



YUKON RIVER VILLAGE — One of the villages visited by the Fish and Wildlife biologists was the village of Nulato (pictured above). The FWS personnel is exploring ways to get input in to planning for proposed refuges and explore ways for greater cooperation and communication between FWS and Native communities.

FWS Says Natives Needed . . .

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better options since some change is inevitable."

Nul-luk-vik . . .

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an order for room service while watching the sun set over the ocean. Color tones are a rich blend of orange and rust.

Area residents said they find the hotel a welcome change from the past, when lodgings were limited and tourists visiting Kotzebue had to spend the night in Nome.

The Nul-luk-vik will also provide increased employment in the hotel field, with management from Sheffield Hotels in Anchorage training local residents. H & S Construction of Anchorage, which handled construction of the hotel, also provided local employment.

A full schedule of events, from welcome dinner complete with Eskimo dancing to a tour of Kiana and Noorvik, is planned for April 18-19, the official opening dates of the hotel. Exhibitions of northern sports will be provided by the local Lions Club, in scheduled races.

Meanwhile, finishing touches are being put on the Nul-luk-vik, including a hotel wide sprinkler system extending to NANA's offices in the hotel.

The internal plant of the hotel, now being completed, reflects not only modern conveniences, but the Eskimo's special concern for the environment.

NANA has installed an internal, self-contained sewage treatment plant, at a cost of \$86,000. The incinerator will burn all trash other than bottles and cans, which will go into a trash compactor and spew out ashes and a grey-colored decontaminated water. Recycled water will be channeled for use in the hotel toilets.

An extra measure of economy is that heat from the incinerator is channeled through hot water pipes to heat other parts of the hotel.

The Nul-luk-vik also boasts its own butcher shop, for preparation of local foods and a special freight entrance for bulk delivery of huge "igloos" of air cargo. The ultra-modern kitchen has the latest culinary equipment, plus walk-in freezers and coolers. The small banquet room seats 75 for dinner.

One final consideration, especially for NANA stockholders and other Alaskans — colored television sets in a number of rooms.

NANA reasoned that out-of-state visitors will stay there whether there are colored television sets or not, but the novelty of cable television is still fresh enough to prove a special attraction in Northwest Alaska.

Commercial, sport and subsistence uses of natural resources must be considered, and FWS must be able to work with the Native people as well as others who will be affected by establishment of national wildlife refuges and will have to protect them.

Unfortunately, \$80,000 provided to the agency last June, to be used for hiring Alaska Natives for involvement in the refuge information program is reportedly being used in other ways besides hiring Native personnel.

On Feb. 21, the systems and planning staff met with some 25 adults and children in Beaver. Main concerns were for subsistence threats due to increasing numbers of airplane hunters.

On Feb. 27, the staff went to Stevens Village for a village council meeting. Concerns were expressed regarding increased boat traffic coming into the area to hunt moose.

Other villages visited by FWS for meetings included Huslia, Koyukuk, Nulato, Shageluk and Holy Cross. In April the FWS biologists will be returning to visit Anvik, Grayling and Kaltag.

"I believe there are a number of possible ways the FWS could hire talented Natives to work with us," Cline said. "Although I sincerely

hope that eventually we will be able to hire a few Natives under permanent appointments,

"I believe an innovative temporary hire program is very much needed. By this I mean aggressively recruiting qualified Natives in key villages throughout rural Alaska, giving them some basic training as to what the FWS is all about, and then permitting them to live and work in their home villages. This would be more in keeping with their chosen lifestyle, and yet have the FWS represented where they need it the most — at the local level."

"There is already precedent for this," Cline continued, for several qualified Natives have been hired by the FWS in past summers to work on the Clarence Rhode and Arctic National Wildlife Refuges."

A General Accounting Office audit of FWS has been called for by U.S. Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska), as a result of constituent complaints about the lack of Native employees within the agency.

Gordon Watson, Alaska director for the agency said recently that recruitment efforts had been carried out through Native regional corporations and universities but that position requirements had not been developed yet because the agency needs to find the right persons for the proposed jobs first.

Commissioner Brooks Rebuts NBC Wolves Program

JUNEAU — James W. Brooks, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, issued the following statement today regarding an NBC television program entitled "Wolf Hunt in Alaska." The program was broadcast nationally and in the Anchorage area March 19 and elsewhere in Alaska on March 20.

"The show was cleverly contrived to convey the impression that the state was poised to heartlessly murder wolves in response to pressures from sports hunters.

"Worse still, the presentation sought to arouse public compassion for a wild animal that was being persecuted to demonstrate or glorify the dominion of humans over a lower form of life.

"I'm extremely regretful that such distortions of truth are given prominent news treatment, for in reality, they work against the most enlightened and scientifically based efforts of professional conservationists to prevent the destruction of such valuable and interesting animals as the wolf.

"In truth, the State of Alaska was the first and only government

entity on this continent to take early and effective action to guarantee that the wolf would be preserved over vast areas as a vital and valued component of the ecosystem.

"For example, since attaining statehood, the following positive protection measures have been taken," Brooks said. "The Federal predator control program involving aerial shooting and poisoning of wolves throughout the state was stopped by the new state government.

"Closed seasons and closed areas for the protection of wolves were established. The wolf was officially classed as a game animal rather than vermin or predator. Bounty payments were stopped. Public aerial hunting and poisons were banned.

"In total, the protective measures adopted to assure the welfare of Alaska's wolf population exceed the protection given to most wildlife in any part of the country. The program has been successful — so successful that wolf abundance throughout the state probably equals that existing before man came to molest him.



DELEGATES LISTEN — Stockholders of the Tanana Chiefs Conference gathered enmass last week and listened intently as guest speakers delivered their oratory.

Programs Discussed . . .

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grants, and special personnel provisions.

At the outset, spokesman for the Tanana Chiefs and Interior Eskimos were critical of the way the act defines "tribe" and "tribal organization". They said the language was vague and confusing.

Both groups have expressed an interest in managing Native programs now administered by the BIA and the Indian Health Service. The Association of Interior Eskimos has voiced the fear that they will not receive equal treatment if only the Tanana Chiefs Conference is allowed to manage the services.

Claude Demientieff, director of the Tanana Chiefs Health Authority, said his group is mandated by its charter to provide equal treatment to people in its area. He added that he would discipline or release anyone in his employ found discriminating against eligible clients.

Although it has been suggested that more than one contract be let to service different groups of people, Ralph Reeser, legislative specialist for the BIA in Washington, said dual contracting would be more costly and that funding for the Indian

Self-Determination Act is an unknown factor at this time.

Reeser added that the regulations written to implement the act could establish a grievance process for people who feel they are being discriminated against.

As the act is written, there is no provision for choosing between two groups who claim overlapping responsibilities. Presumably the regulations could provide such a mechanism.

A schedule prepared by the BIA suggests the process of writing regulations will not be completed until next fall. Reeser ruled out the possibility of awarding the contracts under this particular bill until that time.

However, it is possible that BIA could award the contracts under old legislation, particularly the Buy Indian Act of 1910. Reeser said although Congress has suggested that BIA has used it too freely, it may still be implemented in some cases.

The Area Director of the BIA in Juneau, Clay Antioquia, was reportedly going to decide whether to accept along-standing Tanana Chiefs proposal for contracting BIA services under existing authority. To date, no decision has been made.

Reeser said the Indian Self-Determination Act is not intended to replace old legislation, but supplement it. Under the act, the historic trust responsibility of the federal government to Native people would be maintained.

The meeting was held at the Chena View Hotel.

Alaska Airlines

Alaska Airlines became the leading scheduled airline between the Mainland and Alaska in 1974, carrying 33.67 per cent of the 880,228 passengers traveling in that market, according to the Civil Aeronautics Board.

O.F. Benecke, President of Alaska Airlines, attributed the carriers success to improved marketing, desirable flight schedules, good 1974 interstate market.

Benecke said that Alaska Airlines achieved a 25 per cent gain in revenue passenger traffic over 1973, utilizing Boeing 727 and 720 aircraft, even though some flights of other carriers were operated with wide-body aircraft.

Early reports indicate that Alaska Airlines' market share of border crossing traffic between the Mainland and Alaska will continue to grow in 1975, according to Benecke.