl friends used to be.

So now I believe I'm the luckiest man around.
Fred Stickman, Sr.

Walking-Talking Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Howard Rock
Editor & Publisher
Tundra Times

Dear Sir:

For some time now — have been reading your Tundra Times. Thanks to an old and dear friend, Captain Donald A. Crosby. He is a native born Alaskan of Irish and Aleut parentage. Cap is a walking talking chamber of commerce for the state of Alaska. Although he has past his three score and ten years of age.

I am the local manager of an oil company. My wife and I wish to move to Alaska on a permanent basis. Don't get the wrong impression now, I am not interested in the pipeline at all. I wish to make Alaska my permanent home. To live out our lives in the land of the midnight sun.

I am an American born of Italian and American Indian parentage. My age is twenty-eight. I am married with no children as yet. Some of my past work record is as follows. I have worked many phases of Construction in Tucson, Ariz. I was also a foreman of a warehouse crew for a department store. I have done some work in lumber mills. There I tailed the edger, pulled green chain, and helped deck logs. The job that I am now working this oil companies management. I handle large sums of money and also work the books.

Do you or possibly one of your

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