

Letters to the Editor

Reader appreciates *Tundra Times*

Dear Editor:

Always so glad to get "*Tundra Times*" and read about our people and friends. Only sad to read those who have gone to Happier land, like my sister Emma (Escholt) Locke she was born up Kiana,

Alaska in our one room house papa built out of birch logs. We lived there 3 years never saw a single person, but hunting was good and plenty of wood.

From a family of 7 girls, 2 boys I'm now the only one, Emma's 4 sons are gone I had

one son, Leo and his ashes are in Alaska waters. He loved the ocean- was chief engineer after being in "Air" and shot down in Korea.

Thank you for paper-

Sincerely,
Ida Mae Rose

Artifacts are important, even to descendants

The Honorable Anthony Knowles
Governor of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: *Tundra Times* 7-5-95

Dear Sir:

The *Tundra Times* published a letter from Wallace M. Olson, Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus, objecting to the evisceration of the State Museum of the position of Curator of Collections, and that Peter Corey from Sitka would assume all responsibilities long distance and part-time.

Preposterous! Ill-conceived! Shortsighted!

My name is Frances Paul DeGermain, Wolf/Eagle Clan, *Nahn-ya-ahyi Nah*. My father was William Lewis Paul, *Tee-hit-ton Nah*. Both tribes are of the *Shgut-quon* Federation of Wrangell.

My father donated the *Tee-hit-ton* crest hat to the Museum years ago, expecting that it would be cared for. (I hope when the hat was included in a travel video, without permission from a tribal member, that it was kept safe.) My brother Fred Paul had considered donating a rare and valuable *Ich* necklace and spirit catcher of bones to the Museum after the demise of his four children, also under the impression that it would be cared for.

With only long distance oversight, these particular items – and other priceless items – can have only casual care. Most of Alaska's aboriginal treasures are in the hands of other countries (over which the U.S. can exercise no control), in the hands of private "collectors", or in Museums in the "lower 48." Many items in these Museums could easily be returned

or loaned back to Alaska. Many items are stuck away due to lack of floor space. Buy why should any stateside Museum return items to Alaska?

Alaskan politicians do not seem to be interested in safeguarding the aboriginal heritage of the land.

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It is probably too late to demand the *Tee-hit-ton* crest hat back, buy my nephews and nieces will take a good hard look at the State Museum in Juneau versus the Burke Museum here in Seattle.

Sincerely yours,
Frances Paul DeGermain
Seattle, WA