

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire



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Galena: A Mess-Galena Tires of 'Dream City on the Yukon'

Galena, Alaska
July 10, 1971

Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Sir:

Galena is in a mess brought on by red tape and deceiving of the people of Galena by the state and other government agencies.

Before we ever had a flood this past spring ASHA (Alaska State Housing Authority) came here taking a survey to put 22 homes here in the Galena area, but not in the present village site. Alexander Lake area was the ASHA chosen site to build the 22 houses. At that time, the people of Galena did not want to move.

After the flood, most all of the people decided to move to the lake area, which is about one mile above the present village site, looked good. As soon as the people decided on the move, picked out their lots to build and move on in the Alexander Lake site, ASHA found other reasons not to build there. All our and your so called helpful government agencies decided that the Campion hill area, which is about ten miles above Galena, was the ideal spot to build this dream town.

Campion hill is a real hot spot, boat dock and all other luxuries the average Indian dreams of. By the time we have six or more meetings and these so called helpful agencies are able to pound the picture of this false "dream city on the Yukon" into the heads of us "dumb Indians" and we decide to move again, just like moving to Alexander Lake, our happy false promising agencies will have found good solid reason why Campion hill is not suitable to build on. Then Mueller Mt., fifteen miles from Galena, will be the next dream spot.

All we have gotten from the housing agencies are a few sketches of poor grade house, false promises, and dream towns.

The U.S. Air Force has done an outstanding job in helping the people during and after the flood. A lot of credit is given by the people of Galena to the Air Force for an outstanding job in caring for its American citizens. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts. We also want to give our appreciation and thanks to the Red Cross for a job well done.

I am sure we all know now we were made damned fools of by some of our big housing and moving agencies. The Indian, once again, becomes the mockery of the human race.

These same people could have been told at one of the first of many meetings that they were not going to get anything. The dream town presenters should have left the people alone.

If the agencies did not make false promises, many of our people would have had their homes half built by now with logs. Logs are very easy to get during high water in the spring. To get logs now is very hard, if not impossible, unless you have power to get the logs out. Also it is now late in the season.

So looks like our people who are homeless can give thanks to our betraying agencies who don't care to help. The agencies who have put them in a situation where if they chose to stay here at the present site will have a very cold, unheated, unsanitary, and miserable winter. Here again, thanks for making damned ignorant fools of us.

For all the time spent waiting, traveling, and having meeting after meetings, these agencies could have put rip rap with steel piling along the bank of Galena or raise the ground level above high water level right here at the present site. Galena has gravel right at its front yard. The hauling distance is very short and gravel cost would be low compared to any other area.

Why does the government and other agencies want the people to move away from their economy in the first place? You move the people away from the economy, you put them on welfare and food stamps. Isn't the taxpayer already overburdened, why invite more tax?

You read everyday of low standard living conditions in other countries all over the world. Looks like somebody is helping create some right here in your last frontier, Galena, Alaska.

The word "environment" has been used to no end this past year. Used to abuse Alaska both economically and progressively. Looks like there's a very good environment program going right

And What Is That Delicious Meat?—

Nice to See an Old Friend

By GUY OKAKOK
Barrow Correspondent
BARROW—It's nice to see Mr. Frank Degnan from Unalakleet, Alaska again. Frank was one of the delegates in 1958 when 23 or more people from different villages came in to Barrow to place a native conference, all sponsored by the Association on American Indian Affairs of New York.

These men who worked so hard, men who made a fine decision over on their own village problem. Men who are well educated.

We are also thanked the Association on American Indian Affairs in New York, who earnestly shows the big help to all Alaskans.

MYSTERIOUS JUICY MEAT
Groups from Anchorage, about 75 people, who came in on 4th of July to Barrow said

they have eaten what they have not eat before, so juicy and delicious, they wish they could stay another day so they could eat more of that juicy meat what Brower's Cafe has for dinner.

Why not visit Barrow and find out for yourself about this juicy meat what Brower's Cafe cooks, cook for the customers.

GREAT OOGRUK HUNTER
One man here in Barrow is top on oogruks again. His name is Thomas Napageak who recently caught 14 oogruks up to-day. Now he is employed by the construction near Prudhoe Bay.

CLEANING BARROW
Cleaned up around houses are still going, still they have so much to haul out yet.

WATER TRUCKS
Two of BUI water trucks are now hauling water to the village.

Each of these trucks were operated by two Eskimos, Billy Solomon and Kuklak Kaleak.

They charge them 6 cents a gallon whenever people get water.

ESKIMOS WIN
Tunniks (Whites) from camp lost to the Eskimos in play softball game. Not only that, they also way behind when they have foot race lap race, around village through the roads.

George Solomon, Eli Solomon's son, won this lap race. Which is good to hear.

ICE BREAKER VISITS
Ice breaker is in now this afternoon she fought ice coming in to lead close to shore and she anchored below camp which is 3 miles off village, right outside of inshore ice.

GOOD LUCK
Good luck all of you readers, and God bless you all.

Letters from Here and There

July 18, 1971

Dear Howard:

I do not think it would be appropriate for a letter "To the Editor" from me to appear in relation to a misunderstanding that has developed in relation to the stories about the University of Alaska and the Imuruk Basin Project. Nevertheless, I do think it fair that somehow a correction appear so those following this incident get a pretty accurate picture of what is happening.

Alaska Methodist University never was going to, nor intended to, sponsor the SPECIAL HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL INVENTORY OF IMURUK BASIN. As a member of the faculty, AMU provided special consideration and support for me for initiating the project by aiding (through members of the staff and faculty) me and the Arctic Native Brotherhood to bring together the people to advise us on the ways and means to fund the project and to review our design and methods of operation prior to us submitting a proposal for public funds. This meeting included representatives of AMU, U of A, BLM, State Div. of Lands, Alaska Historical Society, Alaska Dept. of Ed., and others. The decision then (Dec. 17, 1970) was that this project merited public funds, and additionally, its urgent circumstances demanded special attention from the Legislature. AFN later added its endorsement.

Subsequently, with the able assistance of Gene Guess, Speaker of the House, Willy Hensley, Chuck Degnan, Willard Bowman, Genie Chance, and a number of other legislators, including Bill Ray and George Hohman,

here in Galena.

Why are the agencies trying to tear Galena apart? This small town on the Yukon has more jobs to offer and more economy than any other town on the central Yukon river. Right now there are 200 people employed in and out of Galena. We have people coming from the small villages and even the large cities here to work, and bringing money back to their villages and cities.

So why try so hard to cut our throat and yours too? Who's so damn dumb? I think, me, to be so concerned over the welfare of my fellow man. I have been taught to help people, not to stamp them into poverty. Remember we are Americans, let us live.

Sincerely,
Sidney Huntington

cc: Senator Gravel
Senator Stevens
Fairbanks Daily NewsMiner

\$40,000 was included for the project by the Senate Finance Committee in the University of Alaska budget. Unfortunately, through an oversight by a paid employee of the Legislature, the Letter of Intent to cover this special attention to the University budget was never forwarded to the floor of the house. As a result, the University has not received such specific direction related to the disbursement of a minute portion of its approximately 22 1/2 million dollar appropriation, and it therefore maintains that it cannot release the funds to the project.

I hope that you can review the correspondence (which I thought had been forwarded to you as part of keeping you posted, but in case it was not, I am including now) and perhaps come up with a followup article that will clarify the issue for people, and perhaps even place the whole set of circumstances in a more favorable light for the project.

I look forward to visiting with you again before too long. My best to you, as always.

Regards,
Laurel L. Bland

More History of the World Eskimo Olympics

Attorney Fred Brown, Tundra Times Board member, has been researching past Eskimo Olympics records for publication in the program of this years event. The games will be sponsored by the Tundra Times July 30—August 1 in Fairbanks.

Last week we published a list of past winners through 1970. Now here are the record breakers who preceded them. We realize there are gaps and maybe some inaccuracy as old records are sketchy. Anyone who wishes to make additions or corrections should contact us.

1969 OLYMPICS

MISS ESKIMO OLYMPICS — Miss Marie Irwin of Nenana
ESKIMO HIGH KICK ONE FOOT—Job Kasule of Barrow 7 feet 8 inches.
ESKIMO HIGH KICK TWO FEET—Job Kasule of Barrow 6 feet 8 inches.

ESKIMO DANCING —Barrow Dancers.
INDIAN DANCING — Minto Athabaskan Indian Dancers
SEAL SKIPPING—Rhoda Na-gaek of Barrow
WOMEN'S BLANKET TOSS—Marie Nusinginya of Barrow
MEN'S BLANKET TOSS—Roger Kooniak
EAR WEIGHT—Fred Titus of Minto - 9 lbs.
ESKIMO YOYO—Penny Lie of Kotzebue.
MUKTUK EATING —Lawrence David of Fairbanks 15seconds

1969 OLYMPICS

QUEEN—Miss Audrey Ambrose of Galena
BLANKET TOSS—Jenny Felder of Fairbanks.
HIGH KICK TWO FEET—Danny Thomas of Kotzebue and Sylvester Ayek of King Island tied at 7 feet.
HIGH KICK ONE FOOT—Danny Thomas - 7 feet four inches.
KNUCKLE HOP—Morris Wilson of Kotzebue 60 feet—
EAR WEIGHT—Tom Itta of Barrow - 15 lbs. for 325 feet.
MUKTUK EATING CONTEST—George Taylor of Kotzebue 21 seconds
MINTO STICK PULL—Morris Wilson of Kotzebue.
PARKA CONTEST — Poldine Carlo of Fairbanks.

1967 OLYMPICS

MISS ESKIMO OLYMPICS — Miss Leora Kenicke of Nome.
DANCE COMPETITION—Mac-

(Continued on page 6)