



Women's Equality Day

By Peggy Perales

At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971 the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." August 26, 2006, honors the 86th anniversary of women in the United States winning the right to vote.

The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

To win the right to vote, women conducted a 72-year political campaign. This political campaign began at the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls in July of 1848 and ended with the passage of the 19th Amendment on August 26, 1920.

When Americans vote, they are taking action to support this democracy and to recognize the unrelenting tenacity and spirit of women who worked to secure the vote for women in the United States.

The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality. Workplaces, libraries, organizations, and public facilities now participate with Women's Equality Day programs, displays, video showings, or other activities. ●



Photo: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders
Bella Abzug

Ways to Celebrate Women's Equality Day

- Celebrate at your workplace by honoring women who have made contributions to your company or to your field
- Celebrate at your women's club or civic organization with a luncheon, a speaker or a video
- Decorate with time lines or posters celebrating the contributions of women to American life
- Honor outstanding women in your community at an inspiring evening event
- Put together a display at your local library, bookstore or community center
- Put together a scrapbook or memory book about significant women or events for women in your community or workplace



Picket line in front of White House, February 1917

**Federal Women's Program
Women's Equality
August 21, 2006**

Generations: Moving History Forward

Living History: America's Daughters Making a Difference

Information Provided by: Avee Evans

During this year's program, that was held in the Anchorage Federal Building, the Federal Women's Program (FWP) acquainted the participants with both possibilities for the future and with the historic contributions of their parents in the federal government. Through a variety of activities, the girls learned about where their parents work, what that work is, what federal government agencies are, and what those agencies do in support of our nation. Through the planned activities, we were able to broaden their outlook so they can look beyond the standard and common careers available to them.

The event was sponsored by the Federal Women's Program Interagency Committee (FWPIC) and they enjoyed the chance to highlight the types of careers that are available at our own agencies. The FWP put together an exciting career day event for young women, ages 8-12. There were several activities designed to enlighten, encourage, and challenge them to see the opportunities and career options they most likely wouldn't realize until much later in their lives.

The career day started with an ice breaker where the parents introduced their daughters and then moved into the activities of the day.

What's My Line – To increase their awareness of what is involved in certain career fields that previously may have been completely unknown options to them by guessing what each woman's career is.

Skits – "Guess what's wrong with this picture?" High school students performed short skits depicting un/professional behavior, un/professional attire, dis/respect of different cultures, etc.

Time for lunch! Pizza and a movie!

Career Expo – was set up just like a mini job fair. Six booths, National Park Service, BLM, National Weather Service, FAA, Corps of Engineers, and VA. Each of the agencies represented on the FWPIC had a "booth". Of course, the booths were age appropriate and connected to the information the girls learned during the "What's My Line". It was fun!

Scavenger Hunt – Teams were divided up and roamed the federal building (with an FWP guide) looking for fun and informative facts about each agency. Girls now have a better understanding of what and why their mothers or fathers work for their respective agency and what other career options are available to them in the federal government. Great prizes were awarded! ●

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE NOME

By KELLY SONGSTER, WSO NOME INTERN

After growing up in the heat and humidity of St. Louis, Missouri and the deserts of Western Colorado, I knew that someday, I had to be an Alaskan resident. The television broadcast scenes of majestic glaciers, leaping whales, soaring eagles, streams dancing with salmon, and huge mountains that pierce the sky...THIS is Alaska! Well, this is not Nome. I am going to tell you what none of the web sites do.

Nome is the quirky aunt in the Alaskan family. A little homely at first glance, but she has a fantastic personality!



Don't get me wrong, looking out over Norton Sound is just as relaxing and beautiful as any other body of water – the beach is just “missing” the bikini clad coeds. Oh, and one must



Fishing near Dexter off the Kugarok Road.



The Fall Tundra with the Kugluiak Mountains in the Background



Looking for gold on the still frozen beaches of Nome in June!

not forget the Kigluaik Mountains and Salmon Lake just north of Nome that are so beautiful and untouched – truly an eyeful for a simple girl from Colorado...where's the ski lift? Trees?

So, what makes Nome, well...Nome?

The people who live in this town are characters. It's striking how much the joy of life shines in the average Nomeite. We race bathtubs down our streets and rubber ducky's down our golden rivers! We keep reindeer as pets and



Lazy sled dogs

power our 4 wheelers with sled dogs! We change our own oil, build our own house, and kill our own meat. We use original works of art as currency! We laugh hard, we work hard, and, boy, do we laugh hard!

I have lived my whole life in cities full of manicured

lawns and chain stores. Everything was accessible and you could always pay someone 20 bucks to rotate your tires and replace a tail light. It didn't take long for me to realize how lazy I was!



Polar bear swim

Living in Nome certainly does not qualify as "roughing it" - Nome has everything that any other small town in the lower 48 has

– it will cost twice as much, but it is there if you need it. Nome takes away the distractions of a consumer society and it puts you back about 50 years into a

community, not just a collection of buildings full of nameless faces providing goods and services.



Nome is the finish line for the Iditarod!!

What do you mean "I have to plug in my car?!?"

I remember my Missouri days when 25° Fahrenheit was amazingly cold and the only time a car was plugged in was if it was "one of those fancy hybrids."

This past winter, there was a celebration every time the mercury rose above zero! And by the time it did - I knew without even looking at a thermometer. Besides my newly thickened blood, I now have

the sound of my car as a thermometer - when the temperature drops below -20° - I know the second I start my car. She growls louder than when I took her above 80 MPH on the highway. (ahem, yes, it was no faster than 80...)

Nome is a fantastic place for my inner weather nerd...the great Bering Sea storms stir things up every fall, the blizzards make their almost daily appearance during the winter – and when it is not snowing, look out for the cold! The spring drapes



A fall storm pushes waves over the sea wall



Winter moon peaks out from behind a gold dredge

everything in fog (well at least everything south of Anvil Mountain), and the summer gives you just enough sun to remind you what life is like without a coat. My kind of place!

Well, that's my impression of Nome, Alaska.

I feel like I'm on a really long, fantastic vacation. Nome is one of those places that everyone has a strong, definitive reaction to. Most people either leave faster than you can say "blizzard", or they end up staying for ever and ever. Maybe that's why there truly is no place like Nome! ●

For more information and pictures visit: www.tomsnome.com or www.nomealaska.org

Veteran's Wheelchair Games

The 26th Annual National Veteran's Wheelchair Games were held in Anchorage July 3-8. Over 550 wheelchair athletes participated in this event – the second largest games, in the smallest city ever. Without local volunteers, the games would not be possible.

Alaska Region employees did their part as participants in the opening and closing ceremonies and as "fans in the stands" at many of the venues including the hand-cycle race, table tennis, power soccer, and quad rugby. The athletes and organizers of the event were continually impressed by the numbers of "fans in the stands" Alaskans provided. For more information go to: <http://www1.va.gov/vetevent/nwvg/2006v2/Default.cfm> ●



Photo credit: Dept. of Veterans Affairs

What in the World is WEIO?

By Nikole Gallegos

After living in Alaska for the majority of my life, I consider myself a native Alaskan. Each year I am approached by interns, new employees, and tourists I meet along the way who believe me to be an expert on living in Alaska. All too often I realize I am not as knowledgeable about Alaska as one would expect. This evening I found myself watching the news and a discussion about the WEIO - World Eskimo-Indian Olympics. Although I knew what it was about, mostly from trying my best in elementary school events such as the Eskimo stick pull, I decided to do a bit of research and seek out more information.

Two Wein Airways pilots, the late A.E. Bud Hagberg and now retired Frank Whaley, were spectators of the traditional Native games while traveling to the various villages. Bud and Frank believed that as the western ways were becoming increasingly popular in the villages, the traditional events would be lost. Credited as the organizers of the WEIO in 1961, Bud and Frank co-chaired the first several events while pilots Bill English and the late Tom Richards, Sr., emceed. WEIO was first sponsored by the City of Fairbanks through the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce and is still held there in mid-July for four days each year. Very much an athletic competition, the games celebrate the physical skills required for Natives to survive in the arctic. The games were created to teach children to be tough in not just one area, but in all areas of physical agility by strengthening all parts of the body. Today, the WEIO has grown to over fifty games including four Eskimo and two Indian dance groups, as well as the Miss World Eskimo-Indian Olympics pageant, an event similar to the Miss America pageant.



Photo by K. Bogan
Miss WEIO 2006
Ashley Stickman, Miss Arctic Circle,
Koyukon Athabascan from Kotzebue
originally from Galena

Until 1969, only men were able to compete. Women's events were established in the 1970's and in 1998 women began taking first, second, and third place in a competition called the "Ear Weight" -- a competition where each contestant must lift weights that are attached to their ears by loops of twine. In the past, 25 pounds of flour was used; today, 1 pound lead ingots are used with another pound added after each participant successfully carries the previous weight. Weights are gradually added leading up to a maximum weight of 16 pounds. The key is that they must lift the weight without using their cheek, pack the weight, and then go for the distance.

The knuckle hop, or seal hop, looks much like that of a seal moving across the earth. A test of strength and endurance, the competitor gets into the position of a push-up with all of their weight resting on the knuckles. The toes and elbows are only partially bent while keeping the back straight, and only toes and knuckles touching the ground. The competitor then attempts to "hop" forward, going as far as possible.

Other events include the ear pull, where two competitors are joined by a piece of string looped around their ears and sit face to face. The goal of this contest is to pull away from each other while trying to keep the string around their ears and bear the pain that ensues.

The premier events of the WEIO are the one-foot high kick and the two-foot high kick. These events often achieve distances equal to the height of a basketball net. The history



of the one-foot high kick was that when a messenger from a hunting or whaling crew was within visual distance of the villagers, the high kick would signal to the villagers that a whale had been taken or other game was running near. The more complicated

two-foot high kick was the messenger signaling that a whale had been taken and the villagers were to prepare themselves for beaching the whale.

Similar to the Olympic Games logo, the WEIO logo is six interconnected rings that represent the six major tribes of Alaska: Eskimo, Athabaskan, Tsimshian, Haida, Tlingit, and Aleut.

Records are broken almost every year and other games have evolved including the Native Youth Olympics and Arctic Winter Sports. For further information on the WEIO, check out <http://www.weio.org> and <http://fairbanks-alaska.com/eskimo-indian-olympic-history.htm>. ●

Profile: David Angaiak, 35 Years With NWS

By Peggy Perales

On August 24, 2006, David achieved the rare distinction of spending 35 years in Alaska with the National Weather Service, marking a milestone of 35 years of service with the Federal Government.

His career has taken him to many locations within the Alaska Region, including tours of duty at Barter Island, Talkeetna, Unalakleet, and Bethel with the majority of his career spent as a Meteorological Technician at Fairbanks and King Salmon -- where he currently resides.

In his 35 year career, he has participated in many different aspects of the technological changes for gathering weather data including the automation of the upper air and surface observing programs, and the modernization of the National Weather Service. He has worked with communications equipment ranging from teletype machines to high speed systems such as the WSONet currently in place at the Alaska Weather Service Offices.

David's dedication to his job and long service to the State of Alaska and the National Weather Service showcases the dedication he puts into all aspects of his life.

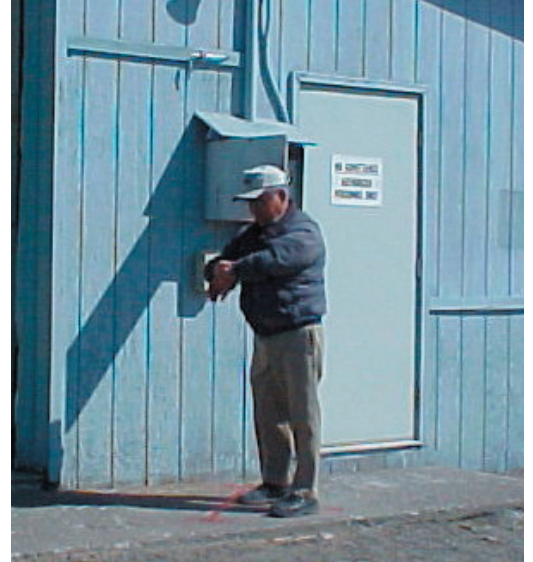


CAREER SUMMARY

David Angaiak

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/NOAA National Weather Service

06/03/69 - 05/20/70	Met Tech	Barter Island, AK
06/09/70 - 09/10/70	"	Talkeetna, AK
05/20/71 - 09/03/71	"	Talkeetna
05/08/72	CC Appt	"
07/28/72	Resignation	Bethel, AK
06/11/73	Reins-CC	"
09/02/73	"	Barter Island
02/17/74	"	Unalakleet, AK
11/21/76	"	Bethel
07/01/79	"	King Salmon, AK
08/07/94	"	Fairbanks, AK
	"	King Salmon



Jim Smith caught this monster on July 15th at Russel Creek, just south of Cold Bay. The fish weighed almost 20 pounds caught with a silver and pink 1/2 oz. Pixie on 12 pound test line.