

"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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Editorial—

Gov. William A. Egan

William A. Egan once again became our governor this week after having served two terms previously. This time, Egan seems to be bringing into his familiar office a new dedication to serve well his people of Alaska made up of some of the world's most varied backgrounds.

We are most grateful for his new awareness and approach of our native people. We are confident that the native people will give him willing cooperation as he works for the good of the state.

"...Modern frontier ethic calls for recognition of the realities and wholeness of nature, the rights of our native people and other minorities, and the values of man that find fulfillment in all the desirable attributes of civilization," Egan declared this week.

This is a fine basis for cooperation with the man.

Editorial—

Competition Can Bring Equality

Alaska's native people, in order to realize respect and equality in good measure, must learn to compete in many things in the Western type civilization—especially in business.

It has always been our contention that the native people have the nucleus from which to develop business skills as good or as equal as any business oriented person. Development of this fine potential can be a powerful foundation through which keen competition in businesses can be done.

Doing things equally well as anybody in business enterprises can become a solid base to gain respect and equality in stature.

Rural School Districts Funded

Eight school districts in Alaska will receive allotments this fiscal year from the U.S. Department of Health Education and Welfare. These allotments range from \$269,603 in Bethel to \$33,311.79 to the Aleutian Islands.

According to Niilo Copan, Director of Research, Planning and Federal Programs, the general HEW allotments in Alaska are split by the State Department of Education between State operated and district schools.

These funds are used to upgrade education to economically deprived children, to fund programs for handicapped children and those with special problems, vocational education and research and pilot programs in the schools.

Other school districts which will receive funds are: Bristol Bay (\$36,642.97), Yukon-Kuskokwim (\$169,688.07), Fairbanks-Ft. Yukon (\$203,424.03), Barrow-Kobuk (\$155,232.96), Nome (\$181,882.40), Wade Hampton (\$155,010.88).

Seed Money for Native Business

W.O. Craig, superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fairbanks Agency states that:

Grants have been made to Donald J. Joe, Frank Dewey, Edmond Lord, Minto Village, Brooks Range Cooperative, Inc. from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Business Development Fund, in the amount of \$49,412.

Grants made are for the purpose of providing seed money to assist native peoples in borrowing necessary funds for the expansion of existing business enterprises or the starting of new business ventures.

Pollock Pushes

Alcoholics Center

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Howard W. Pollock has contacted Commissioner Louis R. Bruce of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington to request that the BIA take prompt favorable action on the proposal of the Community Property Service Corporation of Fairbanks to establish an alcoholics recovery and rehabilitation center for women.

Pollock emphasized the success of a similar facility for male alcoholics in Fairbanks and the desirability of such a resource for women.

The Congressman noted that the CPSC proposal provided for both an intensive care unit to accommodate 10 women, and a supportive living facility for 8 women.

Both facilities would offer a whole spectrum of services oriented toward alcoholism rehabilitation.

"The CPSC proposal is most comprehensive and well-conceived," concluded Pollock, "and I strongly support its implementation."

Letters from Here and There

November 21, 1970

Dear Sir—

Hi how are you. I would like to know about Tundra Times and maybe a News Paper if so if it is all right for a pin-pal boy and girl to write to send to me at 1935 Ward St. Berkeley California, 94703 I am a sixth grader I am reading a book called OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER: The Indian in White America EDGAR S. CHAN-Editor HAPPY MERRY CHRISTMAS if Possible send me something you make there and please send me a pin-pal do they have Christmas there

Thank you very much

Linda Sue Guzman
Bye!

Poem— Memories

Grains of sand
Beneath the storyteller's knife
Sculpting a legend of a culture
Fading...

A cabin dimly lit.
Pungent aromas of Buhach
and charred driftwood.
Offspring, mummylike
Lending an ear to
Sagas of generations.

Now—memories latent.
Hazy recollection
Sparks my craving for a
Revival of my heritage
To infuse my beloved child.
—Dorothy M. Larson

Fairbanks Alcohol Rehabilitation Center Battles Alcoholism

Alaska has a drinking problem. In Fairbanks, a doctor at a Native health clinic estimates a full third of his hospital admissions and cases were alcohol related. He estimated another third have an alcohol factor.

These figures are comparable for the white community. What is being done?

In Fairbanks, the Alcohol Rehabilitation Center is working to stop men from drinking. Begun in 1967, the Center is the only such facility in the state of Alaska, serving over 50 communities in the vast state.

Its facilities, which occupy a large white frame building at 1020 Second Avenue, in Fairbanks, can house as many as 32 men for long term help in conquering their problems with drinking.

The rehabilitation center is run and supported by COM-PASS, a group of five churches which sponsors many non-profit organizations in Alaska.

Bob Carroll, executive director of the center, started the facility in 1967 to provide alcoholics with a place to seek help in stopping the drinking habit. It is his response to the pressing need for one center which would combine social, psychological, and medical facilities—a boarding home which could be more than a place a man could go to recover from a drunk.

All of the Rehabilitation Center's counselors are alcoholics—but alcoholics who have not taken a drink since they entered the center.

Charlie Biederman, Head Counselor of the center, came there in 1968 from his home town of Eagle, after having been an alcoholic for 32 years. Three years later, he has not had a drink and is responsible for the day to day operation of the center.

"Doctors will tell you there's no cure for alcoholism," Mr. Biederman explained, "but you can show an alcoholic there are people who care. It gives him something to work for. A lot of them will never quit, but you can see improvement—drinking sprees that are less frequent and less lengthy as time passes."

Due to the funding of the center, over 90 per cent of its residents are Alaskan Natives. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will pay for 20 out of the 32 beds in the center for Natives at any one time, sometimes as high as twenty-three.

The center cannot afford to admit men who cannot pay for their room and board, or have it funded.

Occasionally, such agencies as the State Department of Welfare or the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will fund beds in the Center.

If a resident can pay his support, he pays \$250 per month. Residents who are working are expected to contribute \$25 per week to the center, to be used for emergency and recreation money for those without funds.

The program offered at the Fairbanks Alcohol Rehabilitation Center has many facets. Residents are sent to the center through the BIA, doctors, the court system and other agencies.

Men who face trial for alcohol related offenses are often given the opportunity to go to the rehabilitation center for treatment.

ment. At the center, any man who is admitted must agree to stay at least ninety days.

"When a man comes in, we first see if he needs medical help, get him to a doctor," Mr. Biederman explained. "Then the regimen of the center includes finding work for as many men as possible, getting others into job training programs, university or high school programs if they are qualified."

"The main problem is to help the guys get jobs," he explained, "anything to keep them from thinking about drinking." The center cooperates closely with the state employment agency as a source of personnel. Each new resident must file with the employment agencies, who call the center when job openings are available.

Residents at the center can participate in a voluntary Antabuse program. Antabuse is a drug which will not stop a man from drinking, but will make him wish he could die if he does take a drink. It is a rare man who will continue drinking through the drug reaction.

Dr. Ted Drahn, a psychologist from the University of Alaska, runs two group therapy sessions per week, working with the men to find the problems which led to their drinking.

A BIA social worker, Ed Nicely, spends about eight hours per week at the center as well. He interviews each resident, looking for the problem that may cause each to drink—whether it is a job, home life or whatever.

"Sometimes it's as simple as finding a man the right job," Biederman said. "This may help stop drinking."

The reasons people drink, have drinking problems and become alcoholics vary, and no person has all the answers.

Does the center have successes? Do the men who come there for help eventually stop drinking?

"Some never will," said Charlie Biederman, one who has. "If you can keep them sober in here, however, it's better than letting them starve out on the streets or rot in jail."

Most nights, there is an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at the center or elsewhere in Fairbanks. In the large recreation room on the ground floor of the Center building, a T.V. set and pool table are available for recreation.

Meals are served three times a day and coffee and sandwiches are always available. On many days, the recreation room entertains many guests, but outside recreational opportunities are scarce.

Biederman has wanted for a long time to request funds from the Alaskan Federation of Natives—several thousand dollars per year to be used for recreation, transportation, movie admissions, emergency funds and other activities to fill the men's time, when they are not working.

He is looking for alternatives for the residents to the local bar, one of the few sources of amusement in Fairbanks.

Meanwhile, the center treats over 40 men; residents and "out-patients" trying to give men alternatives for their lives to alcohol.