

# Fuel Windfall—

## *Home Oil Gets to Anaktuvuk Pass*

### ANAKTUVUK PASS —

There'll be a hot time in the old town of Anaktuvuk Pass this winter because of the watchful eyes of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The price of fuel oil there has dropped from \$115 per 55 gallon drum to \$27.50 and the reserve supply of barrels extends in a seemingly endless sea of recycled barrels.

It all started with what the Alaska Department of Environment Conservation (DEC) calls as "serious environmental hazard" up on the Toolik River. Home Oil Company had stored 80,000 gallons of diesel fuel there in weathered pillow tanks and worried officials of the BLM feared they might rupture and contaminate the river.

Home Oil contacted the DEC for assistance in finding a quick solution to the problem, saying they would give the fuel to anyone who would accept it.

"My immediate reaction was that the fuel was too valuable a resource to destroy wastefully by burning," reports Max Brewer, Environmental Conservation

commissioner.

Instead, he contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to explore the possibility of transporting the fuel to a neighboring village.

Anaktuvuk was picked because the need there was extreme. Due to the high cost of air freight, their fuel price was \$115 per 55 gallon drum last winter and the supply was limited.

Later in the year the price dropped to \$75 per drum but that was not exactly a bargain either when you consider the average small home uses at least two drums a month.

BIA officials assumed responsibility for transporting the fuel from the Home site but stipulated that the site's airstrip must be upgraded to allow a Hercules aircraft to make the lift.

Home Oil repaired the strip and by the end of September the oil supply was transferred.

In addition to this windfall, Anaktuvuk residents report unusually good caribou hunting this month and it looks like a good winter ahead.