

# Tundra Times

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Inupiat Paitot *People's Heritage*

Den Nena Henash *Our Land Speaks*

Unanguq Tunuktauq *The Aleuts Speak*



Tlingit  
Ut kah neek *Informing and Reporting*

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Fairbanks, Alaska

# AEC CLAIMS NO BLAST DANGER

## Native Claims Opinions Turn To Optimism

Native land claims opinions from such sources as Sen. Mike Gravel and Congressman Nick Begich are becoming more optimistic recently that the claims legislation in Congress has a good chance to enact a bill possibly in October.

"Things look good in the Senate," remarked Sen. Gravel. "There's a good chance that the Senate will come up with a 40 million acre, billion dollar land claims package."

In Juneau, Rep. Begich said that the land claims dam "had cracked" and that he was confident that the claims settlement would "spill out" prior to the House adjournment date of October 15.

The Congress will reconvene on September 8 and the House Interior Committee is scheduled to meet on September 16 to consider the Indian Affairs Subcommittee version of the claims bill.

The significant thing about the scheduled meeting is that it will last for five days, something that is almost unheard of in that committee's habit of working.

"I think our bill is going to pass the first week in October," Begich stated in Juneau.

## Tom Drake First Native to Head Major State Jail

FAIRBANKS—Tom Drake a 31 year old half-Eskimo from Nome was appointed last week as superintendent of the Northern Regional Correctional Institution—to become the first native in Alaska to head a major state jail.

Drake came to Fairbanks last month as assistant superintendent following the resignation of superintendent Morgan Grude.

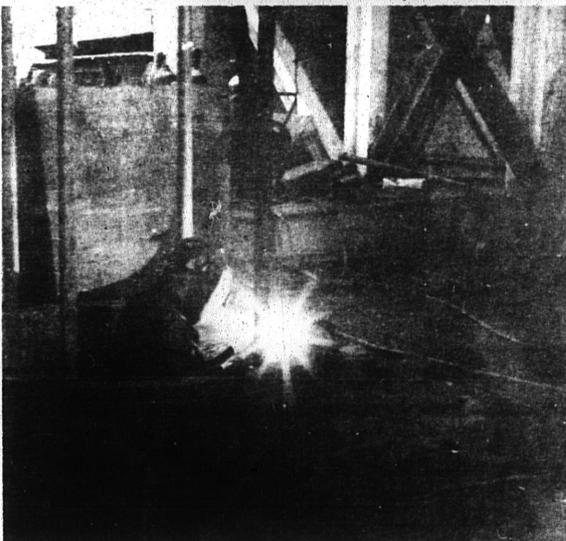
As captain of the state jail, he heads an institution which draws its prisoners from many villages and towns in the northern part of Alaska. Over 50 per cent (as of the week he took over) of these prisoners are native, drawn from both Fairbanks and village Alaska.

In an interview with the new jail superintendent, in his airy, brightly lit office in the jail facility, TUNDRA TIMES asked Mr. Drake what, after several years as a correction officer, he thought were some of the major reasons natives and whites landed in jail.

"Alcoholism," says Drake continues to be one of the major reasons men land in the state jail.

"Off the cuff, I would esti-

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PREPARING FOR AMCHITKA BLAST—In the bottom photo, a workman welds casing at ground zero of Project Cannikin, about 6,000 feet above the eventual detonation point of the underground nuclear explosion, now set for early October on Amchitka Island in the Aleutians. Above him looms the tower from which the five-megaton bomb will be lowered.

—Photos by FRED BROWN

## Close to Impose Injunction— No Plan to Drop Injunction: League President

The Aleut League is reportedly very close to bringing an injunction against the Atomic Energy Commission to prevent that agency from carrying out its planned multi-megaton blast on Amchitka Island.

Iliodor Philemonof, Aleut League president, announced as early as last May that the League, which represents nearly 5,000 Aleutian natives, would

seek a federal court injunction to block the planned Cannikin blast on Amchitka Island. As of last week, no suit had been filed.

Philemonof went to Amchitka last week as part of an AEC junket to the island and though he called himself "favorably impressed" with the AEC's presentation he said that the League has no intention of dropping

## Science Reporter Cites Possible Radiation, Quake, Tsunami Threats

By FRED BROWN  
Science Correspondent

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AMCHITKA ISLAND—August 27—Yesterday, nearly 70 reporters and representatives of Alaska government, industry, labor, and Alaska Native and civic-interest groups were junketed to Amchitka Island for information and briefings on the upcoming Cannikin underground nuclear blast (See accompanying story, p. 4).

The trip was apparently an attempt by the sponsoring agency, the Atomic Energy Commission, to assure Alaska and the Nation that the explosion, equivalent to about 5 million tons of TNT, will not cause any major radiation, earthquake, or "tidal-wave" damage to the peoples of The Pacific-basin. The TUNDRA TIMES participated in the trip and the briefings.

**RADIATION.** Indications are that the Cannikin device is a "dirty" bomb: that is, it is designed to have an excessive amount of radiation effects, since it is intended to test the warhead of the Spartan interceptor missile of the Safeguard ABM (the Safeguard operates by disabling incoming missiles through radiation effects, rather than direct explosive destruction).

The U.S. have previously shot two smaller underground devices on Amchitka. One had slight surface radiation effects; the other has not yielded any yet.

The AEC has developed tech-

nology for sealing the chimneys left after such tests, and insists that the rock-glass formed from the vaporized rock after

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## History of AEC Atomic Testing

By MADELYN SHULMAN  
Staff Writer

Since the Atomic Energy Commission set up operations on Amchitka Island in January 1967, its activities there have been the center of a blast of controversy in Alaska over atomic testing on Amchitka, in Alaska, or anywhere at all.

In 1966, when the AEC (according to their reports, began searching for a new test site

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## Miss Eskimo Olympics— Goes to Olympics at Lancaster, Calif.

When 17 year old Mary Keller won the Eskimo Olympics Queen crown last month, she seems to also have one a year of exciting travel.

On Tuesday night, the pretty Nome high school senior left Fairbanks for Lancaster, California. There she will appear at the annual Antelope Valley Rural Olympics during Labor

Day weekend. The Antelope Valley Fair, an annual event which attracts 140,000 people during its weekend run, is one

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MISS MARY KELLER

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