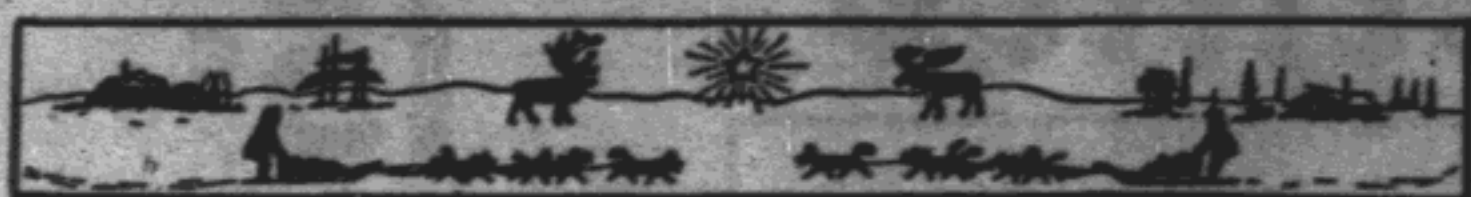


Tundra Times



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Editorial— Silly Ideas? Perhaps

Fairbanks' A-67 has been having quite a lot of trouble this summer and that is too bad. It's a fine show and it doesn't deserve the fate it is now enduring. Those who had the responsibility of erecting it to what it is have nothing to be ashamed of. Although it fell short financially, it is still a fine show and a fine piece of work visitors who do get to it enjoy thoroughly. To be at the A-67 grounds is to experience an easy atmosphere as one goes from one interesting exhibit to another. It was also too bad that the local people did not take to it as much as they should have and this lack of community backing really hurt.

The troubles of the A-67 came to light some weeks ago and it bothered many people, including Governor Hickel and the legislators. The wolves at the door of the Fairbanks centennial grounds began to howl and the wail rose to such pitch that it could be heard throughout the state. As a result, state legislators almost had a special session. Someone said Walt Disney Studios should take it over. Now the state government wants to give it to the City of Fairbanks. We wonder how it will all end. We also think some of the ideas were a little silly so with that in mind, let's get a little sillier.

Since the A-67 is being handled like a hot potato, somebody should give some thought to giving a portion of it to the Eskimo Village located on the swampy grounds on the outskirts of Fairbanks. The people out there have been having a great deal of trouble in getting decent housing for many years, let alone running water in the hovels they have been living in.

A thought should also be given to provide space for the World Eskimo Olympics. A decent setting is always a need for this interesting program. The Eskimo Village and the Olympics could get their heads together and work up a rousing native cultural program on a more sophisticated manner. This would really have a chance to go over in good style. If anything, it would give the World Eskimo Olympics beauty pageant a decent, more dignified setting in which it could be held.

If someone has already thought of it, we would enthusiastically support that person that the annual Tanana Valley Fair be allowed to show its wares at the A-67 site's attractive grounds. Exhibit spaces now being used there would greatly enhance what the Fair has to show and the modern facilities would certainly make the big crowds more comfortable and less congested.

Silly? Perhaps we are, but why not think about such things for the future? Goodness know, some of the silly ideas might crop up to be whopping, big successes and where a succession of interesting programs could developed for timely presentations.

Woman Reviews Poetry Book

Tununak GI Observes Life in Far-off Viet Nam

By RUTH KILCHER
Homer, Alaska

When Louise Gore writes about Eskimo Life before the advent of the white man it has the ring of authenticity. Careful research has gone into her work of 80 poems.

Some are pragmatic, concerned with the business of living: hard at times and cruelly harsh, joyous and comical at others. Some tell about the relationship between man and woman, man and animal, and man and nature.

All are saying in simple language what needs to be said. This deceptive simplicity together with an often chantlike rhythm, conveys the impression that the poems are a direct translation from REAL Eskimo poetry, a rendition seemingly once removed—as it were—but fittingly and beautifully so. You have the feeling: this is the way the Eskimo would have written about themselves, had they written poetry.

What better criteria than this? Mrs. Gore seems to have listened to thoughts expressed by the ancient first immigrants to the North: to the hunter outwitting Nannuk, the polar bear, or Netserk the seal; to the sorrowful acceptance of the young mother, exposing her soft-cheeked daughter to the cold elements.

"The meat that feeds you now my child, will keep some man from dying. I go to do the village leaders ruling," she says, while beyond the village "in the hills, the hungry wolves are calling."

The young man about to take a wife, one whose soft hair "shines as the shine of ravens wing" and whose industry "the beaver is slow to match" comes into sharp focus. And you too feel the compassion of the egg hunter with the "wailing, wary purple-throated loon" who will have no downy young this year.

If what Robert Graves said is true: that the mark of true poetry are the goosepimples you get while reading it, then "Soul of the Bearded Seal" hits that mark many times.

And who could have said it better, giving us the essence of Eskimo life, interpreting the soul of a unique people, than Mrs. Gore, a prize winning poet several times, and recently named one of the ten top poets in the State of Alaska.

The slender volume will be a handsome jewel on your shelf of favorite books and often referred to. It will make a lovely and appropriate gift to special friends here and abroad.

The book includes a glossary of Eskimo terms, both unfamiliar and familiar. Some, like kayak, parki, beluga or baleen, have been adopted into the English language already, others might follow. But if you want to find out what giviak is, who Nivikkaa might be, what it means to be trapped in the saugsat, and what type of hunting quassajornaq is, then "Soul of the Bearded Seal" will tell you.

3 August 1967
Cu Chi, Viet Nam

Dear Mr. Rock,

I am enclosing a thank you letter for the paper which is so much informing and means a lot to me as well as the people back home and the ones that are here in Viet Nam. I must tell you where I was born and why I'm here.

I was born in Tununak, Alaska and now live at Bethel. Joined the Army in September of 66 and was sent here in February of 67 involuntarily. There are a lot of others from Alaska I know and would do anything to get back to the world. The climate here is a lot far different from where you are. It is very hot at first and you get used to it as time goes by, wish it were a little cool at times. The temp is usually in the 90's and above. The land is beautiful and green. The old buildings are exotic and life stirs everywhere you go. Even into the thickets of the jungle.

The people are very friendly, some are educated and some are not, some are intelligent and some are dumb like I am most of the time. The people work on ricefields and their little shops. The products are crudely made, other things are made well like clothing, most of which is silk material and in-expensive and pretty well designed and colorful.

The facial feature is not far different than that of the rest of the Orient and the Native of Alaska. They don't wear shoes most of them due to the heat. Each village you go through is crowded, very crowded especially at the markets where they sell the most bazaar food you ever seen in your life. The chopsticks are useful in part of their tools.

Their customs I don't know about, their Religion is mostly Buddhist. The young girls are in two categories, either educated or not educated. Same with the men and boys. The little kids either go to school or roam around the street with no homes nor parents.

There is so much to tell it would take too much paper/so I'll close with a little truth—people here ask me how it is in Alaska and how I like the weather here and if it is all ice and snow there. I tell them "Heck no, it get's hot like here the summertime and it isn't cold in the winter at all, it's cool."

Enclosed is the payment for a year's subscription. Keep up the good work fellow Alaskans and KEEP ON KEEPING ON and be heard, let your voices be heard of your rights.

Sincerely yours,
Paul Flynn Chanilingok
(known as Paul K. Flynn at home)

Point to Point Fishing Zones ...

(Continued from page 1)

Daniel Baronik, is master of the Soviet trawler SRTM 8-457, the same vessel which, with a different master, was seized by the Coast Guard for a similar violation in March.

Hickel reaffirmed a declaration made Thursday night after the latest boarding, that he believes the SRTM 8-457 and its fishing gear should be confiscated permanently this time, and Baronik should be fined the maximum allowed—\$10,000.00.

But in addition, the governor disclosed that he has been in contact with federal officials in Washington to urge immediate consideration of a point-to-point offshore boundary as a deterrent to future such violations of fishing restrictions.

Hickel said he called on Ambassador Donald L. McKernan, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Fisheries and Wild Life, to back the state's efforts to secure a new 12-mile offshore boundary based on the point-to-point concept.

A point-to-point boundary would differ from the present 12-mile limit in that it would be drawn along coastal baselines in straight lines between peninsulas, across bays and other coastal

irregularities, rather than following exactly the state's jagged 34,000-mile coastline.

"If we can get a point-to-point boundary," Hickel said, "I am convinced we will eliminate problems foreign fishermen sometimes contend they have in trying to calculate whether they are in international or U.S. waters."

Hickel also asserted a point-to-point boundary would "greatly increase the protection given Alaskan coastal waters for Alaska's own fishermen. Such a boundary would bring into U.S. fishing waters such large areas as a good portion of the Bristol Bay and the Cook Inlet near Anchorage."

The governor noted that it is possible at present for foreign fishing vessels to work some distance up into Cook Inlet while still remaining in international waters.

"Establishment of a point-to-point boundary for Alaska would tie in perfectly with long-range plans for the economic development of the North Pacific and would benefit not only Alaska but all of the free world," Hickel said.