

Neighborhood Youth Corps Completes Many Projects on St. Lawrence Island

By Terry P. McLean
NYC Field Representative

Clifford Iknokinok is the project supervisor at Gambell on St. Lawrence Island with assistance coming from other members of the council and Bureau of Indian Affairs personnel.

Following is a list of the projects completed and being worked on by the Neighborhood Youth Corps in Gambell.

A community hall has been worked on but not completed due to the Public Health Service using the building for storage space for its materials while building a new clinic for Gambell.

When the PHS moves out, the community hall will again be worked on by the NYC of this village. When the building is completed it will house a snack bar, recreation room, space for the ivory carvers to work, and a juke box to provide music for the young people this winter.

Reconditions Well

The old village well was reconditioned and put in shape this summer by the NYC enrollees. This well provides a continual source of good drinking water for the people of Gambell.

Members of the NYC began preparing the wellhouse building for winter by lining the entire inside with insulation. All that is lacking now is a stove to put inside to keep the wellhouse warm and, hopefully, the well open all winter.

Anyone having a stove they might want to give to the people of Gambell may call McLean in Nome at 2760 or 2566.

A village cleanup program was carried out quite successfully. All that remains to complete the project is the dumping of the barrels that the trash was collected in.

Clerical aides worked this summer for the village council and the community store under close supervision.

Those in the store were taught methods of marking and marketing goods along with other aspects of running a business.

Involved in running any business is a clean and safe place to work. The NYC enrollees did their part by completely cleaning the store twice this summer. Clifford Iknokinok, the store manager, stated the NYC enrollees had been a great help to both the store and the public in the services they had performed.

Aids Old People

One of the services the NYC helped with was in delivering water to old and invalid people who were unable to get an adequate water supply by themselves.

Possible obstacles were removed from the approach to the airfield as a safety measure for the benefit of low-flying planes approaching for a landing.

The public dump area was cleaned up and made more accessible to the people for dumping trash and other items.

Not to go unmentioned is the help being provided by the NYC enrollees to the BIA school. Some assistance was given this summer to the maintenance man and with the arrival of the new teachers many of the enrollees have been helping with the opening of the school.

This has included moving books, boxes and other materials along with helping the teachers and mothers fix a breakfast for the school children. The new teachers who are supervising the efforts of the NYC youths are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fuller and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Doull.

Also helping supervise are Merlin Koonooka, the BIA maintenance man, Bruce Boolowon, school custodian, and Andy Apassingok, the adult education teacher.

Disposal Pits

Most of the boys still working in Gambell are busy constructing 54 waste disposal pits which must be completed before freezeup. Each hole involves cutting the ends out of three empty oil drums and placing them in the ground.

Lids are provided to cover each hole. With the completion of the project, Gambell's sanitation system should be in operation.

Forty-two boys and girls worked for the Neighbor Youth Corps in Gambell this summer. Of these, only twenty are left as the others have all left for school. Several of the twenty are attending school at Gamble.

Those that worked this summer include the following:

Idell Aningayou, Larry Aningayou, Noel Aningayou, Reginald Aningayou, Preston Apangalook, Lydia Apassingok, Jerome Apatiki, Bob Booshu, Bryant Booshu, Ernest Booshu, Orlin Booshu, Wanda Booshu, Virgil Campbell, Randall Irrigoo, Clarence Irrigoo, Jr., Aaron Iworigan, Beulah Iyakitan, Dennis James;

Winnifred James, Jr., Elbert Kaningok, Lucinda Kaningok, Job Koonooka, Ila May Koonooka, Patricia Koozata, Annette Kulukhon, Wade Okhtokiyuk, June Oseuk, Kathy Oseuk, Lucy Oseuk, Bert Oozevasuk, Duane Oozevasuk, Gordon Oozevasuk, Raymond Oozevasuk, Oliver Owttillan;

Marie Seppilu, Timmy Siwooko, Vernon Siwooko, Jr., Ina Uglowook, Leslie Uglowook, Julia Walunga, Allen Konahok, and Dora Nupowhotuk.