

Nicholls Asks Navy to Clean Up Famous Archaeological Area

The town of Barrow is on a clean up campaign. And it wants the United States Navy to follow its example.

"The ancient village site of Birnirk and the adjacent and still used shooting grounds are inundated by junk," Hugh Nicholls wrote to Senator Ernest Gruening last week.

The area, under reserve to the Navy for its Barrow installation, has been used as a dumping ground. Nicholls, executive director of the Arctic Slope Native Association, asked Gruening to exert pressure to get the proper Navy bureau to clean the area up, monument its corners and "protect this famous and valuable archaeological area from being lost to the heritage of man's progress."

"The same accumulation of rusting parts, wire rope, bent and twisted girders is also slowly forcing our people from the adjacent tenting and camping area, where for untold centuries they have traditionally hunted waterfowl," Nicholls reported.

"The NASA site is practically in the midst of the camp area," he pointed out. It is tolerated because it does not interfere with the camp. "But the accumulated junk of the area is hard to compensate for."

Nicholls said the situation was brought to the attention of the National Parks Division of B.L.M. but they said that though Birnirk is an Historical Site, it is under prior reserve to the Navy.