“I had found that the pure democracy and egalitarianism of Alaskans which had so impressed me was subject to one exception: It did not apply to the Native people—Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts.”

—Ernest Gruening, governor of Alaska, U.S. senator

Images accompanying “THE ROSA PARKS OF NOME”:
ALASKA’S ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1945 AND TWO WOMEN PIVOTAL TO ITS PASSAGE

Fourth Avenue in Seward, Alaska, c. 1939. On the truck, from left, Natalia [Kayander?], Vesta Chilstrom, [above Vesta, name not known], Elizabeth Olson, Beatrice Skinner (partly visible), staff member Areta Howell in dark cap with pointed crown [possibly her son Teddy or Harold peering over the side of the truck], Anna June Wilson in plaid coat, Esther Munson (another dark cap), Beatrice Sandstrom directly in front of Esther; on the tailgate, Wilma Carlson, Alice Hughes, Frances Anderson, Marianne Olson; and behind Frances, Mabel Sheward. [Girl in head-scarf, face turned away, name not known.] Photo and names thanks to Anna June Wilson Ollestad. From *Family After All: Alaska’s Jesse Lee Home, Vol. II, Seward 1925-1965*. 
“Educated Eskimos, of Alaska, Graduates of Carlisle University.” From the collection of Raymond L. Hudson.

Ann Wemark at Wales, Alaska, c. 1946. From the collection of Ann Wemark Rodgers, in *Family After All*.

Matilda Wemark at Wales, Alaska, c. 1946. From the collection of Ann Wemark Rodgers, in *Family After All*. 
Communications

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is a long story, but I will have to make it as brief as possible. It concerns race between natives, breeds and whites.

I believe the Americans and also the Allies are fighting for the purpose of freedom. Many of our early ancestors fought for the same purpose, so their children and children's children, etc., would be free. I myself am part Eskimo and Irish and so are many others. I only truthfully know that I am one of God's children regardless of race, color, or creed. You or I or anyone else is not to blame what we are. But we are all proud to be what God has made us.

Why was it Thomas Jefferson and his men signed the Declaration of Independence? You or I know for certain that they did not fight and had thousands injured and killed for nothing. It has been known and said through centuries that all American citizens have the right to go, do and say what they please.

What has hurt us constantly is that we are not able to go to a public theater and sit where we wish, but yet we pay the same price as anyone else and our money is gladly received. We are not allowed even to go to public doings, only when money is concerned for the benefit of the so-called society people of our city.

These human beings who think they are in a higher standard than others admit they are citizens of America, but the majority are not loyal to what is written in the Constitution.

Every so often Red Cross donations are contributed by all the people regardless of who they are, for the aid of foreign countries surrounding America. We gladly offer and give help to those in need but when Red Cross social entertainments are given, we are entirely left out. It looks as
SUPER RACE THEORY HIT IN HEARING

Native Sisterhood President Hits All "Rights" Bill Opposition

made to Roy Peratrovich, Grand President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. "This bill will aggravate rather than alleviate the little feeling that already exists," he stated.

Peratrovich was then asked for his views by Senator Tobert Scott, one of the first men to call for Indian participation in business and government. He spoke from the floor of the Senate, where he had recognized the existence of discrimination. He quoted the plank adopted by the Democratic Party in some of the political campaigns of the past, which read: "We believe that all men shall be considered as equal before the law and shall have full enjoyment of complete civil and political rights." He pointed out that the bill would be shunted into a "disgraceful" committee and that it would be defeated.

"Only an Indian can know how it feels to be discriminated against," Peratrovich said. "Either you are discriminated or you are not. It is up to you to vote on this bill."

At the conclusion of his amendment, Senator Frank Whaley revealed that he had prepared a bill to protect the interests of the natives. He stated that the bill would protect the interests of the natives and that he would not vote for the amendment. He added that the bill would be a step in the right direction.

The bill opposition was also heard by Senator Whaley. He stated that the bill would be a step in the right direction and that it would protect the interests of the natives. He added that the bill would be a step in the right direction.

"A motion to report progress, offered by Senator Walker, was approved, following the testimony of Senator Collins, which terminated the discussion.

Hi, Bill! Feb. 7
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska:

All citizens within the jurisdiction of the Territory of Alaska shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of public inns, restaurants, eating houses, hotels, soda fountains, soft drink parlors, taverns, roadhouses, barber shops, beauty parlors, bathrooms, resthouses, theaters, skating rinks, cafes, ice cream parlors, transportation companies, and all other conveyances and amusements, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all citizens.

Punishment. Any person who shall violate or aid or incite a violation of said full and equal enjoyment, or any person who shall display any printed or written sign indicating a discrimination on racial grounds of said full and equal enjoyment, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in jail for not more than thirty (30) days or fined not more than $250.00 or both. Approved February 16, 1945.
Miss Bertha McGhee and “11 Eskimos” at the Jesse Lee Home, Seward. Photo courtesy of Virginia Search Kirk.

July 7, 1927, Jesse Lee Home, Seward, Alaska

Flag designer Benny Benson and daughters at the 75th anniversary of the Jesse Lee Home, 1965. Photo courtesy of Virginia Search Kirk, in *Family After All.*

In the Jesse Lee kitchen, c. 1930:
Miss Anna Irene Gould and helpers.
Photo courtesy of Barry Hatten, in *Family After All.*
Young dancers and elders of the Qutekcak Native Tribe, Seward. Back row, from left: Elders Marge Christiansen, Leo Kunnuk and Josephine Dudley; youth coordinator Melanee Stevens and daughter Ariana. Middle row, from left: Priscilla, Alex, elder Ellen Simpson, Amber, Joevahnte. Front: Henry, Adorah and Jesse. October 2008 photo and caption courtesy of Melanee Stevens, for Qutekcak.

Remembering
ALBERTA SCHENCK ADAMS (above),
June 1, 1928—July 6, 2009, and
ELIZABETH WANAMAKER PERATROVICH,
<table>
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<tr>
<th>1910</th>
<th>1913</th>
<th>1920</th>
<th>1945</th>
<th>1964</th>
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<td>Women’s suffrage, Washington state</td>
<td>Women’s suffrage, territory of Alaska</td>
<td>Women’s suffrage, U.S.</td>
<td>Alaska Anti-Discrimination Act</td>
<td>U.S. Civil Rights Act</td>
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**Pioneers**