

Nearby Weather Featured:
Slightly Cloudy, with a chance of scattered precipitation later this week.

THE ARCTIC NEWS

Published Every
MONDAY,
WEDNESDAY,
FRIDAY

VOL. 43

No. 87

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA. Monday, September 14, 1982

Single Copy 25cts.

BREAKING NEWS: Local Field Hands Missing—Search and Rescue Efforts Stall

Daniel Simmonds

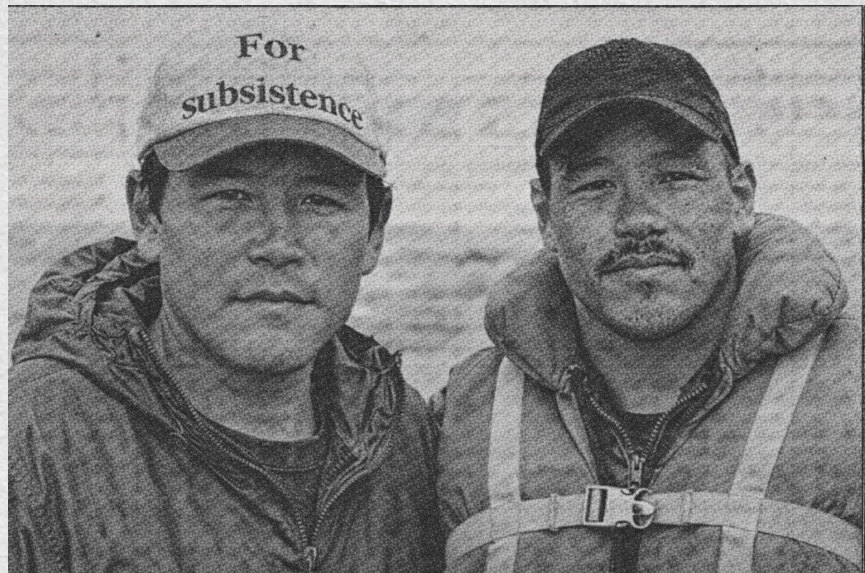
News Contributor

Kotzebue, Alaska — Search and rescue endeavors for two locals have been put on a hiatus following the sea storm that swept south of Kotzebue, Alaska, this past Tuesday afternoon.

The two missing individuals, identified by authorities as Gene Suli and Roscoe Stone, were allegedly part of an expedition as field hands to collect data and conduct measurements regarding seabird nestings. They were both last seen departing Kotzebue early Monday morning. Local witnesses claim they saw a group taking leave in a smaller vessel, reportedly identified as a Contessa 26.

The ongoing storm, causing high sea levels near the general region south of Kotzebue past Cape Blossom, is generating intense conditions that pose a hazard to the overall public. Dr. Barry Raven, the head of the Kotzebue Search and Rescue program, suggested calling off the search due to these haphazard circumstances.

"My team and I are proceeding to track the system," he said in a Wednesday morning interview for the Arctic Times. "Right now,



George Suli and Roscoe Stone on a research expedition. Photo courtesy of George Suli.

conditions aren't safe enough to be scouting around in. I think the smart decision would be to call off the search."

Patty Stone, the spouse of Roscoe Stone, has expressed her dissatisfaction with the direction the search efforts have taken.

"I really think someone ought to keep looking," Patty said during the morning interview. "You don't just decide it's too difficult. I know they're out there."

George Suli, brother of Gene and the initial lead for Search and Rescue, has declined to comment on the matter since stepping aside in his leadership role. "George,

he's a good friend of mine. I know he'd be out there looking right now if they'd let him," Noah Kivigak, a subsistence advocate, said. "But I do understand the reason why they won't let anyone go out. Personally, even I wouldn't be going out in these waters, and I traverse out there quite frequently."

Before Dr. Raven's call to place searching efforts on hiatus, rescue crews made various efforts during the week to navigate the currents surrounding Cape Blossom; however, every attempt was canceled soon thereafter by degrading conditions.