

"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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Ethnohistorical

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Howard Rock, Editor and Publisher
TUNDRA TIMES
Fairbanks, Ak. 99701

Dear Howard:

I was very pleased to see the editorial in the March 14th issue by Wallace Olson. There are so many of us who are concerned about the urgent need to document and thus preserve the past for the benefit of present and future generations, but few have stated parts of the problem so well as Mr. Olson. There are really three parts to cultural preservation and historical documentation. These are archeological — including the evidence of the early migrations of man into the New World, cultural — most of which is found in the memories of the elders still living, and the "paper trail" of the historic period beginning in the late 1700's.

Most of the confusion, and the loss of important knowledge about pre-history relates to archeological sites. The curiosity seeker, the vandal, and those who "mine" sites for cash income probably do not realize the harm in the interests of both the Native people and the public that can result. The archeologists primary concern is to find materials in location, measure, photograph, and otherwise document them for what they mean in relation to man and his use of land and waters. Once the scientific analysis takes place, few artifacts are valuable to the archeologist in themselves.

Their importance relates to what they mean to the people who feel an ownership or pride in them, and their use as educational materials for the public and student archeologists. For this reason, the laws and regulations already on the books, if enforced, will protect the interests of the Native people as well as the public. Presently, no one can obtain an Antiquities Permit (necessary for excavation) without the authorization of a representative of the Native People that particular site concerns.

Many Native organizations and corporations do not know this as yet. Secondly, the regulations exist so Native people can dictate in large measure the use and final repository of materials found, as well as any other disposition they may choose when the materials are in their possession.

The Imuruk Basin Project has been engaged in ethnohistorical research on the Seward Peninsula for nearly four years. It has been done under the guidance and sponsorship of the Native organizations representing the interests of the region through this period. Materials and information obtained through this project (which does not include doing any archeological excavation but merely an inventory of a number of important sites) are under the control of local Native organizations, although portions of new information have been shared with the agencies who supplied the funds to enable the Project to function.

I particularly agree with Mr. Olson's last two suggestions. The first two are already protected as explained above, and State and Federal law enforcement officials already have the authority to do the job described. As for the fourth suggestion this is feasible through technical and financial aid offered by the Department of Interior, National Parks. A start has been made, setting a precedent, in what is called the "Teller Patrol" begun under the PEP program in 1971. Although this service is mainly to provide protection for private property and human life and safety, it contains the seeds and a preliminary model for protective services that any region can set up and operate through existing state agency services.

All it requires is defining the service needed, describing the method and procedure involved, and then taking the matter up with the Legislature. Although it may not be the specific program to fund this kind of service, the Historical Preservation Program under the Department of National Resources has already performed remarkable services along the lines suggested by Mr. Olson. Unfortunately this program was red-lined in the State Budget. This is tragic, since this is one of the few programs in the state receiving federal matching funds that is not threatened

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Tom Richards, Jr.'s Column--

Flight Security Frisking at Kotzebue Intrigues Author

(c) 1973 by
THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.

OLONGAPO CITY — Times sure have changed. I have just come across a story from the last January 3 issue of the KOTZEBUE NEWS, the paper edited and published by Jane Pender in the town where I was born.

It says that passengers on jet and F-27 flights originating in Kotzebue will now be subject to body searches and the contents of their luggage will be examined. I should have known that it would come to this when, last summer, I was frisked by federal agents while boarding a Pan Am flight in New York.

Even as recently as when Wien initiated Boeing 737 jet service, I was required to submit a formal request for review by the FAA in Anchorage to receive permission to ride in the cockpit during a flight. Ironically, my Dad was captain of the aircraft at the time.

It used to be that, if you were on friendly terms with the pilot, he would invite you to the cockpit for a better view of the mountains and river drainages and to watch the crew work the controls. Informality in the

aviation business in Alaska was standard operating procedure. Now, you have to have an FAA-approved pass for everything.

And read from that OTZ NEWS story: "He (Jim Edsell, Wien's Kotzebue Station Manager) said that an armed guard will be stationed at each airline terminal during check-in, search and boarding process. This guard will be supplied by the State Division of Aviation."

I wonder if this precaution will ever be extended to bush service. If so, there will be many soft jobs available for guards at villages infrequently serviced by flights. I might even be tempted to apply for the position of the Alaska State Division of Aviation Flight Security Agent at, for example, Noorvik or Point Hope.

I can imagine what things would have been like twenty years ago when Dad flew bush out of Kotzebue, if he were met by a guy who called himself the flight security agent at Noorvik:

Noorvik F.S.A.: "Hey, that was quite a landing. It sure would be nice if we could someday have an airstrip here and you wouldn't have to land on the tundra. Let me check your

manifest and see how many passengers you had today. (pause) What's this? You were supposed to have two passengers on this flight. What the hell is the little kid doing on the plane?"

Dad: "That is Tom, Jr. The wife said to get him out of the house for a while, so I thought I'd bring him with me."

Noorvik F.S.A.: "I'll let you go this time, but you had better watch it. We are supposed to follow the manifest. And you better watch your landings, too. That kid of yours just wet his pants during the last one."

Dad: "Okay. Darn that FAA, anyway. Who is going back to OTZ with me?"

Noorvik F.S.A.: "Just one nurse. I'll let her board as soon as I check her luggage and frisk her. It'll be about two hours."

Dad: "Darn FAA regulations. Always delaying my airplane. Someday Wien is going to take me off these Norseman Airplanes, I hope. Hey, (to Noorvik F.S.A.) help me tie down the airplane. And keep an eye on my son for a while, will you? While you are going through your security procedures, I am going fishing."

Letters from Here and There

To The Editor:

Clerk United States Court of Claims:

Procedure in claims for fee and expenses pursuant for Sec. 20 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, before the Chief Commissioner, United State Court of Claims. General order No. 1 Entered February 2, 1972. Section 20 (5) gives authority, after the filing of claims by attorney, to Natives or entities on whose behalf services were rendered, that copies of said claim shall be forwarded, and shall give such persons ninety days within which to file an answer contesting the claim. In the procedure set down by the Court of Claims for any person

including bona fide association of Natives to file their own claims for expenses, which in my opinion is the two hundred and fifty thousand dollars loaned to the A.F.N., by the Yakima Indians; however when these procedures and General order no. 1 was sent to the Haida Nation, of this year, the time limit had passed.

Time will be affected as shown by Rule 25 (A) and (D). Claims not filed within the time limited by the Act are forever barred. (From December 18, 1971 one year for attorneys and consultants; six months for native associations-Section 20 (C) and (G).

My question is: If attorneys were given one year in which to file claims, how can it be possible for natives to contest said claims within six months, after the passage of Pub. Law 92-203. Certainly when it is our money is deducted from the settlement fund, we should have the same rights as accorded to Attorneys, therefore, "suggestions of interested parties for the content of future orders pertaining to procedures, including hearings in these matters before trial commissioners and review panels, provided by Sec. 20 will be appreciated and considered by the Chief Commissioner. This Order, of necessity, issues sua sponte in the absence of knowledge of the identity and number of all interested parties."

Our contention is that claims presented by Belli, Aske, Ellison, Chulius and Rieff are correct because we did retain said firm to represent us in the Native land settlement; the claims of Wiessbrodt of Washington, D.C. purporting to represent the Tlinget and Haidas is incorrect. At no time did we as a Haida tribe or nation sign a contract for representation by the firm of Wiessbrodt of Washington D.C., to represent us in the Alaska native land claims settlement act of Dec. 18, 1971.

Therefore, we wish to appeal

to the review panel for a solution to our problems. We would appreciate an answer at your earliest convenience.

Community Action Chairman
Hydaburg, Alaska

Victor Haldane

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3-28-'73

Radio Station KYAK
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Sirs:

In regard to your AM frequency of 650 kilocycles, I take this time to point out the closeness to 660 kilocycles, AM used by Radio Station KFAR, Fairbanks.

As little as I personally understand of the radio business, I still have heard of temporary power reductions, or what they call directional tuning.

The reason for this letter, is to point out a program called Tundra Topics aired 6 days at 9:20 p.m. on KFAR. It's purpose is to relay important messages to residents in the bush. It varies from public announcements to business of very important personal nature.

Your 650 K.C.s must have one whole bunch of watts pushing it cause many times it drowns KFAR's 660. Many times it's just easier to listen to any station available on a bush radio set, but at 9:20 it is "Tundra time," and your 650 K.C.I often block this.

If KFAR, KYAC, and FCC could get together for some arrangement to let Tundra Topics go through, it would be good. I thank you for your time, consideration, and action.

Marcus Lambert