

Letters from here and there

Dear *Tundra Times*:

I had teary eyes reading what my Dad wrote 31 years ago.

Rex Okakok, Sr.
Barrow

Message for children

Dear Marilyn,

Thank you for sharing copies of your Feb. 17th paper. We've been able to share with our children, my brother Roy in Seattle and my Dad's older sister Ann, who lives near us.

We're all very pleased with the article and especially happy with the quality of the pictures.

It is our hope the recognition will continue from year to year bringing the message to all our young children.

I congratulate you on your fine publication.

Sincerely,
Loretta Peratrovich
Montgomery
Moses Lake, WA

Funds are needed; millions wasted on sewer

Dear Editor:

The Commissioner of the Dept. of Environmental Conservation, John Sandor, deserves a great deal of credit for his aggressive and comprehensive approach to dealing with the bad water and unsafe sewer systems in rural Alaska. Gov. Hickel's proposal to appropriate \$ 25.9 million for construction projects is laudable. On the other hand, the Governor appears to be undermining the Commissioner's year-long work to approach the problem in a logical and systematic manner. Throwing dollars at problems has cost the state millions of dollars in waste. An increase in the capital budget will not solve many of the underlying problems that exist - - sanitation workers, village bookkeepers and councils need to be trained to ensure the projects funded are maintained and managed properly.

The capital budget increases need to hand in

hand with increases in the Village Safe Water Operating budget. Funds need to be provided to the Dept. of Community and Regional Affairs to provide on-going technical assistance to village governments and the Dept. of Education to provide environmental health training in rural schools. Without a commitment to a comprehensive approach to the problem, children will continue to get sick and die. Hepatitis A is a killer. The reason most adults in the rural areas do not get hepatitis is because they already had it. The current out-break has only just begun - - whose children will it hit next?

Sincerely,
JoAnn Holmes
Executive Director
AkPIRG
Anchorage

Never forget friends

Dear Ms. Richards,

I want to thank you for the letter and the wonderful publications. They triggered a lot of memories. I had the honor of organizing the "Alaska Peninsula Native Association" and was its President until the number of corporations was reduced to 12 in Alaska and one corporation to represent the Alaska Natives residing in the South 48. The Alaska Peninsula Native Association was very active through the land claims battle.

I am very proud to have been chosen as one of the 10 people sent to Juneau as a committee to draft a bill to be considered by the Statewide Conference of the Alaska Federation of Natives. It was a draft which laid the groundwork for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

I shall always treasure the pleasure it was to work with such able leaders Emil Notti, John Borbridge, Don Wright and many, many others who fought so valiantly for the Native people of ALASKA. We must never forget other friends in government and public life whose sense of justice and feeling of compassion which made our

successful fight for equality possible.

Sincerely,
Charles Franz
Bellingham

The verdict is in

Dear Editor:

Tundra Times is a great newspaper.

John Carter
Eek, Alaska