

Tundra Times

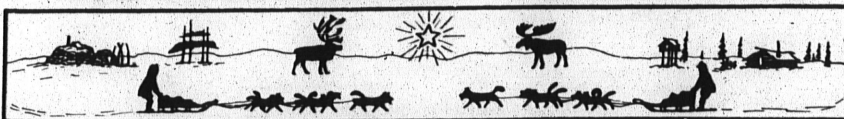
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Fairbanks, Alaska

HOUSING CONFUSION AT NOME



NOT QUALIFIED—Mrs. Gertrude Foster of Nome is looking out of the door of her shack with several of her seven children. She has no husband. Although living in the worst housing conditions, Mrs. Foster does not qualify to live in Nome's new low income housing project.

She does not earn enough money to qualify. She is on welfare. Instead, housing authorities want better class poor than Mrs. Foster to occupy the new homes.

—Photo by LAEL MORGAN

Low Income Families Not Qualifying But 'Better Class of Poor' Do

By LAEL MORGAN
Staff Writer

NOME—On the 30th of this month the Nome Housing Committee will stage a ribbon cutting to open their 50 unit low income housing project.

The Governor, congressional delegation, officials from Alaska State Housing Authority, Housing and Urban Development and other government agencies have been invited. Now the question is, will they have guts enough to attend?

After two years of planning for low income families, the Housing Committee has just been informed that eligibility criteria for their project must be changed. That the low income families they have chosen to occupy the homes don't have enough income to qualify.

As Eugene R. Leavens, director of ASHA Housing Development, explained to Robert Butler, his executive director, "Our most pressing problem with respect to occupancy actually con-

cerns finding low-income families that have high enough incomes to make the project economically feasible because the latest thinking by HUD is that family income should be great enough so that monthly payments plus utility costs can be made by the tenant without recourse to other than a minor subsidy."

Law states that no low income family in public housing should be required to pay more than 25% of their adjusted income for housing and utility costs. Further, the law states that federal subsidies will be made to local authorities to make up the difference.

"To date, Congress has apparently not appropriated adequate monies with which to subsidize the effects of the Brooke Amendment (basis for the current law.)" Leavens notes.

Money has been appropriated for housing projects in other states and ASHA has no explanation as to why Alaska is an exception. The agency readily concedes it has been left holding the bag and its solution is to cashier the lower income families from the program.

"Why were we not advised in advance that only \$6,000 incomes and up would qualify for the houses?" demanded Harry Koozaata, housing committee member, of Dave Roderick,

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AFN Reserves 125 Seats At TT Feast

The executive director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Harry Carter reserved 125 seats at the Tundra Times banquet on October 9.

The AFN is holding its annual convention around the banquet date. The statewide group is meeting at the ballroom of the Traveler's Inn. Three daily sessions have been scheduled.

The Tundra Times annual banquet is also going to be held at the ballroom.

'No Loitering' Signs—

City of Fairbanks Extricate Signs from the Streets

FAIRBANKS — About two weeks ago all the "No Loitering" signs in Fairbanks disappeared. Nobody's saying why. City Attorney Ben Delahay refers you to Wally Droz, city manager. Droz says he took the signs down because the City Council asked him to.

Why? Droz claims he doesn't know.

"You'll have to ask individual City Council members," he said. "They didn't vote on it."

Attorney Pat Murphy asked, "Everyone had a different

explanation," he reported.

But it just might have something to do with the law suit filed by Murphy, Steve Cooper and Millard Ingraham against the city of Fairbanks charging the signs were unconstitutional.

The subject was first broached in the Tundra Times on July 7. It was noted that individual members of the Tanana Chiefs questioned the loitering ordinance and Ingraham thought they had good grounds.

There followed a demand by Councilman Bob Parsons for more strict enforcement of the

"No Loitering" law. Then Murphy, Cooper, and Ingraham filed their suit.

Now, because the signs are down, they've filed notice of dismissal.

"The ordinance is invalid but since the signs were down we decided to withdraw. If an actual case ever came up we'd reconsider," Murphy said.

Now Fairbanks Mayor Julian Rice has approached the trio and asked them to serve on a committee to consider the loitering problem.

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Injunction Imposed to Stop Fish Buyer Klein

NOME—A preliminary injunction has been granted to prevent independent fish buyer Lloyd Klein and Peninsula Fisheries Inc. from purchasing fish from members of the Kotzebue Fishery Coop.

Richard Rogers of Alaska Legal Services, Fairbanks, obtained the order Friday in Nome Superior Court. Peninsula Fisheries Inc. was not represented.

The suit was brought when coop members feared Klein might compete with them on a grand scale. To date, according to reports, he has bought only during peak season at prices under what were offered by the coop.

"I told coop members last

time I met with them if it looked like he (Klein) was going to compete with them there was a way to stop it. They called me on Tuesday," Rogers recalled.

The coop has a contract to sell all its salmon and salmon eggs to Mitsubishi International Corp. Members have signed an agreement to commit their total catch for this sale.

Rogers said the coop is protected by state statute but Klein, according to an earlier restraining order, is quoted as saying he did not care what the statutes said and that he would continue to operate in Kotzebue until the court shut him down.

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Excitement Eliminated—

Science Conference Pulls General Sessions from Program

FAIRBANKS—Most of the excitement of the 22nd Alaska Conference was eliminated—along with Native participation—because the usually controversial general sessions were stricken from the program.

The bulk of the conference was devoted to topics of little general interest like "Effect of Activity and Cold on the Metabolic Rate and Body Temperature of Redpolls." A panel on Native Education was an exception, however, and a lively one.

Dr. Frank Darnell, moderator and head of the Center of Northern Education Research at the University of Alaska, set the pace by declaring it had been well established that pro-

blems existed and he hoped emphasis would be on solutions.

"The Natives must become more involved in any changes that are going to come in our education," began Adam John, Fairbanks Native Community Center. "We have an abundance of welders. We have an abundance of janitors...people who have become vocationally educated. Those policies they set for us have never been our own."

"We are never going to become extinct despite programs... Well, we are never going to become extinct!"

John warned that educated Indians and Eskimos pose a threat to the establishment.

"Educators should be viewed

as businessmen with a product we need," he concluded. "We can demand high quality."

As for conferences on education, "If they don't invite us, we should do some gate crashing!"

John Shively, director of Rural CAP which runs 38 Head Start programs, maintained the key to success in rural education is reliance on local people to carry out the programs.

"Our experience has proved that village people can make the kinds of decisions that we've asked them to and can carry out the responsibility for running an educational program," he said.

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