

# AIRFIELD MAY BE BUILT ON ST. GEORGE ISLAND

## Tundra Times

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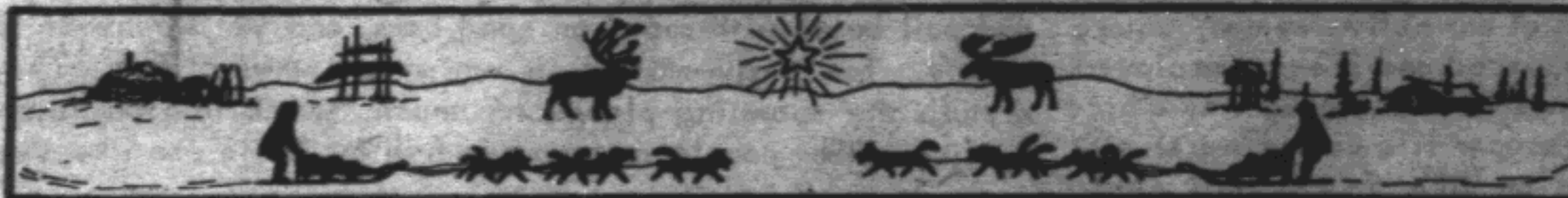
Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktaug The Aleuts Speak

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Tlingit  
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# TESTIMONIAL ON ALCOHOLISM

## ☆☆☆☆☆ Funds for 2500 Foot Airstrip Asked for Island

The village of St. George on St. George Island may, at last, get an airfield it has wanted for many years.

Sen. E. L. (Bob) Bartlett's office in Washington reported last week that the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the agency that administers the Pribilof Islands, has requested funds in its budget to finance a 2,500-foot-landing field on St. George Island.

The project will get underway if a survey shows the terrain is suitable for constructing the air strip.

Early last month, Flore Lekanof, president of the Aleut League, told the Tundra Times that St. George was the worst served native community in Alaska.

He said the only communication the island has was a ship that comes three times a year and occasional mail that is dropped from a plane.

St. George Islanders help to harvest fur seals each year handling about one-fifth of the total harvest from the Pribilof Islands.

There are 225 Aleuts who live on St. George Island.

## Robert Kennedy Coming to Alaska

Sen. Robert Kennedy, D-N.Y., is coming to Alaska probably in May, to look into the native educational situation in the State.

Sen. Kennedy is the chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Education. He will study the effectiveness and quality of education of the native children.

The Senator testified this week in Washington at the hearings of the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs. His testimony was critical of the educational system of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

## 60 to Train for Electrification

The U.S. Department of Labor advised Sen. E. L. Bartlett's office this week that a 26-week retraining program for unemployed persons in designated redevelopment areas of Alaska has been approved.

It will provide training of 60 people to work on Rural Electrification Administration and Office of Economic Opportunity project for



**FOUR GENERATIONS**—Four generations are represented in the picture taken recently in Nome. Seated, holding the baby, is Mrs. Susie Thomas, the great-grandmother. Mrs. Thomas was born at Kobuk Lake in a makeshift snow shelter in 1892. She was given the Eskimo name of Siguachuk. Seated next to her is her daughter, Albertha Bernhardt who was born in the village of Deering. Mrs. Robert Lytle, standing, is Mrs. Bernhardt's daughter and she was born at Nome. Her son, Robbie, is now five months old. His great-grandmother Siguachuk is the mother of 11 children, five of whom are girls. She still has her home in Deering and plans to return there during the summer to fish and pick berries. She is staying with her daughter in Nome during the winter.

—Photo by D. W. HILDIE

## VISTA Takes Penetrating Look Into Native Education System

A VISTA Volunteer, Mrs. Rosaire M. Kennedy, who with her husband, Tim, spent

electrification of native villages.

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is providing \$102,411 to fund the training project.

The Department of Labor will provide the State Employment Security Agency with funds in the amount of \$196,090 for training allowances, transportation and subsistence payments.

almost a year and a half at the village of Noorvik, has made a penetrating look into the educational system of the native people primarily that of the Bureau of Indian Affairs although, she said, the state system was not much better.

Mrs. Kennedy has put her thoughts in writing and submitted them to Senator Robert F. Kennedy, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Education.

As her main argument, Rosaire Kennedy pointed out the methodical breaking down of the native people's

## Tragedies Due to Alcoholism Related By Eskimo Woman

(Editor's Note: The following is the moving, often gripping, testimony on alcoholism written by an Eskimo woman. She and her family are now living in Anchorage. Their home village is Unalakleet. The woman apologizes for her lack of proper use of English because her schooling was "up to part of the 8th grade." She is the mother of seven children. She said of her writing: "It contains nothing but the TRUTH what I went through and what I've seen...")

### Past and Present Status of Eskimos

I AM GLAD I am under the U.S. Flag. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion. Now it's my turn to speak. I am an Alaskan Eskimo and I'm proud to be one. My English will be poor because I went to school only up to part of the 8th grade. I like to know what's going on in this our new state, some people call it. I read the newspaper a lot and my favorite column is the Editorial page. In this page people bring their dislikes and some wrote letters of appreciation.

LAST SUMMER I came home from my work and sat in front of our television set, just when the announcer came on to read an article about native people who go from bar to bar. Right there I felt choked with tears thinking about my nieces and nephews who are motherless today because of alcoholic beverages. I thought of my two nephews who were burned to death in a house while the parents were out drinking.

THEN THESE questions came to my mind. Who owns and maintains these bars all over Alaska not only here in our All American City? I never see a name with Eskimo last name advertise about his bar or liquor store.

THIS BIG PROBLEM of alcoholism is out of control in our new state already. It's not only here, it's all over in our small villages as well. They order liquor by cases in the villages. Our jails and children homes are over-flowing because of

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## President Urges Passage of Bill; Gov. Hickel Introduces State Bill

Gov. Walter J. Hickel yesterday introduced the State land claims bill, HB 672.

"It is quite similar to the Task Force bill and it is about 17 pages long," said Rep. Willie Hensley.

He said there would be a hearing on it next Monday conducted by the House Resource Committee under the chairmanship Rep. Carl Moses. Hensley said it will go through other channels

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## NCAI Backs Claims Bill

The National Congress of American Indians in an executive conference passed a resolution backing the Alaska native land claims bill.

The congress met with Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

The congress made a special request to President Lyndon Johnson that the land bill pass this year.

cultural heritages by the educational methods of the present day system of schooling in Alaska.

Saying that she and her husband had spent 15 months at Noorvik, Mrs. Kennedy said:

"Our first reaction to the educational system in the villages was one of shock and the picture became grimmer as time went by. The enclosed articles point out some of the more outstanding defects—inadequate and irrelevant curriculum, segregation not only in the

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