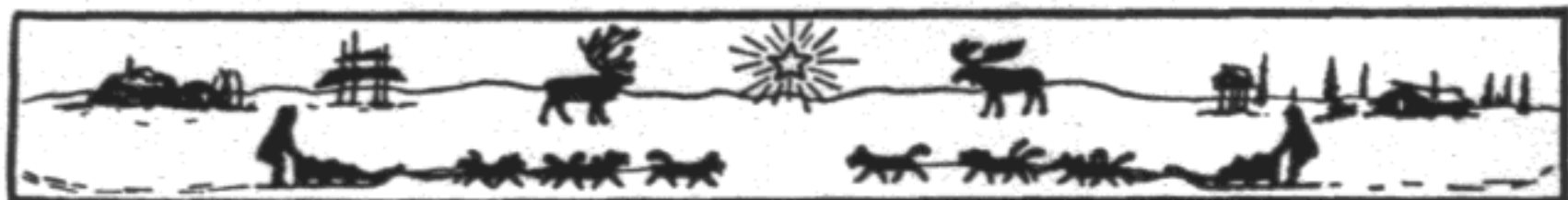


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

# Tundra Times



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## Editorial—

# The Greed for Land

The embattled old man, Chief Andrew Isaac of Tanacross, continues to fight for the Indians in his area. The old chief is attempting to hold on to the land of his people against odds that seem at the moment too great for him to handle alone.

Although Chief Isaac is an effective old fighter, one serious handicap has been his lack of Western education. Outside of this, he is a man of great knowledge of the land of his forefathers and the land of which he is most intimate. As do his peers and fellow chiefs in Alaska, he knows every landmark whether it be a creek, a bend of the river, crags of mountains and any distinguishing mark of the country he knows.

Chief Isaac knows why villages were established in certain places. They were put there for the greatest convenience of their inhabitants—a knowledge that always seemed to have met with the greatest respect by outsiders. This precise knowledge has also invited covetousness for lands.

Those who covet native lands have a way of getting around the Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos. Although they have respect for such men as Chief Isaac who, although speaking in broken language can make eloquent speeches in defense of his people, they also know he lacks knowledge of Western education type legal matters.

Chief Isaac is not alone who has suffered because of the lack of Western education. There are many others like him throughout Alaska, and because they have had no proper education, they have been taken advantage of. This is the "Achilles Heel" for those who covet the lands of Alaska's native people. The covetous people, groups or agencies, both state and federal, have access to legal staffs and can cause legalistic mumbo-jumbo drawn up even an educated person would have trouble understanding let alone the great mass of native people. These legalistic papers are often used as first steps toward acquiring the accustomed land areas that have been historically used by the original Alaskans.

Although it is questionable, the state is in the process of acquiring land around Tanacross including the soil on which Mansfield Village, a few miles from Tanacross, is located. All this even when regulations declare that NO selections of lands will be made in those areas used by Indians. And, too, the Tanacross area Indians laid claims to their lands back in November 30, 1950 and submitted it to the Bureau of Land Management. This claim is apparently being ignored although it had been appealed and reasserted in 1964. The 1950 claim, however, had been rejected by the BLM but no official action on the land assertion has been made by the Department of the Interior after it received it sometime between 1959 and 1962.

Individual villages, oftentimes, have had trouble getting proper attention on such things as having their claims processed, or have had them processed after an unduly long time. They are often powerless to have their demands acted on because they are pretty much alone. Such things, perhaps, could be funnelled through the Alaska Federation of Natives. The federation, through a properly authorized person, can

## Vital Document—

# Tanacross Assertion For Lands in 1950

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JO-L-5

In the Matter of the Natives)

of TANACROSS

)PETITIONS FOR POSSESSORY RIGHTS  
)HEARING AND RESERVATION.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR:

Now come the natives of TANACROSS and respectfully show the Secretary that from time immemorial up to the present, and during the year 1884, they have used and occupied and presently use and occupy an area of land surrounding the village of TANACROSS.

2. That the land which they occupy is described as follows: Beginning at Tanacross, thence in a northeasterly direction to Mt. Fairplay thence north to the confluence of West Fork and Dennison Creek, thence in a northwesterly direction to elevation marker 6715, thence in a southwesterly direction to elevation marker 3890, thence in a southeasterly direction to where Sears Creek empties into the Johnson River, thence to point of beginning, Tanacross.

3. That on May 17, 1884, Congress passed a law stating that the lands which the natives of Alaska then used, occupied, or claimed should forever be reserved for their use, and promising that these lands would be surveyed and that at some future date, Congress would provide a way for the Eskimos to receive paper title to their lands;

4. That they have never given up their rights in these lands; that they have never ceded, abandoned, or sold the lands;

5. That no survey has been made to the lands, nor has any action been taken to protect the rights of the natives in their lands except the Act of May 1, 1936, giving the Secretary of the Interior the power to create a reservation for us;

6. That many people are coming to the Territory of Alaska to make it their homes; that now industries are being encouraged to settle in the Territory; and that because of these things, there is great danger that we will lose our lands and will be unable to support ourselves.

NOW, THEREFORE, Your petitioners pray that a hearing be held to determine the boundaries of the lands presently used and occupied and owned by the natives of TANACROSS and that those lands, plus any additional lands necessary to protect our way of life and assure us the chance to make a decent living be reserved to our use in accordance with the Act of May 1, 1936.

NATIVES OF TANACROSS  
By David Paul  
President of Village Council

Date November 30, 1950

## Letters to the Editor

Allakaket, Alaska  
June 24, 1969

Dear Editor:

I am writing about a problem that has been with us a long time—forever it seems. Please print this in your newspaper.

Now, there are approximately 20 or more fire fighters, or men who are available for fire fighting, here in the village. After a month or so of reporting about fires, we haven't been called upon yet.

Now we hear about hundreds of men being brought in from the Lower 48, and this seems to be the trend of Alaskan employment. This follows the "Slope" hiring practice and we natives are left out again. I'm sure that there are other villages with the same problem.

Most of us cannot afford to fly into town and wait for employment. More than anything, we cannot afford the waiting period.

I know that we are out of the way, so I would like to know the following. Who brought in the "Lower 48" fire fighters? Does it cost more to come to the villages than to go outside?

These are some of the problems, and this is our main one at this time.

Please print this soon.

Sincerely,  
Ronald Sam

help to process the land matters of the villages therefore, very likely, expediting them.

Men, such as Chief Andrew Isaac and his people, need the assistance of the AFN or their regional organization. Chief Isaac, although a great old fighter, needs backing.

## CPB Grant to Enable Ludwig To Film Natives

KUAC-FM, the University of Alaska radio station, has been awarded one of 23 grants announced by the Corporation for Public Broadcast.

The grant, not to exceed \$5,000 will be used to produce a 13-program series, "Alaska's Native People: A Crossroad in Time." These programs will be prepared for state-wide, as well as national distribution.

The series will be produced by Jim Ludwig, KUAC's Program Director, and will attempt to document important issues facing Alaska natives today, as well as capture the sounds of native village life and a culture in transition between the old and the new way.

In making the announcement CPB pointed out that a total of 65 stations submitted 99 proposals in this first CPB recipients were selected. Grants total \$100,674.

Under terms of the grant, stations are required to make a program or series with regional or national audience interest available to National Educational Radio for possible distribution via tape.

The series to be produced by KUAC will be researched and planned so as to include the various native groups (Eskimo, Indian and Aleut) that geographically represent Alaska.

In scope, it will cover everything from legend to the future for Alaska's natives.

"At this particular time," reasons Ludwig, "when the 'eyes' the 'lower 48' are already in Alaska because of the North Slope oil discovery, proposed settlement of the Native Land Claims, and the national interest generated by the recent visit of U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy and members of the Indian Education Subcommittee, I think our proposed radio series is very timely as well as socially significant. If realized, it can provide listeners with a meaningful and informative insight into Alaska's native people."

## Six Killer Visit

The Fairbanks Native Association announced at its Tuesday meeting that Jess Six Killer, Executive Director of American Indians - United, will arrive in Fairbanks during the week of July 1.

Six Killer has worked extensively with Indian groups in urban centers throughout the U.S. will come to Alaska to inspect operation of the Anchorage and Fairbanks Community Welcome Centers.

The FNA also responded to invitation to place representation on the 1969 World Eskimo Olympics Committee. Robert Aloysius, Acting FNA Chairman, Georgian Lincoln, and Marcello Quinto accepted membership on the committee as representatives of FNA.

New officers were appointed as FNA Representative to Alaska Legal Services Corporation Board of Directors.

Emma Widmark was appointed to temporarily fill the post of Corresponding Secretary.

## THOMAS JEFFERSON

"We hold these truths to be self-evident,—that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."  
The Declaration of Independence

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ARTIFACTS WANTED! If you are going to sell old-time objects, please contact the Alaska State Museum first. If you have old-time things that need special care, you can lend them to the Museum for safe-keeping and display. If your things are in the Alaska State Museum, they stay in Alaska. Contact: Jane Wallen, Director, Alaska State Museum, Pouch FM, Juneau, Alaska 99801, phone 586-1224.

