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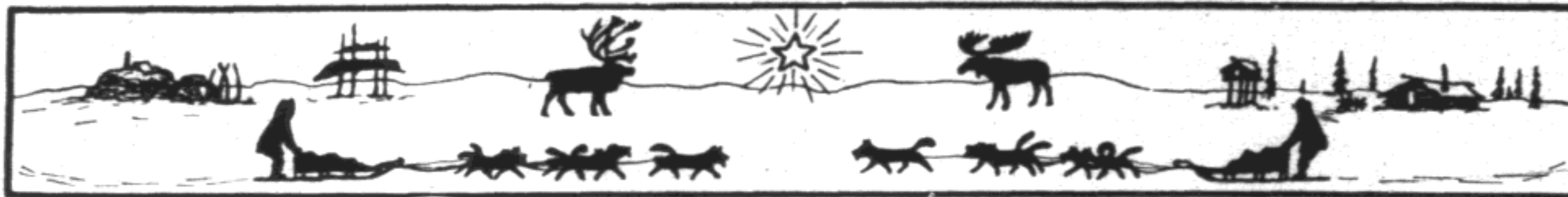
Tundra Times

15¢

Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



Tlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting
HAIDA
Yaunk yawn sue
Speak the absolute truth

Vol. 6, No. 171

Friday, April 18, 1969

Fairbanks, Alaska

BETHEL PHS HOSP. UNSALVABLE



VISIBLE CONCERN—The expression on the face of Senator Edward Kennedy reflects his reaction to a first hand look at poverty in rural Alaska.

Here the Massachusetts senator is inspecting a one room house in Bethel's Louse Town which is occupied by a family of ten persons.

Administrator Deems Aging Facility Beyond Repair for Future Use

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.
Staff Writer

BETHEL, (Special)— John Toomer, administrator for the Public Health Service Hospital at Bethel, stated last week that "there was little left to salvage" for future use of the facility.

The hospital services an area of 85,000 square miles, approximately the size of the states of Pennsylvania and New York combined. In this area there are 13,000 persons eligible to receive care from the facility.

Toomer, in stressing the problems of the Bethel hospital, specified areas of space and health, as well as faulty construction. The hospital was built in 1954, being designed as a 42 bed facility.

It now has 58 patients and is described by Toomer as being utilized at "over one-hundred percent capacity."

One of the other major problems plaguing the hospital is that of damage due to weather conditions. Toomer said that the hospital was designed in the Southwest by men who were not experienced in designing buildings for Alaskan use.

The hospital roof is flat, not allowing for drainage of snow

BULLETIN

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, has informed Tundra Times that \$130,000 in funds has been re-programmed for the replacement of the roof of the Native Health Service Hospital at Bethel.

"Work should begin in the near future," said Sen. Stevens.

and water, and there is significant water damage visible within the facility.

Many areas of the ceiling are extensively corroded, while much of the tile and plaster has fallen down to the floor.

In one of the hallways, Toomer pointed out a two-foot hole which was badly leaking water. He recalled an incident last year where one patient was hit by 40 pounds of falling plaster.

In the little-used surgical room of the hospital the ceiling is partially coated with thriving mold. Other damage areas are located in the proximity of the maternity ward.

Toomer also indicated that the hospital is severely limited due to lack of facilities.

"Practically no surgery is performed here. Almost without exception, all cases are sent to Anchorage for surgery."

Also threatened is the water supply for the facility. The 20,000 gallon water tanks are sup-

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Tlingit-Haida Central Council In Sitka Meet

The Tlingit and Haida Central Council is slated to hold its convention in Sitka on April 24-26.

The convention is expected to draw 52 delegates from the south central area of Alaska on down to southeastern Alaska.

Specific details of the convention were not available at the time of the writing but according to Harvey Marvin, treasurer of the Central Council, Tundra Times will be mentioned on the program.

"We have stock in the Tundra Times and we will promote Tundra Times," Harvey Marvin

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Bureau of the Budget Releases Regional High School Funds

(See Story on page 4)

Kennedy Party Also Probes Into Problems Other than Education

It was hard to avoid speculating about the thoughts of the villagers as their homes were invaded with crowds of newsmen, senators, and their staff.

At times, one could find fifty people jammed into a one-room cabin which was intended to house three or four persons, although they were often occupied by a family of ten.

Many a housewife was visibly alarmed about the prospect of dozens of mud-laden feet tromping across her floor.

Yet, appeasement came when

native leaders would say, "These people want to know our problems; please let them in."

What they saw at Bethel's Louse Town, or Nome's King Island Village, or the seven other Eskimo and Indian settlements across Alaska could only be described as "terrible" or "shocking."

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Secretary Walter Hickel Discloses BIA Commissioner May Be Out

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel has disclosed that he is planning to replace the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert Bennett.

Hickel made the disclosure during an interview on a televi-

sion program although not mentioning Bennett by name, it was deemed the meaning was clear.

Secretary Hickel was asked whether he might submit legislation to improve the Bureau of

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Margaret Nick Speaks

(Editor's Note: Miss Margaret Nick of Nunapitchuk, near Bethel, testified last Friday night in Fairbanks before the Subcommittee on Indian Education under the chairmanship of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. Margaret's testimony had a profound impression on the subcommittee members as well as the other 450 people in the audience. She had done as well at her village of Nunapitchuk so Sen. Kennedy had her flown to Fairbanks for Friday's hearing. Margaret delivered her testimony simply but with eloquence in the following manner.)

My name is Margaret Nick from Nunapitchuk, a small village thirty miles north of Bethel. I'm presently working in Bethel as a Field Investigator for Alaska Legal Services Corporation. Alaska Legal Services is an OEO Program. We provide legal assistance for

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To Pave Way for Claims Award—

ASNA Says to Enroll Tundra Times as Person

The Arctic Slope Native Association with headquarters at Barrow, last week on April 8 passed a resolution at the meeting of its Board of Directors that the native newspaper, Tundra Times, "be enrolled as a legal body and be entitled to an equal share as if it were a person," in the event the land claims settlement is reached.

The board stated that the manner in which the newspaper

has served the public and particularly the native peoples of Alaska, has been to bring out the facts regardless of the parties involved.

The board said that ASNA feels that the Tundra Times through its editor has always lived up to its motto, "I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it,—Voltaire."

"... This is indeed a coura-

geous motto and the paper has more than upheld the rights of all individuals, deserving our most sincere and unflinching recognition," the resolution further stated.

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED," it continued, "by the Arctic Slope Native Association so that the Tundra Times might be the continuing voice of the Native people of Alaska, independent of any financial

needs in the future, and most of all it deserves to be recognized that in the final distribution and enrollment of the native people with the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Tundra Times be enrolled as a legal body and be entitled to an equal share as if it were a person. . ."

The ASNA resolution is printed in its entirety elsewhere in this issue of the Tundra Times.