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

Tundra Times

Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Wednesdays.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99707. Telephone 542-2244.

Entered at the Post Office at Fairbanks, Alaska, as second class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mary Jane Fate, corresponding secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year $ 8.00	6 Months $ 4.50
Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year $19.00	6 Months $10.00

Editorial—

Preparation to Meet The Flood Threat

It is gratifying and comforting to know that the state, the federal government agencies, and others are showing concern over the potential Fairbanks area flood made possible by a huge blanket of snow in the city and much of the huge area of Alaska's interior. Gov. William Egan has alerted his appropriate agencies to help in the plan of action to prevent disaster in Fairbanks and other flood-prone localities. The U.S. Army District Corps of Engineers, the Alaska Disaster Office, along with the Alaskan Army Command and the City of Fairbanks are also in there. There are other government and independent agencies that will be involved in the flood disaster prevention effort.

What has gone on so far--the early marshalling of forces to prevent disaster is an impressive one, not only for the City of Fairbanks but for other flood-prone areas. This means that communities, most of them native communities along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and their tributaries, will be under surveillance.

When the thawing and runoff period is impending, it would also be to the good for the National Weather Service to keep the public frequently informed which, we presume, is being planned so communities will be forewarned of possible dangers. It would give the people time to prepare for evacuation if such eventualities should arise. This is indeed imperative because some airfields, including the Fairbanks International Airport, can be endangered.

At any rate, it is gratifying and comforting that early preparations are being made by the excellently well-rounded group of agencies who are preparing to work for a common cause--to prevent disaster for people in flood-prone areas. We hope that Mother Nature will cooperate with them and conduct a smooth runoff.

Some Sparkle, Some Sad—

Joyousness of Noel Eluded Some Villages

Many weeks after Christmas had passed, the Tundra Times received a Christmas story. It wasn't a happy Christmas story. It ranged from poignancy to sadness, showing some of the tragedy of life in the Arctic.

One week before Christmas, Father Frank Fallert, S.J., the priest who serves most of the villages in the Nelson Island area, sat with Alois and Adeline Lincoln of Toksook while their baby died.

"It was five days before a plane could get into Toksook, and we could have a burial service—three days before Christmas," Father Fallert wrote. The following are excerpts from his post-Christmas newsletter.

"Back to Tununak for the Christmas program Wednesday evening, Santa Claus, and gift giving after the program. Marie's Montessori kiddies sang the Christmas hymns eloquently as they gathered around their own nativity scene.

Caroline Oscar, age five, was the star since she sang a solo; "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," her serious little voice right on key easily carrying to every corner of the room.

The next morning, at 2:30 a.m., the Oscar house burned.

"All too soon the uncertain agony was confirmed when the charred bodies of Caroline, her two brothers and baby sister were found. Isabel, the mother, sister to Alois Lincoln, was badly burned on her face, arms and legs. Thomas, the father, not quite so severely.

"It was seven o'clock in the evening before the storm let up enough for a plane to land and get them to the hospital in Bethel. Everyone in the village had haunting memories of Caroline's serious face and eloquent

(Continued on page 7)

State Would Contribute—

House-Passed Claims Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska

WHEREAS the Alaska legislature enacting the Alaska Native Land Claims State Settlement Act of 1968 as 38.30 has declared The State's policy to join with the Federal government in a legislative effort to provide a fair, speedy and equitable assumption of responsibility for the education, housing, health, welfare and public safety of all of its citizens, including those presently served by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and

WHEREAS although the settlement of the claims is primarily a federal responsibility the legislature nevertheless anticipates making a fair and reasonable state contribution to settlement.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Seventh Alaska State Legislature in recognition of the vital importance of this issue to every Alaskan, strongly urges the Congress of the United States to enact a fair, equitable and early settlement of the Alaska Native Land Claims and expresses its intent to participate and cooperate in such a settlement.

(Copies are to be sent to President Nixon, Vice President Agnew, Ted Stevens, Mike Gravel and Nick Begich.)

Letters from Here and There

P.O. Box 194
Bethel, Alaska
99559
January 25, 1971

Andrew J. Chikoyak
Nelson Island
Tununak, Alaska

Dear Mr. Chikoyak:

I have received a copy of your letter to Senator Mike Gravel and the Anchorage Daily Times.

We are sorry to learn that you are not satisfied with the service Wien Consolidated is providing to the villages on Nelson Island.

Since I took over the job of Station Manager here in Bethel, November 15, 1970, we have received only one complaint from Nelson Island; and that was concerning a snow machine that was not at Bethel at that time but was delivered shortly after it arrived in Bethel.

I gather from your letter that the people of Nelson Island did not appoint you as their spokesman. But that you just took it upon yourself to do so, which is a very good gesture on your part. That is, if the people on Nelson Island are as you state they are. However, I wish you would have brought this to my attention before writing to Senator Gravel as we could have straightened it out here in Bethel. In the future, if you take it upon yourself to act as spokesman or representative for your people of Nelson Island, I wish you would work with me first, as a lot of our problems can be solved here.

For your information, we have moved a total of 73,977 pounds of mail and freight from the first of December to the twenty-fourth of January to Toksook Bay and Tununak. Of this total, Tununak received 27,730 pounds. For a station that is scheduled for twice a week service, I would say that Wien Consolidated was and still is giving you good service. This is a total of 23 flights to Tununak alone.

You stated in your letter to Senator Gravel that we hold mail and freight in Bethel up to four months. I hope you have proof of this as I am sure the Post Office Department will be checking into this. To my knowledge Wien Consolidated has never kept mail for longer than a week or ten days and this was due to bad weather.

We may have held some non-essential freight here in Bethel for a week or two but this is due to the new mail set-up that went into effect in September where all mail to the villages is priority and must be moved before passengers and freight.

I hope this helps you understand how big a job W.C.A. has to do in this area and in the future you will work through me. If you still do not receive satisfactory results then write to Mr. Ray Peterson, W.C.A. president, or Senator Gravel.

Stop in for a visit the next time you come into Bethel and we will talk over any difficulties you may have at the time.

Sincerely yours,
W.R. Kristovich
Bethel Station Manager
Wien Consolidated Airlines

January 18, 1971

Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska
99707

RE: Air Fares—December 30 issue

Dear Mr. Rock:

It is my observation that we all have to pay for the airport subsidy that is presently paid practically every air line in the United States and it is my personal feeling that since that subsidy is extracted from the financial hide of every citizen of the United States that this air subsidy should level the air transportation charges for any given distance, regardless of where it is, between the two major cities of Alaska or the major cities in the states, or Alaska and one of the remote villages to which that airline runs a flight.

There are 1,000's and 1,000's of citizens in the United States today who are sick and tired of seeing the air freight industry subsidize the glamour passenger runs between major cities. I for one feel that when a set amount of poundage of air freight is shipped from one city to another at a set figure that the very least an airline can do to me or for me is show me the equality of a box of freight or a couple of specialty cargo items all crated up and in short I think that I should be charged the same amount for a 187 pounds sacked or boxed merchandise as I am charged for transporting my 187 pounds carcass from one city to another.

Since this airline is, for all practical purposes, being subsidized by all the people of the people of the United States, I believe that the services thereof should be as provided to as many citizens of the United States as possible.

Perhaps what we need in the transportation industry, is a situation similar to the REA (The Rural Electrification Act), which subsidized the spread of the electric power into the rural areas through the United States. I believe that this is what should be required for the transportation system in order that all citizens (and we are all equal citizens) have the same right, entitlement privileges and accessability to that which is paid for by all of the citizens in the United States. As a matter of fourth point I have enclosed for your reading, a publication by the National Council of Public Land Users and would hope that by joining hands across the nation, that we, as citizens, will be able to perform our task, as citizens, in a more comprehensive and unified manner.

Sincerely yours,
Bernard J. Dangler, President
The D & D Agency
743 Rood Ave.
Grand Junction, Colorado
81501

Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
January 21, 1971

Dear Mr. Rock:

Permit me to take this opportunity to thank you for making available to myself and the other legislators free copies of your newspaper and be assured that your editorial comments are read and appreciated by all of us.

If I can be of any assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,
Richard L. McVeigh
Chairman
State Affairs Committee

P.O. Box 488
Aniak, Alaska
99557
January 29, 1971

Tundra Times
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska
99707

Dear Editor:

I have just cleaned up my old paperwork and ran across a letter that I had received right after the November election. It was from a man whom I had campaigned against in 1968. The reason I am thanking him through your newspaper, Howard, is that upon examining the record of this person, I feel that all of us native people of Alaska owe Senator Mike Gravel a note of thanks.

As the Senator's letter read: "Don't let this defeat get you down--I've had my share of them and I know how it feels. I just thought you might like to know from an experienced loser that one defeat is not necessarily fatal."

I would like to say belatedly, thank you, Mike, for taking the time to write and cheer me up.

Sincerely,
Fred A. Notti