

Ethnohistorical

HERS, INC.

1134 L Street
Anchorage, Ak. 99501
Telephone 272-6928

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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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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 States 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

% Fairbanks Native
Community Center
102 Lacey St.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
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

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by current cutbacks under the present Administration.

Perhaps the point to be made here is that we already have the laws, we all generally agree we need the protections and that the situation is critical in all aspects of historical, cultural, and archeological perservation and safeguarding throughout the state. We have the ways already established within the State Government, and the means are also available. Furthermore, this type of public service is not particularly costly, and so far it has been one of the most economic and efficiently managed services functioning for the benefit of all Alaskans,

Perhaps some of the current problem spelled out in the editorial stems from the fact that what work that is being done (and other things planned) have been approached quietly and with exceptionally knowledgeable and concerned Native People and professionally trained and experienced researchers committed to getting an important task done before it is too late.

A great deal of Public understanding has been gained through the information and coverage in the Tundra Times. It is a pity that the other newspapers of the state do not follow your example, reporting the facts of what is going on and eliminating the the sensationalism attached particularly to ethnohistorical research that is in effect an open invitation to exploitation for personel adventure or financial gain. Please continue the campaign for sensible and sound research and documentation under the leadership and general guidance of the Native People for those elements of that past that concern them.

Regards,

Laurel L. Bland, AMU Faculty
History of Alaskan Native People
Methods of Ethnohistorical Field Research, &
Director, Imuruk Basin Project (Seward Pen.)