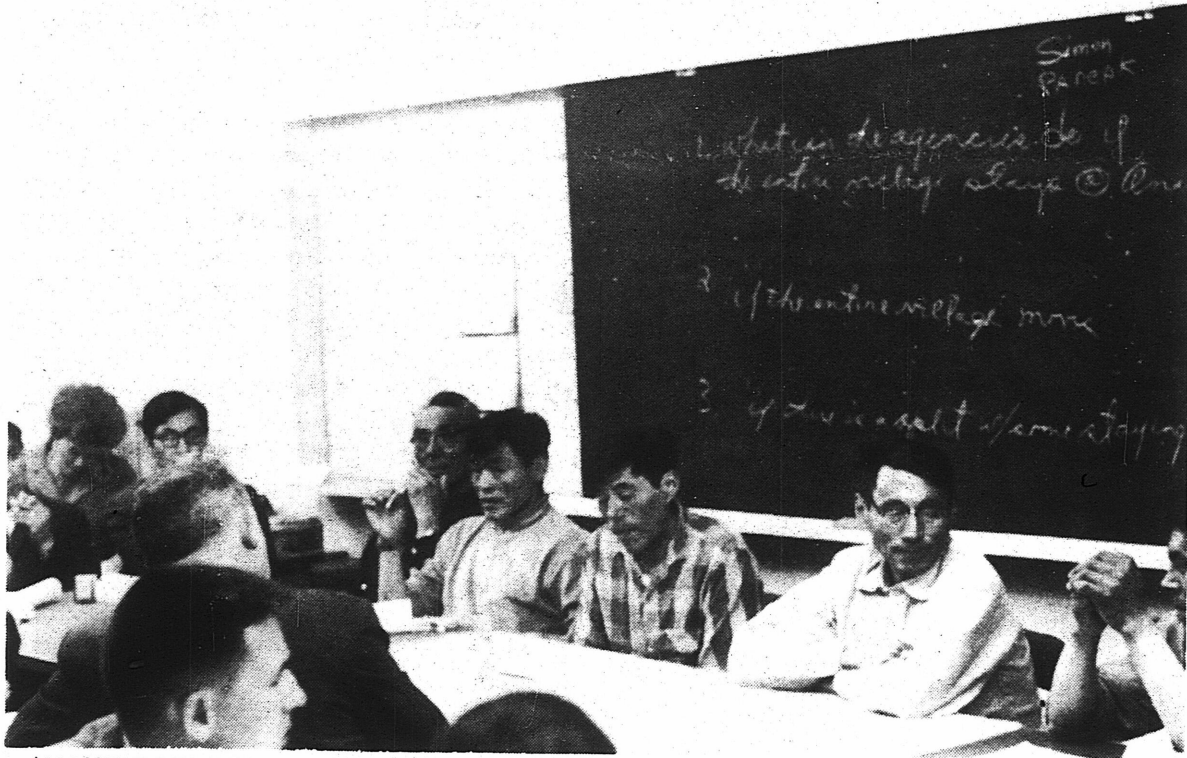


ANAKTUVUK PRODS OFFICIALS



ANAKTUVUK DELEGATION—Facing government and state officials in an eight-hour probe of possibilities for their future are elected representatives from Anaktuvuk Pass. They are (right to left) John Rulland,

John Hugo, Noah Ahgook, Riley Morry, and Simon Paneak. The sixth man, Jack Ahgook, is not shown in the picture.

Photo by SHEILA TURNER

Villagers Learn of Umiat's Drawbacks In Housing, Game

By SHEILA TURNER
Staff Writer

A move to Umiat could create more problems than they already have, Anaktuvuk Pass representatives learned this week.

Six men elected from the village met Monday at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office, Fairbanks, with more than 40 officials from government and private agencies.

They returned home Wednesday with a promise from the B.I.A. of 50,000 gallons

of fuel and the stoves to burn them—if the villagers decide to stay at Anaktuvuk Pass.

"The meeting unraveled most of our questions," said Riley Morry one of three members of the delegation who opposes moving. "But I don't know what people at home will think. We'll hold a series of general meetings to discuss what we learned."

Morry estimates the villagers probably will make a decision in the next two

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weeks. "It didn't take them long to make up their minds to move to Umiat in the first place. Someone suggested it in village council in January and the idea spread like wild fire." (At last count, 18 families wanted to move, five preferred to stay.)

Morry opposed moving to Umiat because he felt not enough was known about the place. He had heard hunting was not good there, an opinion confirmed at the meeting by Robert Hinman, Department of Fish and Game and Max C. Brewer, Arctic Research Laboratory. "Most of the young people are against the move," Morry added.

"My father says that on flat land the caribou can spot you easily and can hear you moving around."

Both he and Noah Ahgook another member of the delegation agreed that the families who wanted to stay probably would do so, no matter what the rest of the village decided.

Jack Ahgook, a delegation member who favors the move, predicted that some families probably would move away, even if the villagers voted to remain at the Pass. He said people wanted to move to

Umiat because communications would be better, willows for fuel, plentiful, and wind less fierce. "The older men in the village seem to think game will be all right at Umiat," he said. But he doubted the move would take place because housing at Umiat is inadequate. Only four quonset huts, property of the Arctic Research Laboratory, and all needing repair, are available.

Besides the inadequate housing and doubtful supply of game, the village might have to foot a \$2,500 to \$4,000 bill each year for maintaining the airstrip at Umiat. State Representative William Hensley suggested that U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity funds might be available under their work experience program.

At Anaktuvuk Pass, the strip must be extended 1,500 feet if two engine craft are to fly in. The State Division of Aviation has promised a D-8 Cat to help villagers clear the strip. The state rural development office can provide up to \$10,000 to help clear and maintain the strip. Villagers now pay 20 cents a pound air freight, though according to James Anderson of Wien Air Alaska, they are encouraged to ship parcel post whenever possible. If larger planes can land with bigger shipments, Wien promised to lower rates as 11 cents per pound.

The oil, stoves, D-8 cat and Rural Development funds were the only definite promises made to Anaktuvuk Pass representatives should they decide to stay where they are. No B.I.A. funds are available to help the village move, according to Wallace Craig, Superintendent, Fairbanks office.

State schools would be provided at either place if there were a minimum of 10 children. Boarding school or correspondence arrangements could be made for less than 10 children.

Sanitation and water supply improvements, requested five years ago of the United States Public Health Service, are still far off.

K. C. Lauster, U.S. Health Service, said he had too limited a staff and budget to survey the area at present. "There are no funds available now for Anaktuvuk Pass," he said. "The earliest that anything would be done would be for a fund request to go before Congress during January, 1968 for facilities to be built in 1969."

Villagers used melted snow for their water supply this spring. Much illness occurred in the village. Bob Mandell, VISTA worker, attributes the illness to the water supply being unsafe.

Officials also seemed unable to give much assistance for housing improvements. Poor insulation and overcrowding appear to be the main problems. No immediate help appears to be available from any federal or state program, since eligibility in existing programs rests on some cash outlay from recipients. Anaktuvuk Pass is primarily a subsistence economy, though the state's proposed winter supply road is routed through the village and may bring new jobs for residents.

Max Brewer of the Arctic Research Laboratory, pointed out that it would cost between \$500,000 and \$800,000 to make the natural gas supply at Umiat usable to villagers. Wells would have to be re-drilled, pipes laid, and personnel trained. Oil could be

produced without too much additional drilling, but congress would have to give permission.

Willows are plentiful in the area and good reports of coal have been made.

If some families move to Umiat and others stay at Anaktuvuk Pass probably health services would be decreased, since the same staff would have to cover both places. James Anderson of Wien said the airline could serve only one village. In the event of a split, the possibility of the State providing larger power generators also would be lessened.

Another complication raised by leaving Anaktuvuk Pass would involve land claims for the area. If the village were abandoned, claims would be forfeited.

State land held at Umiat would have to be purchased. Some holdings of the Arctic Research Laboratory could be turned over to the B.I.A. which could in turn lease them to the villagers.

The Bureau of Land Management also has land at Umiat that would be available to the villagers.

Anaktuvuk Pass representatives were Simon Paneak, Jack Ahgook, John Rulland, John Hugo, Noah Ahgook, and Riley Morry. Sam Taalak of the Arctic Slope Native Association, Barrow, served as interpreter.

Juneau officials attending the meeting were, Earle Costello, Employment Security Division; Rollin L. Emel and Jacques M. Norvell, B.I.A.; Byron S. Mallat and Larry Montgomery, Local Affairs Agency; and Mark Jacobs, Rural Development. Anchorage officials included Robert Mensing and Paul E. Watkins, Federal Aviation Administration; Dave Harman and Howard Isberg, State Division of Aviation; K.C. Lauster, Alaska Native Health Area Office, U.S. Public Health Service; Lee Hayes, State Department of Education, and J.C. Mueller, State Housing Authority. Attending from Fairbanks were James E. O'Rourke, State Employment Office; Ivallean Caudill, Mark Jantzi, Dr. Lionel Richardson and John W. Melvill, Alaska Division of Public Health; Elden A. Toll and Dale R. Sanner, Farmers Home Administration; Ralph W. Perdue, Fairbanks Native

Association, William T. Mailer, Division of Public Welfare, M. Thomas Dean, Division of Lands.

Bill Tegoseak, Native Program for Progress; Clara Anderson, Alaska Native Youth Association, Robert F. Hilton, Bureau of Land Management; James L. Anderson, Wien Air Alaska; Leonard J. Peyton, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska; Harry Pannick, Arctic Slope Native Association; Philip Kelly, THEATA. B.I.A. Superintendent Craig acted as chairman for the meeting.

Max C. Brewer and John F. Schindler, Arctic Research Laboratory, Point Barrow, attended. Others present included State Representative William Hensley, Kotzebue; Art Beam, Office of Economic Opportunity, Nome; Dr. Kent Jones, U.S. Public Health Service, Tanana; and Bob Mandell, VISTA worker, Anaktuvuk Pass.