

Patient observers— Natives & sciences

By
MAX C. BREWER

The recent passing of Simon Paneak, a patriarch of the Nunamiut of Anaktuvuk Pass, is a grim reminder that Alaska's original natural scientists are escaping us with the passage of time. Some of their vast knowledge fortunately is now a matter of written record. However, much of it still remains to be recorded.

It is not necessary to have formally passed through the halls of a university to become a natural scientist. The keen and patient observer of nature, who can long remember what he has seen and who can relate it to other naturally occurring processes and events, also qualifies as a natural scientist or, perhaps even better, as a naturalist.

Simon was an outstanding naturalist, although he was not alone in this regard in the north. However, he has been one of the lucky ones, since much of what he gleaned from nature over the years has been recorded. In some cases he also is listed as one of the coauthors in the scientific publications that resulted.

It was to Simon Paneak's family that a director of the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory entrusted a young undergraduate student in anthropology, from Yale University, for a period of 15 months. The young man learned the language of the Nunamiut, and wrote of his experiences and what he had learned from Simon. He also wrote of the people.

The young student subsequently graduated from Yale with high honors in anthropology and went on to become a Rhodes scholar.

But Simon is only one of a number of northern Native naturalists. His cousin, Peter Sovalik, is as knowledgeable of the coastal environment as Simon was of the northern Brooks Range and the Foothills. Pete is first mentioned in a book, by one of the early explorers doing field work along the Arctic coast, in 1913.

In over a quarter century of working with young scientists, and with some not so young, at the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory, Pete has imparted much of his knowledge to them about the birds, the animals the ocean ice, and the ocean currents in coastal Arctic Alaska.

He knows the animals and their habits so well that he has captured rabid foxes alive for observation, without the use of either trap or gun.

The most definitive book on the animals of the area contains so many quotes from him that one wonders why he didn't author it.

Pete's formal education, however, was interrupted too many times by the need to be on the trail in pursuit of a livelihood. This has not prevented him from correcting or improving maps published by government agencies. Nor has it prevented him from training a generation of young scientists in how to observe and interpret nature, or in how to survive in the Arctic.

Well versed in anatomy, he once came to a small settlement where the people were holding a wake for a young boy, who had been mauled and had his scalp completely torn off by a young polar bear.

Finding the boy not yet dead, Pete preceded to sew the bits of scalp and hair back on, piece by piece, using binder twine and a sack sewing needle previously

used to sew heavy canvas. Some 40 years later this boy still has a full head of hair, and not a scar on his face.

For the first half of this century, most of the Arctic bird collections, bird egg collections, and the animal skins, found in the scientific museums in the southern 48 states, were prepared as specimens by four of the Brower brothers at Barrow.

Their father, the early whaler Charles D. Brower, had trained them to prepare the specimens. They had traveled widely, including up to northern Banks Island in the Canadian Archipelago, and had spent much time in the field, observing wildlife in natural poses and activities, in order to provide realistic appearing specimens.

Today, if a scientist wants to research long-term animal cycles on the North Slope or the earlier snow geese populations in northern Alaska or on Banks Island, he consults with Thomas Brower.

If the scientists is interested in fish populations and ranges, he consults with Arnod Brower. If he wants to develop natural poses and environments for animal and bird specimens, he usually consults with Harry Brower.

This ability and artistry with specimen preparation took a quaint turn for Harry some years ago. As a joke and a parting souvenir for friends, he began making single lemming skins into miniature rugs. He mounted the skins of these mouse-sized animals on velvet backing and with the teeth showing in a full-head mount, just as though he was preparing a polar bear rug. Suddenly, he was inundated with friends who just had to have their lemming skin rugs, and he ended up working way into the nights on the. Several found their way to executive desks in Washington, D.C.

The crowning blow, however, came from Mexico. A souvenir shop there sent him an order for 5,000 lemming skin rugs. He gave up that business in a hurry.

People, born and raised without a written language, perpetuate their cultures through storytelling, ceremonial dances, close attention to detail, and long memories. Few are better trained in this regard than Alfred Hopson, Sr. His memories include the first arrival at Barrow of the explorer, Stefansson, in 1906.

Because Stefansson spent considerable time, that first winter, obtaining cranial measurements, he was nicknamed "Head Measure"; a name that he never shook in northern Alaska.

Al, who took the first census in Arctic Alaska traveling over 2000 miles by dogteam in 1930, can provide the socio-economic history of the Natives in Arctic Alaska during this century from memory. His descriptions will be in as great a detail, including statistics, as can be obtained by synthesizing the data from a large number of books written by explorers, from the fragmentary government documents available and, more recently, from the university studies of the socio-economics of the people in the north.

Scientific studies in the Arctic often have been carried on the shoulders of the people who have learned to live and to work there over the centuries. The people noted comprise only a small nucleus of those who rightfully could have been mentioned.



MRS. LYDIA GEORGE, (center) secretary/treasurer of the Angoon Chapter, Tlingit-Haida tribe, accepts a check for the first installment of grants being presented by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in support of Indian Bicentennial programs. Wayne Chattin, right, of the Bicentennial's Native American Programs Office made the presentation. Also shown, Ross Miller, Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Tlingit-Haidas will be receiving \$98,445 for tribal and community house renovation.

Skagway-Rural CAP back gas pipeline

The City of Skagway and the RuralALCAP Board of Directors have added their voices to the lengthening list of organizations which support the trans-Alaska natural gas line, the RuralALCAP directors endorsed the line contingent upon mandated local hire, insuring sufficient oil and gas be kept within the state to meet Alaska's needs, and several other clauses.

Skagway's City Council was one of a number of Alaskan communities and organizations which wrote the Federal Power Commission to criticize the FPC staff's environmental impact statement.

Skagway Mayor John R. Edwards wrote the FPC to note that "the statement that there is no interest in the use of the state's royalty gas within the state is in error." Edwards also noted that the Environmental Statement fails to indicate the

strong support of the citizens of Alaska.

Other organizations which wrote the FPC include the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the City of Fairbanks, the Fairbanks Town and Village Association, the State Democratic Central Committee, the Boilermakers Union Local No. 104, the State of Alaska, the Seattle Port Commission and the Prince William Aquaculture Association. The Boilermakers Union business manager also wrote to all members of Congress.

"We are hopeful that more Alaskan organizations and individuals, too, will use their contacts outside the state to make known our solid support

for the Alaska gas line," said OMAR spokesperson Paula Easley.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Under the provisions of section 12(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971 (85 Stat. 688), Gwitchyaaazhee Corporation (Fort Yukon) filed applications F-14857-A and F-14857-B for certain public lands located near Fort Yukon, Alaska, and described as follows (excluding valid, existing rights):

Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska (Protracted)
T. 18 N., R. 9 E., sections 1-36
T. 18 N., R. 13 E., sections 1-36
T. 19 N., R. 10 E., sections 1-36
T. 19 N., R. 12 E., sections 1-36
T. 20 N., R. 9 E., sections 1-36
T. 20 N., R. 11 E., sections 1-36
T. 20 N., R. 12 E., sections 1-36
T. 20 N., R. 13 E., sections 1-11,
17-20, 29-31

T. 21 N., R. 10 E., sections 1-36
T. 21 N., R. 12 E., sections 1-36
T. 22 N., R. 9 E., sections 25, 26,
34-36
T. 22 N., R. 13 E., sections 25, 26,
35, 36

The purpose of this notice is to allow all persons claiming the lands adversely to file their objections to issuance of patent to the village corporation with the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Such persons must serve on the Land Selection Agent, Gwitchyaaazhee Corporation, Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740, a copy of their objections and furnish evidence of such service to the Bureau of Land Management at the above address.

Sue A. Wolf
Acting Chief
Branch of Lands
and Minerals Operations
Pub.: Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25, 1976

LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Sealed bids in single copy for furnishing all labor, materials and equipment, and performing all work on Project RS-0902(5), South Tongass Highway Guard Rail described herein, will be received until 2:00 p.m. prevailing time, February 26, 1976, in the Commissioner's Office, Department of Highways, Island Center Building, Douglas, Alaska.

This project will consist of guard rail installation on 7.1 miles of the South Tongass Highway near Ketchikan, Alaska.

Items of work consist of the following: 1925 cubic yards of borrow; 19,862 linear feet of beam type guard rail; 450 linear feet of removal and disposal of existing guardrail; and 600 cubic yards of riprap, Class 1.

All work shall be completed in 80 calendar days.

Plans and specifications may be obtained by all who have a bona fide need for them for bidding purposes from the Chief Road Design Engineer, P.O. Box 1467, Juneau, Alaska 99802 at a charge of \$10.00 (non-refundable) for each assembly. Checks or money orders should be made payable to: State of Alaska, Department of Highways. Plans may be examined at Department of Highway Offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Valdez, and Seward.

Walter B. Parker
Commissioner of Highways
Pub.: Feb. 4, 11 and 18, 1976

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Under the provisions of section 12(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971 (85 Stat. 688), Tintee' Ail, Inc. (Village of Birch Creek) filed application F-14840-B for certain public lands described as follows: Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska (Protracted)

T. 17 N., R. 8 E., sections 1-36
T. 17 N., R. 10 E., sections 1-36
T. 16 N., R. 9 E., sections 1-36
T. 15 N., R. 8 E., sections 4, 5, 8, 9

Excluding valid existing rights. The purpose of this notice is to allow all persons claiming the lands adversely to file their objections to issuance of patent to the regional corporation with the Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office, P.O. Box 1150, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99701. Such persons must serve on the Land Selection Agent, of Tintee' Ail, Inc., Birch Creek via Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740, a copy of their objections and furnish evidence of such service to the Bureau of Land Management at the above address. Chief, Branch of Lands and Minerals Operations
Pub.: Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25, 1976

LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Sealed Bids for furnishing all labor and equipment and performing all work for the maintenance of the following described state highway within the Sterling Landing - Takotna - Ophir area beginning July 1, 1976 and continuing through June 30, 1978 will be received until 2:00 p.m., February 27, 1976 in room 219 of the Alaska Department of Highways building, Douglas, Alaska.

The successful bidder will be required to perform all required maintenance operations including, but not limited to the following: snow removal, routine surface and drainage maintenance and bridge maintenance as required to keep the routes in a suitable and safe condition for traffic during the periods these roads are to be maintained.

Detailed specifications may be obtained from the Supply & Services Office, P.O. Box 589, Douglas, Alaska 99824 or from the Supply Office of the Central District Highway complex, 5700 Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507.
Pub.: Feb. 11, 18 and 25, 1976

AFN Page— Talent search

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getting its operation into full swing with an intensive schedule planned for the new year.

Six Counselors will be travelling throughout all areas of the State, assisting young people who have dropped out of school and are interested in getting back into some sort of educational program, whether it be a secondary school (Grade 9-12), a GED program, and the like, or post secondary school (college, vocational school, etc.).

The Counselors are prepared to assist anyone young or old, in selecting the ideal training center or school, based on each individual's interests, and then provide complete assistance in the necessary application procedures required by these educational organizations.

The Counselors are also totally familiar with the financial aids programs available. They are more than ready and willing to assist those interested in applying for any funds that may be needed to attend these schools.

Anyone wishing to obtain more information should contact Steve Crosby, Talent Search Coordinator at this address: A.S.H.E.S./AFN, Inc., 670 West Fireweed Lane, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, 274-3611 Ext. 320.

You will be sure to be contacted.