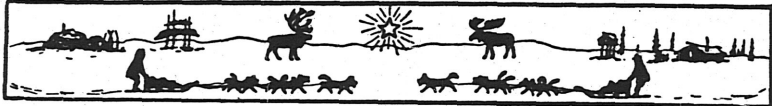


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." - Voltaire

Tundra Times



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INTERIM NEED . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

made to work better is being neglected and this is the area where some of our people are attempting to do business with limited knowledge of what businessmen must do to make the enterprise succeed. This has proven to be a severe handicap in the effort to succeed. There is a need to remedy this lack.

There are institutes, seminars, special instructions given teachers, janitors, maintenance men, warehousemen, Head Start teacher directors, homemakers, and some others every year. These are very fine indeed and they help a great deal. But why not give the storekeepers and managers in villages a chance to learn something about business procedures? Many of the storekeepers in the outlying areas have little technical knowledge about business and very little is being done to help them along. This lack has resulted in failures of the stores they managed and this has hurt villages. Surely a simplified course can be devised that would give them better knowledge of business procedures which could help them a lot.

There are exceptions, of course, where some of the native store managers are doing exceptionally good jobs even without the benefit of any previous training. These men are to be commended. They could also become more valuable if they were given further training.

The United States has traditionally given its farmers assistance in producing better crops and this assistance has produced the finest farmers in the world. A bit of this same approach can, perhaps, be utilized here and give a helping hand to our chronically neglected village store managers, especially during the painful transition period the native people are going through at the moment.

True, a few of our young people are now majoring in business administration in colleges but that would not begin to fill the need in villages for a long time to come, IF they ever come back to villages. A native young man with a business degree would hardly be expected to come to the village with the present pay scales the village store managers are paid.

So there is a gap—an interim period—that will exist for a long time until, hopefully business opportunities mature in the outlying areas. Our village storekeepers need assistance for healthier store enterprises and the assistance could well prove to be a step forward in the economic development of our remote areas. This assistance could also prove valuable if bills like the Indian Omnibus Bill, now being considered in Congress, pass in the future.

Nicholls Says Pollock Wrong

"Just where in the state is economic development being retarded because of native land claims?" Hugh Nicholls, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Association asked this week, at Barrow.

"I question U.S. Rep. Howard Pollock's statement that the state will be hurt by the land freeze.

"Up here, a half million dollars is being spent for Arctic research, an oil well is being drilled at Proudhoe Bay and a new airport is being built. I'd like to know specifically what part of the state Pollock is referring to. I think he's just using scare tactics."

Nicholls asserted that the state just wants to get the land so it can be sold. "Selling land does not increase its value," he said. "The state should have a long range plan. If they really wanted to sit down and talk to us they would get an immediate response. When the state wants to talk, things get worked out."

A plan for 50 year leasing might be one possibility that would be acceptable to native organizations, Nicholls said.

Queen Cuts Reindeer Hide To Open Fair

ANCHORAGE — Using a traditional Eskimo oolou, Rene Haverkamp, Miss Cook Inlet Native Association, sliced through a reindeer hide to open the Alaska Centennial Native Cultural Exhibit Wednesday at the white geodesic dome near Anchorage International Airport.

The dome is filled with native exhibits and craft demonstrations.

As opening day visitors moved inside, Charles Hobson of Glenallen played his violin of moose horn, birch, Alaska Spruce and German wood.

He was followed by the Russian Orthodox Choir singing a hymn to the Holy Trinity in Aleut.

Dancing and a blanket toss followed outside near model native housing. The Bureau of Indian Affairs traveling exhibit opens June 13 at the Kalooa Building.

Spawning Run

ANCHORAGE—Red salmon began their annual spawning run into rivers on the Kenai Peninsula this week.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Yesterday the weather was hot. I saw many people swimming. But today it is raining.

Because the school is out now I have more time to carve totem poles. I love to make them. Mostly I make the Thunder Bird totem because I like it the best.

Enclosed is a check for \$8.00 for the eighty papers. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Harold Riach
Wrangell, Alaska

Seattle as Convention Site Draws Attack

May 31, 1967

Dear Editor:

I have started several letters and each time, I have discarded some knowing what some of the heads would say. But somehow, I just had to find out for myself. Why? So I am asking for myself, not anyone else unless they wish to join my spoken question as of now.

A recent convention of Tlingit and Haida Council was held in Ketchikan at which time next year's convention place was chosen—SEATTLE, WASH.—?

As a group of people, we need many things, better housing education, even a new pair of shoes for the child's schooling, etc. Monies will be spent on such a trip out.

A convention of this nature should be loyal to its own and anywhere in Alaska should have been chosen instead of going to an indifferent place.

Whatever we feel about the influx of new neighbors all around us, I have a feeling they are backing us morally because in the long run, it is benefitting the Alaskan picture as a whole. Each of us needs newer homes and plans to rebuild, and here in Alaska, not in the outside world. Our education for our children is bound to improve. Right now, our local clubs and townspeople give to our native deserving students in higher grades. Now they have backed us and our country. I could go on and on.

Each camp finds difficulty in raising any given amount, even a quota of a yearly group assessment, let alone a joy ride out of state.

Some camps were not notified in advance as to where the convention site was to be so we could instruct our delegates how to cast our votes.

Perhaps other parties feel a need of this question and I would like to hear the answers and not of the persons who participated.

Sincerely,
Marleita Wallace
Box 611
Wrangell, Alaska
99929

Other Voices—

Let Us Spray

The radio news item which mentioned that several people in Whitehorse had registered complaints about being kept awake by the noise of aerial spraying planes, came as a shock to us. Then we realized that there are probably many people now living in Whitehorse who never experienced summers here before the days of spraying. In a word, they were awful.

Picture if you can, warm sunny summer days that invited you to sit out on a hillside or on the riverbank...and of mosquitoes so thick that you were driven indoors. There was little pleasure in taking a walk in the evenings because you were slapping at the insects all the time and scratching when you got home.

It was toughest on the kids. After long winter months of being cramped up in small quarters because it was too cold to play outdoors, they found that their summers were ruined by mosquitoes. We've seen mere babies with their faces so swollen by bites that they could scarcely see. Some of them got infection. And it didn't cease with the end of the mosquito season because then came the black flies and no-see-ums which were even worse.

We've known carpenters who had to wait until there was a strong wind to blow away mosquitoes so that they could carry on with their house-building. Otherwise their hands became so puffed with bites that they couldn't hold their hammers.

The army started the spraying program in the Whitehorse area. After they left there was one summer when no spraying was done, and the return of the insect pests was so fast and furious that the territorial government started its own program at the insistence of the public. Now almost every community in the Yukon will benefit.

As far as we are concerned the roar of those planes laying down their spray is music to our ears. It seems a small price to pay for an enjoyable summer.

By the way, how come Old Crow doesn't come under the program?

—THE WHITEHORSE STAR

BIA to Help Children with Problems

Help in their home villages soon will be given to children with special problems, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced in Anchorage last week.

The B.I.A. is planning special education classes for youngsters with emotional visual, orthopedic retardation, speech and hearing handicaps. Currently they are trying to locate these youngsters in cooperation with the Alaska Crippled Children's Association, the Child Study Center and the State Mental Health Team in Anchorage.