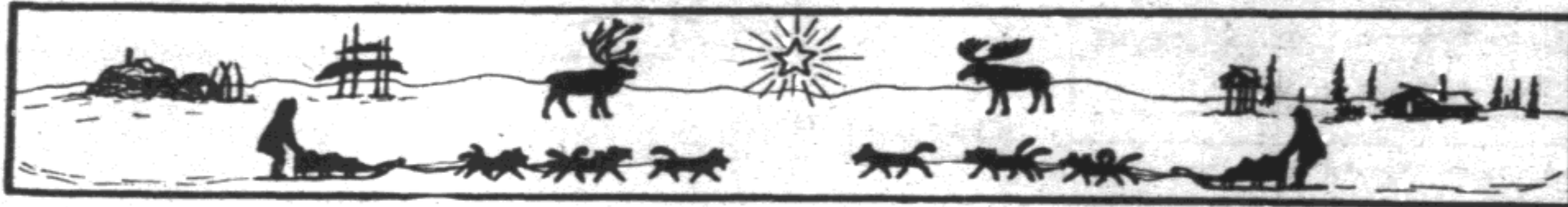


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Vol. 7, No. 249

Friday, February 27, 1970

Fairbanks, Alaska

NATIVES PROPOSE 51ST STATE



TUNDRA TIMES MUSER—Tired dogs limp into finish line after grueling three-mile pull of Tundra Times entry in the news media dog sled race Sunday afternoon in Fairbanks. Giving the

dogs an assist by pushing the sled is 250-pound Jimmy Bedford, heaviest entry in the race. The team won 15th place handily, out of 16 entries.

—Photo by BEN SANDS

Our 250 Lb. Musher, 3 Dogs Move Like Turtle Herd

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Tundra Times Treasurer Jimmy Bedford carried this newspaper's name in the annual News-Media race on Farmer's Loop Road in Fairbanks on George Washington's birthday. Here is his biased version:)

By JIMMY BEDFORD

"MUSH!" I shouted. "Go,

Brownie! Hike," I cajoled. "Git up there, you malemutes. Let's go, Prince. Come on, Gary, don't let them pass us!"

These and many other shouts and pleadings seemed to no avail. My dogs just weren't moving any faster no matter what I said. I even tried other foods besides mush.

"Oatmeal," I said. "Grits! Corn Flakes."

Still the dogs plodded on, listening to the beat of another

drummer or listening for their master's voice.

I even tried disguising my voice, trying to sound like a Russian Samovar, but all I got were backward glances over the shoulders of the dogs.

Brownie, the lead dog, was a good dog but he thought that the other dogs were loafing on the job so he stopped pulling and lagged behind the two wheel dogs. In the twinkling of a snow-

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Orientation of VISTA May Be Done in State

The Office of Economic Opportunity will continue its efforts to iron out problems that have arisen in the VISTA program in Alaska, Donald Rumsfeld, director of OEO, said Wednesday.

And, VISTA is willing to commit funds in future years so that Alaska volunteers can receive orientation in the state prior to beginning their tours of duty in

the villages, according to Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska. Training currently consists of three weeks in Oregon and one week in Anchorage.

The senator met with Rumsfeld Wednesday and discussed the problems that have arisen in the VISTA program in Alaska.

The program has come under

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Senate Committee Progresses On Claims Bill Says Jackson

The Senate Interior Committee is "making continued progress," according to its chairman Henry M. Jackson.

Speaking after a secret meeting Tuesday, Jackson said that no agreement had been reached on granting the Alaskan Natives \$500 million.

Jackson said that there is the question of whether the government should pay the income

taxes on this or should pay the Natives interest on the unpaid balance and how many years the government should have to pay the full amount.

The chairman said that the committee has not discussed the question of oil royalties as yet and has not considered a billion dollar settlement as had been reported. An earlier account said that a proposal had been intro-

Group Plans Petition Of President to Create Alaska Native State

By SUSAN TAYLOR
Staff Writer

ANCHORAGE, (Special)—The State has often been accused of neglecting its poverty stricken natives while it grows rich off of lands once belonging to them.

And, voicing a similar criticism, a small group of natives has proposed what it feels to be the only solution—the creation of a 51st State, the Alaska Native State.

"Our people are tired of waiting for the money to come," one native spokesman said.

"We want self-government—government by our people."

And to discuss the possibility and chart a tentative course of action, those spearheading the movement held their first meeting in Anchorage last Saturday.

Their next step will be to test the idea in the villages.

If sufficient support is forthcoming, the group, officially calling itself the Interim Congress of the Alaska Native State, plans to petition the President and the

government of the United States for "the creation of a new state to comprise the Native areas of Alaska . . . or reversion to territorial status."

Lasting five hours, the first meeting of the interim congress, currently composed of eight people, was attended by only a few members.

Al Nakak, a native from Nome, is acting as spokesman for the group and can be reached through P.O. Box 545, Nome, Alaska 99762. No other names have been released yet.

Another meeting has been

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AFN PR Man Speaks to Council of Churches

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Tom Richards, Jr. has been on a two weeks leave after completing Navy boot training at San Diego. Before joining the Navy, Tom was the reporter-photographer for the Tundra Times. He is returning to the Navy this weekend for assignment.)

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.
KOTZEBUE, (Special)—James Thomas, Director of Public Relations for the Alaska Federation of Natives, addressed the Twelfth Annual Assembly of the Alaska Council of Churches Tuesday in Kotzebue on the Native Land Claims issue.

Thomas, a Tlingit Indian from Yakutat, told the churchmen that the Church is "the crux of Native society."

He expressed appreciation for

the Council's assistance in recently winning the National Council of Churches' endorsement of a just and speedy settlement of the claims.

Discussing the involvement of Alaska churches in the claims issue, Thomas stated, "The good of mission evangelism is worthless . . . without the good of social justice."

"If you people place any value in your God," he added, "then you can understand what the people feel about their land."

Thomas requested the Alaska Churchmen to "pray that our attitude and approach always remain positive."

Speaking generally on the land claims, he explained that the Alaska Federation of Natives had sought a settlement through Congress in order to avoid the longer delay of the courts.

Thomas predicted action in Senate soon.

"We expect that they (the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee) will have a bill out by the end of March."

The AFN PR Chief warned that, if the settlement terms provided by the legislation are thought insufficient by Alaska Natives, the AFN may request the Alaska Congressional Delegation to kill the bill.

"Any settlement terms . . . must be based on the economic figures of today," he stated.

Thomas said the request to kill the legislation would come

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Deadlines for Wednesday Printing Day

This issue of the Tundra Times marks the last Friday morning weekly publishing day and the newspaper will now come out each Wednesday morning from now on.

The board of directors of the paper decided on the new off the press day in an effort to expedite the mailing of the paper to the subscribers throughout the state and elsewhere.

Bonnie Ericsson, composing machine operator, is busily setting type for the Wednesday paper, an extra effort, so the pasteup can start immediately after the Friday publication.

The advertising submission deadline has been set for Friday morning each week. The press story deadline will be Monday mornings with the absolute deadline on Tuesday mornings.

Cooperation of the agencies and organizations, such as the RurAL CAP and the Alaska Federation of Natives, who publish weekly pages in the Tundra Times, in sending their materials by each Friday at least. However, they will have last minute privileges in submitting late breaking news on Monday and Tuesday mornings.