

Guest Editorial—

Who Speaks for Indians?

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There are many throughout the country including some organized Indians groups.

Yet, can anyone, who is familiar with Indian Affairs, deny that it is often a scatter-gun approach and thus is ineffective? True, Indians have many friends including many in mass communications media such as newspapers and radio and television.

They, too often, are not in possession of the facts in complicated situations. So, the absurd generalities of those with their own motives and powerful lobbys prevail at the seats of power.

But, don't underestimate the power of the press. Given the run-around frequently on these affairs the press has a disconcerting habit of digging up the truth. Even a small newspaper which lifts the lid of secrecy and complacency from intolerable situations can get national attention and...action.

A case in point.

The Tundra Times, a free press concentrating on Alaskan Indian and Eskimo news, was recently recognized by a national publication, "The Reporter," as being the moving force behind far reaching changes on Alaska's Pribilof Islands. In an article in the national publication entitled "Emancipation Comes to the Pribilofs" the paper was credited with having spurred two investigations of conditions on these islands in Alaska. The Tundra Times is a weekly tabloid newspaper running approximately eight pages a week.

The paper's editor, Howard Rock, and an associate, Thomas A. Snapp, gathered information for the expose of near slavery conditions of the Pribilofs under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The investigation took two years.

Following its first expose article the paper was subjected to pressure by federal officials. Yet the editors went on with the articles.

As good newsmen should.

The national publication stated: "It was this story that inspired two investigations, with a great flurry of charges, alibis, explanations, apologies, and pledges of good faith for the future and led finally to the passage of a remedial bill sponsored by Senator E.L. Bartlett, Alaska, last October."

The Aleuts of the Pribilof Islands were given a chance for full title to their homesteads, full rights of self-government, and full benefits in retirement.

This was despite the federal agencies balking at giving these people equality and self government. The writer of the national article on the Tundra Times accomplishments said it may seem an exercise in irrelevance to concern ourselves with a handful of islanders who are far off. But, that nothing is too small to be of concern when it involves human rights and freedom.

And . . . we may add, along with our congratulations to a small newspaper staff, no area in which there are abuses of these freedoms is too small to escape attention not so long as there is freedom of the press to bring out these matters.

---NAVAJO TIMES

UFO SIGHTED AT BETHEL

An Unidentified Flying Object has been spotted in Bethel.

On March 17, over 15 people saw a disc-shaped object and a large light which changed colors from pink-red to orange. The object hovered in the area beyond the graveyard, and then moved out of sight.

After the sighting, a young woman reported seeing the same thing three nights

earlier.

The Bethel FAA station was requested to investigate the area involved on the night of the sighting. A FAA spokesman said he turned out all the FAA lights and looked closely at the area for one hour, but saw nothing.

No planes landed at the Bethel airport from 10 to 10:30 p.m., when the sightings occurred.



INDIAN EDITORS, REPORTERS--A conference of Indian editors and reporters at Billings, Montana last week are gathered in their meeting room at the Northern Hotel. Those that can be identified by name are: Will L. Clegg, standing second from right; Floyd Westerman, 4th from right. Clegg and Westerman are from University of Utah as well as Paul Cracraft, 5th from right, stand-

ing. In a Stetson hat in the background is Sun Bear, publisher of the slick magazine, MANY SMOKE. His smiling wife, Ann, is to his right. State of Washington and Idaho were represented by VISTA workers who publish newsletters for the Indians in their respective areas.

--CARP'S PHOTO, Billings, Montana

Pt. Hope Learns Fate of Man

By Guy Okakok

BARROW - It's a long time now, while back, a man from Pt. Hope, our relative, our cousin Lenny Lane Sr., relatives, while they spearing the Belugas, somehow, the line that was hooked unto this spear, got tangled around this person, and when this Beluga, dive under, the line gained, and pulled this man under also.

The Pt. Hope never did find the body of this man until this year after they heard that the Bailey Island hunters have killed a white Beluga which was wounded, and had a line towed of a body. The hunters there buried both of them there.

And when the relative of this dead man arrived to Bailey Island he wanted them people there to show him where he was.

But instead they only tells him that this person is not or beyond to recognize him as his body is all fallen. So Lennie Lane Sr. had to come back home without seeing the relative body.

This was long, long time ago, when its happen. When Lennie Lane Sr. used to be a sailor by the Frieghters, frieghters who used to go up to Canada.

This is true story. Mr. Lennie Lane Sr., my cousin, has renewed this story to me by recorder tape.

Wanted a Set

Had a letter yesterday from the State side that he is collecting a man lip buttons. This man must have heard that I had a set here with me. Where did he find out and how? He wanted them so badly that even he will pay me good enough to give me satisfactory. For how much I wonder. I have these pair yet.

Indian Editors Meet At Billings

The Bureau of Indian Services of the University of Utah conducted a three-day communications workshop for Indian editors and reporters at Billings, Montana, last week.

The workshop was under the direction of Will L. Clegg, communications specialist of the Indian Services of the Utah University. Twenty-one editors and reporters from Montana, Utah, Idaho, Nevada Washington and Alaska attended the session.

The meeting stressed communications between the publishers and their public supplemented by techniques of journalism. The main speaker of the session was Howard Rock, editor of the Tundra Times. He spoke on "Communications and the Native People of Alaska."

Paul Cracraft of the journalism department of the University of Utah conducted techniques in journalism in which he discussed proximity to events happening, impact of the news, oddity, pyramid type stories, punch leads, clothesline leads, questioning leads, descriptive leads, staccato, figurative, quotation and others.

Associate Professor M. Neff Smart, also of the journalism department of the Utah university, held a session on the writing process.

In his introductory talk, Prof. Smart said that a "publisher of a community paper is more powerful than the mayor of a city....There is no better way to combat illiteracy than to start an interesting, personal community paper. It can help your community government get things

done."

The workshop had two interesting and unexpected visitors during one session and they were Willard Frazer, mayor of Billings, and Stan Lynde, cartoonist and creator of the comic strip, "Rick O' Shay." Lynde is a native of Billings.

Mayor Frazer told the gathering that everyone should know his own history, to be proud of it. He pointed out great historical events that took place within 60 miles of Billings such as the battle of the Little Big Horn in which General George Custer and his men were wiped out by Sitting Bull and his warriors, and the great retreat of Chief Joseph and his Nez Perce Indians.

The Mayor also pointed out the great contributions of the Indians in cultivation of corn, potatoes, and great many other things including tobacco. And on the latter, he quipped, "I'll never forgive you for that."

Land Withdrawal For School

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has published a proposed withdrawal and reservation of land to be used for an addition to the Noatak school.

A second public land order stated that an aggregate of about 1,760 acres in the Fairbanks meridian have been withdrawn for recreation sites at Moose Creek, Grouse Creek Perhaps Creek, U.S. Creek and Cripple Creek.

Great men are like eagles, and build their nest on some lofty solitude.