

# Greenland Changing Rapidly, Special Mail Tribune Correspondent Reports

(Editor's note: Walter Mattila, a Portland newspaperman, is on a flight aboard a Scandanavia Airline plane across the top of the world. He has agreed to send dispatches concerning his trip to The Mail Tribune. A frequent visitor to the northern European countries, Mattila speaks several of the languages, including his family's Finnish tongue. He plans to spend several months there. The following is his first dispatch, written for The Mail Tribune. It was mailed from Blue West Eight in Greenland, and arrived via Polar Air Mail. In it he describes the great changes being made in Greenland.)

By WALTER MATTILA  
Mail Tribune Special Writer  
Blue West Eight, Greenland  
(By Polar Air Mail)—Social evolution in Greenland was stagnant from the Stone Age to a little more than a generation ago, but today great changes are occurring rapidly.

Denmark neglected Greenland for centuries until soon after World War I when Norway pressed its claim for at least the eastern shore. After the World Court at The Hague awarded the island to the Danes they proceeded to see what they had received.

**Stone Age Culture**  
Danish explorers found tribes previously unheard of perishing in feuds and Stone Age culture on the more remote coast line. (Some five sixths of this world's largest island is under an ice cap. Only the south tip has substantial plant growth.)

With a long history of territorial administration behind them the Danes proceeded discreetly. They began introducing Western civilization gradually. Education was transferred from the state Lutheran church to civil authorities. Medical care was provided. Greenlanders were taught use of the hammer,

saw, axe, fish knife. To bolster the economy the island was explored for minerals. These were found to be fairly abundant but too costly to exploit. However cryolite mining prospered. Sheep and reindeer were transplanted there. Hunters were sold guns and trappers got better gear. The cod fishery soon flourished upon introduction of European type ocean fishing boats. Plants for storing fish were erected and markets were found in Europe and North and South America.

The population is increasing rapidly as a result of lengthening of the normal span of life. Game is disappearing and the Stone Age hunter is becoming a wage earner in fishing boats, mines and fish plants. A new moral code is shaping up, oriented to the mores of the West. The new code doesn't fit too well.

**Prestige Slips**  
In family life the prestige of the game hunting husband and father is slipping. Hunting is now essentially a hobby, not a source of livelihood. The state has a whale killer launch running offshore which brings in harpooned whales for cutting up by the natives. The fat in particular appears to be necessary in the diet, following the loss of seals which have dwindled in number. With his family thriving on "WPA" whale blubber, the husband and father is no longer a great hunter around the whale blubber candle light in the igloo.

The Danes have been under criticism from young Eskimos for spoon-feeding Western civilization to the culture-hungry Eskimos. These critics attended Greenland schools, including a state academy, and then polished off their education at universities in Denmark. They were dissatisfied with what they regarded as deliberate holding up their ice-capped country of the parents didn't

The Danes have met the complaints of the young by creating Greenland as an integral part of the kingdom, with two members in parliament for its 23,000 people. Greenland has its own coinage and postage and many of the civil administrators are Greenlanders. As a result of the cod fishery and mining, the people are approaching a self-supporting status.

Denmark has established its social welfare program in basic form on the island. Much attention has been given by medical authorities to fighting tuberculosis, which is still prevalent among the natives. Some of the afflicted are flown for care to Denmark, whose once-filled tuberculosis sanitariums now are largely unoccupied.

**Evils Come Too**  
With the fruits of civilization have come evils, too. Thievery, unknown in Stone Age culture on the island, is now almost as common as tuberculosis. For the

first time police have been organized in Greenland under a Danish executive.

Native crafts, such as cloth, boat and weapon making, are being forgotten. Hunting skills are not cultivated. Women, instead of knitting and sewing, buy ready made clothes and listen to the Eskimo hour on the Greenland radio.

Almost all the islanders remain religiously devout except the juvenile delinquents.

**Times Changing**  
For transportation the Eskimo in summer has a putt-putt, which he insists must be high powered. His wife still does much walking. His children speak Danish as well as Eskimo and listen to the radio programs in Eskimo and Danish. The Greenland newspaper, still without comics, comes out in both languages.

Neither the Eskimos nor the Danes are fully satisfied with what happens when Eskimo meets West.



APPEALING TO PRESIDENT, Leo J. Killoren, father of 13, hopes to be saved from deportation to Ireland. He came to U. S. in 1925 using ticket issued to brother, Patrick, who decided at last minute to remain in Erin. With Killoren in New York home is Paul, 14 months, one of big family he reared. (International)

## On The Side By E. V. Durling

The majority of pipe smokers don't know how to smoke a pipe. For example, they don't know how to pack a pipe to produce a long, even smoke. The average pipeful of tobacco should last at least forty minutes. The record is eight-eight minutes.

**Among The Married**  
A Bostonian complains his wife seldom seems to listen to anything he says. He asks if this is a sign of fading love. Does it mean, he inquires, that the "honeymoon is over?" There is no cause for the gentleman to be alarmed. The situation referred to is a common one among the married. It was Wilson Mizner who observed, "The only time a wife really listens to what her husband is saying is when he talks in his sleep."

**Growing Girls**  
Girls usually reach half their height when 2½ years old. For example, if you have a daughter of that age who is now nearly three feet, she is due to be extremely statuesque. The future height of a girl can also be checked when she is 8 and when she is 14. At 8 she reaches 75 per cent of her final height. At 14 she should be about 90 per cent of her probable adult height.

**Business Asset**  
Triple initials can definitely be a business asset. They keep the name of a man or firm strongly in mind. A Los Angeles realtor named C. C. Tatum once told me he thought his triple initials had been a great factor in his success. I have heard the same said of a San Franciscan named A. B. C. Dohrman. For a double initial name I think E. V. Durling is all right but perhaps A. B. C. Durling would be better in giving people something to remember me by.

**Passing By**  
Danny Thomas. Highly successful comic actor. Real name Amos Jacobs. Born in Deerfield, Mich., reared in Toledo, Ohio. Early in his career Danny hit a streak of bad luck and was broke, unknown and unable to get a job. A friend suggested he pray to St. Jude, the patron saint of the forsaken. Danny did. His luck soon changed and has been good ever since. Now his favorite charity is St. Jude's Hospital.

**Sidelights**  
The four attributes of a lady are said to be simplicity, sympathy, serenity and sincerity. However, the present day young females don't go much for that angle. They want to be slinky, sophisticated, sultry and sexy. Brooklyne informs me she was married for the first time at 47 and had her first baby, a girl, at

## Suspect in Gall Beating Claimed Held in California

Lebanon, Ore. —(U.P.)— Police Chief Ned Crippen said today he had received word from Long Beach, Calif., authorities of the arrest of a man suspected of beating Ernest A. Gall of Lebanon recently.

Held by California authorities on a burglary warrant was Dale Ivan Heland, 22, who fled the state after the recent Gall beating. He was held on \$2000 bail. Crippen said Heland was wanted as a suspect in the beating in addition to the burglary charge. Gall was attacked recently by a man who first demanded to see Mrs. Gall, who is undertaking a crusade against the alleged misuse of Linn county welfare funds by some recipients.

Courtney Johns, Linn county District Attorney, said he would immediately initiate extradition proceedings against Heland to return him to the state for prosecution. He said Heland had indicated he would resist extradition.

## Eisenhower Not Above Criticism, Butler Advises

Portland —(U.P.)— Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler last night advised members of the party not to treat President Eisenhower as though he were above criticism.

fact that Eisenhower is directly responsible for the acts of his appointed officers," Butler said. "In the Army it is common practice to spread the blame on down the line, but it is not the proper procedure for the Chief Executive."

Butler then followed his advice with an attack on the President for heading a government "of special interests" and "money changers."

Butler, who is on a nationwide tour, spoke last night at a banquet attended by Multnomah county and Portland Democratic leaders. Earlier yesterday Butler said Democrats have not yet given up their fight for an income tax reduction, and said Eisenhower's opposition to the tax plan insured the Democrats of victory in the 1956 Presidential election. Butler said the power question also would be among the issues in the 1956 campaign.

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