

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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way of life.

Noting the need for information to cope with civilization in an informed manner, the Eskimo Inupiat Paitot 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.