

Tourism becoming more important

Until recently, cost, near inaccessibility and lack of facilities have hindered development of tourism on St. George Island.

To support the economy on St. George, the St. George Tanaq Corporation initiated a limited visitor program this year to be continued on into the future.

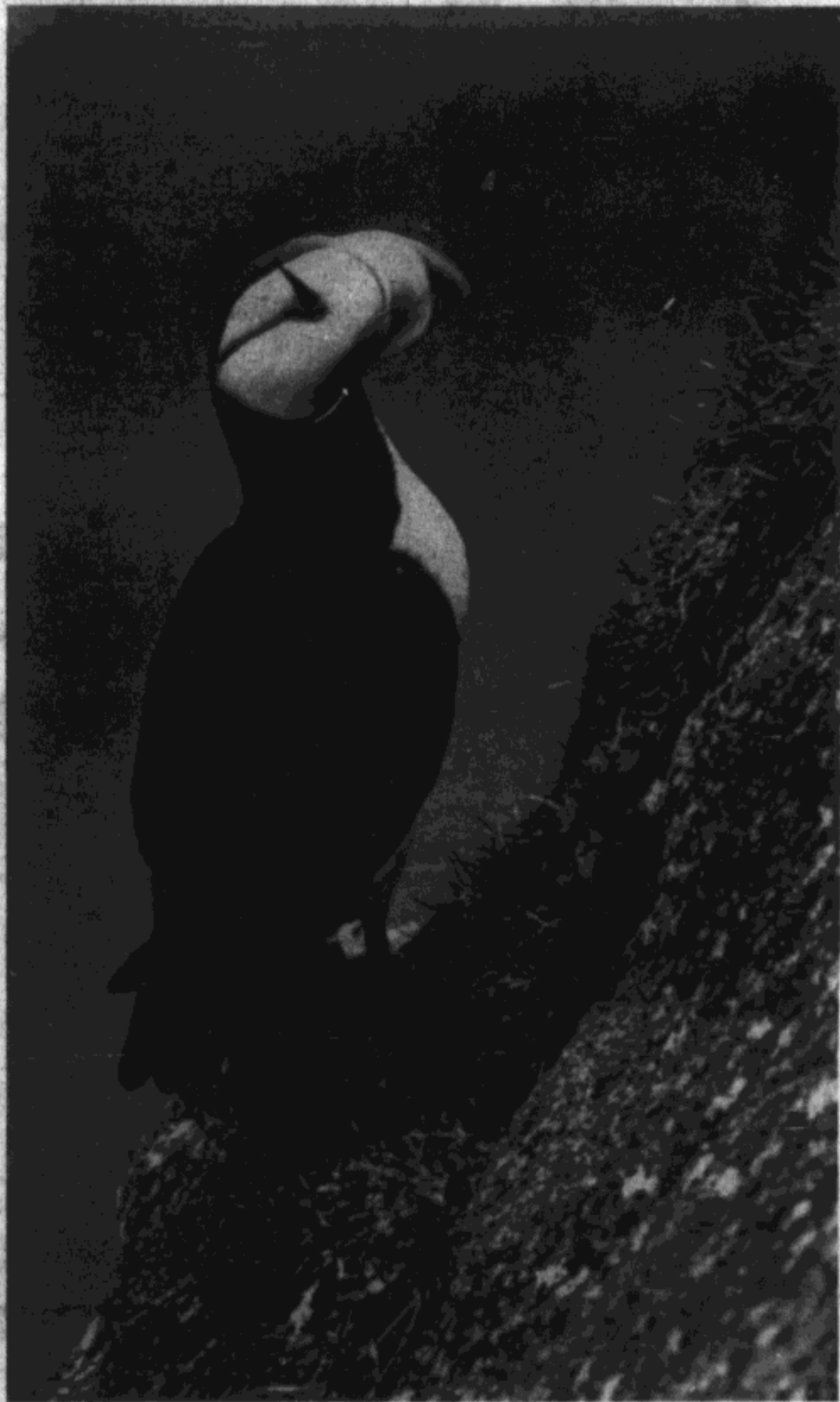
With natural assets such as those found on St. George Island, St. George's tourism program has a very strong foundation.

As the second largest island of the Pribilof Group, St. George supports marine resources of immense and even global significance. St. George Island hosts approximately 2.5 million pelagic seabirds which inhabit the Pribilof Islands. Moreover, of the estimated 1.25 million Northern Fur Seals which visit the Pribilofs each summer, some 20 percent are found on St. George.

The main focus of the St. George Tanaq Corporation's economic program is to stimulate job opportunities on St. George. To accommodate visitors the St. George Hotel has been opened up on the island and this summer was used as a test season — a Linblad Tour's group visited the Island.

If all goes as anticipated quite a few tourists should visit St. George next summer and a number of new employment opportunities will be created.

With strong community support, as was the case last summer, a successful tourism program is inevitable. Everyone involved with the tourism program this year should be congratulated for their efforts.



Horned Puffins are found in amazing abundance on St. George Island.