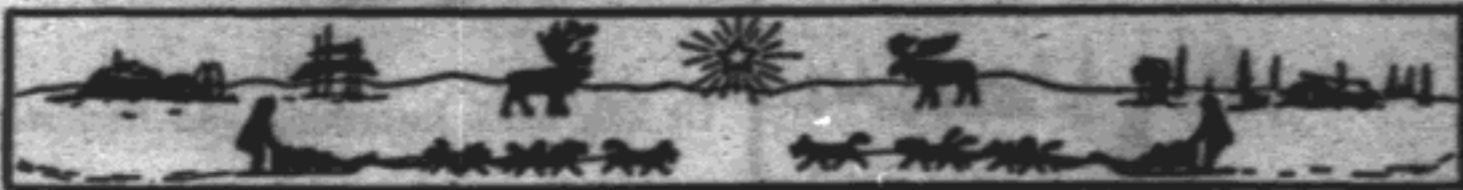


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." - Voltaire

# Tundra Times



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## THE WEB OF CIRCUMSTANCE . .

(Continued from page 1)

that would have initiated the Alaska native housing program. The moment the gist of the message sunk in, there were audible groans followed a moment later by complete silence. Hopes for the modest, but better homes for ill-housed native people had been struck down in one fell swoop. Our poor, and there are many of them, will have to endure damnable discomfort, we wonder, for what additional length of time.

Proper housing has always been a problem for a hundred years, in the Arctic at least, when the native people there were made to change their type of abodes. The warm and easy-to-heat spruce framed sod igloos were abandoned gradually because the Eskimos were told that the igloos were not civilized type homes and that they should adopt Western frame type houses. They did, and they were cold from that time on because the native people didn't have skills then to build them properly, nor did they have adequate material nor money to build them properly. The results were improperly constructed shacks or packing case hovels with little insulation.

These became the shelters our native people used for years and years and they paid dearly for having used them. They became fertile and ideal propagation grounds for tuberculosis, a disease that was foreign to them in the first place anyway. Multiple deaths resulted from this disease, and other diseases compatible with sub-standard housing. All this from improper dwellings that were not followed up with provisions to improve them by those who introduced Western type structures.

But, in spite of the failure of the follow-up, there is now a highly commendable effort on the part of the native people themselves to improve their own housing. This slow but steady improvement is progressing among the gainfully employed in all areas. They are taking pride in using good portions of their earnings to buy good homes and materials although at great expense. They have learned the value of good insulation in building their houses and the construction is proper in most cases.

This progress in housing improvement is being done by our more resourceful people but there are great many others who are less fortunate. These are people who are being left behind by their more fortunate brothers—people who lack skills, jobs, and lack of education. These are the people who have been caught in the web of circumstance with little equipment and means to solve their housing problems. They are the ones who are suffering great discomforts and they are people who need the benefits of a follow-up in the improvement of their homes and away from their shacks and packing case hovels.

## Community N.W. Preschools Establishing

Model community preschools for Indian children are being established in the Northwest in cooperation with the National Indian Youth Council.

The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory is assisting local community and educational agencies plan the schools. They will be used to develop and demonstrate effective preschool and school programs for Indian children.

A model nursery school will begin operation in January in Alaska. The planning is being coordinated by Superintendent Dan Turner at Bristol Bay Borough School District. Two teachers for the schools, Fred Kimball and Angela Ansagnok, currently are receiving special training at Colorado State University for the activity.

In connection with the school, an instructional materials center will be established to serve a cluster of 20 small schools in the area.

Establishment of a demonstration Headstart nursery school is underway in Montana. To be supported by U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity funds, the school will be on the Crow Indian Reservation. Teachers for the school were trained this summer.

Preliminary planning also is underway with the Quinalt tribe and Seattle Indian Center for possible model schools in Washington. Two teachers from the center, Sharon Chase and Mary Louise Wilson, are now at Colorado for the special training program.

To assess the effectiveness of programs in the model schools, the Laboratory will collect data on language patterns, behavior and thought levels of students in the classrooms. The Laboratory also will provide special training for teachers in school enrolling pupils from the model nursery schools.

The activity is part of the Laboratory's program to improve Education for Culturally Different Children.

The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, a nonprofit organization with administrative offices in Portland, is working with schools and other agencies in the region to improve classroom teaching and learning by applying the findings of new research and technology.

## Guide Tests To Be Given Here Nov. 13-14

Guide tests will be given at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, November 13 and on Tuesday, November 14, at the State Court and Office Building, Room 116 in Fairbanks, according to Bob Hinman, Interior-Arctic Regional Game Supervisor, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The test consists of two parts: a written and an oral.

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## Federation Footnotes—

# Asks More Native Hire By Oil Industry

By EMIL NOTTI  
Alaska Federation of Natives

In as much as the Native people in Alaska have a 60% unemployment rate. And further, since the State insists on giving its resources up without any return, the Governor's office should initiate a program to insist that the oil companies hire more Native people.

The history of Alaska has been that she has given up billions of dollars of natural resources in gold, copper, salmon, fur seals, platinum and other valuable minerals with very little return, mainly because we were a territory, but now we are a state and can have some control over our destiny.

The oil wealth is being extracted at the rate of approximately 2.5 millions barrels per month and very little is being left in Alaska, not even a fair amount of wages. When the oil companies rotate platform crews out of here by the plane-load and refuse to hire locally, specifically Native people, there should be a huge cry across the state to at least hire locally where there is so much unemployment, and if that is not done, there should be a demand that we tax them at a fair rate of 9% instead of a ridiculous 1%.

There is an argument that this is a young industry and they will pull out and they cannot afford it and once they get their exploratory investment back then we can realistically tax them. Does that mean then, that since the state and really the people are underwriting the cost of oil exploration, that they will share a part of the profits when it starts paying? Of course not.

We should therefore, tax for the extraction of our resources. It appears that the men who argue against this all are benefiting from the present set-up. The least we can ask, if not more taxes, is more employment to reduce the 60% unemployment rate in rural Alaska.

Let the Native people benefit and become a part of the growth of Alaska.

## Howard Pollock Asks for State Legislation to Fund Housing

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515  
October 31, 1967

The Honorable Walter J. Hickel  
Governor, State of Alaska  
Pouch A - State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

My dear Wally:

As you know, we have recently had the great disappointment of having the Conference Committee of the Senate and House on Independent Offices and Housing and Urban Development delete the proposal for the appropriation of \$1,000,000 for Alaska Native Housing. Everyone had anticipated that the House members would recede from their position and join the Senate members in appropriating the \$1,000,000; but instead, to our surprise and great disappointment, the opposite happened, i.e., the Senate members unanimously receded from their position and concurred with the House Conference Committee members that no money should be appropriated for the Alaska Native Housing this year. I cannot recall when I have had greater disappointment.

Nevertheless, two things come to my mind which might yet salvage this program. I am simply not willing to let it die. The first would be that you might urge the Legislature to appropriate \$1,000,000 to begin the program pending the appropriation of funds by the United States Congress.

Secondly, I would suggest that each village mayor and chief address a letter to the President of the United States earnestly requesting that funds be included in the federal budget now in preparation for the next fiscal year. It is my understanding that the Alaska State Housing Authority intended to request \$2,000,000 next year if this first appropriation had been approved. I believe the amount that should be in the next federal budget now is \$3,000,000 to make up for the time lost. Copies of these letters should be addressed to Secretary Robert Weaver, of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I think we must do everything to make this dream of improved remote housing become a reality. Time has been

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