

St. George: Worst Served Native Community

"St. George is the worst served native community in Alaska," said Flore Lekanof, president of the newly organized Aleut League, last week in Anchorage.

One of the Pribilofs, St. George Island is 40 miles south of the neighboring St. Paul Island deep in the Bering Sea.

"An average sized village in Alaska has a population of 125 people and many villages of that size have air strips, yet St. George with 225 people has none," continued Lekanof.

He said the village people have been pleading for a landing field for years but have been given a deaf ear time after time.

"Furthermore, there is an established resource on the island where about one fifth of the fur seal harvest on the Pribilofs is done every year," said Lekanof.

He said it was highly peculiar, or even mysterious, why an air service has not been established on the island.

"The weather couldn't be the reason because planes land on St. Paul every week where an airport has been built out of the identical terrain that's on St. George.

"The only real communication the island gets is when a ship calls three times a year and occasional mail dropped from a plane," Lekanof pointed out. St. George is the worst served native community in Alaska."