

"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—

Inaction and the Hungry Claws

The shabby treatment given Alaska Eskimos and Indians by the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management and the State of Alaska's Division of Lands is typified in the case of the Village of Tanacross. For decades the Tanacross natives have been filing all kinds of petitions and claims and assertions and yet the land they claim is slowly but surely being appropriated by others.

The government agencies are very quick to act to procure lands for oil companies or private non-native interests but their inaction on behalf of the native is notorious.

The Village of Tanacross, for instance, on November 30, 1950 filed a petition with the Bureau of Indian Affairs claiming the land around it and asking for a hearing by the Secretary of Interior that the land be reserved and set aside. The BIA, an agency charged with helping the native in the protection of his rights, then proceeded to "sit" on the petition in Juneau for eleven years. It was not until November of 1961 that the BIA filed the claim with the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks.

During this decade there was absolutely nothing placed on the BLM status records to show that the Tanacross claim had been made.

Shortly after the claim was filed the BLM Land Office in Fairbanks dismissed the claim saying there was no existing law on the books under which the claim could be recorded. Tanacross immediately appealed the case to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C. where the claim has "sat" ever since.

In the meantime, in 1963, during the long period of indecision, the BLM gave tentative approval to state selections around the village of Tanacross and within the area claimed. And the state has begun to dispose of its tentatively approved selected areas.

Secretary of Interior Walter J. Hickel has recently written Chief Andrew Isaac of Tanacross that the BLM is not aware that any native has claimed the land in question although there are numerous documents on file with the BLM in Fairbanks to that effect and there should be an appeal in the BLM Washington office in a pigeon hole gathering dust since 1962.

The former Director of the State Division of Lands Roscoe Bell at an Alaska Science Conference after statehood guffawed the charge that two sections of the Statehood Act were contradictory and would bring problems to the state. One section gave the state the right to select 102,550,000 acres within 25 years from vacant, unappropriated and unreserved land at the time of the selection. The other section reiterated that all lands held and occupied by Indians would be held by the U.S. and not disposed of under the act. It appears to us that there has been compliance to the first section, a noticeable noncompliance to the second section.

Letters to the Editor

Paradise, California
June 27, 1969

Dear Editor:

I do surely feel indebted to you for putting me wise to that book titled, "MEN OF THE TUNDRA." It has cost me only \$6.95 and I could hardly afford to pay more for it, but it is actually worth 10 times that much. I am especially happy because it proves what I had always thought about the Eskimos.

It is certainly a good thing that Col. Marston insisted on the story being written the same as he had it, as otherwise it could have lost much of its value. Any person able to think will pay more attention to what is written than how it is written.

That book should be in every library in this country and in Canada and history teachers should include it in their textbooks.

Men like Muktuk Marston are badly needed all over the world, especially in high and key positions. I think he fought so hard for the Eskimos getting a square deal because he knew that no one else would stick his neck out to overcome all the obstacles that would have to be overcome.

Best wishes,
/s/ Albert Enzmann

Director of State Schools Takes Issue with Sen. Bob Blodgett

The Honorable Dorcas Rock
Point Hope Advisory School Board
Point Hope, Alaska 99766

Dear Mr. Rock:

A copy of a letter sent to you by Senator Blodgett has come to my attention. In his communications he compares schools operated by the State of Alaska and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I would like to take this opportunity to point out some misinformation he has concerning the State-Operated Schools. I appreciate the Senator's concern for rural schools and the support he has given them in the past. Unfortunately, the Senator made a number of statements that need to be clarified.

At the present time, the State operates 101 rural schools while the BIA operates approximately 74. In 1963 the BIA and the State of Alaska agreed to a plan in which the State would eventually take over all BIA schools in Alaska. Each year since, several schools have been acquired from the Bureau based on mutual consent of the Village Council, Bureau, and State.

The State has no intention of offering an educational program which is inferior to the Bureau's. On the contrary, the Division of State-Operated Schools, Department of Education, is making every effort to provide a program more closely articulated with other public schools in the State and oriented to the needs of pupils.

The money to operate Bureau-State transfer schools is appropriated by State Legislature. One of the main sources of the State funds comes from the Federal Government under Public Law 874 (Federal Impact Law). Additional funding under the Johnson-O'Malley Act, allows the State money to improve programs for Native students. An important source of money which is used extensively to improve and expand educational programs in Rural Schools is the State's Title I allocations made available under the Elementary-Secondary Education Act of 1965.

All State-Operated teachers must meet certification requirements set forth by the State. Bureau teachers are not required to meet these standards. Rural teachers have an adequate salary schedule comparable to those employed by the Bureau.

The current Professional Worker Schedule, State-Operated Schools allows more teachers in relation to the number of pupils than does the BIA. For example, a school is eligible for two teachers when the enrollment reaches 25 students, three teachers at 45, four at 60, five at 75, and six at 90, and then one additional teacher for every 20 students thereafter. At the present time, teacher aides are being trained to work in some of the State-Operated Schools and eventually there will be at least one in all schools.

State schools provide their students with free books, art materials, paper and pencil supplies, etc. on a basis equal or surpassing any other schools in the State. Several of the State-Operated Schools' facilities were originally built by the Bureau and have been kept in top shape.

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How else can one explain that the Interior Department has been sitting on the Tanacross appeal for nine years while the state filches the land the village claims? How else can one explain why the Interior Department will only employ one BIA realty officer to assist half the native population of Alaska with their land claims? How else can you explain that about 52 native villages making land claims in the late 40's and early 50's were promised hearings but never received them and their land claims were never recorded but instead given the "deep six?"

Is there little wonder that the native people are confused, bewildered and disgusted? Even with petitions and blanket land claims, native rights assertions, freezes and a super-freeze, and with land claims settlement bills pending in Congress, the state moves its hungry claws in close to snatch away Tanacross land.

Diagnosis 1st: Drugs Can Cure And Prevent TB

Today it is no fun to have TB. But it need not be tragic.

Drugs can cure—even prevent—TB. But first the disease must be diagnosed. Unless it is discovered and treated, TB takes a terrible toll.

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Taking a tuberculin skin test is the first step to avoid the terrible toll. The results of the test tell you if there are TB germs in your body. And your physician can give you the results in two or three days.

If your reaction to the test is positive, you must take other tests to determine if you only have been infected or have active TB. If the tuberculin and other tests show that you only have a tuberculous infection, taking pills will prevent active disease from developing.

If the tests show you have active disease already, your doctor will prescribe pills to cure it.

Having TB need not be tragic today. But it sometimes is. Last year, nearly 6,500 people died from TB.

Having a tuberculin skin test with your yearly medical check-up makes a lot of sense. For further information contact Alaska TB Association, 406 G Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99502.

Kivalina, Togiak Incorporate

JUNEAU—Two new cities were added to Alaska's roster on June 10 when a majority of voters of the villages of Togiak and Kivalina cast their ballots in favor of incorporation.

Togiak voted 47 in favor of becoming a fourth class city with 13 against. The newly elected city councilmen are Albert Baviola, Sr., Robert T. Blue, Benjamin Coopchiak, David Kasak and Anuska Ann Togiak.

Kivalina cast an almost unanimous ballot favoring incorporation, the tally being 49 in favor and one against. On the question of a two per cent sales tax, the voters okayed the proposition by 41 yes votes, against 8 no votes.

Elected to serve on the city council were: Enoch A. Adams, Sr., Raymond Hawley, Clarence Kennedy, Jerry Norton and Joseph T. Swan.

The certificates of incorporation were signed by Robert W. Ward, Secretary of State.

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