

"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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## Outline of Claims History

SETTLEMENT — PART TWO

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.

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OLANGAPO CITY, P.I. — In part one of this series, I compared the Native land claims battle to a chess tournament. One man would take exception to that analogy. His remarks were reported in the Tundra Times on June 27, 1969.

"We are not a chess game, we are human beings and right now are a very upset and disturbed people."

This was the reaction of Andrew Isaac, chief of the United Crow Band of Athabaskan Indians near Tanacross to the land loss suffered by his people and the combination of greed and negligence of government agencies responsible for that loss.

In a letter to former Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel, Chief Isaac requested assistance in determining the status of a petition for a reservation filed by the Tanacross group in 1917, and again in 1950.

"Our people in the cities feel money and what it can buy is important, we feel our land and what it has grown has fed, clothed, and helped us to survive, and is still doing so. Do you wonder why we are fighting to keep it?"

"We would like some answers to the questions we have asked you, we believe you are really interested in our problems, but so far no one has told us why we are being overlooked and our problems are growing instead of disappearing as we were told," stated Andrew Isaac.

Of the land used by Isaac's people, the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management has shuffled patents on an old village site, burial grounds, trapping camps, fishing sites and hunting areas to the State of Alaska. Such a cozy partnership typifies the manner in which Indian lands have been stolen throughout the American continent.

All groups of Alaska Natives have suffered some degree of

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## In Defense of The Bush People

By FREDERICK PAUL

In a way, some readers will think the following column is a defense of Don Wright; but it is more than that. It is a defense of bush Alaska.

When Don first became president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, internally there was huge opposition to him. The first thing its Board of Directors did was to take away the firing of employees. Once the Board even abolished his salary. Notwithstanding these handicaps, he led the fight and raised the settlement from 8 million acres under the Senate bill of the summer of 1970 to the 40 million acres that the Natives got.

But now he is accused of having fiscal irresponsibility.

When the A.F.N. was financially broke, he went out single-handedly and arranged for an A.F.N. loan from the Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakima Nation of \$225,000. His reputation nationally among Indian leaders, and his guts got that loan — essentially without help from any other Alaskan Native.

Another short answer to such

critics — of fiscal irresponsibility — is that the very ones who are accusing him were the beneficiaries of the A.F.N. money thus raised, and now supposedly irresponsibly expended. They got their way paid to Washington, D.C., and their per diem.

Don knew that in order to be faithful to his job as president, the A.F.N. had to mount a lobbying effort of huge proportions. The other contestants for the land included the United States in its proprietary capacity and the government is well-funded. Another competitor for the land was the oil companies and they are well-funded. Still another competitor for the land was the conservationists and they are well-funded. The State of Alaska wanted its hand-out, too.

Just supposing he had been a pinch-penny, what would have happened then? In my judgment the Natives in comparison to the 40 million acres would have been skinned alive. It is indeed petty now to charge him with financial irresponsibility when his results were so huge in comparison to what the other

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## Letters from Here and There

### A Bit of History Of Wien Aviators

6124 Greenwood Drive  
Paradise, Calif. 45969  
Sept. 29, 1972

Tundra Times,  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Rock:

Congratulations! To your 10th anniversary.

I have to thank Miss Debbie Wien for making me acquainted with your highly interesting paper. May God bless her heart for it.

Debbie is the daughter of Mr. Harold Wien, the manager of Arrowhead Seed Growers Coop at Cook, Minn. and a brother of Mr. Sigurd Wien, chairman of the Wien Consolidated Airlines. Their father's farm adjoined mine and no one could find better neighbors. His name was John Wien.

Harold himself pioneered in your state. In fact he found his wife up there, in the largest state in the Union. What a man! In fact his father-in-law was there during the gold rush.

The Wiens came to Northern Minnesota in 1903. And they pioneered in Northern Wisconsin before they came to Minnesota. Their father, at first, tried to discourage his boys from going into aviation, but then their mother encouraged them.

I think Dr. L. H. deMontigny has the right idea. He wants to have the aborigines to head the conservation department. They would never suggest that all sea mammals be reserved for the trophy murderers.

Yours truly,

Albert Enzmann

### Resigned BLM Man Thanks Firefighters

To The Bush People of Alaska:

It is with deep regret that I must inform you of my resignation from BLM Fire Control. And thank you for the pleasure of working with you these past years.



Senator Ted Stevens released a photograph this week of the whalebone carving by Eskimo artist, Stephen Weyiouanna of Shishmaref, Alaska, which was presented to Russia as a gift of the United States by President Nixon. Stevens said the carving came from an experimental workshop conducted by the Community Enterprise Development Corporation of Alaska, a federally funded agency of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

This last fire season was especially rewarding to me due to the trust, confidence and hard work you put into our program out of Galena. You convincingly proved that you are the people who can and should be running fire program for Alaska.

In nine years of fighting fires for Uncle Sam, I have never seen anyone better trained, more concerned, or do a better job putting out fires. We handled fires this summer that these drunken bums in Fairbanks could not have touched with twice the people and equipment.

I am not leaving Alaska — just getting away from a program which is going down the tube and supervisors who could care less about people or whether a fire is put out or not. After all, I lost thirty pounds, a wife, and developed an ulcer trying to keep Fairbanks off your and my back this summer.

Don't let anyone take away what we worked so hard to build this year and drop by for a beer or cup of coffee whenever you get to Chugiach.

Thanks for everything,

Charles E. Moseley

### Cemetery Trespass May Be Since '22

DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION  
Federal Railroad Administration  
The Alaska Railroad  
P.O. Box 7-2111  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

September 28, 1972

Mr. John C. Sackett  
President  
Tanana Chiefs Conference  
102 Lacey  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Sackett:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 13 in connection with the alleged misuse and trespass by The Alaska Railroad on certain land which the Athabaskan Indians consider to be sacred.

My preliminary investigation reveals that, if there was misuse or trespass, it probably occurred between May and October 1922, or about fifty years ago, and your letter was the first time it had been called to our attention.

Our available records make no reference to the cemetery during the construction period of the railroad; however, I am now conducting a thorough investigation of the matter and I assure you The Alaska Railroad will do whatever is reasonable and right in connection with this situation.

I shall advise you further as soon as my investigation is completed.

Yours truly,

Walker S. Johnston  
General Manager

cc: Hon. Ted Stevens  
Hon. Mike Gravel  
Hon. Nick Begich  
Mr. Mitch Dementieff  
Tundra Times  
River Times

### BIA Scholarship Snarl Clarified

October 3, 1972  
P.O. Box 120

Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Editor:

Reference your editorial on "Scholarship Snarl." There are, indeed, some problems involving the Native student and the Bureau of Indian Affairs scholarship grant program. Such editorials by your paper cannot but evoke an awareness of those problems, and, hopefully, an interest by your readers which could result in some constructive action to help alleviate some of the "snarls."

With this in mind, I thought your readers would appreciate more detail on some outstanding barriers which prevent a more successful operation of the scholarship program.

There are eleven areas in the United States, of which Alaska is one, that provide projected fiscal needs to the Department of the Interior for funds deemed necessary to adequately support all those students who are interested in a college education. That projection is, in turn, presented to Congress for approval and allocation to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Anchorage Agency accurately estimated, approximately two years ago, the dollars that would be needed for this year's program. However, that estimate, along with supplemental requests, never was approved by Congress. Obviously, more effort on the part of concerned individuals and groups is needed to convince Congress of our financial needs to assist the ever increasing number of potential college students.

Another problematic aspect of the scholarship grant program, uninformed students, could be eliminated by the early and continuous orientation provided to junior and senior high school students of post-high school programs that are available. Many students have little or no information on those programs. For example, some students believe that if they apply for admission to a university, that they are eligible, without having to make application, for a Bureau of Indian Affairs scholarship grant. Other students believe that making application for a BIA scholarship grant gives them automatic admission to a university. Obviously, students could benefit enormously from continuing orientation on opportunities available and how to apply for them.

The responsibility for the dissemination of accurate information rests with several sources — two of which are the high school counselor and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Because of the lack of personnel, the BIA depends largely on correspondence and counselors in schools to provide information and applications to prospective college students. It would be of great benefit if village and regional representatives could familiarize themselves with the educational opportunities available from the BIA and other agencies, so that all youth that are interested in obtaining an education could have immediate access to current information. The benefits therefrom would be at least twofold: The student would be made aware of the various educational programs and thus be in a better position to choose the educational program that best suits him, and all villages, no matter how remote, would not have to rely upon correspondence that

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