

**"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; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mary Jane Fate, assistant secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

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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

## Then as Now . . .

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to protect Indian lands.

Complaints were made that Indians' occupancy of lands was hindering the progress of the nation.

It was asserted that a policy of honoring tribal occupancy rights and purchasing Indian lands would impose vast liabilities on the federal government.

It was argued that Indian occupancy of lands created no valid rights; and proposals were advanced to expropriate the Indian lands against the will of the Indians and without payment of any compensation.

However, Congress firmly stood by its policy of respect for the land occupancy rights of the Indians. In acquiring lands for the expansion of the nation and the use of the settlers, Congress recognized the just principal of VOLUNTARY purchase and sale for a NEGOTIATED price in its dealings with the Indian tribes.

By treaties and arguments made with Indian consent, the United States purchased the great bulk of the lands of the Indian tribes of the first 49 states. Further, despite the loss of many millions of acres during the years 1880-1934, by reason of improvident government policies, millions of acres of lands of these States have been retained, to this day in tribal or individual Indian trust ownership.

Once again, now, in this 6th decade of the 20th century, when the matter of dealing with the existing land occupancy rights of the Native groups of Alaska has come to the fore, we are hearing from some quarters the same baseless and inequitable arguments and the same discredited assertions and complaints which were advanced during earlier periods of our nation's history and which Congress has repeatedly rejected.

From some lips fall the familiar complaints that Native occupancy of lands is impeding the economic development and progress of the State of Alaska.

Our answer is that though we have the right of complete beneficial use of our aboriginally occupied lands and all the resources of such lands, we have been prevented and restrained from exercising our rights to deal with and to develop such lands and resources. We say that ONLY after we have been permitted the reasonable opportunity to exercise such rights can a fair judgment be made as to whether our occupancy is hampering the economic development and progress of Alaska.

WE BELIEVE that we have sufficient leadership ability to direct the development of our lands and resources.

WE believe that we have the capacity—at least equal to the federal and state bureaucracy—to make wise selection of experts and technicians to assist us, including engineers, geologists, foresters, managers, investment advisors, accountants, economists and lawyers.

We claim not only our lands, which have been ours since time immemorial; but we also lay claim upon the conscience of the United States and to our rightful place in society as the first Alaskans.

—JOHN BORBRIDGE

## Letters to the Editor

The Village Council  
Goodnews Bay, Alaska 99589  
January 7, 1969

The Honorable Stuart Udall  
Secretary of the Interior,  
U.S. Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Sir:

In regards to the action taken by the United States Fish and Wildlife in planning to take over the Goodnews Bay area as well as the Nelson Islands, Nunivak and Bristol Bay as wild life conservation areas, we object to this action as it will greatly affect our way of life. We are

affect our way of life. We are not ready yet to be changed over to the whitemen's way, depending only on earnings. We still live off the land and this sudden change will make it a hardship for everyone.

In regards to preserving wildlife, be advised that we kill only for subsistence. We do not hunt or kill for sport. We hunt or kill for food.

We will await your action regarding this grave situation on hand and expect your help in solving this problem.

Enclosed is a petition signed by the residents of Goodnews Bay, opposing the action by the Department of Fish and Game in taking over our area for wild life preservation.

Thank you for your help. . .

Sincerely yours,  
THE VILLAGE COUNCIL  
Frank Bavilla, Sr.  
PRESIDENT

cc: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bethel; Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Juneau; Village Council President's Association, St. Marys Tundra Times, Fairbanks; Platinum Village Council, Platinim; Village Council, Goodnews Bay; Representative George H. Hohman, Jr. Bethel.

5009 McKenna Road  
Monona, Wisconsin 53716



Gentlemen:

I would like to have a pen pal. My name is Jayne Adrian. My age is 9. I am a girl. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,  
Jayne Adrian

4916 Winnequah Rd.  
Monona, Wisconsin 53716  
January 2, 1969

Gentlemen:

I would like a pen pal. My name is Sherry Munz. I am a girl. My age is 9.

Sincerely,  
Sherry Munz

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5004 McKenna Rd.  
Monona, Wisconsin 53716  
January 2, 1969

Dear Sir:

Please put an article in your paper asking for a pen pal for me.

Name and age: Annette Rankin, age 10. I am a girl.

Yours Truly,  
Annette Rankin

Social Development Corporation  
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20036

January 8, 1969

Mr. Howard Rock, Editor  
Tundra Times  
Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Howard:

Charles J. Keim's two stories, "Point of View," in your January 3 issue are poignant, meaningful art. We have posted them on our bulletin board here at the Social Development Corporation where a small band of us is continually concerned about Alaska natives.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Showalter  
Executive Director

(Editors Note: Two letters printed below came too late for last week's issue where they might have been more effective then, but the contents bear reading and the subject matter pertinent even though they might be a bit late.)

Cape Smythe Whaling & Trading Co.  
Barrow, Alaska  
Jan. 7, 1969

Dear Sir:

In December 1968, I wrote to Rev. J.R. Chambers and asked him to write Rev. William Wartes. These two fine men are pastors and gave very fine testimony through their unfailing work under the United Presbyterian Church of U.S.A. using Barrow as their headquarters for 14 years.

These men know the problems of each village as they were both airplane pilots and their parish on the arctic coast was from Pt. Lay, West Wainwright, Barrow, Colville River Delta, and Barter Island, east.

South from Barrow, Meade River village, Umiat, and Anaktuvuk Pass, about 250 to 300 miles.

I was concerned with the "ESKIMO AND HIS FROZEN LAND." So much was happening even before we are made aware in the north land. Sizable areas were leased out or sold outright for millions of dollars by persons who bidded on them. This type of business the Eskimo can not understand. Yet it was being done on the land he makes his living from, very soon he will be restricted from using.

Going back to the two gentlemen; I felt these men could stir the national public so the voice of a people can be heard in the North Slope and I am enclosing the first letter I received from one of these men and ask you to print it so that it be read.

Let me add this: I am sure Governor Walter Hickel appointed by President elect R.M. Nixon will make a good Secretary of the Interior.

He made a good Governor. Type of person—very progressive—and that is the type of person we need. Everyone is not perfect and the answers he gave at the spur of a moment should not be held altogether against him.

Yours truly,  
Thomas P. Brower

7215 W. 93rd. Place  
Los Angeles, California 90045  
January 3, 1969

Chairman  
Senate Interior Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Re: Appt. of Walter Hickel as  
Sect. of Interior and the Eskimo  
land and mineral claims in Arctic  
Alaska.

Dear Sir:

Prior to moving to Los Angeles in July 1964 I served six years as the Missionary-Pastor-Pilot for the North Arctic Slope Presbyterian Mission based at Barrow, Alaska.

I am delighted that an Alaskan is being proposed by President elect Richard M. Nixon, Gov. Walter Hickel, as Secretary of the Interior.

There is one major area which I urge your committee to explore with Mr. Hickel during the hearings about his appointment: What will he do to protect the interests of Arctic Slope Eskimos in the expanding mineral and oil development of the future?

In a communal sense these Eskimos have possessed and used the entire Arctic Slope North of the Brooks Range from the Canadian Border to Point Hope for Centuries. Without consulting the Eskimo the Department of Interior has leased much of the Arctic Slope for oil exploration. No provision has been made for any royalty to be set aside for the development of the Arctic for the benefits

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