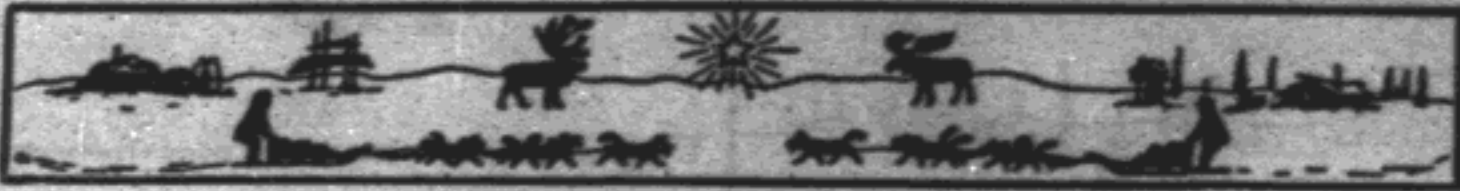


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Tundra Times



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Friday.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Telephone 452-2244.

Entered at the Post Office at Fairbanks, Alaska, as second class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Clara Anderson, secretary, Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, assistant secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regular Mail (Including Alaska, Canada and other states) 1 Year \$ 8.00 6 Months \$ 4.50
Air Mail (Including Alaska, Canada and other states) 1 Year \$19.00 6 Months \$10.00

Eskimo Prison Inmate Appeals for Fairness

Box No. 1000
Steilacoom, Wash. 98388
July 13, 1967

Dear Mr. Rock:

I shall certainly be honored if you will give this letter your serious consideration and interpret it as a call for assistance.

First of all, I am writing to you because I have witnessed many problems among our people that you have generously helped solved and secondly, because you are a competent leader and possess a strong and serious concern for those of your people. Thirdly, I am confident that you might find time to organize a group, or a department of some type, to help people to get back on their feet and remain standing proudly and without shame.

Rehabilitation—that word covers a broad meaning and there are many pathways leading to becoming a product of such a word.

I am a convict in the eyes of the law and confined in the penitentiary. I have been convicted in 1966 and remained in custody since June 30, 1965, which gave me much time to think things out. I shall admit that I had not been a model prisoner for the first year but as of now, I have come to accept the things at hand. I have also been in and out of jails for the past ten years, mostly because I had much false pride and lack of confidence in myself and those of my immediate surroundings. Lack of job had a lot to do with my being in jail also, however, I am now aware that character defect had been one of the main contributing factors for being in and out of jails.

As I look back, many times I try and find what went wrong. One thing sticks out that I found was that the first few weeks after release from custody are the most critical points.

If an ex-convict does not find a job in three weeks, chances are that although his intentions were good just prior to his release, his chances of returning to custody become more likely. Why? Because when he could not find work, he loses confidence and feels unwanted.

For people like myself, and no doubt there are many others like me, to have and hold a job must exist. It is important to keep in mind that a person who had been confined in custody must be shown that he is welcome to today's society and that his life is precious too as all other human beings. If a person who, after being released from custody is shown that his life is something of value and given a chance to work, chances are that that person shall never have to go behind bars again.

I also want to point out that when a person is released from custody, his mental stability is near minimum, but if he is shown the right treatment, he shall certainly become more stable as time goes by with the knowledge that persons on the outside do care.

I believe that too many times a person like myself is shown sympathy without doing something that may help him to regain his mental stability and dignity.

Having a job upon release is truly one of the main factors towards one's road to rehabilitation and a happier life. I admit that cooperation and willingness on the person himself has a contributing factor but his willingness, and if he is serious, should be bolstered by showing him that he is a fellow human being and he is welcome to be one of today's society.

I have not had a bright future and I shall be quick to admit that most of it was due to my character defects, but I want to belong and seriously want to live a more pleasant life.

With a job and with people like yourself behind me, I know I can make it and honor your faith in me constantly.

Sincerely,
Vernon Kugzruk

Editorial— They, Too, Should Have A Chance to Belong

Vernon Kugzruk, an Eskimo and a penitentiary inmate, in our minds is correct in wanting a chance to belong once again in the society he had wronged by misbehavior. His letter to the editor should show that he is viewing his problem squarely in the face and his appeal for a serious consideration should be noted by our fair-minded citizens.

Society punishes its wrongdoers. The original idea of this punishment was an effort, we believe, to correct the tendencies of misbehavior of persons but—those punishments had also taken a disturbing, dubious tangent. The correctional efforts developed into devices of branding inhuman stigmas on persons involved. Once this is imposed, the society turns its back on its fellow human beings it had sought to correct by punishment. This is purely Feudalistic. It is base. It is unfair.

The society goes further. It stigmatizes its mental patients it has sent to hospitals to be cured. When these patients are released by their doctors, they carried with them the brand unfairly imposed by their fellow human beings. The doctors' efforts might as well be for naught because the person released can be fair game for further mental anguish. The society has turned its back once again on the person it has sent to the hospital to be cured and paves the way for re-hospitalization.

The society should take a good, hard, long look at its systems of institutions of correction and take a more humane attitude toward its fellow human beings it seeks to cure but instead brands for a more than an even chance for furthering liability to itself.

Vernon Kugzruks are truly crying in the wilderness rejected by society with its "holier than thou" attitude but which, instead, should be more humane in rehabilitating its fellow citizens instead of branding them for further liabilities.

Vernon Kugzruk is still a potential liability to himself and to his society but if his statements are heeded, there are good possibilities that he could become a useful citizen once again. Let us take a look at his statements:

"... I want to point out that when a person is released from custody, his mental stability is near minimum, but if he is shown the right treatment, he shall certainly become more stable as time goes by with the knowledge that persons on the outside do care. . . I want to belong and seriously want to live a more pleasant life. . ."

There are probably some incorrigibles among the inmates. However, the society should lend an ear to those who appeal as did Vernon Kugzruk. It should, at least, honor their requests for the first critical "three weeks" and in doing so, give a helping hand to the ones who TRULY wish to rejoin their fellow citizens "on the outside."

Wickersham's Bibliography of Alaskan Literature on Sale

Copies of Judge James A. Wickersham's "A Bibliography of Alaskan Literature, 1724-1924" are again on sale at the University of Alaska.

Published in 1927 by the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines through a grant from the 1927 Territorial Legislature, the book has been out of print and unavailable for several years.

Many experts consider it the authoritative Alaskan bibliography.

University library employees recently discovered the last remaining copies of the book

while moving the contents of a warehouse in preparation for the construction of the new Library, Humanities and Fine Arts Center on campus.

The remaining books will be sold under the terms of the 1927 grant, which stated that all profits derived from the sale of the books would go to the library fund at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, predecessor to the University of Alaska.

Individual copies are now available at \$15 each from the University of Alaska Library.

Proper Foods During Child Bearing Period

By ETHEL MAE GRIGGS
Public Health Nutritionist

A lovely Eskimo grandmother from Barrow, told me recently how she fed her 11 babies when they were born. As she spoke of the foods she ate, and as I listened to her, I thought how wise she was to eat enough of the right kinds of food during her child bearing period.

She never skipped a meal, including breakfast. She ate a lot of meat available at Barrow, including sea mammals both raw and frozen. These foods were a rich source of protein, vitamin C and iron. The grandmother said she did not have sick babies as some families did.

Studies have shown that poorly nourished mothers have more premature babies, or babies too weak to live, or babies who have deformities. The mother poorly nourished through several pregnancies often appears 20 years older than the well nourished mother.

Preparation for a well baby to be properly fed after it is born, begins long before a girl or woman becomes pregnant.

If you have questions to ask about your food, mail them to Tundra Times. Your nutritionist will be glad to answer them or help you find the answers.

Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note: When Harold Riach was in Fairbanks visiting Tundra Times and the Alaska 67' his sisters, Jenny and Margaret, took over Harold's newspaper route.)

Dear Editor:

It was raining when Jenny and I were selling newspapers. We had a lot of fun when we were selling newspapers.

One lady said that she was very proud of Harold, and we are proud of him too. My sister Jenny was knocking at the doors and I would do the talking. We sold all the papers except 5 that we know some tourists will buy tomorrow when the Princess Patricia tour boat comes here.

On 4th of July my sister and little brother were on their trikes that were decorated. I was wearing a Korean dress and my other brother was dressed like a U.S. Army man. He won a prize for dressing so good. We wonder if Harold went to Anchorage on the fourth of July.

Here is the money for the papers. My mom wrote you a check for \$8. Jenny and I like to go to all the people's houses and sell papers and talk to them. It was fun.

Can my brother Harold come home soon?

Sincerely,
Jenny and Margaret Riach

Grizzled old walrus and its kind is the only clam digger in the Arctic. Since there is hardly any tide there, the only way the Eskimos get clams is during huge storms in falltime when great waves wash the bi-valves ashore.