

"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—

The Native Vote Is Still a Juicy Plum

The interest in the native vote by the Alaska leading politicians is holding strong, if not more so, in this 1970 election year. If there are signs that there is no concern for it, it is now non-existent from this vantage point. If anything, there seems to be more interest in it contrary to some beliefs that a leading politician does not necessarily need the native vote to be elected. This opinion should be strongly noted by the native leadership. Counteraction to the idea should be kept in mind so the native vote action this year can be aimed at a target, or issue, that will be a most telling result.

The native people are embroiled in politics. They can count on being continually involved in it in the future. Since they cannot get away from it, they might as well work toward using their votes the best way that they can.

The voting privilege can be their strong servant to combat the issues and personalities that might go against them and use the vote for those things that would benefit them. The importance of this privilege is without question. The native people must take full advantage of it. Their leaders should exert strong influences to make this real political servant to work for native interests that will benefit them well in their everyday lives.

The native people and their leaders should keep in mind always that the native vote is still a juicy plum desired by leading politicians as well as the lesser ones. Always remember also that a vote well placed is a beneficial one. Still better, collective votes well placed can definitely have a telling influence in the political arena of Alaska.

Ketchikan Sponsors Arts, Crafts

The 1970 Annual Ketchikan Arts and Crafts Show, sponsored by the Ketchikan Arts and Crafts Guild, will be held April 10-12 at the National Guard Armory and will display work of Ketchikan and out-of-town artists and craftsmen.

Entries from all over Alaska, Canada and the lower 48 states are expected, reports Mrs. Mattie Walters, chairman of this year's art show.

Demonstrations by local and visiting artists in the various media are also planned. A luncheon for exhibitors is scheduled for Saturday April 11, at 12 noon.

Exhibitors may enter original work—no kits—including painting, drawing, print-making, carving, Native crafts, sculpture, pottery, weaving, creative stitchery, jewelry, lapidary, photography, and creative writing.

Out-of-town entries are due in Ketchikan on April 3, 1970. Official entry blanks and more information may be obtained by

writing to Mrs. C. Cloudy, Rte. 1 Box 327, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

Trooper's Academy Training Courses

JUNEAU—Governor Keith H. Miller announced that the Alaska State Trooper's Academy has completed two 54-hour training courses in emergency medical care under contract with the National Highway Safety Bureau.

The course has been given to 63 men representing 20 municipal or volunteer ambulance services and seven State and Federal groups. The communities benefiting from this training, Miller said, range from Delta to Cold Bay and from Barrow to Ketchikan.

The curriculum for the courses has been patterned upon the recommendations of the National Highway Safety Bureau and the American Academy of Ortho-

By GEORGE E. UTERMOHLE
"ONE OF THE GREATEST mineral resource discoveries in the history of man is the colossal petroleum resource near Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Slope of Alaska."

This statement was not made by a Chamber of Commerce official or a local politician. It was made by W.T. Pecora, Director, U.S. Geological Survey.

WHILE MOST ALASKANS are aware that the finding of oil in commercial quantities along the Arctic Coast is the biggest thing that has hit Alaska since the gold rushes of the early 20th century, very few of us—including the author—are aware of just how big this development really is. Until the discovery of oil at the Eskimo village near Prudhoe Bay, the largest oil field in the United States was the East Texas Field with its potential production of six billion barrels of oil.

AT A PUBLIC hearing held by the State of Alaska in November 1969 the first reliable estimates on the potential of the Prudhoe fields was released by the oil companies that drilled the discovery wells. This information indicated that the earlier 5 to 10 billion barrel estimate of recoverable oil was conservative.

IN OTHER WORDS, the oil companies are as reasonably sure as they can be at this time that the field will produce as much as 10 billion barrels and possibly more. According to figures published in the reliable "Oil and Gas Journal" this would make Prudhoe the 7th largest oil field in the world.

NO OTHER FIELD in the entire U.S. is nearly so large as Prudhoe, and it is possible that this area may well produce twice as much as its closest Texan rival. It might also be noted that the East Texas field which has been in production for almost a half century is still a giant in the ever booming economy of Texas.

AT THE STATE hearing in Anchorage it was also divulged that the Prudhoe field is estimated to cover as much as 800 square miles, and is thought to have three separate producing areas or zones.

POSSIBLY in the excitement over the Prudhoe discovery a more important aspect of this discovery has been overlooked. Oil has seldom, if ever, been found in a single large field. Geologic experience indicates that oil usually occurs in what might be termed petroliferous provinces or regions.

THE DISCOVERY of a large field has almost always been a forerunner of many other large and small oil fields in the area. Geologic indications of oil accumulation throughout northern parts of Alaska, Canada, and Siberia make the lands surrounding

pedic Surgeons. Instructors include the Academy staff, the U.S. Public Health Service and private practitioners.

Requests for attendance have exceeded the facilities available, and a third session is hoped to be scheduled prior to the end of this fiscal year.

"Because of this enthusiasm," Miller said, "we are planning to offer at least two more thirty-man sessions during the next fiscal year."

the Arctic Ocean a most lucrative area for the search for oil.

ALMOST WITHOUT argument, oil men will admit that the

Arctic is second only to the Arabian and North African areas in its potential for producing oil for the coming generation.

Letters to the Editor

Fire Spurs Equipment Need

Kwigillingok, Alaska
March 1, 1970

Editor: Slight Was Never Thought of

McGrath, Alaska
Feb. 25/Mar. 9, 1970

The Editor
Tundra Times
Box 1287 Fairbanks 99701

Dear Sir:

The "Editor's Note" to Judge Goldberg's article in your March 4th issue mentions "religious media...Protestant, Catholic and Jewish." Come now! Can our own Tundra Times slight the Russian Orthodox Church which is so important to our native people?

The Federal Government and most of the States have explicitly recognized Orthodoxy as the fourth Major faith. Most editors these days specify, "Orthodox, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish." After all, we are second only to the Catholic Church in world membership, in spite of 50 years of bloody communist persecution, and we number 6 million in America.

Around here it is called "the Native Church." Please don't let our native newspaper slight it again.

Thank you,
Elias J. Armistead, priest
of the Russian Orthodox
Church Outside Russia

Peratrovich Credited

Box 1125
Ketchikan, Alaska
10 March 1970

Dear Sir:

A recent Tundra Times article related how Governor Miller was concerned about the burning of the Metlakatla High School and was going to see that it was replaced.

What you should have reported, in addition, was that representative Frank Peratrovich of Klawock, upon hearing that the school had burned, realized that time, not talk, was of the essence and had a bill drafted appropriating \$1 million to rebuild the school—so that this building season would not be partially lost. The bill was introduced, at his request, and was being pushed through the legislative process while Governor Miller was still sending teams of people to investigate the situation at Metlakatla!

Sincerely,
Russel L. Brown

Dear Governor Miller, Senators, Representatives, Bureau of Indian Affairs, People of Alaska:

Early this morning here in Kwigillingok, the people were awakened by a very excited young man who came charging into Jesse Igkurak's house. He shouted, "Fire! Fire!" and screamed for us to get out of the house as fast as we could. Alarmed and frightened, the people grabbed their children and ran out the door. As they ran outside, they were greeted by flames leaping 50 feet or more into the air. The flames were coming from exploding, burning fuel tanks which were only 18 yards from Jesse's house.

The fire was caused by a short circuit in one of the wires coming from the generator. The sparks set fire to the wooden shack that housed the generator, and the burning shack set fire to the fuel tanks which were right outside the shack.

The men tried to move the fuel tanks that weren't burning yet, but they were beaten back by the roaring flames and the scorching oil. By some miracle or other, they did manage to save a few tanks from the flames, and prevented Jesse's house from going up in flames. Thank heaven the wind wasn't blowing or a great disaster would have visited this village early this morning. After the fuel tanks had burned down a bit, the men smothered the remaining flames with snow.

We don't have any kind of fire-fighting equipment in this village and we can't take the chance of another fire occurring like the one this morning. We want to know where we can get low cost fire-fighting equipment—especially fire extinguishers—so we will have some way to protect ourselves. This village has no well and the people haul ice in winter and catch rain in the summer, so water hoses won't do us much good here. We are sure this is not the only village that is without some kind of fire protection, so we want to know for our sake and the sake of the other villages where we can get low cost fire-fighting equipment. Our lives and our homes depend on it.

Kwigillingok Village Council
/s/Jesse K. Igkurak, Secretary
/s/Charles Phillip, President
/s/Joe David, Vice President
/s/Roland Phillip, Treasurer
/s/Edward George, Sr., Marshal

ARTIFACTS WANTED! If you are going to sell old-time objects, please contact the Alaska State Museum first. If you have old-time things that need special care, you can lend them to the Museum for safe-keeping and display. If your things are in the Alaska State Museum, they stay in Alaska. Contact: Jane Wallen, Director, Alaska State Museum, Pouch FM, Juneau, Alaska 99801, phone 586-1224.

