

*"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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## Guest Editorial— Progress - Master or Servant

"Progress" is a word that is common to the lips of Alaskans and many non-Alaskans when they discuss the future of our 49th state. Many of these people use this word not as a verb or adjective but as a proper noun. To these people "progress" is a vital force that is somehow greater than the society it supposedly serves. When a mountain is over-stripped of its forest cover resulting in irreparable damage to salmon streams it is shrugged off as progress. An unpoliced oil rig that pollutes a river or bay seems like a small price to pay for "progress".

Nature is not the only one that must foot the bill for "progress". When a resource is discovered that "progress" may feed upon, the natives who depend for nourishment on the land where that resource is found are told that they have no right to impede "progress". The Indians residing along the banks of the Yukon River are told to leave their homes or drown so that a giant dam will generate power for this word-god, even when this power will be obsolete before its birth.

This writer is not a horse - and - buggy reactionary lamenting the "good old days", but in the last two years of being "outside" there have been ample observation of what uncontrolled "progress" can do. Those who one hundred years ago looked over the fresh wilderness of our Midwest would now be shocked to see the filth that has turned trout streams into cesspools. They would gag in the clouds of poisonous gas that envelops industrial areas. Their ears would ache from the incessant sounds of crowded towns and highways. In the few small wilderness oases still surviving they would find masses of others seeking a brief escape from their world of progress.

Of course the state needs a substantial tax base, and the young deserve the best education available. But let's not worship a false god to get these benefits. A wise, old Eskimo gentleman once told me that when collecting bird eggs, one should always leave one or two, so that there will be birds next year. Only a fool destroys the very thing that feeds him.

Cannot progress be molded to meet the needs and desires of men rather than the other way around? Don't all of us have a right and an obligation to make certain that our children will continue to enjoy the wilderness that now gives us pleasure and nourishment? Is it unreasonable for natives to try to protect this heritage? Why couldn't a series of small, strategically located dams serve the same function of one behemoth that would drown both a land and a culture?

Perhaps finding answers to these and other problems will mean delays in present large-scale programs of progress in favor of small people, but it's time to decide which of the two is most important.

—RAY BANE  
Verona, Wisconsin

## Tlingit-Haida Cultural Show Impresses

By John Borbridge, Jr.  
Tlingit-Haida Group at Large

The first annual Tlingit and Haida Culture and Art Show, sponsored by the Tlingit and Haida Group at Large, Greater Juneau Area, was held at the Juneau National Guard Armory on April 8-9.

It was enthusiastically received, with attendance estimated at 600. Remarks received at the conclusion of the show included: "A beautiful show!" "Thank you for permitting us to see these wonders!" "A splendid display of Alaskan history!" "You must bring this wonderful display to us again!"

The generous response of participating communities ensured the success of this venture with Angoon, Haines, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Juneau, Klukwan, Aitka and Yakutat being represented.

Among the many uniquely valuable and meaningful artifacts on display were Chilkat blankets, various ceremonial headdresses, jewelry, ceremonial knives, potlatch bowls, intricately designed and carved, hats, horn spoons, food containers, storage boxes, a canoe, totem pole, Russian trading goods, and many other items.

A representative of the clan whose artifacts were being displayed was present at each table.

The public was informed as to the significance of various items by Tlingits and Haidas who were dressed in ceremonial garb.

In the background, visitors could hear tape recordings of Tlingit and Haida songs.

Mrs. Jennie Klanott of Haines demonstrated the skill involved in the weaving of a Chilkat blanket while Mrs. Kadashan was weaving a basket and Mrs. Bessie Visaya and Mrs. Mary Betts were sewing mocassins.

The Tlingit and Haida Group at Large, Greater Juneau Area, was the host to over 100 participants and visitors at a dinner following the close of the exhibition.

John Borbridge, Jr., president of the organization, and Mrs. Albert Wallace, program chairman, expressed heartfelt appreciation to the various individuals who, by sharing the many objects that they had, helped to make the show a success.

The willing spirit demonstrated by the many volunteer helpers, among whom were a large number of our young people, was most impressive.

One of the most rewarding outcomes of this show was the reaction of many of our young people, whose pride in their heritage was either re-awakened or reinforced.

Carl Sandburg once wrote: "When a nation goes down... (or) a society perishes, one condition may always be found. They forgot where they came from."

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## Guest Editorial— Handwriting on the Wall

Advance notice of the kind of treatment Northwest Alaska will get from big city legislators was given when the lawmakers had an opportunity to pass a resolution favoring a constitutional convention to change the Supreme Court's one-man, one-vote decision. The action came near the close of the first session of the Sixth State Legislature.

Those senators voting against—and killing the measure which would have given this sparsely populated area a fair chance for representation at future state legislatures—were: Cens: Begich, Bradshaw, Koslosky, Lewis, Brad Phillips, Thomas and Waugaman.

We were particularly disappointed in the action taken by Sen. Brad Phillips. Consistent rumors are that the handsome Anchorage Republican has designs for statewide office. If the rumors are true and he does decide to try to get votes in this larger-than-California region, we should remember he is only interested in the big cities—where the majority of the votes are.

Another disappointment was Lowell Thomas Jr., who twice campaigned for votes in Northern and Western Alaska. At that time he displayed an attitude sympathetic to the problems of this vast and sparsely populated area. It is evident now his sympathies lie only with the majority of voters.

If the lawmakers voting against the constitutional convention resolution had any conception of the differences in customs, climatic conditions—and even in languages—in this region they would certainly have tried to give us a voice in Juneau.

The next election is still two years away and all eligible voters in this remote region should vow—right here and now—to forget party lines and begin to think in terms of candidates who lend an ear to our vastly different problems.

If all voters in this region stick together we can form a block of votes strong enough to make any political candidate wish he'd given us a little consideration in the past.

—THE NOME NUGGET

## Gambell Appeals For Gasoline, Oil

GAMBELL, Alaska, 99742  
St. Lawrence Island  
April 5, 1967

Dear Editor:

The Native village of Gambell, on St. Lawrence Island has very little gasoline and no lube oil left for the rapidly approaching spring hunt for whales, walrus and oogruk.

Our store cannot afford to purchase the gasoline and lube oil commercially, because it is in financial difficulty.

On March 15th, the Gambell IRA Council sent an urgent request to Governor Hickel, asking for assistance. Copies were sent to Congressmen Howard Pollock in Washington, Senator "Bob" Blodgett and Representative Tom Balone in Juneau. In Senator Pollock's reply, he felt confident that the Governor would be able to assist us. However, by the 30th of March we still had not heard from the Governor. On that day the IRA Council placed a call to the BIA Area Field Office in Nome and asked them to help us in

contacting the Governor. They sent a teletype to the Governor's office. The following day we called the Governor's office. The person we spoke to had no knowledge of our letter, but, said she would look into the matter. On Monday April 3rd, we received a telegram from the Governor dated April 1st. It stated that "Trader Ed Shepard will be in Gambell next week. Ed feels that he can loan twenty barrels. Attempts through other sources failed." Unfortunately, twenty barrels is insufficient. We need at least seventy-two barrels and one hundred and seventy-five gallons of SAE 30 outboard motor oil to last us during the spring hunt. Each of the eighteen boats here averages 4.5 barrels of leaded gas each spring.

Last year the village ran out of gas and was forced to purchase it from nearby Savoonga, sixty miles away, and also from Mr. Shepard. With the gasoline we purchased from these two sources, we barely had

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