

"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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SEE NEW RATES ON PAGE 8.

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Editorial— Religious Groups and The Native Cultures

A glaring example of what some religious denominations can do to Alaska native cultures again revealed itself last week at the town of Kotzebue. Friends Church officials there accused the federally funded Eskimo dancing class as aiding and abetting shamanism and witchcraft. These accusations are insults of the basest kind to the Alaska native peoples and their cultures. Religious groups with such attitudes should not ask to minister to our people. When they do, they are, whether they know it or not, working to tear down the very spirit of a people.

We say once again that culture of a people had been established to sustain their spiritual attitude in relation to their surroundings no matter where they may be located in the world. This attitude firmly embedded in a people is a strength-giving cultural facet. It is as necessary as life-giving food. Spiritual attitude toward a people's environments and surroundings and food give those particular people the fullest measure of strength to meet whatever problems they may encounter in their surroundings.

Alaska native cultures were developed to meet some of the most trying and sternest conditions anywhere in the world. The spiritual attitudes and cultures had to be strong enabling our people to survive the great challenges Alaska had to offer. Through ignorant inroads, many of these cultures have been killed doing great harm in the process.

Alaska native cultures had been painfully and intricately established. With proper attitudes toward them, they should have been inviolate.

The Raft Race

It might not be a bad idea to consider changing raft race schedule and postpone it at least two weeks. The river waters will be pretty high this Saturday. The waters are swift. There would be eddies. If someone snags, there could be a pileup which could turn out to be a bad one.

Man Clarifies Insurance Matter

Tanana, Alaska
May 14, 1971

Dear Mr. Rock:

Unfortunately there was some misunderstanding regarding my April 14th letter in the Times. I would like to emphasize that disability insurance is important if not essential for many Alaskan Natives. Furthermore, many insurance companies, including Combined Insurance Company of America, offer more extensive and complete policies that appropriately cover the many and often unique conditions and accidents that people in Alaska encounter.

For those people who presently have disability insurance, I urge them to review their policy and decide if their coverage is appropriate for their area. They may be satisfied with their present policy or want to consider additional coverage. If anyone has any questions, either I or your insurance agent will be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,
J. Michael Carroll, M. D.
David R. L. Duncan, M.D.
Service Unit Director

Poem— Alaskan Earth Song

In allegro time
the song of life
was kept to
the rhythm of the earth

as we sang
such foreign music
to the winter sun:

"deep and far florescent star
dividing time with the moon
fragile sun, northern most
fading fast by noon"

and cautiously,
to the summer:

"athabaskan midnight sun
on the Tanana, where rivers run
with faces ruddy from the glow
we'll dance over lichens
free from snow"

and the voices of spirits
who had lain still
for unsung decades
rose to join us.

—JOAN KUBAN

Letters from Here and There

Alaska Native Industries
Cooperative Ass., Inc.
1306 Second Avenue
Seattle, Wash. 98101

The Honorable Ted F. Stevens
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Association, Inc. (ANICA, Inc.) is currently working very closely with Standard Oil Co. on securing bulk oil and gas storage facilities for as many Alaskan villages as possible, subject to loan fund availability from Standard Oil Co., and bulk delivery guarantees from major petroleum distribution centers within Alaska. These storage tanks will be financed over a five year period, primarily by Standard Oil loan funds with repayment dependent upon product flow through the tank.

Bulk petroleum storage of stove oil at the ANICA member stores has long been a part of our program to secure a lower cost of living, and a higher reliability of product availability within the villages of Alaska. Until now, the B. I. A. Revolving Credit Program has been the only source of loan funds available to the villages for purchase of these necessary tanks. When this fund has been exhausted, many villages purchase tanks directly from the village owned Native Store funds - thereby reducing the stores ability to buy necessary food, ammunition and petroleum supplies needed by the village.

Until the arrival of snow machines in village Alaska, there was not sufficient demand for motor gas to justify bulk gas facilities in the villages. Delivery guarantee was also a serious consideration which had to be made due to a limited time available to suppliers to move the product into remote villages. With improved service guarantees by PAC, United Transportation, and other barge carriers, bulk gas delivery becomes a realistic necessity.

ANICA, Inc.'s first efforts in conjunction with the Standard Oil loan program will be to deliver tankage to villages on the Yukon this summer and in the Kotzebue area this fall. The B. I. A. vessel, North Star, provides the best service and most reasonable rates to deliver these tanks to the villages along the coast. Barge delivery of product to the tanks can begin in the summer of 1972.

The next logical step to consider in the villages is one of ecology. How to rid the village of the many unusable drums which it has been necessary to send North over the past 30 years. As you well know, these are an eyesore and ecological problem to the villages and to all Alaskans.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of a clipping from the Anchorage Daily News dated April 26, 1971. The clipping reports the delivery of a "drum crusher" to the Alaskan Air Command to facilitate the reduction of steel drums from 42" to 4 1/2" high. It appears to me that if this unit is at all portable, it may well be usable to clean up many remote villages where excess drums are a major problem. My reasons for writing to you then are as follows:

1. To request the assistance of your office in having the Alaskan Air Command provide ANICA, Inc. with

details of the crusher (i.e. cost, portability, power source, etc.)

2. Determine what agency or agencies might be able to provide funds for purchase of one or more crushers to be used in cleaning up the regional village areas, etc.

3. Consider acquisition of several of the Alaskan Air Command units as "surplus" after they have finished with the units, if this time factor would not be too great.

4. Assess the possibilities of having the Alaskan Air Command, or Air National Guard, fly the units from village to village as each location is cleaned up. Also assess the possibility of having the Alaskan Air Command fly in small tractors for burials of the drums if the drums cannot be removed by large or the North Star and sold as scrap.

While ANICA, Inc. is very concerned at the growing pile of rotted out drums in most villages, we are not structured or financially able to spearhead a clean-up drive of this scope. For that reason, I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. John Shively, Director of Rural Cap, in the hope that his agency may want to become involved in an effort

of this type. Additionally, I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Don Perkins, Director, Rural Development Agency, Juneau, Alaska with the thought that his agency may be able to provide R. D. A. grants to the villages to pay people to collect the drums which have become widely scattered around the villages through the past years.

No one enjoys living in a gas drum garbage pit.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated and hopefully, will again provide the clean surroundings which all Alaskan people have a desire to enjoy.

Sincerely,
Donald S. Dorsey
ANICA, Inc. Manager

cc John Shively
Rural Cap

Don Perkins
RDA - Juneau

Morris Thompson
BIA - Juneau

BIA Superintendents
Bethel, Nome, Anchorage
and Fairbanks

Harry Carter
A. F. N. - Anchorage

Tundra Times
Fairbanks, Alaska

ANICA Delegates.

Village in Dire Need— Gambell Resolution Calls for Housing

NATIVE VILLAGE OF GAMBELL
JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 71-1

WHEREAS, we, the duly elected committee, consisting of four members from the City and four members from the I. R. A. Council has full power and authority to request Housing from the State under the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of each Council, and

WHEREAS, the Native Village of Gambell, being in dire need of adequate housing, and

WHEREAS, the Village, with a population of about 400, has been neglected from any Housing Programs in the past, and

WHEREAS, most houses are inadequate and poorly built from scrap lumber, and

WHEREAS, the village is located in an area where high winds and cold climates are prevalent the year round, and

WHEREAS, the price of fuel rates about the highest in the nation, and about five barrels of fuel are consumed by most at twenty seven dollars per barrel per month, and

WHEREAS, the present location of housing is a danger of high seas and shore waves as witnessed in the past, and reconstruction and relocation would be costly and impractical the houses would be built at a safer site, and

WHEREAS, the village now has electrical power from AVEC;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Gambell be considered for housing and representative be sent to Gambell at the earliest time possible.

Certification

I, the undersigned, as secretary of the Joint Committee, hereby certify that the Joint Committee is composed of 8 members, of whom 8, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting thereof duly and regularly called, and held this 22nd day of April, 1971; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 8 members.

Dated this 22nd day of April, 1971.

Henry P. Silook
Secretary of the Joint Committee
Native Village of Gambell