

Fred Stickman, Sr.

Several Alaskan newspapers, including the Tundra Times, have lost a good friend and a true man of letters with the passing of Fred Stickman, Sr. of Nulato. In 17 years, Fred Stickman wrote over 100 letters to the editor of the Tundra Times, and many more letters to the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner and the All-Alaska Weekly.

Each letter was eagerly accepted and published by the editors. Fred wrote about any issue in his life, and anything which came into his mind, and he wrote about anything – period. He wrote about government and game laws, death and taxes, politics and prostitutes, problems of the villages and the elderly in particular, jobs and education, land claims and land claims money, alcohol, life in the country, his upbringing and family history, and about many more issues.

Editors, including his good friend Howard Rock, loved him. Readers loved him even more. All begged him to keep writing, and he wrote and wrote – and wrote some more. Fred's letters were often serious and thought-provoking, yet always entertaining. They were short and simple, to the point, and each one a work of art. They were full of independence and individuality. He was very proud of being an Athabascan Indian from Nulato on the Yukon River; and rightfully so; and his readers understood this very well.

More than anything else, Fred was the uncommon voice of the common man on the editorial pages of Alaskan newspapers. The Tundra Times, and the village people Fred spoke for, will miss Fred Stickman, Sr. very much.