

"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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Letters from Here and There

If the oil companies need to transport supplies up to their different stations then let them use the road—they built it, let them maintain it. God and everyone else knows they got the money.

It would be a money making adventure for the bus lines to run up the road, that would give campers, hikers, sightseers, and tourists a chance to see the pipeline and other country of Alaska. I feel this is a much better solution to the problem than to allow constant traffic on the road. Since the bus lines would be making so much money they could help maintain the road in one way or another.

The problem of Alyeska to remove their facilities such as incinerators, water and sewage treatment plants, kitchens, laundries, first aid stations, sleeping and dining rooms, and recreation facilities could be taken over by people willing to cater to the bus-line needs of those people traveling through.

By keeping a minimum amount of traffic on the road, the road could be maintained easier than totally shutting down the road and allowing erosion, etc., to take its toll.

I have a strong feeling that the reasons or at least some of them that the natives are not attending the meetings is a lack of awareness; even if a notice is posted not all natives can read or stop long enough to read what's on a bulletin board.

Another reason is lack of confidence that they really do have weight in this issue. Many natives feel that the white people do not pay as much attention to their feelings as they pretend to.

Many natives find it extremely hard to get up before a group of people, especially when interrupted by chattering ones in the background, and state their feelings as simple and heartspoken as they may be.

I am an Athabascan Indian of one quarter blood and have lived with the natives of various places, including Barrow, to understand some of their feelings and desires and hopes to state that which I have.

I don't feel that we have any further right to force game and wildlife further into the wilds. Do we Alaskans want our state to be a replica of the Lower 48?

Did you future Alaskans come up here to get away from the hustle of the Lower 48 or to bring it with you?

Lets keep the road closed.

Thoeni Marie Motschman
c/o Sunshine Sports
No. 2 Merchants Wharf
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Native handicrafts sought

Editor:

I work with a group of people who try to help the United Farm Workers people who do stoop labor in the fields. We raise money for their aid. Every year in November we hold a bazaar. There are people here who buy beautiful and unusual things like you and I

buy bread. I remember the letters about masks and baskets from the Interior where there is little market. I would like to have people from these villages write me, giving what they have and the price. I will pay them when I buy the article, then put it up for sale at the bazaar for more, not just masks and baskets.

I read somewhere about jewel stones, "Eek Art," or lots of things I don't even know about. I saw some of the art work from Eek in Tundra Times. There were also some Christmas cards made by a young girl. There are several people in kayaks and a story about them.

We are the people who bought the ink sketch on seal skin of the bear and hunter. It has gone on exhibit to many schools in our area. Hundreds of young people have seen this dramatic moment in the lives of man and bear—and felt compassion for which ever one will lose.

Sincerely,
Nova A. Johnstons
26445 156th Place SE
Kent, Washington 98031

TT staff doing excellent job

14 August, 1976

Ms. Sue Gamache
Acting Editor
TUNDRA TIMES
P. O. Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Sue:

What a suburb job you and the TUNDRA TIMES staff are doing. The recent issues of Aug. 4 and Aug. 11 are Pulitzer Prize feats of writing and reporting.

The Kraus-Buffler behavioral study concluding that Alaskans usually die violent deaths is a significant piece of work. Although it appears that their study was more designed to discover what leads to the high rate of violent death I believe the causal nexus to be the organization of effective programs to drastically reduce the incident of violent death among the Alaskans—both native and non-native.

The 27th Annual Science Conference report was quite informative and comprehensive. I am in full agreement with Hopson's insightful comment that "sharing has rules, one of which is that the native people must have a say in what they share with scientists," and with Martin's statement that Alaskans must insist on "something better than the way they do it Outside." One of my most fervent hopes is that Alaska will never lose its independent character. I believe it is this quality that keeps our beloved state the best of the fifty.

Recently Ilung Lena (Helena Andree of Dillingham) informed the governor (of Alaska) that she will always be available to work for her people. I read about it in the Bristol Bay "By Lines." She has fought so long and hard for all of us. She deserves a lot of R&R, yet she keeps herself available to her people. It is wonderful Eskimo, Aleut, and Indian people like

herself that give all the rest of us the faith, belief, and knowledge that not only will we survive but that we will excel as a distinct and honorable race of people.

Sue, you and the gang at the TUNDRA TIMES keep up your excellent work. All of us are proud of you.

Yours in Peace and Brotherhood,
Art Tahl
Box B40988
Reprea, California 95671

Hef fle opposes road opening

Editor:

When I hear on radio and TV of people speaking about Alaska and Alaskan natives I wonder why they don't get out of our state and go somewhere else. Natives being blamed for Second Avenue mess, native girls being called low grade whores going after the cheap G.I. trade.

They cry about the haul road and water easements crisscrossing native land for recreational purpose.

Well I have been involved in just its reverse.

A white man has been denying natives access to his allotment via a road through his property.

Although the road has been opened and maintained by the Territory and State of Alaska until the new portion was opened, this person says he wants to know who comes and goes around his property.

Why does a native have to be subjected to this treatment, where in fact they held their land way before the white man came. Don't they have equal rights?

The native couple are elderly and only wish to be left alone. An alternate solution was provided—the native couple build an access road at considerable expense to themselves.

I hope someone can answer the difference.

The haul road should be closed and only maintenance personnel be allowed access.

Each time a road is opened to the public it becomes an eye sore with refuge.

Game is harassed and property not being occupied is open game for trespassers and vandals. Road signs are shot before the paint is dry.

I think that people should straighten out what they already have before taking on new problems.

People who recall the hunting and fishing in the Denali area in the late 40s and on until the road was pushed deep into park territory (and the migration was on) should think twice before they say open the road to everyone.

As for me, I don't want it, not only for the above reasons, but I don't need any more tax burdens than I already have.

John Heffle, Sr.
President,
Association of Interior Eskimos

Olympics promoters thanked

August 17, 1976

John Heffle, Chairman
Eva Heffle, Co-Chairman
World Eskimo-Indian Olympics
P. O. Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heffle:

On behalf of Cook Inlet Native Association and the elderly natives who attended the Olympics from here, I want to thank you for helping to make this event possible and memorable for them. So many of our elderly are in solitary living conditions that it was an incredible experience for the accompanying staff to watch these people begin to smile, laugh and enjoy themselves.

I realize that the intensive planning and carrying out of this large event are staggering and that our group may have posed several difficulties to the Olympics Committee. If this occurred, I sincerely apologize for any inconveniences we may have caused, and I hope we can meet in person to discuss these problems and to try to resolve them. Should funds be available next year we would like to repeat the trip but would first like to develop closer coordination with the Olympics Committee.

Mary Walker, who won the fish cutting contest, has asked me to write and inquire if she will be receiving a medal and also to ask about her official time. In all the excitement, she was unable to hear her time.

Thank you again for accommodating our group, for many of the elderly it was the trip of a lifetime. We will be watching for the room and board statement from the committee.

Sincerel,
Jeanmarie Larson
Executive Director/President
Cook Inlet Native Association

Customer unhappy with service

August 9, 1976

Independent Lumber Inc.
P. O. Box 1030
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Dear Sirs:

On May 3rd we paid in full

plus freight \$9101.00 for a 24'x40' prefab community building.

This building was short on one window, one bundle of interior paneling damaged. The trusses came in different sizes. Two 2"x6"x12' boards missing. No roofing nails. There was no mouldings for corners on the inside of the building. We needed 480 square feet of insulation for the ceiling.

The chimney is missing hangars.

Five gallons of creosote was given as a gift plus four gallons of paint which was frozen over previous winters.

We would gladly forget, but the creosote came by air freight and this you promptly charged to our account.

To top it off, you sent someone from your firm to help build it. In the name of a consulting fee. The building is now crooked. This individual ate food and stayed free. What more do you want.

All we want is all that we listed missing before cold weather. You could forget about the barge and ship air freight. We have waited long enough.

Sincerely,
Gene George
Vice President
for the Stevens Village Council
Stevens Village, Alaska 99774

Lets keep the haul road open

I strongly feel that the haul road should be kept closed for the sake of Alaska. I have lived here for 17 years and am 20 years old.

I have lived in the Interior (Fairbanks), the arctic, central Alaska (Anchorage) and am presently residing in Juneau, southeastern. I have never felt deprived by not getting around by car as we have many roads that get us to many places.

I have never felt that paying bush pilots all the money ask just to get out and away from the people was too much.

The trouble with the biggest complainers about the road to be left open is among 1) new people to the state who are used to driving everywhere they want to go without restriction, 2) people who do not have property but have anticipation that property will open up along the new road including speculators. And I am sure there are other types of people and reasons why the road should be left open but I cannot think of them all.