

The Tundra Times decided to publish a special issue this week to commemorate our eleventh anniversary of publication and to recount significant events in Native affairs which we have reported during that period.

The Alaska Federation of Natives is also celebrating its eighth anniversary during its annual convention this weekend in Anchorage.

The Tundra Times believes that, at this time when the Native people are beginning to see some of the benefits of the land settlement, it may be in order to reprint some of our old stories and recount the recent history of Native affairs as it became unfolded on our pages.

We are reprinting our first editorial, from October 1, 1962, which explained why we felt there was a need for a paper such as ours.

We have also selected stories from past issues for the simple reason that we felt our subscribers might enjoy them.

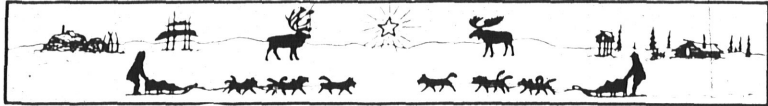
Tundra Times

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Inupiat Pitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henish Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunaktauq The Aleuts Speak



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GLITTER, HUMOR AT BANQUET



PLAY IT BY EAR—Mrs. Kay Fanning, publisher of the Anchorage Daily News, and Jack Roderick, Anchorage borough mayor, demonstrate the ear pull, one of the traditional Native games which will be demonstrated at the annual Tundra Times Banquet in Anchorage on Dec. 17. Mrs. Fanning, who publishes Alaska's only morning and Sunday paper, would like to challenge Bob Atwood, publisher of Alaska's largest evening daily, to an ear



pull contest during the banquet. The banquet planning committee members enjoyed a recent meeting where this game was demonstrated that they laughed so hard they had tears running down their cheeks. Mrs. Fanning, complaining about a unique physical impairment, asked other committee members, "What are you supposed to do when you have slippery ears?"

Notables, Amusements At Anchorage Banquet

ANCHORAGE — The eleventh annual Tundra Times Banquet, to be held on December 17 at 8:00 p.m. in the Discovery Ballroom of the new Captain Cook Hotel, promises to be the biggest and attractive dinner ever.

The banquet, honoring Tundra Times editor and publisher Howard Rock, will be held in conjunction with the annual convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives. Reservations have been received from most of the regional Native associations. As the registration fee for the convention includes the cost of the banquet, the larger majority of delegates are expected to attend.

R. Sargent Shriver, Democratic vice-presidential candidate during the 1972 election, will be the keynote speaker. Noted guests, such as Governor Egan, Senator Ted Stevens, publisher Kay Fanning and Bob Atwood will be requested to demonstrate traditional Native games, such as the ear pull. One of the banquet planners suggested that one game more familiar to Alaska politicians, the leg pull, may have a place in the programs.

State Senator Willie Hensley, who recently announced his resignation as president of the AFN, will be the master of ceremonies. He plans to call upon talented Native story tellers to liven up the affair.

History of the TT— Struggle for Claims Settlement

A SURVIVAL STORY By LAEL MORGAN

One of the most astonishing survival stories of the Far North is that of the Tundra Times. This fall the little Eskimo-Indian newspaper celebrates its 10th year of publication, flourishing in the financial wasteland of the Arctic on an erratic circulation that wavers between 1,500 and 5,000.

More remarkable is the influence exerted by this hardy weekly and its Eskimo editor, Howard Rock. Working with one reporter, or often just a part-time staffer, Rock has shaken high offices in Washington, D.C., with the force of seismic seizure and helped change the face of Alaska.

"Perhaps more than any one else, he helped weld together the frontier state's 55,000 Natives for their successful, years-long fight to win the largest aboriginal land-claims settlement in American history," notes Stanton H. Patty, veteran Alaskan observer for the Seattle Times.

"He was their voice, at times about the only calm voice when crescendos of invective threatened to tear Alaska apart."

If credit is given where credit is due, however, Rock would not be the original hero of this tale. That honor belongs to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to which Alaskans often assign the role of villain.

PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC POWER

In 1958 the AEC developed a plan to excavate a harbor with nuclear explosives in Alaska's Northwest Arctic. The need for a deep water refuge on this storm-strafed coast had long been felt by the handful of seamen who ventured there and proponents of the blast believed it a good chance to test the peaceful uses of atomic power.

They failed, however, to take into account the 800 Eskimos who lived in the area of Cape Thompson, the chosen blast site. The isolated Natives knew little about the work of the AEC but they had heard of the Atomic Bomb and they began to worry that their game and perhaps their very existence might be threatened.

"There were attempts to lull us, the people of Noatak, Kivalina and Point Hope," recounts editor Rock who was born in Point Hope. "We were wheedled with rewards of acclaim from science and the peoples of the world if we would agree to go along with 'Project Chariot.'"

"We, the people of the three villages, did not go for the enticements. We chose to remain in our home villages come what may. The love for our homes, however humble, and the deep sense heritage prevailed..."

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Thompson Sworn In

By RICHARD LACOURSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AIPA) After a long lull of nearly an exact full year, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) at last has a new Indian Commissioner appointed by the President, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and formally sworn into office by the Secretary of the Interior.

Morris Thompson, 34, an Athabaskan Indian from Tanana, Alaska and the fifth Indian in history to head that troubled agency, was sworn into office here on the morning of Dec. 3 by Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton, who personally had submitted Thompson's name to the White House on Sept. 11 as his personal choice to fill that vacant post.

Six days earlier the Senate had by "unanimous consent" confirmed Thompson in office following that recommendation from President Richard M. Nixon and a like recommendation from a voting quorum of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee on Nov. 26, which was the Senate committee responsible for the review of the nomination.

On Monday, Dec. 3, Thompson took the following oath as Indian Commissioner:

"I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance

to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

Thompson was required to sign an appointment affidavit upholding the text of his oath, including affirmations that he was not participating nor would participate in any employee strike against the federal government, and that neither he nor anyone in his behalf had "given, transferred, promised or paid" anything in the expectation of receiving assistance in securing appointment as the Indian Commissioner.

Thompson thereby assumed all the responsibilities temporarily vested in Marvin L. Franklin, who this past Feb. 7 was appointed Assistant to the Interior

Secretary for Indian Affairs and who was at that time empowered with all the rights and responsibilities of the position of the Indian Commissioner by an Interior executive action called a "secretarial order." That order was rescinded on the morning of Dec. 3, just prior to the taking of the oath by Thompson. Franklin himself was expected to remain at the Interior Department to assist Thompson across a brief period of transition as Thompson took charge of the BIA. Then it is expected that Franklin, who now fills a role with advisory powers on Indian policy equivalent to those of his predecessor, Ms. Wilma Victor, will soon leave Interior altogether.

Welcoming Thompson aboard at Interior, Morton in a public statement declared he was confident Thompson would provide

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Editorial Comment

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Long before today there has been a great need for a newspaper for the northern Natives of Alaska. Since civilization has swept into their lives in tide-like earnestness, it has left the Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts in bewildering state of indecision and insecurity between the seeming need for assimilation and, especially in the Eskimo areas, the desire to retain some of their cultural and traditional

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