

After Long Litigation—

Pollock Seeks Release of Tlingit-Haida Funds

Congressman Howard W. Pollock called for an early consideration of a bill to provide for the disposition of certain funds awarded to the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska by a 1959 judgement.

In a letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Wayne Aspinall, Pollock requested that the chairman schedule hearings as soon as possible on the bill.

"The prompt enactment of

this legislation will contribute greatly to the economic and social life of the Tlingit and Haida communities involved," Pollock wrote.

"For this reason, I am anxious that our Committee consider

H.R. 12858 at an early date."

In 1959 the Court of Claims decided that the Indians should be compensated for lands taken from them in the amount of about \$7½ million.

The area in question involves 16 million acres of the Tongass National Forest; Glacier Bay National Monument, over 2¼ million acres in size; and the Annette

Island Indian Reservation of 86,740 acres, all in southeastern Alaska.

The money from the court settlement has not yet been awarded to the Indians, and H.R. 12858 is designed to release these funds.

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A True Story—

Indian Woman Rescues Man

(Bravery of an Indian woman as told to the author by Billy Carter and Tommy White.)

By ALBERT ENZMANN
Paradise, California

Before 1910 there were two rapids in the Rainy River right in front of Fort Frances. The upper one had a bad whirlpool. Many canoeists lost their lives in it every year. There was, however, a chance to avoid both rapids by taking the canoe channel which, of course, Billy Carter and Tommy White took that

morning many years ago.

They did not notice that another canoe with two men was traveling west down the Rainy River on the Steamboat Channel. Apparently they did not know about the existence of any other channel.

A middle aged Ojibwa Indian woman had her eyes on that fancy canoe going down the Steamboat Channel while she was confidentially smoking her corn-cob pipe.

As soon as the strangers hit that whirlpool their canoe started to spin. The bow man tried to

stop it from spinning and it flipped over and both men were in the water. One man swam with powerful strokes and headed for the shore but the other one was spinning around in that whirlpool.

When the Indian woman saw that, she did not hesitate one minute. She headed with her birch bark canoe toward the whirlpool. She grabbed the whirling man by his long, curly hair with one hand and paddled with the other heading for the shore.

But when that drowning man saw that birch bark canoe, he reached for it. She gave him a sharp crack with the paddle over the head and a strong lecture. He sank down but came up soon again. When he did, the Indian woman got ahold of his hair again. She hung on with one hand and paddled with the other and brought the drowning man ashore.

There the man's friend who swam ashore tried giving artificial respiration while the Indian woman watched.

Apparently she knew something about that, too.

In the meantime, Carter and White went after the stranger's fancy canoe.

The nearly drowned man proved to be Tom Shevlin, Jr., son of Tom Shevlin, Sr., president of the Shevlin, Mather Lumber Co. of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

When young Tom came to, the first thing he said was, "Where is that Indian lady?" She had sneaked off.

After spending a whole week around Fort Frances trying to find that Indian woman, he left a check for \$500.00 with the editor of the Fort Frances Times. According to Carter, she finally got the money, and a Meer-schaum pipe to take the place of the corn cob which she had lost while she was scolding Young Tom Shevlin.

The dam, constructed at the International Falls in 1910 put an end to the two rapids and one whirlpool on the Rainy River.

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Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

When people started hauling the oil and reselling it, I thought I'll do it too. I resold some \$500 worth, loaded them on the barge and that was it.

Now there is one man in jail for all the thefts at Galena since 1945, including myself.

Next thing I have to do is go to Galena and build a house out of scrap lumber from the United States Air Force Base. I'm too old and lazy to cut logs.

In 1962, I got arrested at Galena for a \$50 I didn't pay at Palmer. The magistrate told me to pay her when I went to work. I told her I was broke. At Galena the State Trooper came up to me. "Your name Fred Stickman?" he said.

I said yes. "I have a bench warrant for you," he said. "If you have \$50, I don't have to arrest you."

I had the money but I didn't intend to pay it as I didn't do anything wrong. I just scared the heck out of the Highway Patrolmen 4 o'clock in the morning 12 miles from Palmer.

In Galena, he had the preacher for my guard in their house. About 9 o'clock that night they started to preach to me. They don't know what I was in for, same way all the people. You know what I said to them?

"I'm going through hell here on earth, so when I die I'm going straight to heaven. I'm here for nothing."

Next day the Trooper took me to the hangar for the Air Force Police to guard me. Although I knew where the latrine was, I asked the sergeant. He started to follow me, just like a criminal. After we came out I

said:

"Sarge, since when you started guarding civilians?"

He said, "I'm not your guard." "What you're following me for?"

When the Trooper came back, I said to him, "You came down here to arrest 2 people, one for rape and one for breaking in the liquor store, and you haven't arrested them yet. How come you arrested me yesterday?" Right there he went down and arrested them. I was the guard now.

After working 11 years off and on for Air Force and NCC Club, members, everytime I work someone have to sign me in the Club to have a can of beer.

So no matter what and where I'm at, I can't win. The only time I can win is when I die. I hope I go to heaven.

—Fred Stickman, Sr.

Anchorage Native
Welcome Center, Inc.
236 5th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
January 13, 1970

Mr. Howard Rock
Editor
Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock:

The Board of Directors, the staff and users of the Anchorage Native Welcome Center wish to thank the Tundra Times and the Alaska Federation of Natives for making a supply of complimentary copies of the special land claims issue available to the Center; and to commend you on the scope of coverage. It should prove to be money, time and energy very well spent from the standpoint of informing people of the history and basis of the claims.

The Tundra Times continues to more than justify its existence by investigating and publicizing issues and events affecting the Natives of Alaska.

Sincerely,
ANCHORAGE NATIVE
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Acting Executive Director

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