

*"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—

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way of life.

Noting the need for information to cope with civilization in an informed manner, the Eskimo Inupiat Pitot organization at its first meeting in November, pointed out:

"It is suggested that a bulletin or newsletter be published and circulated every so often to villages about what is being done within the Inupiat organizations. This organization should be well established, not to be allowed to die. All the Native villages should be informed what has been accomplished for the good of those villages."

Since the Inupiat meeting, the Athabascan Indians of the Interior Alaska organized at a meeting this past June at Tanana. Therefore we have decided that this newspaper shall serve them as well as other Natives in Alaska.

There are two main reasons for the appearance of the Tundra Times.

First: It will be the medium to air the views of the Native organizations. It will reflect their policies and purposes as they work for the betterment of the Native peoples of Alaska. It will also reflect their aims... their hopes. It will strive to aid them in their struggle for just determination and settlement of their enormous problems.

Second: It will strive to keep informed on matters of interest all Natives of Alaska, whether they be Eskimos of the Arctic, the Athabascans of the Interior, and other Indians and Aleuts of the Aleutian Islands.

We have also realized that an unbiased presentation of issues that directly concern the Natives is needed. In presenting those things that most affect Natives, we will make every effort to be truthful and objective.

Aside from the more serious purposes, the paper will print articles on what it believes to be an extremely important subject, the culture of the Arctic. We will cover whaling, hunting and fishing, the Eskimo dance, the dog-team, the family unit, legends, celebrations; both ancient and current, customs of the past, and present and other things that fall in the category of the Arctic culture. We will include articles on the culture of the Indian and the Aleut.

Politically, the Tundra Times will follow a firm policy. It will not support any political party. Its policy will be independent. It will be non-partisan in airing the views of individual candidates. Occasionally, the paper in its editorial columns, may favor a candidate or certain elected official. If this occurs, it will be because of his stand on Native issues rather than the political party to which he belongs.

A reminder: Natives of Alaska, the Tundra Times is your paper. It is here to express your ideas, your thoughts and opinions on issues that vitally affect you. When you have a subject that you feel needs to be written about, pass that subject along. If you have something to offer, such as a good photograph, you think would add to the paper, pass that along, too.

Each offering will be carefully considered and much appreciated. They will aid the success of the paper.

And in a financial way, you can help, too. Support it by purchasing the products or services of our advertisers. This does not necessarily mean that you must follow the offerings of our political advertisers. Your considered judgment will, and must, be your guide on political matters. Subscribe to the paper and ask others to subscribe.

With this humble beginning we hope, not for any distinction, but to serve with dedication the truthful presentation of Native problems, issues and interests. The paper asks your kind reception and wishes for success and God-speed.

## Letters from Here and There

December 4, 1973

Mr. Howard Rock, Editor  
TUNDRA TIMES  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Howard:

An article appeared in the November 28 issue of the TUNDRA TIMES concerning housing at the Arctic coastal village of Wainwright. Whereas I do not wish to comment on either the merits of the argument nor the actual conditions existing, having not visited the Wainwright area since 1971, I do wish to take strong exception to two statements that appeared in the article since they deal with construction in an area having cold permafrost.

The statements, "Shimmying the houses after a thaw is necessary for Arctic living," and "What everyone needs is a jack to jack up the houses — that's just part of the game," are utter nonsense and a blot on the knowledge that Alaskans have gained working the Arctic areas for the last quarter century.

The truth is that the northern coastal area of Alaska is one of the east-most areas in the entire State in which to construct housing with a foundation as solid as if it were built on solid rock. The idea that shimmying houses after a thaw is necessary only if the houses aren't constructed properly. There are examples of many properly constructed houses at Barrow which is in a permafrost area similar to that found at Wainwright. A 45,000 square foot laboratory has sat at Barrow and many large structures, supporting very considerable floor weights, sit in the Prudhoe Bay area. Not only are these

structures unmoveable, but they sit there without settlement, unless torn down or buried down, long after any of us now living are gone.

I would greatly appreciate your publishing this letter in an attempt to correct an erroneous impression.

Sincerely,  
Max C. Brewer  
Commissioner

Deane Williams and  
Eva David  
Allakaket State School  
December 4, 1973

Tundra Times  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Sir:

We would like some magazines for cutting out pictures for scrapbooks and other projects. We are especially interested in some things that have to do with Alaska, but anything will do. So anyone who has old magazines to give away we would like to have them, send us some.

Thank You,  
Deane Williams and Eva David

Nulato, Alaska  
Dec. 3, 1973

Dear Friend Mr. Howard Rock,

All these years I have been writing to you since 1962 when I started to work at Murphy Dome, and it was to try to get the land settlement and the man that asked me and told me to do it was Charles Purvis, a White man.

At the time I didn't think too much about it but every

weekend he'd find me with the Tundra Times paper in his hands and started to explain every paragraph in it.

Then I started to write. Now after we got the land settlement we don't get no money yet, we poor people here on the Yukon River. If we get so much here at Nulato, every six months, we could divide it to each family. There are lot of Kids here. We could raise them with that money, and me I'll drink my share. That's the way I want my land money and the people here are the same way. We need the money now. I would go down to Anchorage right now for that Tundra Times banquet.

I made 23 hundred dollars and the government took \$830 out of it. I don't know what for.

Fred Stickman

P. S. Merry Christmas to all my friends and everybody.

## BLM Land Issues

By JOETTE STORM

*(Editor's Note: This week the Tundra Times introduces a new regular feature from the Bureau of Land Management on the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act. Readers may send their questions to Claims Questions, Bureau of Land Management, 555 Cordova St., Anchorage, Alaska 99501.)*

The deadline for filing a claim to land that has been used for a primary place of residence is Dec. 18, 1973.

Jack Young writes, "I am a Hingit Indian living in Anchorage and enrolled under the Claims Act. I inherited land in Haines from my father. Must I file any claim to this land under the primary place of residence provision?"

It is not likely that you can claim a primary place of residence in Haines if you live and work in Anchorage most of the year. A primary place of residence is the land on which a person lives most of the time and which he or she calls home.

It can be claimed under the Claims Act in two ways. If the land claimed as a primary place of residence lies within the land selected by a village, the village must convey title to the land to that Native. If the land is part of that being selected by the regional corporation, the corporation may grant the land, but it is not required to do so.

If the land lies outside of village and regional selections and the Native used it as his or her primary place of residence on Aug. 31, 1971, the Native may claim up to 160 acres directly from the government.

It can be claimed under the Claims Act in two ways. If the land lies within the land selected by a village or regional corporation, the corporation may grant title to the land to the person. If the land lies outside of corporation selections, it may be claimed directly from the government.

If you own land at Haines, you should have a deed showing title to the property, and you do not have to file another claim to it.

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## At Land's End Village— The Old Eskimo

Land's End Village  
State of Alaska  
November 26, 1973

Dear Howard,

A friend of mine left off some old copies of the Anchorage Daily Times, which told about the Secretary of Interior, Rogers C. B. Morton, and his fantastic Six Day/3,000 mile "Visit to Alaska" this past summer. It is certainly interesting to read old newspapers when you know what has really happened since then. One of the things that caught my eye was the following paragraph in an article about the Secretary's visit to Valdez:

"The secretary said the building of the pipeline was analogous to the construction of the pyramids of Egypt in that it is the most expensive and extensive man-made venture to date in history." ANCHORAGE DAILY TIMES, August 20, 1973 (page 2).

Well, I asked my friend Wally about the Egyptian pyramids — said that they were built by Egyptian Kings with slave labor for religious purposes like preserving the royal bodies as mummies. Maybe the Pipeline is being built by the Government for the religious purpose of preserving the American Economy, but now they won't need slaves since there are so many unemployed people.

When I read that passage to Wally he just laughed and asked me if the Pipeline would be visible from the Moon. He said that the Brazilian Government is building a 3,000 mile highway through the Amazon jungle which they claim will be one of the only man-made objects visible from the Moon. Wally also pointed out that the astronauts in the space satellite could see a big cloud of pollution from the Black Mesa power plant at Four Corners in the American Southwest.

Wally said that the Brazilians claim, they are opening the last frontier and integrating the Natives into the national society (and killing the rest). The Anchorage Daily Times said that Secretary Morton is visiting the last frontier and we can all see how Natives have been integrated into the American Way of Life. First they take our land, water, game, and fish — they our children — and if there is anything left they will build a museum or make a movie to preserve it.

Well Howard, I guess we will have our monument if they have a nice big oil spill. Maybe they will be able to see it all the way from the Moon or if there is enough oil maybe even from the top of one of the new office buildings in Anchorage.

Your friend,  
Naugga Cuernerput