

# Friend of Native Folks Tom Pillifant Passes in Anchorage

The man who befriended the native people during the relatively short time he spent in Alaska passed away last Friday, April 25, in Anchorage, a victim of cancer at the age of 45.

Thomas H. Pillifant when he came to Anchorage was the native affairs planning officer with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The job put him close to the native problems and he began to work along with native leaders on them.

Almost right from the start, Tom Pillifant hit it off with the natives. This rapport soon developed into trust and affection on both sides.

As a result, he was one of the three non-natives ever to have been made honorary chief in the Alaska Federation of Natives, a statewide native organization.

Pillifant came to Alaska in 1966 as superintendent of the BIA, Anchorage District. He resigned two years later to become state campaign coordinator for Sen. Ernest Gruening who later was defeated by the now Sen. Mike Gravel.

Funeral services were held last Sunday at All Saints Episcopal Church at 2:00 p.m. The Rev. Norman H.V. Elliott officiated.

Pallbearers included Stan McCutcheon, Cliff Groh, F.M. Steven, Mel Braund, Emil McCord and Ralph Donalson, Honorary pallbearers were Sen. Ted Stevens, Ronald Benkert, Emil Notti, Robert Arnold, Fred Bismark, state Rep. Gene Guess, Donald Wright and Junie McNair.

Tom Pillifant was born in Waukegan, Ill. on Sept. 16, 1923.

He is survived by his wife Lois and five children: Robert 12, Frances 10, Laura 8, and Thomas A. 5; His mother Mrs. Jean Brazell of Waukegan; twin brothers Eugene of Omaha, Neb. and Harold of Dallas, Tex.

## Winter Road— Tundra Times

By STANLEY MORRY  
Anaktuvuk Pass

The winter road is closed and I know why it is closed.

When the men came from Sagwon, there were 11 trucks. But I don't know if they will make it to Fairbanks.

There is some water at the Yukon River and at Stevens Village. They say the road is closed because there is too much water on the way to Fairbanks.

The last truck that came through here stayed here only one day.

Kenton Mekiana was telling them there was some water at Stevens Village and Yukon River. In some places they say it was six feet deep and it almost got to their headlights.

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FRIEND OF NATIVES—Thomas H. Pillifant, right, on April 25 passed away, a victim of cancer at the age of 45. Pillifant took great interest in the native problems and worked on them along with Sen. Ernest Gruening. Pictured with him is Sen. Ernest Gruening.

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## Barrow Girl to Study Accounting

Miss Jane Nusunginya of Barrow flew to Oakland, Calif. this week to take a course in accounting.

The training is being funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

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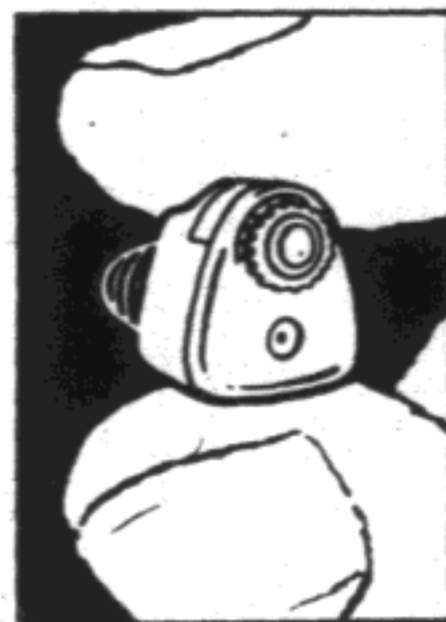
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