

Oldster Offers Services as Guide To Archaeological Sites on Flats

Paul Solomon, 84, wants to offer his services as a guide to those scientists digging up old bones this summer on the Old Crow river flats.

He says he knows where all kinds of bones, some huge, some tiny, are located. "I've never told anyone about them before," he said. "And I'm not going to tell too much about them now. I found them while hunting by canoe in a creek of the Yukon River flats."

"People say it's the old Indian heaven," he said. "All good people who die go there. Others say they hear the bones talking some time."

Mr. Solomon recalls that many years ago he was hunting in the area. A friend urged him to bury one of the bones deep in the ground. The next year when he re-



Paul Solomon

turned, it was above ground again, he said.

"I know the bones are old because of the way the water and dirt has eaten into them," he said. "I think they are very old."

Mr. Solomon lived most of his life at Fort Yukon. He has 12 children, 40 grandchildren and numerous great-grand children he has lost count. He and his wife, Hannah, moved to Fairbanks recently because of the high cost of living in the village. "Electricity is 30 cents a watt there. Food is expensive, too."

But he is not happy here because he can't get around too much. "We don't go anywhere. I want to buy a car. That's why I want a job. I can take the scientists up there to the bones."

A report in the May 12th issue of TUNDRA TIMES gave Mr. Solomon the idea.

He read that C.R. Harrington, palaeontologist and Dr. W.N. Irving, archaeologist from the National Museum of Canada had uncovered the oldest evidence of man yet found in the Canadian north, last summer on an exploration trip up the Old Crow River in the Yukon.

They found bones indicating that early man may have lived in the Yukon as long as 40,000 years ago.

If the dating is correct, the bones will be the oldest archaeological remains in the New World.

National Museum parties are again at work in the area this summer. They plan to initiate the first interdisciplinary study of Pleistocene environments in the Canadian north, in which specialists from several fields take part.