

North Star III May Try to Reach Barrow

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The North Star III, supply ship of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is reported unloading local supplies at Kivalina, south of Point Hope. Recently there has been much concern as to whether the ship would be able to get up to Barrow before the ice froze in.

Though there have been many reports to the contrary, the BIA asserts that it is optimistic that it will be able to make the trip to Barrow, providing the winds are favorable and blow enough ice away. Two weeks ago the ice looked rather obstinate.

The ship carries supplies for all the native villages along the coast and stops wherever there is a native store. Being the only BIA ship that goes up each year to the northern villages, its arrival is looked forward to with great expectation.

The people of Barrow anticipate a new hotel to be built on to the native co-op and some additional school classrooms among other things.

There have been many varying reports on the whereabouts and possible strategy on how the supplies will ultimately reach Barrow. Guy Okakok, a lifetime resident there, suggested a few weeks ago.

At that time the report was that the ship was in Wainwright.

It was his belief that if the

(Continued on Page 6.)

North Star . . .

(Continued from page 1)

ship was unable to get any closer, the village would probably wait until November and then send all of the snow-mobiles across the 96 miles of frozen tundra to Wainwright. There they would load up as much as possible and haul it back.

The BIA has promised that the supplies will reach their destination regardless if the ship is able to. If the ice prohibits the trip to Barrow, the ship will return to Nome where the supplies will probably have to be air-freighted up at great additional cost.