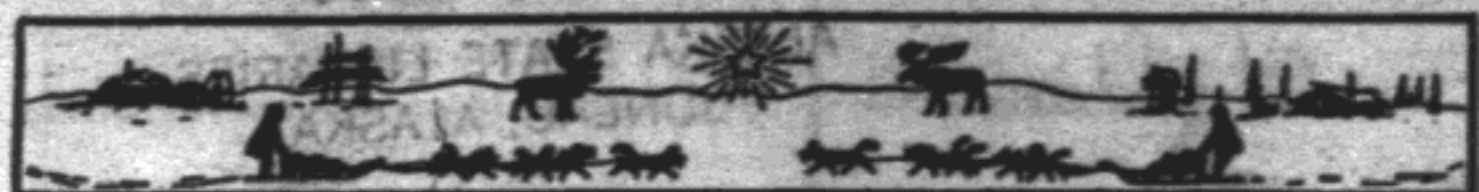


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Value of Native Organizations . . .

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morass of vast problems in a state of restless inertia but which no one seemed to want to touch. In the meantime, our people lived in abject misery knowing that something was grievously wrong but still not knowing how to approach them for solutions.

Then in November, 1961, a conference of native village heads took place at Barrow, now generally referred to as the first big gathering of the native leaders of northern Alaska. It was funded by the Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc. of New York and coordinated by its executive director, the late LaVeme Madigan.

That conference was the initial one, a brave step for the northern area native people of Alaska. What the delegates uttered there proved to be prophetic. Lands, sanitation, health and other subjects that are important today were talked about. The conference told Barrow people in effect, "You are sitting on a resource you are not allowed to use but which you can use."

The resource in question was the deposit of natural gas which was in use then but only by the government installations and the Arctic Research Laboratory. Subsequently, Senator E. L. (Bob) Bartlett picked up the ball and had a bill passed in Congress and now the Barrow people are benefitting greatly from the full use of this resource.

The Barrow convention also pressed the need for a communications media and in less than a year after the meeting, this evolved into the publication of the Tundra Times when its first issue came off the press on October 1, 1962. We believe that the publication of this newspaper has been of vital importance to the native people of Alaska serving as an effective voice to help pose their problems. Our people owe a great debt of gratitude to one man, Dr. Henry S. Forbes of Milton, Mass., without whose financial support the publication of Tundra Times would not have been possible.

After the Barrow conference, the Tanana Chiefs organized at Tanana, a scant six months later. Other native organizations formed and the impetus continued where until today, some 23 organizations are in existence.

The organized groups have been proving their worth through the last few short years. They have become vital sounding boards through which the needs and problems of our people are brought forward. They carry weight because our people are speaking out through them.

Many disturbing problems remain but we can be thankful that we have the means to bring them out effectively and that is through our organizations. These groups, as well as the Tundra Times, need the full support of our people everywhere in Alaska. Outside of the important services they provide, they are also proving to us that they are the means of paving ways for us to do things for ourselves.

LETTERS to EDITOR

Nulato, Alaska
May 25, 1968

Dear Friend, Editor:

1963 we had flood here and 1966 another but not as bad. Since '63 the people here, that is a few of them, started to talk about moving the village two miles to the hill.

Like a dumb fool, I was against it till last fall. I used to say, "How can I move my big house. It's foolish."

I just couldn't walk out of my mother's house where all my family was raised. But now I'm going to tell you why I want to move. I'll be the first one to move soon as they build the road and mark my place for me. I'm just taking my tent and stove and move first.

Now here is all the reasons why I'm moving from this fish camp:

- 1) We want water well.
- 2) Hard to get wood here for fuel.
- 3) Too many smoke houses for fish. Everybody fishing in the village.
- 4) Need more electricity for freezers.
- 5) Too crowded and too many dogs too close to me.
- 6) That means no sanitation. Not enough fresh air and too much noise.

There are a lot of people that are handicap and can't move by themselves and they don't want to move on account of that. But me I have nothing to move. But I'll pitch my tent there first. It probably take three or four years for me to settle there.

Ever since my mother passed away I have no dogs, no wood for the winter and no place to buy wood. I burned oil last fall when I got hurt. I threw my back out of joint, but it took five weeks to get back where it belongs. No doctor.

7) The flood. I lost a little stuff because I'm not here everytime there is a flood. My cache, ground cache that is, floated away and nothing came back. Some just helped themselves.

This is the first time I been here for the breakup for several years. And the water didn't come nowhere near it normally come. It's been freezing every night since the Nenana Ice went out, that's 17 days ago and there is no ice in the river. No water. Just like fall and the water is still dropping.

Lots of unemployed here waiting for a call. Twenty-five signed up for cannery.

I don't know what I write for, but I hope somebody sees this and speed up the road before fall, give the swamp a chance to drain before fall.

-FRED STICKMAN

Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary.

Reinhold Niebuhr

Legislator Clarifies Bounty Publicity

May 28, 1968

Letter To The Editor
TUNDRA TIMES
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Editor:

Your paper recently carried a story which stated that, according to the Attorney General, under terms of bounty legislation sponsored by Senator Jay Hammond all wolverine, coyote, wolf and seal scalps or skins would be worthless for bounty— at least until July 21—at which time the Board of Fish and Game would be empowered to declare in which game management units bounties would be paid. This is false! Untrue! In error!

Not only are bounties still in effect on all the above animals but the Board has declared that bounties shall remain in effect in all Game Management units after July 21 as well.

This year the legislature received petitions, wires and communications from hundreds of people demanding complete removal of all bounties. To my knowledge we received only one (1) asking that bounties be retained! Why then were they kept on? Simply because most legislators are naturally reluctant to eliminate any source of income which might fall into the hands of villagers living in areas where a buck comes the hard way at best. Trouble is, statistics show that for the most part it is not these persons collecting the bounty. Rather, most of the money goes to aircraft hunters not even living in the remote areas.

In an effort to get the bounty money into the hands of those it is intended to, the legislation provided that the Board could limit bounty payments to those who actually live in the area.

Additionally, the legislation did something which should have been done long ago. It took bounties out of the politician's hands and placed them in the hands of those dealing with game management matters. Whether one favors the

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Paul, Sr. Stresses Importance Of 'Indian Title' on Lands

May 31, 1968

Mr. Douglas L. Gregg, Attorney
of the Sportsmen's Association,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear DOUG:-

You did not deal with my criticism of your published statement that the Udall land "Freeze" was fraudulent and unlawful in your favor of the 29th. That question after all is basic, if lawful, you have to start from there; if not lawful, then your remedy is to have a court set it aside. Negative evidence that the State thinks it is lawful is the fact that the STATE'S SUIT TO SET IT ASIDE has apparently been abandoned and so we must consider the flamboyant beginning was buncomb in the truest sense.

I did not mean to get into a public argument with you or your clients, but I see that you have sent copies of your reply to the Juneau Empire and to John Borbridge of the Tlingit/Haida Central Council, so I will cover my concept of the law briefly;

1st; there is "Indian Title" in the Tlingit and Haida Indians and that it persists till extinguished (now accomplished in the area included in the Tongass National Forest Reservation (which however does not include the area below mean-high-tide).

2nd; By many acts and many rulings of the Bureau of Land Management from its highest source, to wit, the Secretary of the Interior, the aborigines west of Yakutat are in the same category as the Tlingits and we can say that the same court would acknowledge their Indian Title too a simple definition being "the use and occupation of land from time immemorial" (the term "use and occupation" as defined by the Supreme Court in Mitchell v. USA in 1935 and never modified since but sustained as late as 1941 when the Santa Fe R.R. learned

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Nothing in human life is more to be lamented, than that a wise man should have so little influence.

Herodotus

Dr. Thomas Billings, national director of Upward Bound, has reported that almost 80% of all Upward Bound graduates have gone on to college, and 76% of this year's freshmen group were in "good standing" following mid-term examinations.

WANTED: Chilkot Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; petlatch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years of age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Dr. Los Angeles, California 90028.