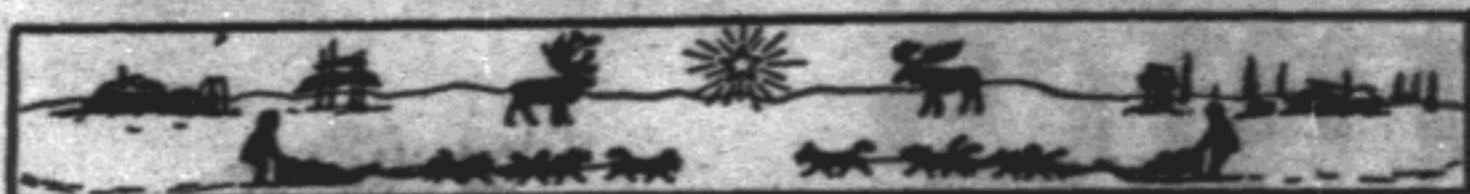


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Editorial—

The Eskimo Olympics - An Asset to Fairbanks

Despite some rumblings of discord, the performance of this year's World Eskimo Olympics attained the height of success it has never reached before. The satisfaction of the thousands of viewers who witnessed the colorful performances was clearly unmistakable. This attainment of success should assure the future of continued staging of the unique native program but, there should be some improvements in the plans for accommodations for the native performers for the period in which they stay in Fairbanks. They're the ones who make the festive Olympics tick because without them, the program would be nothing.

Along with the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce that has admirably sponsored the Olympics for eight years, we think that the city administration should have some hand in the area of accommodations for the Olympics performers. The exciting and unique program should be more fully recognized by the City of Fairbanks because it is steadily building up to become an increasing asset to the Golden Heart City. It has attained worldwide recognition. It is exciting to tourists as well as to important dignitaries internationally and domestically. The attendance has steadily built up and it promises to keep building up in the future.

Everyone, once and for all, should recognize the World Eskimo Olympics for what it is—the Alaska native spectacle very much peculiar unto itself because it is performed by the native people themselves. They are showing a unique kind of showmanship—and they will do so in the future—that is different and charming to every Olympics viewer because it touches on something very Alaskan—the culture of our native people. This is what the visitors want to see. The spontaneity of the audiences' reactions tell the story that seeing the Olympics is one of the most pleasurable experiences.

The City of Fairbanks has something that no other city has anywhere in the world. It can boast of the World Eskimo Olympics and be right. It is the city that can offer one of the most unique shows no one else has. The city is being noticed more and more by the world community because it has the Olympics. This is the reason why Fairbanks should show more concern for the native performers. They come from some of the most remote areas to put on a show. They draw people from everywhere. They come by the hundreds including the performers. Multiply that by 50, or even more so, and you have quite a number of dollars spent in the city.

Surely, Fairbanks cannot show indifference to something that is benefitting it considerably.

Mountain Village, Alaska
August 11, 1968

Dear Mr. Rock:

I have read with interest the letters to the editor, comments between Mike Gravel and Ernest Gruening. This is the Political year, and everybody makes a promise, but I believe the history speaks for itself.

Senator Gruening has been fighting for native rights since 1939 not 1968. He was the one that broke the discrimination in Alaska, he then was the Governor of Alaska, Senator Gruening has been fighting for the Natives ever since. He will continue to do so, if he is reelected. Right now he has seniority and assigned to import committee's, and he is respected by his colleagues, whether they be Democrat or Republican.

The political promises cannot be accomplished overnight. It takes days, months, and years to become a reality. The Native Claims is a big issue now. I believe Senator Gruening can speed it up for settlement. He has been working on this for some time, with Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall.

Senator Gruening has been in contact with the Native people for so long, just about every native knows him in Alaska.

Sincerely,
Andrew Brown
City Council President

California Girl Applies for Work

The chance to move to Alaska is what this adventurous, intelligent female, 28, would grab.

If Perchance employment in Alaska was her good fortune to nab.

Is experienced in clerical, medical receptionist, and cooking. Factory, commerce, sales clerk, and typing. Is a high school graduate and can furnish references and hopes the desire to move North can be given deference. Is unencumbered and has plenty of qualifications, typing 60 W.P.M., I hope will rate some consideration.

The name of this job Applicant is Jeanne Van Wart. Her desire to move to the Klondike state is no lark. Her address is 2715 on the street of G.

The scenic wonders of our northernmost state she would surely like to see. She lives in California, the city of Sacramento. But an employment offer from Alaska would be a fine memento. But until employment comes this way,

She would like to have pen pals and read what they have to say. She will gladly answer every letter

And she plans to move to the greatest state when the job situation gets better.

She enjoys poems of the northwest by Robert W. Service very much; She's outdoorsy, digs fishing, camping, hiking and such, likes reading, has tried writing and knows she is a "half-baked" poet. But if offered a job would she go north? Boy, you just know it.

—JEANNE VAN WART

Average age for the 1.8 million World War 1 veterans is 73, says the VA.

Letters to the Editor

August 2, 1968

Dear Sir:

The race between Ernest Gruening and Mike Gravel happens to bring recollections back to me, and I wonder if other old-time Alaskans will remember this story.

It's about Judge Wickersham, who came here at age 50 after a long career in the lower '48, just like Ernest Gruening. Both men were controversial and long-lived. Wickersham, again like Gruening, served as Territorial Delegate for a period of time, and then retired. Gruening, of course, served as Governor and then retired himself.

But both men returned to public life. After Dan Sutherland retired, Wickersham ran as Delegate and served until he was well advanced in age. Likewise Gruening ran for the Senate and has now reached the 82nd year of his life, which is amazing.

Of course there was a last chapter to Judge Wickersham, and I suppose there will be a last chapter to the Gruening story, too. Wickersham was challenged by a young man named Tony Dimond, and the struggle took on the youth-versus-age look. Even though the Judge put up an aggressive campaign, he went down to defeat, and Alaskan politics began another chapter.

This Gruening-Gravel race is interesting to old timers for the same reason. Gravel is 38, intelligent, and vigorous. But Gruening is running hard and aggressively even though he is 81 years old. The question before Alaskans is whether they should allow history to repeat itself.

In the opinion of this old timer, history has served us some valuable lessons. Old Wickersham, no matter how respected, was no match for the young Dimond. And although we hear much about Gruening's seniority, it holds no candle to Gravel's vigor. Yes, this is one old-time Alaskan who will vote for change on August 27.

Sincerely,
Hugh Doogan
Fairbanks

3000 Debarr Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
August 14, 1968

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter from Rep. Mike Bradner of Fairbanks in a recent issue of your paper under the heading "Let's Have A Clean Campaign":

The heading I agree with 100 per cent. But why doesn't this juvenile legislator keep his own remarks clean and correct?

He starts off his letter condemning Warren Taylor, a fellow Democrat in his home town for his "vicious remarks" about U.S. Senate Candidate Mike Gravel and then almost immediately starts a tirade against two other Democrats, Senator Gruening and his assistant George Sundborg.

Rep. Bradner is either being naive or very dumb when he accuses somebody of "putting derogatory remarks in the opposition's mouth." He sure should get acquainted with his fellow townsman. I have known Warren Taylor for nearly 50 years and I never knew the time when anybody had to put words in his mouth. It just isn't so.

Another inaccuracy in Rep. Bradner's letter is his statement that "Mr. Taylor's antagonism toward Mr. Gravel stems from his defeat for the Speaker's chair in 1964." This is simply not true. I was there, as a member of the Fourth Legislature. Mr. Taylor headed a coalition of the newly elected representatives to that Legislature from outside the Anchorage area to

defeat John Rader for the Speakership. His reward: chairmanship of the powerful Rules Committee.

This should have made him an ardent supporter of Mr. Gravel, but it was not long before Mr. Taylor lost faith in his protégé, as did many members.

Today I know of no democrat who served in the Legislature under Mr. Gravel's Speakership who is supporting him. This speaks volumes.

I understand the young Mr. Bradner is a coming Democrat. We need them badly right now. I think he should take a bath and clean up his own politics and then everything should come out well for him in the wash.

Sincerely yours,
Carl Lottsfeldt

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