



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

**by the U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers**

In the continuing battle against erosion along a wide curve in the Yukon River at Galena, the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Galena have agreed to share the cost of a \$2.3 million contract to place rock along the riverbank this winter.

The Corps awarded the contract to Earth Movers of Fairbanks Inc. this summer so the work can be accomplished before breakup next spring. The Corps will administer the contract, and the city will provide all lands, easements and rights-of-way and maintain the project.

Earth Movers will spread a base layer of gravel topped with 75- to 300-pound rocks for 1,300 feet on the riverbank along Campion Road. The rock will be excavated from Mueller

Mountain about 17 miles from Galena.

Federal money for the project, about \$1 million, came from a congressional emergency appropriation for bank stabilization projects in Galena, Bethel and Dillingham. The City of Galena is providing the remainder in state grant money.

Corps records dating back to the late 1940s indicate that a northward migration of the Yukon River is causing the erosion problem at Galena. Many years ago the federal government built about 3,300 feet of longitudinal sheet pile wall, cellular sheet piles and thermopiles with rock protection on the upper bank adjacent to the east end of the airfield.

Two years ago the state placed an additional 2,000 feet of rock protection at the upstream end of the federal project.

Galena is divided into two townsites. The original site, commonly referred to as "Old Town," began as a fish camp known as Henry's Point. Just north of Old Town is Galena Air Force Base, the closest U.S. Air Force fighter intercept facility to the Soviet Union. The base has

about 300 employees in the area.

The other townsite, commonly referred to as "New Town," is near Alexander Lake, about a mile and a half upriver of Old Town. It was established in 1971 after an ice jam flood damaged a large number of structures in the original townsite.

Corps, Galena fight Yukon erosion