

"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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## SACKETT'S SUMMARY Take a Close Look Of Our Resources

By JOHN SACKETT

With the settlement of the land claims being actual fact, and the realization that soon we will be owners of giant corporations worth millions of dollars, it is necessary to take a close look at the resources we have available today that could efficiently handle, invest, and expend these large amounts of money.

According to Mr. Robert Portlock, head of the education department of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Anchorage, 750 native students are attending colleges in Alaska and the lower States. Mr. Portlock estimates that 10-15% of these students are enrolled in the business colleges of their universities. It should be noted however that only a small number of students that initially enrolled in college ever completed the four years for a degree. Last year a total of 31 native students graduated with degrees, and based upon the above percentages it can be further estimated that only 3 or 4 of these persons graduating received degrees in business administration, management, or accounting. Throughout the entire state . . . as a factual matter it can further be fairly assumed that there are only about a total of 50 persons of native descent who have any experience at all in business and fields of management and corporate finance.

Initially these statistics are shocking in their bare simplicity as they point to an area that we as native people are lacking; however it should be noted that of the few people that we have in the business field, their entire experience and qualifications will be unselfishly directed to the native cause to insure that the monies received from the settlement will be efficiently handled. This I believe brings up a very important aspect of the native cultures of Alaska—that regardless of what profession or field of interest you have, ultimately these interests are directed to helping your own people. To this extent I have not found one native person in all of my acquaintances who does not eventually want to utilize his educational benefits to help other native people in the state.

The training process for handling a corporation worth millions of dollars must take two directions—one, we must immediately implement plans for educating the potential and existing leaders in our own areas and villages and two, we must have the capabilities of acquiring and hiring the best possible experienced and qualified persons who are outside of our native communities in those areas that we do not have the necessary experience. We must gain the sophistication to realize that a non-native who is twice as qualified in a field is far better to the native people than a native in that same position, but at all times it should be instilled into the native owners that they at all times are the owners and the ultimate decision makers. In line with this, there must be a continuous training program for native persons to eventually take over the managerial positions of the non-native within the native corporations.

The responsibilities of leadership are fantastically great. It will become necessary for many to think in terms of corporate structures, financing, and to know the simple business terms such as discounting, rates of return, and capitalization. However, because you will be working with your own people's money, their birthright and their settlement, and, because, in many cases, many of the native people in the villages do not know what decisions to make because of a lack of education, this will be the greatest responsibility of leadership.

## HORSEFEATHERS

FIELD & STREAM, a special interest magazine for America's sportsmen, in its January issue carried an editorial by Clare Conley labelling the Alaska claims settlement "a fraud perpetrated on the American public" which was "literally 'oiled' and 'greased' through Congress."

"Give the Alaska Natives

schools, hospitals, homes, and limited land around their villages, but don't give them Alaska."

NCAI Legislative Counsel Franklin Ducheneaux (Cheyenne River) penned a blistering and intelligent retort to F&S, but we don't expect it to appear in their jaundiced journal.

## A Book Review— TALES OF ESKIMO ALASKA

TALES OF ESKIMO ALASKA, by O.W. Jack Frost. 89 pages. Alaska Methodist University Press, Anchorage, Alaska, December 9, 1971, \$4.50. Paper Cover, \$2.50.

The invisible artist Jack Frost has painted the windowpanes again—this time through the five senses of O.W. Jack Frost. Jack has frosted the folklore of Eskimo Alaska cake in many colors, mind you, twenty-one cakes.

The animal illustrations are excellent. The facial features of the Eskimo characters are not quite Eskimoey, but even though they are caucasian, the illustrations are good portrayals.

The large print is very good reading media, especially for people who have poor eyesight.

I hope more folklore will be printed soon, since it is an important part of cultural heritage of Alaska's first people. I agree with Mr. Frost's statement, "there is a dire lack of attractively printed and illustrated books of Native legends."

We need colorful illustrations and spicy words, that is, includable Eskimo words in dialogues.

—EMILY I. BROWN

## Poem—

### I Walk in My Moccasins

I learned that all men are equal, for five moons I have walked in moccasins.

I walked long distances in the path of my forefathers.

Walking in my moccasins I have learned many things.

Although many men laugh and chuckle at me, I stand up and smile and treat them as though I never hear them as my mother has taught me. I smile and treat them kindly for someday I will be left untouched and have a true wise mind that is not scattered or hurt by unwise persons.

I have also learned that men or rather some men do not look for the true value of life, they search for expensive homes, clothes, cars, etc. But I also know that these things do not satisfy their hungry hearts, while I am cool and calm knowing that I am in love with my brothers and this makes my heart happy.

She also said, "Kootook, you must learn all your life and you must go to school. I do not speak good English, but man is not ignorant if he knows what he needs to know. Yes, I found that many things man knows are about things and not about love.

Today being here is suspenseful, tomorrow may never come.

Yes I've seen the white man's world, I've been through it.

I've seen white man's stars, the blackman's sun is just as warm, the Natives' grass is just as green.

I've learned that a lot of men are good and I saw the ignorant rejected by society.

I also learned that sometimes men are foolish. They pray for peace and act violent, and fight with guns and bombs."

She has taught me how to cook sew and to teach my children to do the same thing.

I have stood and watched the caribou herds scramble away as by brothers ran with guns to kill for meat.

I have watched my uncle bring in a 60 foot whale while

## LETTERS FROM HERE AND THERE

Newtok, Alaska 99559  
January 7, 1972

Mr. Richard P. Birchell  
Superintendent  
Bethel Agency  
P.O. Box 347  
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Dear Mr. Birchell:

We have noticed that every teacher teaching in Newtok is overworked. Beside having to teach they have to stand by the radio for RCA and do a lot of paperwork after classes. This usually takes up most of their free time and weekends. Most of this paperwork lasts until one or two o'clock in the morning. This is very tiring.

Teachers do not do a good job of teaching when they are very tired and sleepy. This is of course not the teachers fault because the Bureau of Indian Affairs gives top priority to this paperwork and second priority to what is happening in the classes. Most of this paperwork does not concern the students they teach, but concerns personnel, plant management, supplies, communication etc., etc.

These teachers should be able to spend more time with their own students, making lesson plans, and other classroom duties. A clerk-typist employed in the school here, would make this possible.

Because of these reasons, and many more, the Advisory School Board of Newtok makes the following recommendation. We suggest that the Bureau of Indian Affairs make every possible effort to find a way to hire a part-time clerk for the Newtok school.

We would appreciate hearing from you concerning this matter.

/s/ John Charles  
Recorder  
For Newtok Advisory School Board

cc: Tundra Times

Box 314  
Eielson AFB, Alaska

Dear Friend Howard the Editor:

Friday Nov. 5th someone heard a message for me to come to work here. So next day I brought by sno-go in the house, grab my screw driver, pliers, and hammer, my bread and butter, and chartered Galena Air Service for Galena.

Sunday I came to Fairbanks with Tanana Air Taxi. Next day Nov. 8 I went to work.

So now December 23rd, I had Christmas spirit, I decided to visit Nulato and see how everything was around my house. I was out to International Airport 6:30 a.m. Bought my ticket at Wien's desk. To my surprise I was pushed in Tanana Air Taxi 7-place plane and cramped behind seat with my knees up to my chin.

When we arrived at Galena terminal, all the students going for Christmas was there. Bad weather—icing.

Next morning, and every morning for three days, 7 a.m. was sleeting, that's half rain. So the poor students didn't get home till after Christmas on Sunday.

I asked the station manager if Wien were supposed to pay for

I stood back and cheered in excitement.

I have stood back and watched them pull in the whale boat and I have proudly kissed my relatives.

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our lodging. He just laughed at me. There were times we could have made it, but there were couple of minor accidents I heard, on account of this.

Instead of using skis now, they're using wheels in winter time. How could you land on the river in case of emergency with wheels?

I got in overflow below Koyukuk 12-16 inches of water and they're working almost 24 hours a day trying to keep these runway clear, and as long as the wind is blowing, it's a hard thing to do.

This is the reason, I heard that they had minor accidents.

Airlines and state they're getting out of line. It should be against the law to fly winter time with wheels. I remember 1937 or 1938, somewhere in there, when Pan American was flying the Pilgrim with Bill Knox pilot, Fred Milligan and Johnny Anderson, mailman.

One winter Bill Knox never missed a day all winter. How I remember so well. I helped him to change from skis to wheels at Nulato going to Nome and changed them to skis for Nenana.

Although we had our midnight mass at Galena, I missed, and lost my Christmas spirit, no organ no singing Christmas carols. So in order to get my spirit back, I borrowed a tape recorder and sang a few songs and took it to Nulato day after Christmas.

When I was, or started to go to school I learned Latin, I used to answer the priest in Latin, sing all through the mass in Latin. I bet I could go through the whole mass in Latin, how they changed everything.

I go to mass now I'm lost. I sit or kneel, stand, I couldn't find the page, then I put the book away, thinking how things are changing. I just sit there like a bump on a log, lost in church.

Goodbye Howard Rock and I hope God bless us.

—FRED STICKMAN, SR.

Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives

Letter to the Editor:

It has been alleged that there is possible administrative action pending by the U.S. Department of the Interior to close Mt. McKinley Park to private vehicles (cars, pickups, etc.). On January 13, 1972 I introduced House Joint Resolution No. 81 opposing this action.

If this action is taken, Alaskans and Alaska's ever increasing numbers of tourists will be deprived of being able to explore the park at their leisure. It is my thinking that the park has not experienced any traffic problems due to persons being able to enjoy the flora and fauna in the park in their own vehicles and none is expected in the foreseeable future.

All visitors to this magnificent park should have the opportunity of exploring and witnessing the many natural phenomena to be found there at their own pace. It is my sincere belief that the alternative, that of taking conducted tours through the park on a group basis, is an undesirable and unnecessary one.

I would appreciate receiving comments from all interested Alaskans.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Leslie E. Swanson, Rep.  
House District 15  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99801