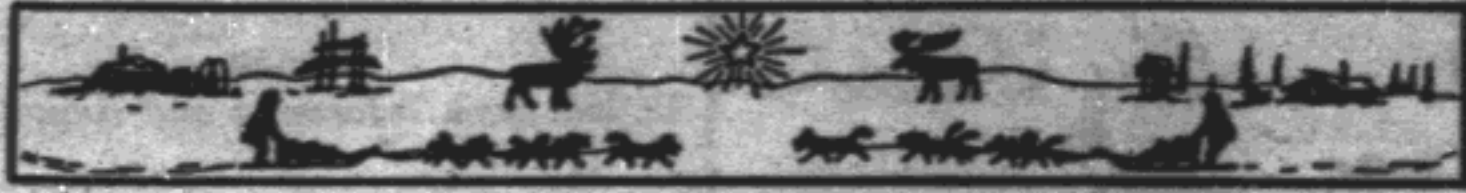


"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

# Tundra Times



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## Editorial—

### The Illness and the Cure

"The Lummi language class has been discontinued for the summer. The class will begin again next fall when school starts," wrote the Lummi Sqol Quol, a Lummi community paper at Marietta, Washington.

There is something tragic about the simple statement. There is a gnawing poignancy to it. If one lingers on the subject and tries to seek out the consequences of a methodic discouragement of a people's language, a lump can form in one's throat. The suppression of a language brings out the grim reality that a basic culture—the very root of a people's spirit—had been discouraged and strangled until a mere breath, in some cases, remains.

The process of doing away with native languages was done so well that the victims were, many times, wholly unaware that a great heritage was being divested from them. Today, it is a sad experience to hear the innocent victims say, and apparently proudly, "Our children all speak English now and they can hardly say anything in our own language."

It is also a sad experience, but one that could be regarded with admiration, that tribes, like the Lummi of the State of Washington, are educating their children to speak their own language that had been in the process of disappearing. They, and few other tribes in other states, are doing this now realizing that a heritage, like the language, is one in which a spirit of a people can be perpetuated to sustain the all-important well-being of a people. Other fine traditions serve the same purpose. When they are taken away, they have a drastic—and tragic—effect. The people from whom they have been wrested can become listless in spirit and can be molded into something other people wish them to be, and which they can can never be no matter to what a force, like a dominate culture, wish them to be.

Fortunately, some of the dominant cultures are beginning to undo the harm that had been done. This is commendable. Some of the native people of Alaska are also beginning to realize that some of their precious traditions are being methodically taken away and they are showing concern. It is a promising development when our people seek ways to sustain their well-being through retention of their traditions.

The rising desire of our people to retain their heritages does not, of course, mean that they are rejecting the ways of the dominant cultures. They have also found very fine and useful things in those cultures to enhance their ways of living.

There should indeed be a happy medium in the fusion of the cultures. The process should be allowed to seek its own level. In time, it could very well turn out to be a unique and charming culture for Alaskans in which the best of all peoples might be enjoyed.

## Alaska Berries Are Rich in Vitamin C

By ETHEL MAE GRIGGS, Public Health Nutritionist

Do berries help the body? What do apples do for the body?

These two questions were asked by Robert Hadley, a fifth grader at Kotzebue, when I visited his school recently. Robert knew that apples and berries are both fruits, but he thought we ate apples to make our teeth white. Actually, we inherit the color of our teeth from our families. The only way to keep them bright is by brushing them at least twice a day.

We eat apples because they taste good, of course, but also because they contain vitamin C, a chemical compound that helps us resist infection. The trouble is, apples have to come from other states so they cost more than the wonderful berries that grow in Alaska, free for the picking. Alaska's berries have more vitamin C than apples. A good half cup of raw cloud berries or blueberries may have from two to 20 times as much of this vitamin as one small apple. Why not pick as many Alaska berries as you can and store them in a cold place for good winter eating?

(Send your questions about food to Ask Ethel, Tundra Times Box 1287, Fairbanks.)

Playful Cheetah—

## Cheetah Likely Surprised Cyclist At 70 M.P.H.

(From WILDLIFE REVIEW)

Al Oeming, who operates the famous Alberta Game Farm at Ardrossan in Alberta, sometimes takes along some of his animal pals when he goes driving.

One day, between Edmonton and Calgary when he had a pet cheetah aboard, a motorcyclist roared by. The noise of the machine intrigued the cheetah which leaped through an open window and gave chase.

One can only imagine the feeling of the motorcyclist as he glanced to his side and saw—at something like 70 m.p.h.—a playful cheetah bounding along the road with him.

Al Oeming retrieved the animal about five miles along the road puffing slightly after a fast workout, but apparently glad to have had the exercise.

Cheetahs are among the fastest of the world's mammals and the motorcycle would have had to hit a good speed to get away from one.

## Alaska Weather For the Year Above Normal

June completes the year for degree days. Ten stations ended the 12-month period with temperatures averaging above normal.

Of the five averaging below normal Yakutat was considerably below normal.

For the month of June, many warm days were recorded. No new records were set. Five stations reported freezing temperatures.

## Crucial Times Ahead—

# Writer Sees Great Responsibility for Times on Land Issue

July 9, 1967

Dear Howard,

Senator Gruening's introduction of S. 2020 offers Alaska's Native people their most important opportunity in a century to rally public support for a fair and equitable settlement of their land claims.

The Tundra Times unquestionably has been the most important single factor in bringing the issue to the forefront in Alaska and in uniting the Native people politically and spiritually in a common effort to win recognition of their rights, their needs, and their hopes.

The next several months, the next year or two, will be the most crucial period in the history of Alaska Native affairs and the decisions that are made will affect all Alaskans for generations to come.

The Tundra Times has a great responsibility and a greatness to match its responsibility.

William Byler,  
Executive Director,  
Association on American Indian Affairs

## Leader Believes AFN Can Be Potent Vehicle

723 West 10th Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

July 10, 1967

Letter to the Editor  
Tundra Times  
P.O. Box 1287  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

The Alaska Federation of Natives has the potential to be a potent vehicle for actions beneficial to both its members and, as a consequence, to all Alaskans. But it can do this effectively only with the active backing of its members and the understanding of its fundamental principles by those not yet committed to its support.

Alaska's native peoples have long been, in many areas, the passive recipients of various programs developed for them. They now have the opportunity to become the authors of changes beneficial to them. It does not derogate from the fundamental purposes of governmental programs to state that our direct participation is necessary if the benefits are to be lasting and significant.

Beneficiaries of land claims proceedings generally establish eligibility by reference to blood quantum and compliance with enrollment procedures. The definition of individual rights seem deceptively simple at this point. As a result, the prospective beneficiary tends to forget that collective pressures are helping to shape the provisions of enabling legislation and will be effective in ensuring that provisions for the disposition of compensation and procedures under which the land will be administered are in accord with our wishes.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 11 (U.S. Congress 2/17/67) states, "...the necessary constructive programs and services (will be) directed to the governing bodies of these groups for application in their respective communities, offering self-determination and self-help features for the people involved..." Other federal legislation, dealing with education, revolving funds and other financing, economic development, etc., clearly demonstrates that the present indications of enlightenment in Congressional attitudes can best be encouraged by the continued application of pressure through collective effort by the native people.

On the state level, recent legislation makes provisions for hearings at which time the needs, wishes, and problems of the Alaskan Natives will be explored, (see House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 and House Bill No. 277).

The Office of Economic Opportunity is, through A.S.C.A.P. leadership and administration, making available, programs not presently funded through usual sources. Their success depends on the understanding, participation, and support by people in the target areas.

Efforts are presently being formulated in the fields relative to our history and heritage with specific programming aimed at the collection of artifacts, stories on tapes, photographs,

(Continued on page 6)