



PILOT CLAIMS DISCRIMINATION

STATE SUPREME COURT OKAYS MUELLER APPEAL

The Alaska State Supreme Court has ruled that Richard D. Mueller is entitled to a hearing on his dismissal from the State Division of Lands. Mueller was dismissed from the position of lease and sales manager after he discovered that the State was planning to sell "wilderness estates" on land claimed by Tanacross Natives. He appealed his dismissal to the State Personnel Board, but the Board refused to hear the case because Mueller had been promoted to his position 9½ months earlier, and was thus within the one-year probationary period for the job. Superior Court Judge William Taylor in Fairbanks agreed that, because he was on probationary status, he could be dismissed without right of appeal. The Supreme Court, however, noted that the Personnel Rules were ambiguous in this respect, and decided that such an ambiguity was to be decided in favor of the employee. Mueller's attorney, Stephen DeLisio, said that the State had the right to appeal the ruling, but he did not expect it to do so. If the State does not appeal, the Superior Court will be instructed to order a hearing by the Personnel Board. The case will then be judged on its merits, DeLisio said.

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Bill May Legalize Native Customs

A bill providing for the recognition of Native customs as law for marriages, divorces and adoption is in the Judiciary Committee of the State Senate. Senate Bill No. 140, introduced by Brad Phillips of Anchorage, provides that, in a case where the validity of a marriage, divorce or adoption involving Natives is in issue, the court or administrative agency shall base its resolution of the issue on the Native custom law, as evidenced by the understanding of the Native community where the custom is claimed.

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Editorial—Land Use Study Needed

There is a great deal of discussion going on at the moment about Alaska's native peoples' land claims and much of this talk is tending to create a mist around the issue that might develop into a fog. If it keeps up in this manner, the equitable solution to the land question might get lost in the pea soup.

Although there are some knowledgeable people who make statements publicly about the claims, there are those who would best serve the matter at hand by refraining from speaking. One area that could be mentioned as far as the latter is concerned, is that many of those people have no concrete idea what constitutes land use by our native people. Many of the people in question are influential and are in positions of strength. Their public statements regarding land issues can, and do, influence the Alaskan public that is also largely ignorant of what constitutes land use.

Before the issue goes any further, there should be a serious attempt to educate the general public what land

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Champion



...Clara Ketzler, Women's 1967 North American sled dog champion.

--Merv Mullins photo

Clara Ketzler Fights Blizzards To Win Big Race

Fighting snowdrifts formed by a 40-mile per hour wind, Clara Ketzler came from sixth place to win the Women's North American Sled Dog Championship last Sunday.

The snowdrifts almost completely wiped out the trail in many places, and several teams became bogged down at the end of the starting chute.

Snow-gos and hikers helped to break down the drifts further along the trail, but the fastest time was over 100 minutes for the 14-mile course.

In addition to fighting the drifts, three of the original leaders lost time when they followed a dead-end snow-go

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Gruening Works To Give Equal Rights to Women

Senator Ernest Gruening (D-Alaska) Tuesday expressed his long-time commitment to equal rights under the law for men and women by co-sponsoring a joint resolution which would insure this equality through a constitutional amendment.

Introduced by Senator

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Claims His Pleas for Law Enforcement Fell on Deaf Ears

A 39-year-old Aleut pilot, William Gregorioff, of Illiama, has charged in a letter to Governor Walter J. Hickel that he has spent all his life preparing himself for an air taxi business only to have that business snuffed out by discrimination.

And he claims that the discriminators have been state and federal agencies who have "bypassed" his flying service and instead used a non-certificated Caucasian pilot.

Gregorioff outlines his trials and tribulations in a 4-page letter to the Governor in which he charges that when

Eskimo Methods Sometimes Beat Most Modern

A Barrow Eskimo has found that Native hunting methods can sometimes beat the most modern techniques.

Tommy Napageak recently guided Lt. Com. David Haynes from Kodiak on a polar bear hunt, using dog sleds for transportation. The two left Barrow at noon of the first day and set up a camp on the ice.

The next morning, the two work up at 6 a.m. and, only two hours later, Haynes shot an eight-foot bear.

In the meantime, many hunters had been sitting around the hotel in Barrow waiting for the weather to clear up enough for flying.

Napageak then took a second navy man on a hunt and,

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he began to complain to the appropriate agencies of lack of law enforcement that his home and airplane was "bombed" with snow and rocks from a snowblower until he had to move his base of operation.

Appended to his letter are a list of 15 licenses and certificates which Gregorioff says the Government required him to obtain before he could operate his business.

Then he said that government agencies including the police, charged with enforcement, patronized an air service that did not have the proper certificates. This

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Community Health Program Bill Introduced

A bill to set up a community health program, including health aides, under complete State control has been referred to the State House Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare.

The bill would establish the positions of health aides in each village. These aides,

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Hugh Nicholls Rebuffs State Attorney Boyko

By Hugh Nicholls
Barrow, Alaska

At the Governor's conference with Native groups on 19 February in Anchorage, Mr. Boyko presented the State point of view regarding Native land claims and the right of title of the Native people thereto. In presenting the argument of the State, Mr. Boyko said that Native rights were a moral issue rather than a legal point of law, because Native title had been extinguished by Russian conquest.

This theory immediately poses two questions:

1. Was Alaska conquered by the Russians in its entirety?

and:

2. Does conquest extinguish land title or merely depose sovereign identity?

Regarding the first question raised, it is historical fact that the Russians occupied only a small part of the Alaskan land area in the Southeast, Southcentral and Southwest regions of the present State. If presence in numbers alone connotatively means conquest, the United States could have well claimed

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22nd ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP SLED DOG RACES START TODAY