

"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—

Deadly 'Copter Rotors

We hear of deaths, or terrible injuries, caused by helicopter rotors now and then. It seems to us that "now and then" is getting to be a little too much to take because, it seems, no one is doing anything to stop or prevent these mishaps.

Helicopters are becoming of general use more and more in Alaska. They oftentimes carry personnel to job sites and do other things, of course. We do not know what is being done to safeguard people from the lethal danger of the whirling rotors. If some measures are being made to protect people, it has not been enough. People are still being killed and that's too much already. Somebody is negligent. Manufacturers of the helicopters can come under this category.

We fail to understand why very little, apparently, is being done to prevent helicopter accidents caused by rotors. Why couldn't someone design a system that would fence the blades upon landing or before taking off? The system could be of retractable type that would be operated by the pilot.

We are sure there are inventive minds that could fashion a circular fence, or some such design, that would automatically enclose the rotor area. If this is done, the fence had better be painted with glaring luminous colors so anyone can see it.

If man can go to outer space, he should be able to fashion a fence set to protect people from death by helicopter rotors.

Gravel Hits GOP—

Central District Meet Tabbed 'A Good One'

Democratic Central District Convention gaveled its adjournment at 4:00 a.m. last Sunday morning. The convention was labeled "a good one" by many of the participants.

The convention began last Saturday morning with a keynote address by Eugene Foley, former Secretary of Commerce under President John Kennedy.

Foley substituted for Sen. Mike Gravel who was delayed by committee work in Washington. Gravel, however, addressed the convention Sunday evening.

Speaking off the cuff throughout most of his address, Sen. Gravel sharply criticized the Republicans from Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel to Gov. Keith H. Miller.

Gravel charged that Secretary Hickel and Gov. Miller have fouled up the Trans Alaska Pipeline System leaving the wealth opportunity for Alaska "a mess."

He said that when the situation begins to get sticky, they will begin to blame it on the conservation people and the natives of Alaska.

"That won't wash," said Gravel.

The Alaska Democratic senator said that as far as the land claims are concerned, the Miller administration with the help of two Alaskan papers was polarizing fear and hatreds of people against the native people and their friends.

He said he voted for 2 per cent royalty to be included in the claims bill that would amount to \$500 million in addition to the \$500 million proposed for payment of lands relinquished by the native people.

Gravel said that by the time the roll of natives is completed, there would probably be around 100,000 native people that would share in the settlement.

If that were to be shared by each native, each share would only amount to \$1,200 to \$1,800.

Commenting on the coming political campaign, Sen. Gravel said he will be active in the primary and in the general.

As a parting shot against his Republican opponents, Gravel charged, "Every single thing that is going on today in Alaska is not working. How fantastic!"

How Did Tremendous Oil Deposits Get Under Prudhoe Bay?

By GEORGE UTERMOHLE, JR.

How did oil get 8,000 feet below the tundra and lake covered lands of the ancient Eskimo hunting grounds at Prudhoe Bay in northern Alaska?

The forces involved are not so well defined and understood that they can be explained in a few short paragraphs. To oversimplify the complex processes of nature that are necessary for the formation of a major oil field, at least three events are generally considered essential.

First: insects, animals, fish, sea plants, or some type of life in truly tremendous numbers must live and die in an area over a period of thousands and possibly even millions of years. As this once living matter decays and is buried, pressure, heat, and other not entirely understood factors convert the organic matter into petroliferous or carbonaceous products.

The zones where the decay and alteration of the once living matter occurs are called, "source beds." The source beds of the Prudhoe Bay fields apparently were deposited in a huge ocean that covered northern Alaska for over 200 million years, during periods of time that geologists

call the late Paleozoic and early and middle Mesozoic eras.

Second: if a great oil field is to be formed, after the oil has been formed it must be contained within a relatively small area. The formation where the oil is stored and later discovered by man is called a "reservoir." Sands that have open spaces between the grains, or limestones with interconnecting pores or holes make good pools to hold oil and gas.

Oil in the Prudhoe area is found in different types of reservoir rocks. The oil in the Lisbourne pool at Prudhoe is contained in a limestone, while the shallower and more extensive pools produce from sand reservoirs.

Oil and gas is not necessarily stored in the same rock or formation in which it was formed. In many cases it has probably been moved by the forces of nature from the source bed to the reservoir where it is discovered by the oil geologist and driller tens or hundreds of millions of years later.

Third: the oils and gases in the reservoir must be prevented from escaping if they are to accumulate in sufficient quantities to make a major oil field.

If there is a rock lid that holds the oil in the reservoir this cover is called a cap or cap-rock. When the oil is contained in buried structures that might be likened to covered hills or ridges with an impervious cap-rock, petroleum engineers refer to this as a structural type oil field. Sometimes the process of holding the oil in the reservoir is much more complex, and the petroleum is confined by changes in the size of the very small holes or pores of the sand or limestone formation. When this occurs scientists call the pool a stratigraphic type oil field.

The first published information on the Prudhoe discovery indicates that this largest single oil resource in North America is essentially a structural type field. The oil is said to be trapped in reservoirs that are formed by sloping beds and long arched underground hills that geologists call anticlines.

How and when did the three basic requirements for the accumulation of oil occur in Arctic Alaska? A short discussion on the happenings beneath the North Slope which is called Historical Geology will be discussed in the Tundra Times two weeks from today, April 29.

Letters to the Editor

April 7, 1970
Home 5
Chilocco Oklahoma 74635

Dear Editor,

I'm writing this letter just to say thank you for keeping up to date with the Tundra Times.

I enjoy reading the Tundra Times in my spare time.

Also I want to thank the people, who put in their time in and coming down and visit Chilocco and talking with us.

To see the people from Alaska always make us happier and knowing that we're being remembered.

Well, it's almost that time again when everyone will be getting ready for home.

Right now everyone is busy with activities and trips to other school and are enjoying it.

Thanks again for the Tundra Times.

Sincerely
Ida K Smith

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98105
April 3, 1970

Dear Editor:

MY NAME is Larry Mercurieff, an Aleut from the Pribilofs, and I am the coordinator of the American Indian Program at the University of Washington. I am also the vice-chairman of the Washington State Inter-collegiate American Indian Student Association. Our program objectives in both AISA and the U of W Indian Program is to encourage Native Americans to attend college; we do this primarily by visiting schools throughout the Northwest where there are a sizable number of Native American students. We hold seminars on higher education and discuss college life in general with the high school students. Linda Belarde, a Tlingit from Juneau and a graduate student in education is working in the university program as a counselor and recruiter.

CURRENTLY THERE are many colleges and universities throughout the nation initiating special programs for Native Americans and it is necessary for Alaska Native students to be aware of them. Since there is no central agency with responsibility for disseminating pertinent information on such programs, choosing a college with special programs is generally done haphazardly by Native Americans. Many colleges misrepresent their programs in order that they may induce Native Americans to participate in their programs. The end result of such actions may mean academic catastrophe for the individual student.

WE ARE ALWAYS flooded with statistics about the high drop-out rate of Native-Americans and yet little is done to remedy this "problem." True, there are more students gradu-

ating from college today, but the number of Native Americans graduating is still far too small as compared to the national average. Most special programs have done little to increase the number of graduating Native Americans, because many programs are constructed merely to obtain OEO funds. Such programs give little consideration to the reasons for the high drop-out rates and thus do little to provide solutions.

CONSIDER SOME brief reasons which undoubtedly contribute to a high drop-out rate of Alaska Natives in college (working with the fact that most Alaska Native students attend a B.I.A. boarding school for their high-school years):

Given: 1) The majority of the B.I.A. boarding schools are segregated institutions, limiting their enrollment to Native Americans.

2) The B.I.A. assumes responsibility for the students attending its schools.

3) The student's social and academic life is closely regulated by the B.I.A. while he attends the institution.

4) Boarding school curriculum is aimed primarily at vocational-technical preparation and little emphasis is given to college preparation, with the exception of a few schools.

5) The majority of the B.I.A. boarding school teachers are non-Native American.

6) The majority of the B.I.A. boarding school employees are non-Native American.

7) The majority of the boarding school Native Americans have menial jobs and too few have any significant responsibilities or any administrative positions.

8) The job advancement opportunities for Native Americans are non-existent or slow in coming, while it is much better for a white employee.

Since the B.I.A. assumes responsibility for the students at-

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Poem—

A Sunday School Lesson For Tourists

(Pt. Barrow)

The large mangy graywolf paces the length of his kennel at the Arctic Wildlife Station. His black bitch and pups howl in the next compartment.

With a grim contempt for the tourist cameras the wolf pauses at the water-barrel.

He lifts his leg and urinates into his own drinking water.

"Did you train him to do that?" asks a naive tourist. The wildlife doctor continues the lesson: "That is a tip on the old problem of needless water pollution."

—OLIVER EVERETTE
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701