

In Fairbanks—

Fearing Eviction Eskimo Couple Stops Crafts Business

Paul and Theresa Soolook came to Alaskaland when it opened last June to run an arts and crafts center for the Teller-based Inupiat Arts and Crafts, Inc. under its business manager Roger Menadalook.

Soolook's business venture was cut short by about a week when their landlord told them around mid August that they had to leave the house by August 23. Soolooks were to rent the house until September 1 when the Alaskaland closed its doors for the season at that time.

Not having too much familiarity with city ways, Soolooks took the landlord's demand seriously and packed the arts and crafts and flew to Nome. Before that, they had packed the merchandise because of the flood scare and then reopened them to get back to business.

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

pital in Bethel and St. Mary's. From our State senator and representatives, I request that a petition be started in our area before next session. I only hope that the facts presented by me are accepted and good luck—I'll help in the best way that I can.

Sincerely yours,
Noah Jack

816 B 14th Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Editor:

I am very disturbed over Gov. Miller's position on the land claims. At this time I consider him to be the most dangerous opposition to us natives.

On Wednesday, 30. July 1969, I attended a part of the session AFN had with the State. A most disturbing position Gov. Miller takes is that natives from areas where there are more non-natives now should not receive land under the land claims bill. This definitely affects natives from places such as Cordova and Kenai.

I understand that after I left the session my home, Cantwell, was specifically named. In February 1968, I testified to the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs that I took issue with the Federal Field Committee report that Cantwell is a non-native place. Since then the Committee has come out with their book on land claims and has Cantwell as a native place.

My first two years in school was provided by the Pentacostal Church. During my third year Cantwell received an influx of non-natives through the Alaska Road Commission (now the State Dept. of Highways). It was because we had enough non-natives that Cantwell finally got a school from the Territory. That year I'm sure we natives said to ourselves consciously or unconsciously 'Thank God for non-natives!'

Is it possible that a 'good thing' may happen to us Cantwell natives again? This time by having the non-natives leave? Otherwise, how do we protect our rights?

WE ARE ASKING FOR WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS, MORALLY AND LEGALLY. We are not greedy. My fellow non-natives in Cantwell will benefit from our land claims.

May this letter convey to all of you that I am supporting the AFN stand one hundred per cent.

Sincerely,
(Miss) Ruby Tansy

They had to pack again when the landlord told them they had to leave the house.

They tried to look for help but trusted friends who could help them at the time happened to be away and not knowing where else to seek help, they prepared to leave.

Mr. and Mrs. Soolook, like many adults in the remote Arctic villages, speak English slowly and carefully and well, but are limited in the fast paced communications of the city.

Their friends did come back to Fairbanks around the time they were leaving for Nome but it was too late for remonstrations with the landlord.

Shortly before the Soolook's arrival at the Alaskaland last June, Alaskaland employees, and Mrs. Laurel Bland, (research assistant in adult education at the University of Alaska) who had worked with the Inupiat Inc. since they first began incorporating early in 1968, completed a small welcome.

This was in the form of a furnished house to be rented by the family until September 1 when Alaskaland would close its season.

Inupiat Arts and Crafts, Inc. Teller, Alaska, saw a notice in the Tundra Times that there was a possibility of opening a native arts and crafts outlet.

Roger Menadalook came to Fairbanks and was welcomed by Alaskaland and the City of Fairbanks offices. Arrangements were soon completed for the Teller group to set up business the day Alaskaland opened.

Paul Soolook and his wife

had been appointed by the board of directors of Inupiat, Inc. to come to Fairbanks to run the shop.

This was to be the Inupiat's first opportunity to retail their fine ivory carvings and hand sewn articles of fur and skin. Tundra Times and other local papers carried stories about the Soolooks and their work at Alaskaland during June and July.

When Soolooks left for Nome, they left behind under Mrs. Bland's care, \$20,000 worth of handicrafts and ivory objects.

When the recent 20th Alaska Science Conference took place at the University of Alaska, Mrs. Bland, Mrs. Sandra Tussing, Mrs. Esther Wurmike, Mrs. Dave Hickock, and Mrs. Greg Erickson had a meeting.

The result was the permission by the university to have Mrs. Bland and her group to display the carvings and handicrafts. This resulted in a little over \$2,000 worth of carvings ordered, delivered, and the money forwarded to the Inupiat, Inc.

This sale probably made the difference between the corporation showing a loss or a minor profit.

The Inupiat Arts and Crafts, Inc. is a unique organization. It is a private corporation, evolved developed, owned and run exclusively by Alaskan Eskimos and which sells only the products of the members of the corporation.

It became formally incorporated under the laws of Alaska in March of 1968 and is operated by its nearly 50 Eskimo artisans stockholders.

Color Film of Apollo Flight Now Available

COLLEGE—A color film on the Apollo 11 moon flight is available for public showing through the University of Alaska.

The film, "Eagle Has Landed—The Flight of Apollo 11" produced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is available through the UA Film Library under the Division of Public Service.

Copies of the 16 mm color movie have also been sent to UA's community colleges at Anchorage, Juneau-Douglas, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Sitka, and Matanuska-Susitna.

Interested groups in those

areas may contact the colleges to schedule a showing of the film. Nome groups may contact Mrs. Gladys Musgrove, Cooperative Extension agent at 443-2320.

To arrange scheduling of the film in Fairbanks contact Mrs. Jane Williams at 479-7296.

The films were sent to the university only a month after splashdown. The moon walk and landing are graphically portrayed. The film is one of a series on the Apollo space project by NASA.

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