



OIL SPILL COULD KILL SALMON



Experiment: One Tenth Teaspoon Oil in Quart Could Kill Many Salmon

By LAEL MORGAN
Staff Writer

How much of an oil spill does it take to ruin the fishing? Just one-tenth of a teaspoon of Prudhoe Bay crude oil to a quart of water, according to experiments underway at the University of Alaska.

Dr. James E. Morrow, university zoologist working with the Federal Pollution Control Administration, is in the midst of a two year study on the way crude oil affects salmon.

"If we use a concentrate of 3 1/2 grams of crude oil per liter (which equals 1/10th of a teaspoon per quart) we knock off about 80-90 per cent of the salmon in four days," he reports. "The lower concentrate we use, the lower mortality. When we get down to around 1/10 of a gram per liter we get no mortality at all."

It depends, though, on how long the oil has been exposed to air.

"If we let it set in the open air for a couple of weeks, there is no mortality at all. Whatever is doing the dirty on the fish is something that evaporates. It's

highly volatile. "John Sweet of Atlantic Richfield tells us their crude won't have this vapor. That it will be evaporated and not go through the pipeline. But we haven't had time to study that yet."

Some laymen believe oil spills cut off needed oxygen but Dr. Morrow said this was not the case. Water used in university experiments has been carefully aerated and lack of oxygen is no problem. Fish that survive volatile oil four days generally last a long time, he said. Some have survived as long as 30 days under the slick.

"We've noted a peculiar type of behavior in fish subject to oil," he continued. First they go up to the top of the water with their backs sticking up through the slick. Then if they're going to die, they lose their equilibrium, tilting over until their heads are sticking right up, tails straight down. Occasionally these fish regain their balance and survive, but not often.

Oil also raises havoc with the fish' digestive system, rather like a double dose of castor oil on a human.

"Or did anyone ever give you
(Continued on page 6)

PONDERING A FINANCIAL PUZZLE—Oscar Isaac, president of the Tanacross village council, and secretary Mildred Thomas consider the perplexing details that go into funding a village housing project.

There's money available for a work experience program but no provision for someone to run it.

Tanacross Folks Struggle with Puzzling Financial Knot

TANACROSS—Citizens of Tanacross are battling a financial puzzle that would rattle the brain of a high financier. The solution seems impossible, but they just might have it licked.

THE PROBLEM: Tanacross wants to clear a new village site across the river by the airport. They're waiting for an Alaska State Housing Authority contract for the project and for government funding. But, in the meantime, they need to get a start clearing and to build a community hall which will serve as storage space for the rest of the project. To do this they need to hire a supervisor.

Rural Development Mainstream has offered them \$7,000 for a work experience program. From this they can pay work wages up to \$3.50 an hour, but no more. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has \$8,000 for a work experience program but ceiling on that wage is \$2.10 an hour.

Neither of these programs allows for the hiring of a supervi-

sor at anything close to the going wage and Tanacross believes too many Indians with no

construction chief would be a disaster.

(Continued on page 6)

Arson Suspected at Teen Center Fire in Kotzebue

KOTZEBUE—Arson is suspected in a fire that demolished the new Teen Center; the police chief has been fired; and things are generally "up-tight" in Kotzebue this week.

"I've been trying to keep things cool as much as I could," Mayor Elmer Armstrong reported. He did note, however, that the firing of his police chief, Roy Pike, was in a way connected with the blaze.

"The reason I gave him was misrepresenting a police officer. We've had a lot of problems. The fire was sort of the last straw. He accused a person without any evidence."

The teen center had been controversial because of demands by youngsters that they be allowed late curfew and considerable freedom.

There had also been disas-

(Continued on page 6)

Bergt Voted Pres. Of Interior Airlines

FAIRBANKS—Neil Bergt was voted president of Interior Airlines at a Board of Directors meeting last week. James Maggofin, former president and founder of the company, has become chairman of the board.

Bergt took his first commercial flying job with Interior in 1957. He hopes to expand the airline to international scope.

BIA's Wally Craig Encourages Native Self Determination

LAEL MORGAN
Staff Writer

Wally Craig, Fairbanks director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is getting an increasing number of requests to speak on Indians before groups like the Lions and Elks.

His stock answer is no. "Let me bring a Native person to talk about his own people," he suggests. And that's pretty much the way he runs his organization.

Craig is the only BIA man in the state who operates with an all Native executive board. Louis Bruce, national head of BIA, helped organize it with \$3,806 grant and when federal funds were cut Craig squeezed \$7,500 out of his own budget to keep the board alive.

In December members voted

to up their status to executive board—despite some opposition from within BIA—and Craig

quickly approved the decision. The board brought together Eskimos from the Arctic Slope and Indians from the Yukon Valley; groups not used to working together, he notes.

"They have to assert the quality on distribution of resources but they look on themselves as representing the entire area."

They began cautiously, learning how the organization worked and gaining in strength.

"To me they are a board of directors," Craig said. "We have established a rapport. They realize I feel I am advocate of their program. They can say to me, 'you talk too much', when they feel they can contest an opinion."

The current BIA policy for natives is "self determination"

(Continued on page 6)



WALLACE CRAIG

Exciting Invitation List To Eskimo Olympics

Never has there been such a long and exciting invitation list to the Eskimo Olympics.

Included are Vice President Spiro Agnew and his daughter Kim; Billy Wills, Olympics Gold Medal winner and his fellow members of the newly formed Indian Hall of Fame; the Canadian and Greenland Eskimos; members of the National Council of Indian Opportunity; Miss

National Congress of American Indians; and, of course, Alaska's finest.

Dates will be July 30, 31 and August 1 and acceptances are coming in at an encouraging rate. Last year's Olympics, under the management of the Tundra Times, was the record best and this year we're out to top it.

(Continued on page 6)