



SPECIAL EDUCATION ISSUE OF THE TUNDRA TIMES



PUSH ON BILLS 421-22-23-24



PARTY AT ANAKTUVUK — A Valentine's Day party at Anaktuvuk's village school. Children's Cache Aide, Louisa Morry, helps schoolteachers,

Mike, and Pat De Marco, seated, arrange the room for the day's festivities.

— Photo by LAEL MORGAN

Bush Teachers' Trials Tribulations—

Anaktuvuk School Stoves Blow up at 50 Below

By LAEL MORGAN

ANAKTUVUK PASS—It was 1:30 a.m. at 50° below zero when the stove blew up in the living quarters of the school this winter. Teacher Mike De Marco fought his way to the kitchen and found the fire extinguisher on a wall behind the flames while his wife, Pat, opened all the windows.

In about fifteen minutes the fire was out and the sooty De Marcos began repairs and clean-up with room temperatures below zero.

By 5:00 a.m. they had the job done and went back to bed. An hour later a guest, John Nowak of the Anchorage Weather Bureau, who had been sleeping in the school, woke them up to report the stove in the classroom had blown up.

The second fire and clean-up operation was as tough as the first and had their company not been sleeping in the school, it probably would have burned.

Running a two-teacher school in an isolated Alaskan village involves a lot more than "readin', writin', and 'rithmetic". The De Marco's fire fighting experience, while not an average day, was not unusual.

Last year in a high wind the roof blew off this same school, forcing the teacher (now moved away) to set up shop in the

village church.

The De Marco's are bush veterans of several years. When they took the job at Anaktuvuk Pass they knew the work it would involve, but the problems they face are many.

The school living quarters are plumbed but nothing works in the winter. The sewer system backed up with the first good

freeze and Mrs. De Marco was forced to bail out the bathroom. (She discovered her roast baster

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Harry Carter On Education

Harry Carter, executive director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, affirmed that "education has the highest priority" within that organization.

Last June, the AFN offered itself as the contracting agency for several special educational programs: Talent Search, Upward Bound, and On Campus Special Services.

In securing responsibility for these programs, the AFN became the first location in the United States where all three programs are combined. In addition, it is now the headquarters for ASHES, Alaska Student Higher Education Service.

"It is hoped," Mr. Carter said, "that we can eventually devote some time to broad areas

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Bills Seek to Preserve Language Heritages Through Native Center

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

There is national concern over certain animals which once abounded in Alaska and are now threatened with extinction. It is a fact that things other than animals can become extinct, specifically the heritage and the language of a people.

Four bills now before the legislature, Senate Bills 421, 422, 423, and 424, seek to preserve this heritage through the creation of an Alaska Native language center at the University of Alaska and the establishment of a bi-lingual program of education for Native Alaskans.

Many Alaskan languages are dying, some are already extinct. All the rest are either in grave danger of an increasingly precarious position.

Michael Krauss, the gifted linguist whom Irene Reed of the Eskimo Language Workshop calls "the father of all Native language programs in Alaska", strongly emphasized the critical nature of the program.

Involved in extensive work in the Athapaskan and Eyak languages since 1960, Dr. Krauss reminds Alaskans that the time to begin this work was yesterday.

Alaska has too long neglected this rich source of its history and today some languages survive in as few as four speakers. These are human beings, they are the oldest living remnants of a people, and they are perishable, as is their speech.

As to why this vital work of the collecting, grouping, and the study of the many Native languages has been so long neglected, Dr. Krauss replied, "The Native people have had to concentrate their struggle in trying

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Education Consortium—

Audio-Visual Communication Viewed

Heralding the space-age technology of America in this same month in which men chatted

back and forth from the moon to the control center, it is somewhat of a paradox that vast areas of America do not have any permanent, practical, reliable means of audio-visual communication.

An effort to bend this technology to serve the need in rural Alaska was discussed at an Educational Telecommunication Consortium held in Fairbanks, Friday April 28, on the University of Alaska campus.

A distinguished panel under the chairmanship of Harry Carter, AFN, delved into the successes, projections, and aspirations of an educational project that has beamed experimental programs into interior rural villages, using the AT&T NASA satellite.

The group heard reports on future programming from Sue Pittman, project director, on hearing loss testing by John Devens; on the Library Association programming by Mary Matthews; on the Community Health Aide Program by Phil Moreno; and on the biomedical segment usage by Glen Stanley.

After a promising year, the project now faces extinction for lack of funds. The Consortium explored how they might extend it, discussing at length the technical problems and the audience

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TT's Richards' Book—

Tom, Jr. Writing Book on Claims

Eskimo Journalist Thomas Richards, Jr., Washington, D.C. correspondent for the TUNDRA TIMES over the past three years,

is at work on a manuscript documenting the full story of the Alaska Native claims settlement.

Richards' outline of the inside story includes Native history, both front and back room negotiations in Alaska and Washington, and a full and hitherto unpublished record of White House and congressional actions and changes.

Meaningful files both in Alaska and the Capitol have been opened to Richards.

The manuscript will be published in midsummer of 1973.

Richards is the son of Thomas and Dorothy Richards of Fairbanks. The elder Richards is a veteran jet pilot, a captain, on the Wien Consolidated Airlines headquartered in Fairbanks.

Young Richards is presently serving in the Navy and has been stationed in Washington. He is expected to be mustered out this year and will return to his job in the Tundra Times as a reporter-photographer.



Journalist Tom Richards.
— AIPA NEWSPHOTO