

# Tundra Times

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Inupiat Paitot *People's Heritage*

Den Nena Henash *Our Land Speaks*

Unanguq Tunuktaq *The Aleuts Speak*



Tingit  
Ut kah neek *Informing and Reporting*

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# AIR FARES SEGREGATE BUSH



EAGER FACES wait the next handful of candies, then the kids scramble in the snow for the wrapped pieces. Most carried plastic bread wrappers for sacks to carry their loot.

## 40 Per Cent Higher Rates Than Elsewhere Effectively Cut Off Bush

By MADELYN SHULMAN  
Staff Writer

Air travel between Alaska's cities and rural areas is at least 40 per cent higher than intra-state travel in the lower 48 and more expensive than air service between Alaska and outside areas.

What does this do?

High fares affect the people least able to pay them—the Alaskan Native people in the rural areas.

It effectively discourages Native Alaskans from moves to the cities to attempt upward mobility.

It prevents contact between Native and white Alaskans, effectively segregating the two groups.

It prevents tourists from seeing any more of Alaska than they can reach via the highway system.

High air cargo rates raise the cost of living in Alaska's rural areas, acting to help prevent rural families from bettering their standard of living.

These are the conclusions presented by Walter B. Parker, Transportation Planning Officer for the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska in a study produced last summer on the effects of high

bush air fares on areas where cash income is low.

The report was produced as source material for the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) hearings this year on the intra-Alaska route structure and fares.

The study found that efficient scheduled jet service has been extended to most of Alaska's population centers.

"All in all," the report says, "the jets have brought a tremendous increase in mobility for many Alaskans; namely, those who can afford frequent use of the system."

Yet, the highest air fares in Alaska are between the cities and rural villages—the routes patronized by the Alaskans least able to pay the high fares—40 per cent higher in cost per mile than air fares between cities and rural areas in the lower 48.

Cargo rates between city and (Continued on Page 6)

## Guard Brings Christmas to St. Mary's

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the late arrival through the mails, the following Christmas story by Betzi Woodman was delayed a week.)

By BETZI WOODMAN

ST. MARY'S—There were ushers this year to escort us to our seats in the cavernous metal building which is gymnasium and auditorium at St. Mary's.

Topping the program handed to each of us was a sketch of a C-123 airplane and the words, WELCOME AIR NATIONAL GUARD. At the bottom we read "Operation Santa Claus: 1970."

This was a long step from the informal activities which first greeted the Air Guard here some dozen or more years ago. Operation Santa Claus had its debut then when an Air Guard pilot delivered moose meat from an accidental kill to the mission school then an isolated orphanage.

The meat was dropped on the snowy hillside and the pilot could not forget the people's scrambling for the meat. Next time oranges and Christmas candy were added as a treat.

But air-dropping such perishables has its perils—and one load of oranges burst open, scattering along the frozen river. It is reported that the children below retrieved every one.

"Adoption proceedings" began after that, with the Guard making personal contact with the remote school.

Deliveries are made to other villages and schools also, but

St. Mary's with its children from many communities claimed a special place in the Air Guard's heart and the unique relationship has grown deeper each year.

The school has added a high school and become accredited in those years. Airplane crews from the planes, which landed on the frozen river in front of the school prior to building of the air strip a few miles away, regularly lost a basketball game to the St. Mary's team on these visits.

Entertainment grew in scope and participants. But the basic friendship between the Air Guard and St. Mary's has never wavered.

The program-makers this year, wise to weather delays in Alaska's bush, did not date the schedule of events, for we

might not have gotten there on the planned December 18.

As it was, we were more than an hour later than the announced 1 p.m. when we (Continued on Page 7)

## Union Leaders Declare Native Corporations, Unions Conflict

Tribal and native association corporations bidding on state and pipeline contracts are coming into conflict with unions in Alaska in many of their attempts to bring work to native people.

Ed Orbeck, head of the Laborer's Union in Fairbanks, ex-

plained the conflicts between Native Associations and labor unions in a talk before the Farthest North Press Club last week.

He appeared there along with representatives of three other labor unions to explain unemployment problems in the state.

The unions object to Native Association hiring and contract provisions, which are often, they feel, unfairly competitive to companies which hire union labor at standard wages.

"Most of the problem is that the Native groups have lawyers who know a lot about tribal and land claim law, but nothing about labor law, which is a complicated and different field," Orbeck said.

Among the conflicts discussed by the union leaders was one at Valdez which led to a meeting of AFN board members and labor leaders in Juneau on December 20. On December 23, committees from the AFN and the labor groups met in Anchorage to try to resolve the difficulties.

"There were several problems in Valdez," explained Orbeck. "First, the Chugach Native Association represents its group as an employer and as a union. This is a violation of the Landon Griffin Act," Orbeck said.

"They only hire people from Native tribes, which is against fair employment regulations. (Continued on Page 2)

## Taos Pueblo Indians of New Mexico Regain Their Beloved Blue Lake

In New Mexico, the area in the Sangre de Cristo mountains known as Blue Lake has been called "the Indian capitol of the world," by Governor Querino Romero of the Taos Pueblo.

Early this month, the Senate passed an historic bill which restored the Blue Lake area to the people of Taos Pueblo, 64 years after it was taken from them and made part of the

Carson National Forest.

Indian people all over the United States, and the world, have supported the Taos Pueblo in their fight to regain these lands, which are intrinsically sacred to their culture and religion.

The short announcement of the passage, which was hailed by Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce as "one

of the greatest things the Congress has ever done for Indian people in America," is the climax of a long struggle.

One of the more interesting practices, in a debate of this type, is to browse through pertinent portions of the Congressional Record, seeking the information which Senators have included to bolster their pro and

(Continued on Page 6.)

