

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Friday.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Telephone 452-2244.

Entered at the Post Office at Fairbanks, Alaska, as second class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mary Jane Fate, assistant secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

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| Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states) | 1 Year \$ 8.00 | 6 Months \$ 4.50 |
| Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states) | 1 Year \$19.00 | 6 Months \$10.00 |

Editorial— Potlatch to Remember

The Fairbanks Native Association members have every right to stick their chests out a little farther this year. The great potlatch they put on last Saturday was a resounding success which many people will never forget. The estimate 13,500 people thronged into the confines of the big Fairbanks Lathrop High School, Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and great many of their white friends. There was an easy atmosphere of good fellowship throughout attesting to the fact that there was a fine rapport of getting along together.

The FNA potlatch—the big feast—has become much more than that. It has become a fine setting for getting acquainted among different ethnic groups and the white people. It is a setting for exchanges of culture facets of the native people of Alaska. The presentations of these things before the throng have met with the genuineness of a pleasurable reaction and response. This has shown the public that the native people in presenting their fine cultural facets can produce fine shows the qualities of which met with fine public approval.

In its five years of annual potlatch presentations, the FNA has steadily improved on each insuring future successes and establishing at the same time a tradition that will be looked forward to in years beyond.

We laud FNA for its fine presentation—the annual Potlatch. We laud the members also for utilizing the money they realize for scholarships for native students and for other unselfish purposes.

Boarding Home Program in Push By State and Bureau Schools

The State Boarding Home Committee, composed of representatives of the Division of State-Operated Schools and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has announced through the office of James Harper, Assistant Director of State-Operated Schools, that a concerted effort will be made for the 1969-70 school year to place in the Alaska Boarding Home Program those students who would ordinarily have been assigned to Chilocco, Bureau of Indian Affairs school in Oklahoma.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will provide additional funds to the Boarding Home Program to help handle the increased enrollment.

This mutual agreement to enlarge the Boarding Home Program is the first major step taken to keep young Alaskans in the state for their secondary schooling.

The decision was made in view of the success of the Boarding Home Program during its first three years in operation.

Dr. Cliff R. Hartman, Com-

missioner of Education, has stated, "The Boarding Home Program has filled a real gap. 360 rural students were placed in foster homes throughout the state this year. We believe it is an excellent opportunity for these students to receive good educational experiences. Of equal importance, it is a program that is assisting them in making a cultural transition."

The Boarding Home Program was introduced in 1966 to offer secondary educational opportunities to those students who could not fit into State or Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding schools.

Under this program, students live in private homes and attend the local high school in the community in which they are located. Federal funds are used to pay boarding and travel costs and the State pays the tuition and Foundation Support Program costs to the local districts.

Families boarding students are reimbursed \$140 a month per student.

Because boarding home stu-

Camp Fire Girls On Candy Sale

Tomorrow is "C-Day" for over 300 local Camp Fire Girls as they enthusiastically ring neighbors' doorbells on the opening day of the annual Camp Fire Girls candy sale.

Dressed in colorful costume, the cute young ladies are toting red, white and blue candy kits—each loaded with traditional chocolate covered Camp Fire mints, available only during this special two-week sale. They sell for one dollar a box.

The Camp Fire Girls program started 57 years ago, offers American girls activities which fulfill its law—worship God, Seek beauty, give service, pursue knowledge, be trustworthy, hold on to health, glorify work, and be happy.

Open to girls of every race, color and economic background from seven years of age through high school age, the main purpose of Camp Fire Girls is to perpetuate the spiritual ideals of the home and aid in the forming of good habits for health and character.

This Land Is My Land (First of two parts)

By HELEN L. ATKINSON

Have you wondered why there has been opposition to state land order No. 11 re-classifying some 3 million acres of Arctic land as competitive? If you have no oil and gas leases but looked on a lease map to see who does, you will probably conclude "This doesn't affect me—it is just those leasebrokers, or people who have lots of money and can afford to gamble—let them worry about it." You think—the STATE needs the money more than they do. Competitive leases would be best—it would help everyone more.

But would it? And could the money be used for building schools? The state constitution forbids setting up special accounts for special purposes. All monies go into the general fund. Some bills have been introduced into the legislature to set aside oil revenues for educational use. Money cannot be put into special funds unless the constitution is amended.

The Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska has written several reports. One written in 1968 by economist Joseph Shafer deals with "Fiscal Strength through Oil and Gas Receipts." It recommends that state oil and gas revenues be spent for "social capital investments." This eliminates airfields and school buildings, but does include ferry boats, railroads, and highways.

Let us analyze land classification order No. 11 (LCO No.11) issued on January 25, 1969. It states "There is no question that leasing the entire area (beginning 16 miles south of Prudhoe Bay and extending from the NPR No.4 boundary along the Colville

(Continued on page 6)

Letters to the Editor

March 17, 1969

Dear Editor:

I have a plan for leasing state oil lands that will satisfy everyone. As a citizen of the state I do not want to see OUR oil leases sell for 50¢ an acre.

My plan is to divide leasing income among all Alaskans eligible to vote January 1, 1969 (approximately 70,000?).

Let us put OUR oil leases out competitively with an experienced oil executive as our agent. Pay him 2% of all he can get for us and him to not profit further. 2% for paperwork and 96% for us. If he got 700 million dollars he would make \$14 million for himself. This would please those who feel somebody should make a nice pile. The Alaskans would get about \$10,000 each. That would certainly make THEM happy! And would please those who are worrying that the "little guy" isn't getting in on the gravy.

Imagine the joy among the populace. Legislators would be re-elected 100%.

Citizens of Communist countries would clamor for their governments to be more like ours and overthrow them, all for the price of a couple of battleships.

The eyes of the world would be on us. Tourism would flourish. Imagine the shot in the arm to the economy if nearly every adult Alaskan got \$10,000. The banks would be stuffed with money. New cabins would spring up everywhere. Bills would be paid. Oldsters would enroll at the U of A. Our neighbor would buy a cat. His wife would build a chickenhouse. Their son would have his eye straightened.

I would like to live long enough to see something like this happen—just once.

Mellie Terwilliger
Tok, Alaska

6420 Benvenue Avenue
Oakland, California 94618
March 20, 1969

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express concern about the Alaska Department of Health and Welfare statement on marijuana. This report is so misleading that it will backfire in its stated objective.

Responsible medical and scientific opinion on marijuana boils down to, "We don't know enough about it." It is known that the drug is not physically or chemically addictive, as heroin or other opium derivatives. It is known that tetrahydrocannabinol, the chemically purified "active" agent in marijuana, seems to be pretty dangerous in early tests. (Since it was just isolated months ago, such tests are inevitably "early.") In between, there is an extraordinary paucity of sound research. One reason is that the restrictive laws make research very difficult to conduct legally.

One of the few really scientific studies is the Boston test, results of which were published last year. It is quoted briefly (and very selectively) in your state report.

But the state report gives the distinct impression that all questions are answered and that it is unanimous (except among users) that the drug is exceedingly dangerous. Plainly this is not so. Anyone who has read at all the general press on this subject is immediately aware of the gross misrepresentations in the Alaska report, created largely by selective quotations. For example, the Boston report just cited was quoted to the extent of one line in the Alaska report. Yet the general conclusions of that study were that there is no proof that marijuana is harmful. Needless to say, these conclusions are carefully omitted from the Alaska report.

It is apparent that the author(s) of the report started out with the conviction that marijuana is absolutely and unqualifiedly bad, and then gathered support for that idea. It is one of the least objective reports I have ever read.

This brings me to the danger of such a study. Millions of Americans, mostly pretty young, have at least tried marijuana. They know that the Alaska report is untrue. Their experience does not answer the difficult, long-term questions about subtle harm from continued use, but it does tell them that the extreme position of the report is ridiculous.

The result is destruction of the credibility of the Public Health Department, or any other agency which echoes it. Then when such an agency makes a JUSTIFIED warning (such as about the fully proven dangers of heroin or amphetamines)—many young people will assume it is another misstatement. In this way the Public Health Department itself can contribute to use of drugs KNOWN to be dangerous.

Reports of this nature only widen an already large credibility gap between the young and their elders. It is foolish to think the young can be deceived by the mere use of an official label to mask opinion and present it as fact.

Sincerely yours,
Richard B. Collins, Jr.

dents increase the enrollments of the local high school, the school is able to increase its specialized faculty and offer a more varied curriculum.

The students' social skills in a modern community are improved through daily contact with actual civic, cultural, and business environments.

The child often lives with one or two other boarding students

who share his social or familial background; however, he receives individual love and attention from the boarding home parents and their children.

The Boarding Home Program has received broad support from the various communities in which students board, the high school students themselves and their parents.

WANTED: Chitkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; potlatch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years of age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Drive, Los Angeles, California 90028.