

Scientists To Report on Line Artifacts

FAIRBANKS—With \$503,508 in additional support from Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., University of Alaska archeologists responsible for surveillance of the trans-Alaska pipeline project are now analyzing what's been discovered to date and beginning work on a final report.

"Ten of us will be writing up everything," said Dr. John Cook, who is directing the surveillance. "I'll serve as editor. Under terms of our contract with Alyeska we have until next June to finish what promises to be the largest archeological report in Alaskan history."

In addition to their report writing, the archeologists will continue to watch the pipeline, until oil begins to flow. So far they and their field crews have excavated and mapped some 300 archeological sites, places where traces of historic and prehistoric man have been found.

More than 20,000 relics—projectile points, knives, awls and such—have been discovered by the field crews from these sites along the pipeline right-of-way.

Under construction stipulations imposed by the federal Bureau of Land Management, they are empowered to halt construction at any point where a significant archeological find is uncovered, for as long as it takes to properly remove relics of value.

Theories about early human occupation of Alaska are undergoing some modification as a result of new finds. Evidence indicates that areas of Eskimo and Athabascan occupation overlapped much more than was previously supposed.

With the \$503,508 in additional support, which will carry the surveillance operation through the current fiscal year, Alyeska has now made available more than \$1.5 million for this work.