

"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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Other Voices—

Native Land Claims: Are They Just

(Courtesy of Anchorage Daily News)

(Editor's NOTE: Clifford Groh II has worked as attorney for native organizations especially on the native land claims efforts. He is now a state legislator from Anchorage in the State House of Representatives.)

By CLIFFORD GROH II

It's tough to grow up an Eskimo, Aleut, or Indian in Alaska, just as it's tough to grow up an Apache in Arizona or a Sioux in South Dakota. You live harder and you die earlier than a white kid does. You often have to go to school hundreds of miles from your family. You keep getting told how "inferior" your culture is. Perhaps worst of all, you have to live with the fact that millions of square acres were stolen from your people without any kind of adequate recompense. If America hates losers, as many rightists claim, it would partly explain the low state of the American Indians—for they are the biggest losers around today.

But there is a way to change that situation somewhat, at least for the Natives in this state. Pending in Congress is legislation which would at least partially bring the Natives out of their rut of poverty and despair. The final settlement will probably not be as large as it should be, especially in land (where the reasonable Alaska Federation of Natives proposal of 60 million acres will probably not even be approached), but it will come closer to being fair than any other settlement by Congress.

Unfortunately voices in Alaska are now ringing out in protest against any fair settlement of this issue. A Juneau teenager echoes the thoughts of many other Alaskans when he calls the A.F.N. bill "socialistic." They don't understand that any real old-time capitalist would jump at this deal: the ownership of millions of acres in return for a small fraction of stolen land.

Other cries have been heard, too. Some profess to fear that a native land claims settlement would create "two states," or dual segregated societies. They want "one state"—an Alaska where whites own and despoil the land for their own profit, use the Natives as cheap labor, and leave both Natives and the land poor. Just like always.

And then there's the local cynic, who scoffed recently: "Come on. If those Natives get all that dough, it just means that they'll switch from cheap wine to champagne on Fourth Avenue." Maybe. The money might be blown, but it was a lot more unlikely that we would get to the moon in 1969 when America first started laying out all those billions for space. You all know how that turned out. And believe me, this is a much better cause. Talk to a Native kid—he'll tell you.

Words Have Striking Similarities

The Tundra Times staff was intrigued by a certain psychiatric clinic in Anchorage that announced its relocation of its offices to "The Angakok Building."

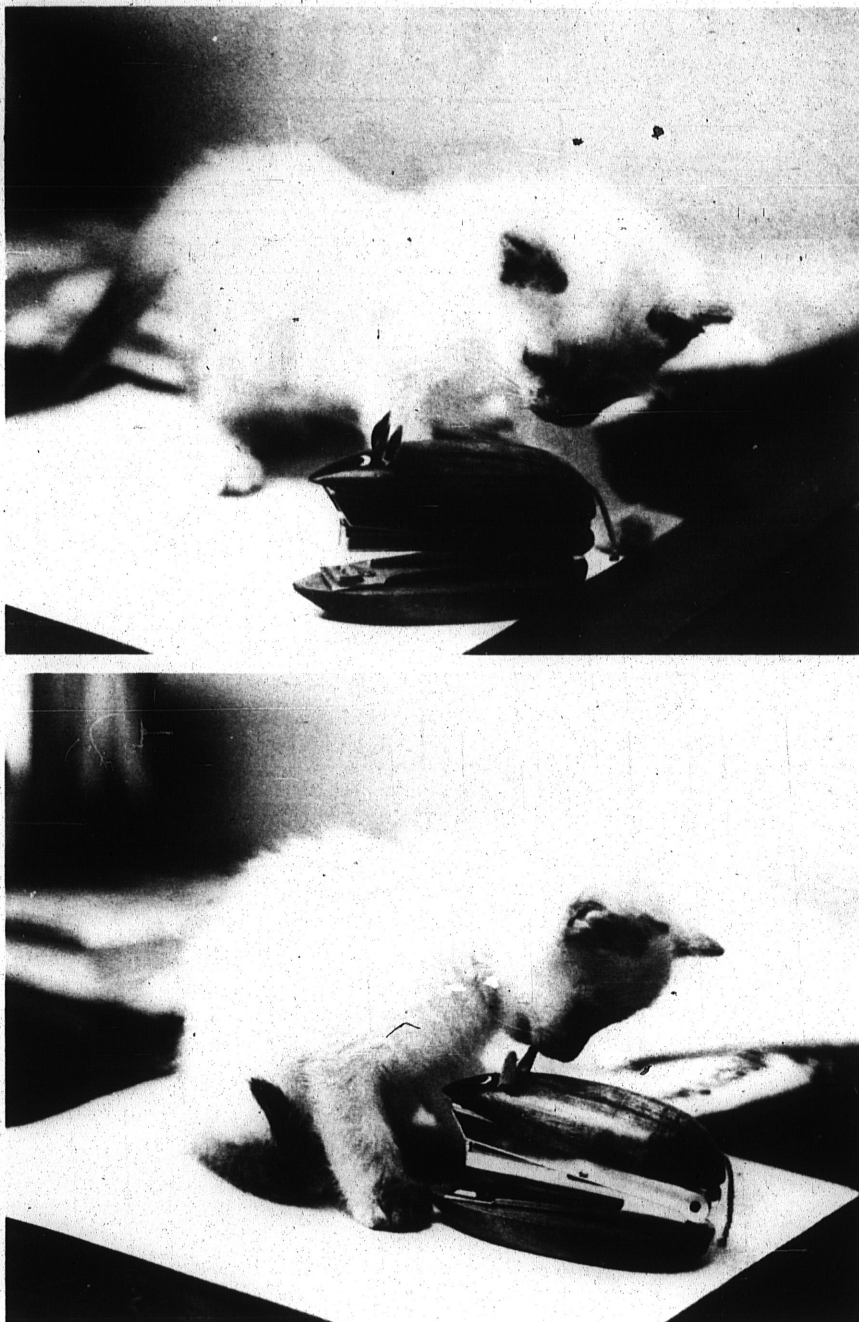
The reason for the curiosity of it is that "Angakok" and "Angatkuq" is striking in similarity.

Angatkuq, according to the northwestern Alaska Eskimos, is a shaman or medicine man. It might be purely coincidental but "Angakok" is close to the same pronunciation of "Angatkuq."

And why not? Not too far back as years go, angatkuqs in native areas of Alaska were very much the part of Eskimo, Indian and Aleut life plying their trade in keeping the mental stability of their communities.

Angatkuqs did pretty much the same thing Western culture psychiatrists have been doing in the past and today.

"The Angakok Building." Why not?



WHAT SORT OF MOUSE ARE YOU?—At the top photo, the kitten cautiously paws the mouse stapler, circles around it until it came directly in front. Not getting any action from the mouse,

the kitten then gingerly begins to chew on oil cloth ears of the mouse.

—Photos by LAEL MORGAN

They Play Increasingly Important Roles—

Department of the Interior Compiles Major Native Organizations in Alaska

Tribal Organizations are playing an increasingly important role in directing the destiny of Alaskan Natives and new groups are organizing. For this reason we think this new list, compiled by the U. S. Department of Interior, will be of interest:

AHTNA-THA-NEN-NEH — Roy Ewan, president, P. O. Box 115, Gakona 99586 Tel. 822-3878 Copper Center.

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.—Don Wright, president, 1675 C Street Anchorage 99501 Tel. 279-4578.

ALASKA NATIVE BROTHERHOOD—GRANDCAMP — Steven V. Hotch, grand president, Box 195, Klukwan 99831 Tel. 766-2557.

ALASKA NATIVE SISTERHOOD GRANDCAMP— Mrs. Gertrude Wolfe, grand president, Hoonah, 99829.

ALASKA PENINSULA NATIVE ASSN.—Charles Franz, president, P. O. Box 113, Cold Bay 99571.

ALEUT LEAGUE— Iliodor Philemonof, president, 3701 Eureka, Space 52 B, Anchorage, 99501. Tel. 279-4578.

ARCTIC NATIVE BRO-

THERHOOD—Jerome Trigg, president, Box 333, Nome 99762 Tel. 443-2647.

ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSN.—Joe Upicksoun, President, Box 566, Barrow 99723.

Charles Edwardsen, executive director, Box 486, Barrow 99723.

ASSN. OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS BETHEL AREA—Philip Guy, president Kwethluk 99621.

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION—Harvey Samuelson, president, Dillingham 99576 Tel. 842-3821.

CHUGACH NATIVE ASSN. Gilbert Olson, president, P. O. Box 274, Cordova 99574 Tel. GS4-3443

COOK INLET NATIVE ASSOCIATION—Roy Hulndorf, P. O. Box 515, Anchorage 99501.

FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION—Tim Wallis, president, P. O. Box 67, Fairbanks 99701 Tel. 452-3487.

GWITCHA GWITCHIN GINKHYE, FT. YUKON NATIVE ASSN.—Jonathan Solomon, president, Box 120, Ft. Yukon 99740.

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE George Miller, president, P. O. Box 396, Kenai 99611.

KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION—Henry Eaton, president, P. O. Box 172, Kodiak 99615.

KUSKOKWIM VALLEY NATIVE ASSN.—Archie Watson, president, General Delivery, Bethel 99559.

METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY—Solomon Guthrie, mayor, P. O. Box 8, Metlakatla 99926 Tel. 886-4441.

TANANA CHIEFS—Al Ketzler, president, Nenana 99760.

TLINGIT & HAIDA CENTRAL COUNCIL—John Borbridge Jr., president, P. O. Box 529, Juneau 99801 Tel. 586-2204 or 586-2206.

TYONEK, NATIVE VILLAGE OF—Seriphen Stephen, president, Tyonek 99682.

Adam Kroto, secretary treasurer, Tyonek 99682.

UNALAKLEET, NATIVE VILLAGE OF—Francis E. Soxie, president, Unalakleet 99684 Tel. 644-3222.