## Aleut Bill Update

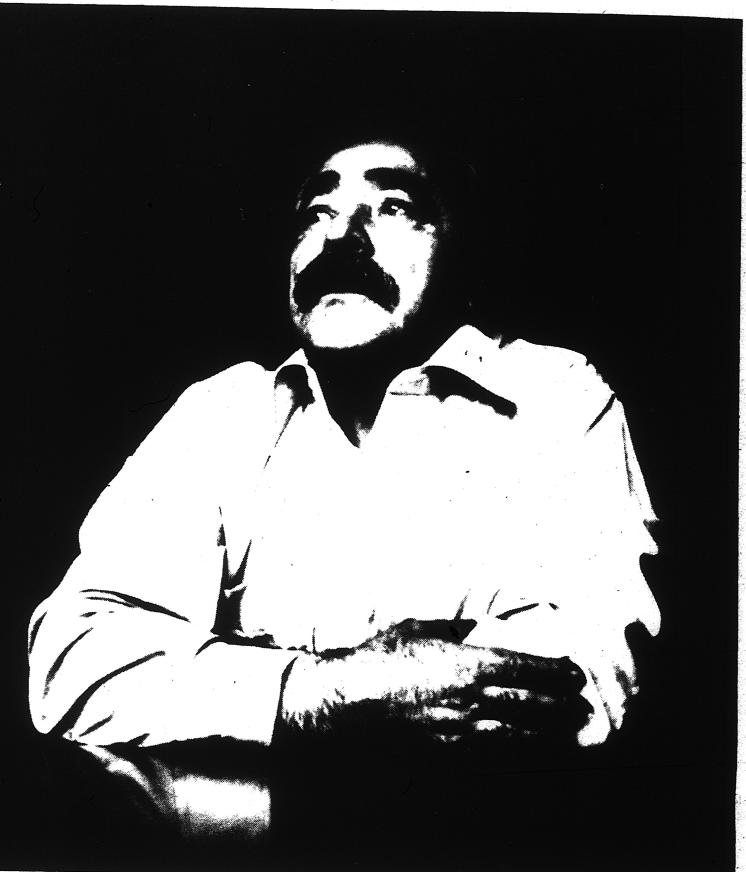
by shelley gill

It was in June, 1942, that the US Army undertook the evacuation of the Meuts from their villages throughout the Chain and transported them to various camps, located in South various

The evacuation was chaotic Resident had less than 24 hours to prepare and were torged to leave their personal possession behind. Authorities burned the village of Atkar, shot the village entitle on \$1 Georgiand regred the homes and Russian Orthodox church with explosives 560 Aleuts were hereful abound the US DITAROL I was abound this ship that the abuse of the Aleuts would begin. It would continue for the next two years for two weeks the DITAROL sailed eastward, it's human caugo crowded in the hold of the Ship There was one bathroom, no privacy and no me lical attention. Stekness had broken out by the time the ship reached it's destination. At the camps the Aleuts were separated, the Atkans went to Killismoo the Pribilovians to Lunter Bay. Contaminated water, poor food, madequate clothing and medical supplies ted the epidemics that would rage for the next two years.

Long after the threat of Japanese at tack had passed the Aleut's remained virtual prisoners of the federal government

When the people were finally returned to their islands they found their homes van dalized, their personal belongings gone. The precious icons and crosses, symbols of the Ments Russian Orthodox Linth, were removed from the place they had been hidden at the departure. The people went to church—— to pray for their return and for the 60 people who had hed and were buried on the distant shores of Southeastern.







Gabe Stepetin, of St. Paul, has fought long and hard to gain and preserve the rights of the Aleut people. Above: St. Paul Island villagers returning from Funter Bay found their homes wrecked; their belongings carried off as souvenirs. Left: An American flag serves as a backdrop for these residents of the village of Akutan during a recent town meeting.

photos by Andy Klamser