

Winter Bear Worries Arctic Village Folks

(EDITOR'S NOTE: About three weeks ago, a "winter bear" was reported to be roaming not far from Arctic Village. It was said that seeping water into the cave where the bear was hibernating had awakened it prematurely. Such winter bears are dangerous because they become extremely hungry.)

By JOSEPHINE PETER
Arctic Village, Alaska

About couple weeks ago, the Fish and Game fly up the East Fork River. And they found the brown bear tracks about 30 mile

above Arctic Village.

Since that, every men howling wood with sno-go. They have their rifle with them. Even the kids don't go out.

We heard the wild brown bear story in early days, and it sure wild. Now days is different for wild bear. We have are rifle. And them early days they use arrow for bear.

I hope they get rid of the bear, cause I the only one live up the end of new village. But every night I load the rifle and ready for bear.

I hope I have better news next time. Good luck.

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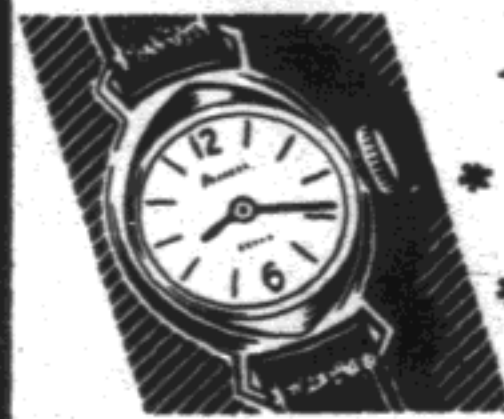
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Sen. Stevens Calls for Federal Conference on Totem Poles

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Ted Stevens has called a Federal conference which will be held April 1, to discuss preservation of Alaska's totem poles.

Stevens has invited the other members of Alaska's congressional delegation, Jane Wallen, Director of the Alaska State Museum; Dennis Demmert, President of Alaska Native Brotherhood, as well as representatives of the BIA, National Science Foundation, The Smithsonian Institute, National Endowment for the Arts, National Park Service and the Indian Arts and Crafts Council to join in the conference.

"Alaska's totem poles, magnificent examples of Northwest Indian Art, are in danger of extinction," Senator Stevens said.

"The poles dating back to the 19th Century are located in abandoned native villages in South-eastern Alaska. They are vulnerable to the moist and decay producing climate of the Pacific Coast, forest fires, and damage by vandals and souvenir hunters," the Senator continued.

The State of Alaska appropriated \$50,000 in February to assist in this project entitled "Alaska Totems: A Heritage in Peril." However, this sum is not enough to cover all the costs.

"Additional funds are needed to retrieve the 44 known totems from their old village sites to bring them to Ketchikan where land has been set aside for an Indian Cultural Center, to construct facilities to restore and display the poles, and to set up education programs using these artifacts," the Senator commented.

Senator Stevens warned, "This may be our last chance to preserve these rapidly disappearing artifacts and the historical accounts they tell."

250 Eskimo Children Have Hearing Defects

Two hundred and fifty school age children in the Kotzebue, Nome and Unalakleet areas were defined as sustaining significant hearing losses which may require surgical repair of the ears as well as medical maintenance.

This was learned in a joint hearing testing program by the U.S. Public Health Service and the Alaska Department of Health and Welfare.

A plan has been established for medical or surgical repair of these children. It is planned as a first priority to treat those children with problems in both ears.

It is anticipated that this latter group (approximately 90 children) will be repaired by the end of the 1969-1970 school year.

This will enable them to complete their schooling without a handicapping hearing loss or significant medical problem of the ear that could not be controlled.

Those children who have a hearing loss that cannot be completely alleviated by medicine or surgery will be fitted with a hearing aid and trained to use it.

Bering and Chukchi Sea coast areas were tested from Stebbins to Point Hope, and included the larger communities of Unalakleet, Nome and Kotzebue.

Thirty villages with school enrollments totaling approximately 2,400 children in state-operated, BIA and private schools were evaluated by the two audiologists and one otologist. The testing team traveled to the more remote areas by Skidoo and light aircraft.

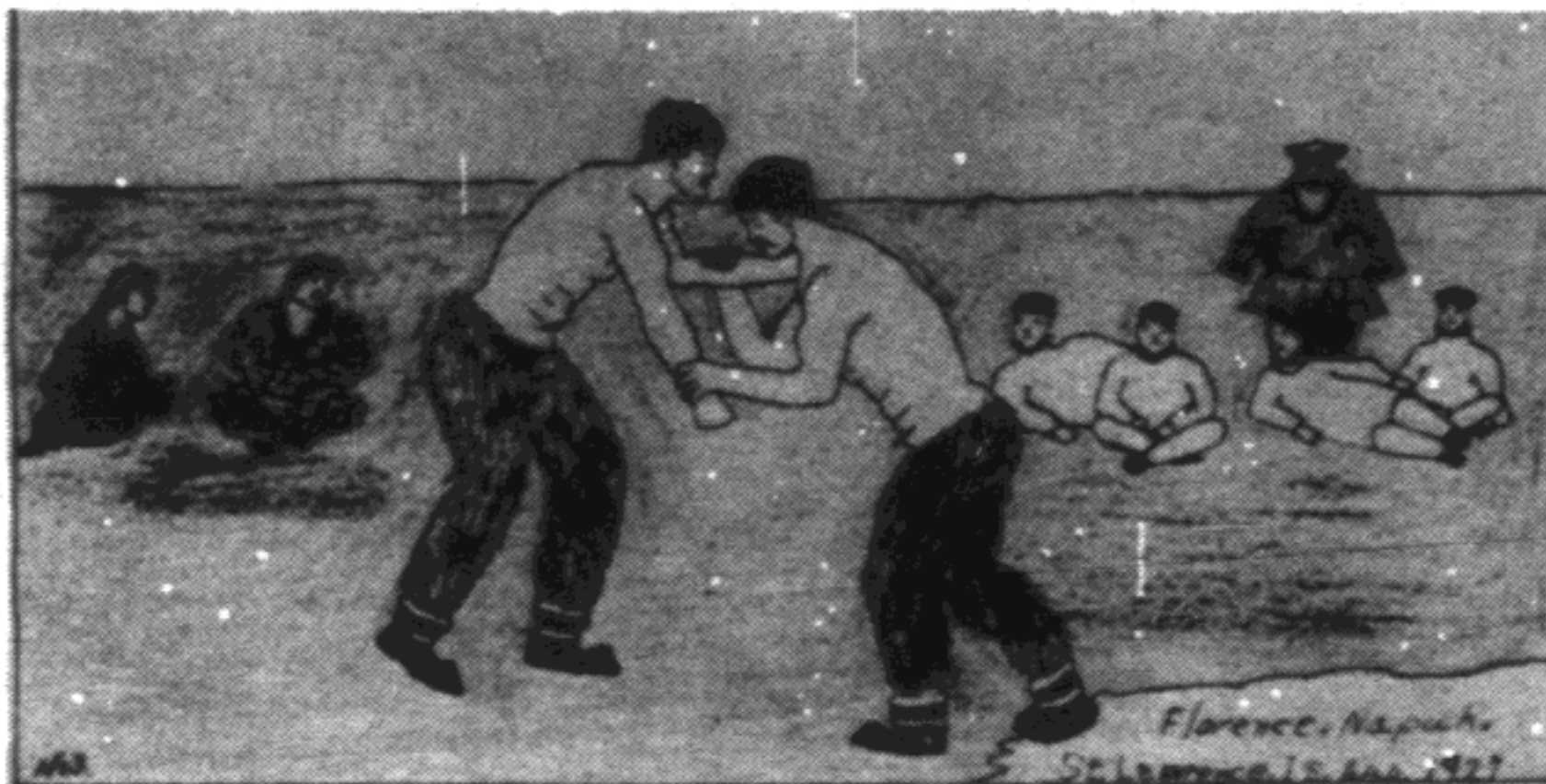
Alaska has the highest incidence of hearing loss in the United States, but the Alaska Department of Health and Welfare and the Public Health Service continue to work on the problem to salvage the hearing of Alaskan children.

Congressman Pollock Gets High Award

WASHINGTON D. C.—Congressman Howard W. Pollock was this week awarded the highest honor of Phi Theta Kappa, the national Junior College Honorary.

Pollock, who is a past National President of the honorary, received the "Alumnus of the Year" award at their National Convention in Panama City, Florida. This is the first such award ever made by the organization.

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Introduction by Vincent Price