

Anaktuvuk Increases Arts and Crafts Prices

The Village of Anaktuvuk Pass in the Brooks Range recently notified the Tundra Times of a slight increase in the prices of hand-made items sold by the villagers.

Small skin masks have gone from \$10 to \$12.50, regular masks from \$12.50 to \$15.00 and eared masks from \$15 to \$18.

The village voted to increase the prices due to the rising cost of living.

Accessible only by air in the summer and by the ice road in the winter, the village depends heavily on caribou for food.

According to Bob Ahgook village president, the main source of income is from arts and crafts hand-made items such as those mentioned above, and temporary employment.

Villagers may face financial problems by the end of the fall when their current fuel supplies of oil are scheduled to run out.

The villagers began using oil about three years ago after exhausting their supply of nearby willows. Fuel has been furnished by the Bureau of Indian Affairs but the agency has said that it can no longer provide free oil. Thus, as Ahgook wrote, "the financial problem will have to be met by the residents of Anaktuvuk."

A Bureau spokesman estimated that about 40 per cent of the villagers' incomes will have to go to fuel costs when the present supply runs out.

Anyone interested in purchasing the hand made items should write Ahgook at Anaktuvuk.