

"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 Comment—

Congressional Contender—A Native

There is something uniquely new in the political arena of Alaska's Native people. We have a Native person who had struggled to the position of a congressional contender in the person of State Senator William L. Hensley of Kotzebue who squeaked by his opponent John Have-lock, former State Attorney General, for nomination in the recent primary election to oppose the incumbent Congressman Donald Young of Fort Yukon.

Willie Hensley has a formidable job ahead of him, and if he is to be successful in his bid for a first Alaskan Native ever to be elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, he's got to have a lot of help to get him there. That means Willie himself will have to tap his political bag of strategy to help to steer him toward the winning peak and tap it down to the limit. Outside of his immediate political organization for election, he will need every friend to help him whether that friend is a non-Native or he is Native.

We would like to dwell a bit on the Native side of things that could do a great deal to help. There are, of course, many well known Native leaders scattered throughout Alaska, all very well qualified to enlist their talents to help Willie get a seat in the U. S. House Representatives. These men and women have a collective power to align our Native public toward the polls so that every available Native voter can cast his ballot for the first Native congressman from our state.

Willie Hensley has gotten to be a politician of noteworthy capabilities. He has had several years of experience in both the State House of Representatives and the State Senate. He has done well in both houses working always with appropriate procedures. He has had special training to do his legislature work. He has capacity for fairness and for the general good of the state.

Another noteworthy quality Willie has is his thorough knowledge of Native land matters and land matters in general. These will need constant surveillance both here and in Congress. This knowledge would make him a prime candidate for a seat in the Committee on Interior and In-sular Affairs in the U. S. House of Representatives. He would be a very valuable member of the committee both for Alaska in general and for the Natives.

And there we have it — a job to do and which must be done with as much effort that can be made available. Which means, those of us who have some means of assisting Willie Hensley must begin to work now toward his election to Congress which would not only be a feather in our hats, but a significant milestone that would designate our Native people and their friends that we have made a serious effort to elect our first Native congressman from the State of Alaska. This is a worthy goal — an historic one that would be remembered far into the future.

The time is now to work together and get the great-est number of Native voters to the polls than ever before and cast our ballots for Senator Willie Hensley as our first Native congressman in the U. S. House of Representatives.

Letters from Here and There

Three Children Left Out In Obituary

3318 Hunter Blvd., South Seattle, Wash. 98144
Sept. 1, 1974

Tundra Times Inc.
510 2nd Ave.
Room 220
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you in re-gards to my aunt, Minnie Brady, who died recently. I was just in-formed of her death through one of my mother's best friends, Rose Logan. When Minnie Brady's obituary was published they left out three children, two boys Warren and Larry Alford and a girl or I should say daugh-ter, Jean Alford McCreary. Jean McCreary was shot, someone had tried to kill her in 1966, and this left her helpless ever since then. Her mind comes and goes as there was brain dam-age. At times she knows people then again her mind will go blank. She is aware of her condi-tion, and feels badly that none of the relatives try to visit her. She is in the Carriage House, a nursing home in Anchorage, Alaska.

For some reason they denied Jean McCreary's claim to the Alaskan Land Claims. Jean McCreary and her daughter, Mrs. Roger E. Kersh of 3265 McFad-den St., Napa, Calif. 94558; both are legally eligible for en-rollment in the Land Claims Act. I was not aware of my cousin Jean, nor her daughter.

Because of my poem, "I am Aliya, an Eskimo" printed in the Doyon, Limited newsletter, people have contacted me and asked me to help both Jean McCreary and her daughter. I am tempo-rarily living in Seattle, trying to relocate in Alaska, the place of my birth and feel helpless. I wonder if you can as a publisher help these two relatives of mine. Peo-ple down here who know my family feel terrible about all of this, the fact that the three chil-dren of Minnie Brady were not mentioned in the paper, that they were denied their rights be-cause there was no one to care about them.

Hoping you can help them, will answer my letter, I will close thanking you for whatever you can do.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Alice Corpuz

Reader Donates \$10 for Nulato Radio Phone

Dear Friends at Nulato:

I have read Fred Stickman, Sr.'s letter in the Tundra Times and I feel as a lot of you people, that read this feel, helpless, at times and I want to help Mr. Stickman by donating \$10.00 hoping that this seed will grow big enough to make a purchase of a radio telephone for the vil-lage of Nulato.

Sincerely,
Victor Peterson
P.O. Box 9, a Native of Old Harbor, Alaska 99643.

On Big Game Trophy Hunters

701 So. Klevin St. Sp 21-A
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
Aug. 30, 1974

Hon. John C. Sackett
Galena, Alaska

Dear John:

Although I have not met you personally, and having read about your activities as a legisla-tor in Juneau, I feel as though I have known you. On the outset, I read with interest an account in Tundra Times (Aug. 28th) of your efforts relative to big game trophy hunting as well as the edi-torial on the same issue.

To us who have rubbed shoul-ders with big game hunters this is an old story — that of bringing home the trophies but never mind the meat which is essential to our Native way of life. This will give light to termination of polar bear hunting with airplanes (and pilot-guides) and replaced with dog teams and Native guides.

After all, meat of all game is more important to us than tro-phies if we are to retain our Na-tive culture. True, all Natives are pretty well adapted to grocery buying from stores, but how many of us can afford to pur-chase beef and such at the price retailers ask for?

Then again, trophy hunters as a general rule, loathe to eat

bear meat, whereas to us Natives any kind of bear meat is next to delicacy.

Leaving sheep meat to rot in the tundra and bringing home only the horns is the last straw. Who can say sheep meat is not one of the most palatable to any person be he white or Native?

This may be one way of say-ing that we are not against tro-phy hunters if they will only bring back with them the meat for those who can utilize it for subsistence. It is only logical to consider hunting game for sub-sistence and hunting for trophies only double the killing of our game reserve.

People provided with meat will not be in a hurry in going out to acquire similar foodstuff which they already have.

You are to be commended for your efforts and I know our people in Alaska appreciate what you are doing for us.

Remember we are behind you — and this is saying a mouthful considering what our ancestors (Continued on Page 10)

Your Dental Health

The contents of this series of "Dental Health Talks" was originally prepared by the American Dental Association. They are made available for Tundra Times through the Public Health Education Office of the Alaska Native Health Service.

It is well known that our dental health program in Interior Alaska has not yet reached everyone needing dental services. This is especially true about the people in the rural communities. However, everyone understands how important it is to take care of our teeth which is a part of our total well-being.

No. 21 — Preventing and Treat-ing Oral Cancer

* * *

Women are catching up with men in one respect that won't arouse much celebration among the feminists.

Researchers have learned that as women smoke more they also are getting more cancer of the mouth. The cigarette habits of women are blamed for the sud-den and alarming increase of mouth cancer among women.

Within the past few years, dentists across the country have saved the lives of many people. They did this by detecting can-cer in the mouths of their pa-tients, men and women early enough so that the cancers could be successfully treated.

The American Dental Associa-tion has asked all dentists to maintain a constant vigil for oral cancers, and they are in a unique position to spot them early.

At one time or other your dentist may have mentioned a suspicious looking area develop-ing inside your mouth. Investiga-tion of these areas is routine, and usually they amount to nothing more serious than an irritated patch of tissue.

But to be sure, he can take a sample of the suspicious tissue called a biopsy and send it to a pathologist for microscopic ex-amination. Most of these speci-mens turn out to be normal.

More than 8,000 Americans die annually from oral cancers. Most could have been saved if they had heeded the early signs of this disease. About 15,000 new cases are diagnosed each year.

The use of tobacco in any form appears to be a major cause of oral cancer. Smokers have a 400 per cent higher risk of dying from oral cancers than nonsmok-

ers.

The most frequent sites of oral malignancies are the lips (27 per cent) and the tongue (22 per cent). Other common sites are the inside of the cheeks, salivary glands, palate, gum tis-sues and under the tongue on the floor of the mouth.

One of the earliest signs of oral cancer can be a white or yellow-white patch that feels leathery to the touch. Dentists call this leukoplakia, and it usu-ally means that something is irritating the tissue. It could be such factors as the use of tobacco or ill-fitting dentures.

Other signs include any lump in the soft tissue of the mouth, sores that don't heal, difficulty in swallowing, red spots and hoarseness.

These are the signs a patient, himself, can see and should be aware of and be suspicious of between dental examinations.

If the pathology examination of the biopsy oral tissue shows that it is not cancerous but that it might become so, then the cause of the irritation must be immediately eliminated. You will need the assistance of the dentist in determining what the cause might be. If it is an ill-fitting denture, it should be corrected. If it is due to smoking, the habit should be stopped.

A word to the wise has proved not to be sufficient enough when it comes to the relationship be-tween smoking and oral cancer. The diagnosis of 15,000 new cases of oral cancer in the nation each year, about half of which are fatal, testifies to widespread disregard for prevention of this serious disease.

* * *

(Next article: It Begins Before Birth)