

NANA to build drilling rig

Many people are aware that the NANA Regional Corporation has long had an interest in reindeer herding. NANA has been herding reindeer since 1974 and now boasts a herd numbering about 5000. But few people know that NANA now has an interest not only in reindeer herding but also in a drilling project on Reindeer Island in Prudhoe Bay.

NANA Development Corporation President Willie Hensley put together a joint venture

with Petrolane, Inc. of Long Beach, California to build the largest and most Arctic oriented drilling rig in the north. This venture was put together after talks with SOHIO-BP which indicated assurance of the need for the type of rig that the joint-venture has in mind.

The \$9.5 million rig, due to arrive on the North Slope in January, will be used from February to May by SOHIO-BP Alaska to drill the planned geological test well on Reindeer Is-

land. Because the objective of the well is only to obtain data, the well location was chosen to avoid finding oil or gas.

Not only is NANA a part-owner of the new 40-man camp that is to be used but will also be providing the catering services.

NANA has had three young shareholders assisting in the construction of the rig in Bakersfield, California. Billy Lee, Donald Gallahorn and Jeff Hadley managed to survive 100 degree temperatures and will be working on the rig when it reaches the North Slope.

Willie Hensley, President of Nana Development explains NANA's involvement in the Reindeer Island project as follows:

"NANA decided to make a major investment in petroleum drilling equipment because it fit with our existing corporate investment philosophy of oilfield service and support activities. We already have a camp and industry support complex at the Deadhorse airport at Prudhoe Bay. We sell fuel to the operating companies and other contractors at Prudhoe; we do catering and security work for SOHIO as well as garbage and refuse disposal services in conjunction with the North Slope Borough.

"It seemed natural to extend the range of our activities from services into an area closer to the "meat and potatoes" of business in the petroleum field - drilling for oil and gas. Originally we had hoped to form an Arctic drilling company that would be completely owned by NANA and other regions in the project and had to settle for a minority interest in Petrolane - NANA Rig No. 1."