

Tundra Times

Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unangq Tumuktang The Aleuts Speak

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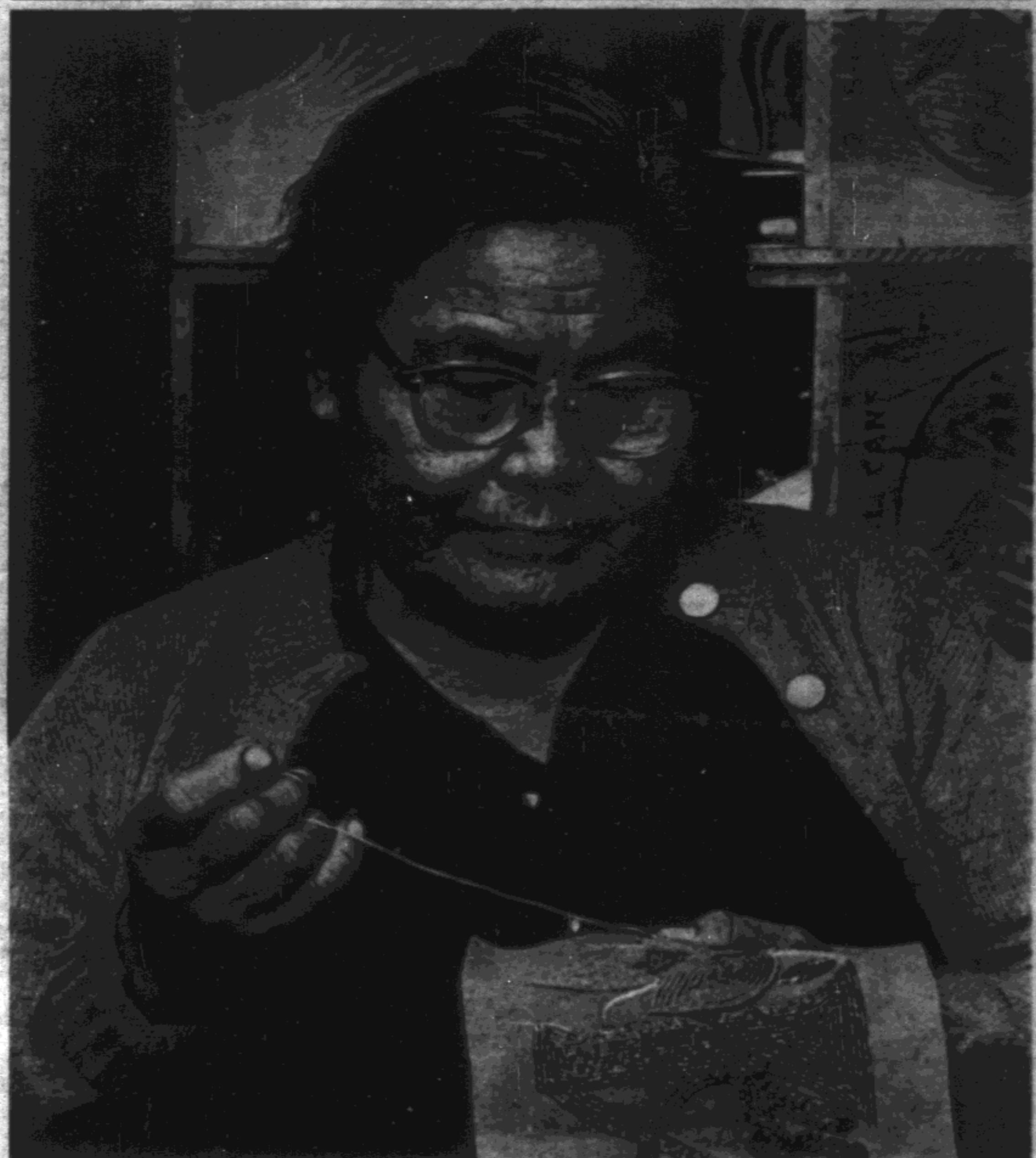
Friday, December 6, 1968

15c

Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting
Heida
Younk yawn sue
Speak the absolute truth

Fairbanks, Alaska

BETHEL HOUSING CAUSES RIFT



BEAD ART—Mrs. Martha James, wife of the chief of Arctic Village, is doing fine beadwork she and other interior Alaska Indian women do to supplement the income of their families.

Martha can also make everything from parkas to moccasins and mukluks.

—Photo by SPENCER LINDERMANN

Arctic Village: Crossroad in Time

By SPENCER LINDERMANN

"Arctic Village" sounds like a tourist attraction in Disneyland, but for 63 Athabaskan-Kutchin Indians, Arctic Village means home.

Jim Ludwig, Program Director for KUAC-FM Radio Station at the University of Alaska, and I lived in Arctic Village for one week last October to gather material for a special program on life and changes occurring in this Alaskan Indian community today.

This program will be aired on KUAC-FM December 8 at 1:00 p.m.

We moved into a 15 foot square log cabin occupied by Jannick (Nick) Von Rosenvinge, a VISTA Volunteer, and quickly became accustomed to chopping wood, carrying water, and a heavy diet of caribou.

On the surface we saw a people who have learned the value of living one day at a time in the face of hardships they encounter.

It is commonplace to spend days in the mountains hunting caribou and caching it for the winter, fishing the clear water of the Chandalar River, trapping wolves and furbearers and killing bears that destroy the precious caches of winter meat.

The long winter evenings are spent visiting with friends, repairing a snowshoe, playing the guitar or maybe "chettrinchaw," a game of spearing caribou knuckle bones on a string.

One of the big events in the lives of these people is the mail plane, which may come two times a week depending on the weather. With the airplane, Arctic Village is no longer inaccessible, and everywhere one sees the changes brought about by the outside world.

Each year there are more snow mobiles and fewer dog teams in the village, and another new snow mobile was on the mail plane in which we arrived. Firewood now burns in stoves

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Tragic Plane Crash Claims 39 Lives Near Illiamna Village

A tragic Wien Consolidated Airlines airliner crash near the village of Illiamna took the lives of 39 persons, most of them

from the city of Anchorage, last Monday morning.

An eyewitness has said that a big ball of black smoke and

Gravel Trying Hard for Interior Committee Slot

Senator-elect Mike Gravel attended a reception in his honor last Monday at the Fairbanks Inn. Scores of wellwishers and friends who played an important part in Gravel's election were present.

The people visited with the background of a huge 80-pound cake fashioned in the shape of the American flag and the Alaska state flag. Greater portion of the cake went to the Pioneer's Home and Hope Center in the city.

Gravel stated that he was working hard to get a committee assignment in the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

"The committee is important to land claims, also for native education, mines and minerals, Bureau of Indian Affairs—the committee is important for Alaska," said Gravel.

Gravel is competing for the assignment against the newly Senate-elect Allen Cranston of

headed heated complaints against the conditions they thought were, or would be, intolerable on the tenants if imposed.

Back about two years ago, the State and the Association of Village Council Presidents, a native organization composed of over 50 villages in southwestern Alaska, negotiated for a plot of land on which to build a housing development for the poor.

In the negotiation, the AVCP asked guarantee of land ownership for the tenant once he paid for the house in which he lived.

The AVCP also asked that Bethel people have the right to suggest designs for the houses, and rights to operate the housing development under some local control.

ASHA, at that time, agreed to the guarantees but now the agency is being accused of having "shunted" those guarantees and has drawn up conditions on its own designed to govern the tenants.

The set of conditions that drew most of the heavy fire were those that would affect eviction of tenants. Some of these were:

—The eviction of the tenant would be affected when the family failed to meet its first-of-the-month house payment.

—When only one member of the household should reside in the house.

—If the family's income exceeds \$7,000 for one year.

Other conditions included were that leases on houses would

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flames came from the plane before it spiraled down and crashed on a beach of a lake 23 miles from Illiamna.

Rescue and investigating efforts on the crash scene have been prevented by below zero temperatures and high winds in the area.

Last Wednesday, a federal investigator, Frank Malone, National Transportation Safety Board, managed to reach the crash site in a Cessna 180.

He reported that the ill-fated plane came to rest on the banks of a frozen lake. A portion of a broken wing had broken through the ice. He said he could not see the left engine nor the elevators of the plane.

It was thought possible that the engine and the elevators might be in the water of the lake.

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