

KOTZEBUE MAN PLANS BUS LINE

Merchant Plans Winter Bus Service for Kotzebue Area

The villages of Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Kiana and Selawik in the Kotzebue Sound area may be serviced by a bus line perhaps starting next December and lasting till May.

The possibility of starting such a bus line and freight service is being seriously considered by Steve Salinas, owner of Rotman Stores, Inc. of Kotzebue and Selawik.

"Trips to those villages would be made every two days," said Salinas last week.

He said the weather would not be a factor in the venture.

"The weather would have to be bad-impossible-to stop travel," Salinas said.

Salinas said freight would be competitive with existing airline freight charges and it would be dependable.

"I'm sure the people in those villages would be happy because they would have the service and freight they can depend on," he said. "It would also be something winter tourists could enjoy."

The venture would be known as Rotman's Freight Lines and Bus Service.

Steve Salinas has been consulting with the Canadian firm of Robin-Nodwell Manufacturing, Ltd. of Calgary and Alberta.

"The equipment that I have found that would be suitable for bus service to those villages are Robin-Nodwell buses built in Calgary and Alberta, Canada," said he.

Salinas pointed out that the U.S. Navy has been successfully using the Nodwell

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NODWELL BUS—Pictured is the Robin-Nodwell 110 bus, the type Steve Salinas of Kotzebue would use if he starts freight and bus line service from Kotzebue to Noatak, Noorvik, Kiana and Selawik. The

bus has a capacity for 18 passengers, including the driver, and 11,000 pound freight load. The bus can travel at the top speed of 25 miles per hour.

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buses. They are RN-Nodwell 75 and RN-Nodwell 110.

Nodwell 75 unit has a capacity for 12 passengers and 7,000 pound freight load while Nodwell 110 can carry 17 passengers plus the driver and a capacity freight load of 11,000 pounds. The vehicles have a top speed of 25 miles per hour.

The Nodwells are tracked for deep snow travel and they have been proven well for travelling on muskeg and other rough terrain.

The buses are priced at \$12,140 for RN 75 and \$14,544 for the 110. The 75 has a six-cylinder Ford motor and the 110 is powered by eight-cylinder Ford.

The equipment can be delivery approximately in 90 days from the factory with necessary parts up to \$250 in value.

Steve Salinas said that he had the months, December to May, carefully figured out when travel on ice would be safe.

He is in the process of talking to people in the villages named and if they agree that the service is needed, he will go ahead with the venture.

"If it works out well, which I know it can, I would extend the service to take care of Kivaiina and Point Hope," he said.