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Karen McPherson, reporter

Series: APRN Radio Feeds tapes

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10/19/1979

Karen McPherson talked about the deadline for miners to file mining applications for claims located before October 21, 1976. Claims after that date must be registered within ninety days of staking claim. She discussed the materials needed to file mining claims including 100 dollars of labor for each claim annually. McPherson said Bowman Hinkley from the Bureau of Land Management said there have been many late filers and that is just human nature.

[Christmas music]

10/18/79

Karen McPherson said one of the two Christmas stamps issued by the United States Postal Service for this year was dedicated at North Pole. The ceremony for the stamp dedication and participants are described. The stamp has a cookie cutter type Santa Claus on it. McPherson talked about the number of stamps issued with the new design, two billion. North Pole was a natural choice for the dedication. The first day cover or cachet was designed by Byron Burnsall. A poem by poet laureate Sheila Nickerson is on the back. McPherson reads the poem.

10/17/79

Karen McPherson said Gene Torrey is a liquor distributor. A distributor represents distilleries, breweries, and wineries to market their products. There are four distributors in Fairbanks and the competition is keen primarily due to the slow local economy. Each distributor has its specific lines and must compete for sales. The distilleries, breweries and wineries select the distributor for their product on the basis of performance. Gene Torrey said the biggest key to sales is to try to increase the quality of advertising they have. The breweries and wineries provide them with very good point of sale merchandising tools. They use those tools to a better degree now. They are keenly aware of pricing. They have hired a merchandising person who is responsible for going around to stores to put up displays to try to create more awareness of a product. McPherson asked about the pitch for something like Kailua. Torrey said it starts at the national level where many dollars are invested in the right kind of advertising programs. They can only use paper media with liquors. Beer and wine can advertise on television. This is a unique problem for the distilleries. When they get into a store situation they try to make the product as visible as possible. They are prohibited by law to give samples. They put together a special drink promotion party. McPherson said wine has had increased sales. Torrey said wine consumption is on the upswing. People are becoming more interested and knowledgeable about wine. Beer continues to be a big seller in Fairbanks. Torrey said seventy percent of beer is consumed by males and he is targeted as a customer. He described the typical consumers of liquor. McPherson said everyone responds to advertising differently and it is in response to heavy advertising.

10/17/79

McPherson said last night was the first of two meetings to determine the fate of the Delta buffalo. Under regulations surplus buffalo can be transferred to private ownership. They can be purchased outside from commercial operators and shipped in state. About fifty people came to testify. They contacted a member of the Buffalo Liberation Front for their comments. Voice of someone pretending to be a buffalo and making comments about the treatment of buffalo.

10/16/79

McPherson said the Alaska Board of Game will be holding hearings in Fairbanks and Delta Junction to discuss a number of controversial topics including trapping, wolves, moose, caribou, and bison. The issue of bison management will have a slightly different twist than the harm they cause to Delta barley fields. The board will be concerned about the domestication of the buffalo. Public comment will be heard about the possibility of transferring all or part of the herd to private ownership to develop a red meat industry. This has had some success in the lower forty eight, but less so here. There are beefalo in Kodiak and Delta Junction. In the early 1960s about twenty-five head of buffalo were given to Delta farmers and ranchers. According to Robert Henman not much commercial success resulted from that experiment. Lou Fett still has buffalo and beefalo and still believes in the viability of the industry. He gets a greater price for the non-beef because of a greater demand for the product. Buffalo milk is not part of the industry because of a limited amount produced. By crossing buffalo and beef Fett has more docile animals. The large amount of potential grazing land may encourage Fett to increase his herd. Fett did not have problems with his original buffalo rejoining the original herd. McPherson asked how much meat was produced per animal. Fett thought a domesticated cattle would bring more meat than a bison

would. He would be in favor of transferring some of the wild herd to private ownership to promote a red meat industry. He thinks it would be profitable. Representative Moss is in favor of increasing the number of buffalo and a buffalo industry.

10/16/79

McPherson said at about 8:30 in the evening there will be an additional light in the sky by a fifty foot rocket designed to create an artificial aurora display. Neal Brown explains what the visual impact will be. It will appear as a bright streak from Fairbanks. It is the first of 31 slated to be launched. It is duplicating the same processes as a natural aurora. They want to be able to make a distinction between aurora and nuclear weapons. The information coming out of the experiment can be applied to all sorts of peaceful pursuits.

10/15/79

McPherson said today is the opening day of a forty-five day filing period for over 100,000 acres of state land. Half of that land is in the interior and northern portions of the state. Included are remote parcels north of McKinley Park, south of Chena Hot Springs Road and along the Wood River in the northeastern Alaska Range. Lots near Tok, home sites near Delta Junction and agricultural land near Delta are all also being offered. Remote parcels are offered for lease for ten years. If those leasing the land want to purchase the land it must be purchased and offered at fair market value. Agriculture land will be sold for its appraised value. Home sites have further restrictions. Alaska residency is required.

10/15/79

McPherson said today is World Poetry Day. Governor Jay Hammond encourages all Alaskans to read a poem or write a poem to give special recognition to this art form and the poets of the world. Sheila Nickerson is Alaska's poet laureate. She is in Fairbanks to give readings and hold workshops. She talks about her writing process. She thinks a poem can be written anywhere by looking at your surroundings.