



MUSK OX FARM—The cleared area near the University of Alaska is where the musk oxen have been raised for several years past. The animals thrived here summer and many a fierce winter.

—Photos by UA

UA Musk Ox Transferred to Unalakleet . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

"Fairbanks herd manager Sam Skaggs was up for 48 hours straight supervising the shipment of the animals," said Teal. "The fierce Fairbanks weather (heavy ice fog and temperature of -50) delayed departure Saturday. At midnight, Unalakleet villagers, who had waited all day for the plane to arrive, helped to load the animals onto four-wheel drive pickup trucks which took them to a new farm in the hills about seven miles east of Unalakleet."

The musk-oxen are the basis of a collaborative project between the Musk-Ox Producers' Cooperative, based at Fairbanks, and the village of Unalakleet. The cooperative is an organization of village women who knit high quality scarves, caps and other items of apparel from yarn spun from the fine underwool, called quiviut (kiv-ee-ut), of the musk-ox.

The transfer of the animals to Unalakleet, said Teal, marks the "fulfillment" of the objective of the university program, which is to provide domesticated musk-oxen to selected tundra-coastal Native villages for establishment of a local industry employing men as herdsman and women as knitters of quiviut.

At some time in the future, musk-oxen will be shipped to other Native villages for this purpose.

Bart Watson is manager of the

new farm at Unalakleet. With the assistance of several Eskimo men, he built it over the past year. It consists of a manager's house, corrals, hay barn, caches and a square mile of fenced pasture.

Watson, who works for the cooperative and village, brings to the job three years of herding experience gained on a musk-ox farm in northern Norway.

The university musk-oxen domestication project was started in 1964 with 33 calves—23 females and 10 males—captured by Teal on Nunivak Island and flown to Fairbanks. Before the Unalakleet transfer, there were 138 animals in the Fairbanks herd.

Teal has been running down and catching musk-oxen, mostly bare-handed, for many years. He reckons he has personally caught some 250 calves since he decided to learn how to domesticate the shaggy animals.

He is president of the Institute of Northern Agricultural Research, whose main farm is located at Huntington Center, Vermont. Two animals from the center's original herd—captured in the high Canadian Arctic in 1954—are still alive. The institute maintains two breeding stations similar to the university's in Norway and Canada.

The Alaska musk-ox project is a joint effort of the university

and Institute of Northern Agricultural Research.

ANCHORAGE — An Anchorage-based public relations firm reports that the international group which it represents in Alaska has now become the world's largest public relations organization.

According to Murray, Kraft and Rockey, Inc., the International Public Relations Group of Companies, Inc., announced at its seventh annual meeting in New York that its worldwide billings had reached \$15,625,413 last year, with



MAN IN CHARGE—John J. Teal, left, is the man in charge at the musk ox farm. The Kellogg Foundation funds the experimental farm. Teal is talking with Bonnie Dinkel at the office at the University of Alaska campus.

staff personnel totaling 745 in 60 offices in 35 countries.

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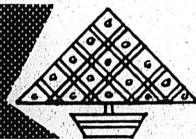
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