

# 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 easiest 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.