



DR. HENRY S. FORBES

## Editorial

# To Serve the People

(Editor's Note: Dr. Henry S. Forbes, retired medical doctor, is a very real, warm person to the staff of the Tundra Times. He is a prolific letter writer who writes friendly, encouraging letters. He is also the man, 63 years young, who has made it possible to publish the Tundra Times.

We of the staff of this newspaper cannot appreciate too highly the services Dr. Forbes has rendered for the good of the Native people of

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Alaska. Through his generosity, both financially and morally, the Tundra Times has been able to point out the needs and problems of the Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos. As a result, the status of our Native people has been made clearer—more understandable—to the general public, our state government, as well as to the many departments of our national government. In our humble opinion, the Tundra Times has had some influence in helping to solve some of our people's many problems. Under the new corporate status that will publish this newspaper in the future, we will, of course, endeavor to continue the service in behalf of our Native people.

The following remarks of Dr. Forbes were made available to us by our request for publication so the people of Alaska, and elsewhere, can better know the man he is—an unselfish servant of the Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts.)



Cordial greetings to you all:

Perhaps you wonder why in the world a retired doctor from the Lower 48 is interested in the Tundra Times. I'll tell you briefly how it happened.

Ten years ago I became interested in the Association on American Indian Affairs through its public health work. In 1961, the Association's Executive Director and I came to Alaska at the request of the Village Council of Point Hope. The members wanted information and asked how to make known their needs and problems (without censorship or delay) to the heads of departments in Washington, D.C.

Very soon, the men of Point Hope felt the need to talk over problems with other villages up and down the coast. Soon, the villages elected delegates and these met at Barrow in November, 1961. It was the first big conference (Inupiat Paitot) and other conferences followed.

Before long, the need increased for better communication and Howard Rock was keen enough to see that a newspaper, run by the Eskimos and Indians, could fill this need. The idea was welcomed by the village leaders—Indian and Eskimo—who promptly gave it their moral support. The big question was how to arrange it and who would put up the cash?

We agreed that such a paper ought to be independent of outside political or other pressures; that it must be accurate, fearless and uncensored in handling the news. I had confidence in the ability of Howard Rock but he had no newspaper experience. Luckily, Tom Snapp, who did have newspaper training, was available. He was greatly interested in the project and was glad to serve as assistant editor and introduce Howard to the mysteries of newspaper work.

The stage was all set—the need was real; the plan was good, and the personnel just right. So I agreed to support the Tundra Times in its early stages.

During the past three years, Howard and Tom have steered it skillfully through troubled waters. The paper now has proved itself. It is of real value and now the people of Alaska can help in many ways to make it self-supporting. The financial load can be eased by increased advertising and subscriptions, as well as buying shares of stock.

Now the Tundra Times has come of age. Now is our chance to make it grow and prosper! Let's make it a paying investment! By all means let's see that it continues to serve the people!

—Henry S. Forbes