

# AAIA Commended for Land Claims Work

January 6, 1972

Dear Editor,

I'd like to utilize this paper to publicly acknowledge a debt of gratitude to the Association of American Indian Affairs. I know most Alaska Natives have never heard of this organization & so cannot realize all the effort expended by its able director, William Byler in the resolution of the Land Claim issue. I know of no one person who put more of himself into this effort than Mr. Byler and I know of no organization who donated more money, time and talents toward this end.

Special appreciation to the memory of Mrs. LaVerne Madigan must also be realized. It was under her direction that the AAIA first became involved with assisting the Tanana Chiefs in the Land effort—and we have Mrs. Kay Hitchcock, of Anchorage, to thank for that introduction. Many of us were fortunate in meeting both beautiful women at the first Chiefs conference in Tanana in '62 and I'm sure many Eskimo people remember Mrs. Madigan's presence at the Inupiat Paitot meeting around that time.

To be remembered of course is Dr. and Mrs. Henry Forbes who financially backed the Tundra Times so the Alaska Native would have a "pen mightier than the sword."

So to all these people and many more associated with the AAIA I say with tears in my eyes "cause I guess my heart is overflowing, thank you, thank you, thank you.

I feel without their prompt and unstinting assistance perhaps there never would have been a "Land Claim Movement" and I know their help made the battle a lot shorter, a lot easier, and a lot less casualties.

Most sincerely,  
/s/ DeLois Ketzler



(EDITOR'S NOTE: DeLois Ketzler should be commended for her timely letter of appreciation on the great effort the Association on American Indian Affairs in helping to bring about the settlement of the Alaska Native land claims. The work was done under the untiring effort and leadership of William Byler, the executive director of the organization. AAIA is an organization dedicated to assist native Americans, Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos. AAIA has done a tremendous amount of assistance to all of America's Natives. DeLois Ketzler needs to be warmly commended for her timely acknowledgement of AAIA's unselfish and dedicated work on behalf of America's Natives. Well done, Bill Byler.)

## LETTERS FROM HERE AND THERE

Hughes, Alaska 99745  
January 16, 1972

Tundra Times  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Gentlemen:

The Hughes School has begun a new program which might be of interest to you. After meeting with villagers and discussing the newly passed Native Claims Settlement, it was found that a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding existed over this law. With the full support of the community council, a special Native Claims class was initiated.

Each day from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. adults and upper grade students hold intensive studies on provisions and implications of this new law. Section by section the bill is studied and discussed. We have made up charts, graphs, maps, and other displays to clarify the various sections. Students and adults work out problems concerning land allotments, distribution of cash settlements, dividends from regional and village corporations, etc. Skits are used to dramatize various parts of the settlement. We're now setting up make-believe corporations and investigating ways to profitably invest or use incomes.

Thus far both the students and adults have been very enthusiastic about the class, and we usually have a full house. People have seen the importance of

understanding and using this new law and can see exciting possibilities in the future. At the urging of the adults a special evening class is held for those who want to study particular segments of the law.

My wife and I have taught and lived in native villages for twelve years, and we are excited and happy that native people have gained control of their destiny. Our experience has instilled us with the faith that the native groups as a whole will use this and other sources to enrich their lives and provide a secure future for their children.

Sincerely,  
/s/ G. Ray Bane

Fairbanks  
January 25, 1972

Dear Mr. Rock:

You and your readers are cordially invited to attend and participate in an Air Pollution seminar at 8:00 p.m., February 2nd, 1972, in the Exhibit Hall of the Civic Center at Alaskaland.

God, in His infinite wisdom, created every little thing for some purpose. Even the snowflake cleanses the atmosphere as it leisurely floats to earth. . . Let's do our part!

Sincerely,  
/s/ Phil Nicpon