

Community of Minto Prepares Relocation of Village Families

The village of Minto, located west of Fairbanks on the Tanana River, has begun work in preparation for moving the village site onto higher ground.

Minto has been plagued with floods, being threatened nearly every year during the breakup of the Tanana.

Relocation of Minto has been in the planning for a number of years. The move had been threatened recently in a feud of the various agencies involved.

The conflict now appears to have been resolved and plans were being finalized last week at a meeting of representatives from the village, state, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Fairbanks.

Out of funds which the BIA had allocated to Minto for flood assistance, there is \$50,000 remaining. Original plans called for the BIA to contract the village for this amount, which is marked for the construction of houses at the new site.

The Alaska State Housing Authority had also authorized funds to be used in relocation. In order to avoid duplication of programs by the two agencies, the BIA and village representatives agreed to contract with ASHA on the project.

It was explained that 14 of the families on the ASHA priority list are duplicated in the original BIA list for flood assistance. Transfer of the BIA funds to ASHA is a "paper transaction" and will help to spread the funds to more families than was previously allowed.

ASHA has estimated that \$5,800 will be spent in construction of each home. From 50 to 75 per cent of this figure could be a grant, with the remainder repaid by the villagers in a 20 year period.

Payments on the homes are to be between \$12 and \$20.40 per month, depending on the size of the grants.

Houses will be of log construction. The villagers have decided to cut their own logs in order to conserve funds. An \$8,500 grant from the Rural Development Administration is being utilized to provide maintenance, fuel, and other necessary items for the operation of the sawmill located at the present site.

Villagers indicated that valuable time has already been lost this season and they hoped to have the sawmill in operation this week.

Minto will use a portion of the funds to hire a program coordinator who would be responsible for the many aspects of the relocation project. At the Fairbanks meeting, village representatives agreed to hire former Minto Chief Richard Frank for this position.

Presently, two crews of men are working on the Minto project. All the men are working in

cutting logs and preparing the new site, while the women and

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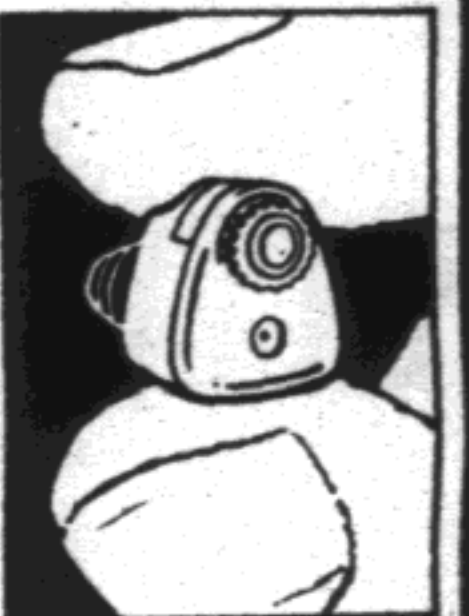
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