

"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 Comment—

Posing Serious Messages Although “Mumbling”

Tundra Times has just gotten through having back to back benefit banquets here in Fairbanks and Anchorage. As far as crowds were concerned, they were average. As far as entertainment value was concerned, both banquets were blessed with more than enough. The banquet halls echoed with repeated bellows of laughter. It was too bad we couldn't have shared the banquet program with more people.

There were several reasons why our banquet audiences were less than usual. One was the lateness in getting Dr. James H. Boren as our speaker. It was not his fault but it was caused by unavoidable delays prior to getting Dr. Boren as our keynoter.

Another was the Cook Inlet Native Association's annual potlatch that had been scheduled the same evening as the Tundra Times banquet in Anchorage. Another was the initial performance of the great show “Jesus Christ — Super Star,” also on that same evening. That and the potlatch were formidable competitions but Tundra Times banquet did not do too badly drawing close to 200 people there. The Fairbanks banquet did very much better than in the Cook Inlet metropolis. Food was excellent and ample in both dinners. There were other good things also.

Jim Boren is quite an entertainer. He is blessed with a talent to make people laugh. His, “When in Doubt, Mumble,” is more than enough to make anyone break into a guffaw. But, along with the laughter he generates, he also has messages — serious messages — he makes people realize while laughing. One of these, of course, is government red tape which he feels is so oppressive it could strangle anyone.

Another is his evaluation of the U.S. Postal Service. As a Bureaucrats' Candidate for President, Jim Boren declared:

Gun Control: “Don't stop manufacturing guns and add to the high unemployment levels. Merely require that all guns be shipped to buyers by special delivery. They will probably never be received.”

While being very funny, Dr. Boren is doing a service defined in a subtle manner — through humor. While doing it in that manner, who knows, he may be doing it more effectively than if the problems were met directly without humor.

U.S. Joins Indian Suit—

To End Education Discrimination

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Justice is joining Navajo Indians in a lawsuit to improve educational opportunities for their children in McKinley County, New Mexico.

Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said the Justice Department has filed a friend-of-the-court brief in U.S. District Court in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in support of a suit brought by Navajo parents.

The suit charged that the Gallup-McKinley County School District is operated on a racially discriminatory basis against Indian children.

More than 7,800 Indian students attend public schools in McKinley County — the largest public school enrollment of Indians in the country.

The Justice Department brief, submitted at the request of the

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Respect for the Old Man--

Point Hope Man's Memory Goes Deep Into the Past

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

When Jimmy Killigivuk spoke at the town meeting on the relocation of Point Hope, there was great silence and respect in the crowded room. Jimmy is perhaps the oldest man living in the village and his memory goes back to his boyhood days at the Point, back to a time that was somewhat different from the present.

There was some concern among the villagers about moving away from their Whaling Festival grounds. Each spring, the villagers gather at these traditional and ancient places to celebrate their hunts with songs, dancing and the soaring “nalukatuq” or blanket toss.

Every person in the village belongs to one of two traditional whaling parties or factions. One is called Qakmaktuq and the other is Unagsiksiqaq. Membership is hereditary.

One of the villagers laughingly explained that it was rather like being born either a Democrat or Republican. The only time one changes from one party to another is when a girl marries. She then becomes a member of

her husband's group.

A boy or man changes parties only in the case of having been named after a man in the opposite party. The new namesake then goes over to the party of that man, where he continues to go for the remainder of his lifetime.

Jimmy Killigivuk remembered stories which told of a time when there were as many as six festival grounds. Now there are two. Since he could not recall ever hearing of the grounds being moved, he recommended that the two remaining grounds be kept in their original areas.

“Let's not forget our Whaling Festival places,” he said. “Let's carry on with our traditional activities.”

The room listened with reverent silence as Jimmy spoke in Inupik. Although they will move their village, each spring they will return to the festival grounds of their ancestors.

It was also decided that they would continue to use the ground at the present site of Point Hope as a burial ground, and to leave bodies already buried undisturbed.

One of the villagers at the meeting asked Jimmy Killigivuk

if it was true that they used to bury people with ivory eyes.

Jimmy said yes, that there had been an “ivory-eyed person buried in the vicinity of Jabbertown.”

Then the man asked, “Did the person have ivory eyes while he was alive?”

Jimmy turned dramatically and pointed to the man asking the question. In Inupik again, he said: “I could easily change your eyes into ivory right now. I am a shaman. This you don't know.”

The room laughed delightedly and later when asked if Jimmy was indeed a shaman, mayor John Oktollik said with a smile, “I hope not, although sometimes he claims to be.”

The most famous shaman of Point Hope was a fearsome man named Attungowruk, who had eight wives (some of whom, the story goes, he took from other, weaker men.)

Legends about Attungowruk abound in Point Hope even today, both of his good deeds and his bad. Jimmy Killigivuk told of a time when Attungowruk dealt with a ship captain who was trying to cheat the people

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Letters from Here and There

AFN Flaps Could Delay Benefits

Tetlin, Alaska 99779
October 16, 1972

Dear Mr. Rock,

By the time the members of Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. decide who is right and wrong, what to do next, etc., we'll probably won't have much to benefit from of the Land Claim Act after they're done with solving too much problem out of the land.

R. Demit

Writer Shocked by CAB Decision

October 13, 1972

The Honorable Secor D. Browne
Chairman
Civil Aeronautics Board
Washington, D.C. 20428

Dear Mr. Browne:

Your decision of September 25, 1972, regarding the elimination of Alaska Airlines from the Anchorage/Nome/Kotzebue air route has been viewed with shock and concern by those of us who reside in northwest Alaska. What has most impressed me has been your agency's total disregard for the local point of view in arriving at your decision to suspend this air service. Certainly, any decision which will have such a pronounced effect on the lives of our many isolated communities, should take into account the feelings and viewpoints of our residents.

However, this is not being done. I feel that it is damnable that an agency as large and omnipotent as yours should be allowed to run roughshod over

the interests of our people here, with callous disregard for the results of actions which you have undertaken.

Will you stay the above order and allow the CAB to conduct hearings in the communities involved so that local people may express their views?

Will you, Chairman Browne, give this letter any consideration or response?

Sincerely,

Carl Berger
Box 41
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

Man Agrees with Charles E. Moseley

Tetlin, Alaska 99779
October 16, 1972

Tundra Times
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock,

References to the letter to the editor “Resigned B.L.M. man thanks firefighters” by Charles E. Moseley. I agree with Mr. Moseley's comments on Alaskan firefighters that does not need outside overhead..

We village firefighters are trained and know more methods putting out fires than the overheads from the lower “48.” In every fire season the B.L.M. hires someone from down there to tell us the next move when the crew B.S.s already knows what to do. Some of them don't even know how to take care of themselves in the wilderness. I remember one of them that don't even know the directions, not even North.

I hope in the future the B.L.M. could consider that every firefighters depends on the overhead and their judgement and remember, the real Alaskan

knows their land and even the direction North.

In regret to Charles E. Moseley resignation, we wish him good luck.

Yours Truly,

Fred Demit

Gov. Egan Lauds Career Guidance

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

October 22, 1972

Guidance Counselors
and Students

Dear Friends:

The discovery and development of one's talents for the good of society is essential to personal fulfillment, and the right to choose one's occupation is a basic American freedom. All our citizens have the right to achieve their creative, economic, and productive potentials.

The structure of occupations and industries is changing so rapidly and radically that most individuals will make one or more occupational changes in their lifetimes. Career guidance has proved to be a vital bridge between the increasingly complex world of work and the individual's need to select, locate and train for employment that is congenial and rewarding.

During Career Guidance Week it is a pleasure to recognize and pay tribute to those many dedicated people who are responsible for this worthwhile program that benefits so many young citizens throughout Alaska.

Sincerely,

William A. Egan
Governor