

Society Battles To Preserve Historic Area

The embattled Homer Society of Natural History at Homer, Alaska, has been having a running battle with the Interior Department in an effort to preserve the southern section of Yukon Island as a national landmark.

Yukon Island is located in Katchemak Bay adjacent to Cook Inlet.

The Homer Society had presumed at first that the area had been set aside as a landmark but has now found that the north section of the island has been reserved instead.

In a letter to the Times, Homer S. Thompson, member of the Society, said that "we now find that the area presumed to be reserved in National Landmark status covers the north part of the island where there are only a few incidental sites of historical note, whereas the south half of the island contains all the major sites discovered in 1932 by Frederica de Laguna, the noted anthropologist from the University of Pennsylvania."

The information of the discovery is contained in Miss de Laguna's book, *Anthropology of the Cook Inlet Region*, in which the sites are clearly shown to be on the south end of the island.

The site in question has been radiocarbon tested showing that a civilization existed there over 3,000 years ago.

Some homesteads and trade and manufacturing sites have been granted on the Yukon Island by the Bureau of Land Management according to Homer Thompson, who wrote:

"We are protesting the granting of homesteads and trade and manufacturing sites to this island because we feel that the important artifacts of the major ethnic groups in westward Alaska will be destroyed.

"It is our hope that by enlisting assistance from all possible places having an interest, we may be able to stem the tide of bureaucracy from making a major mistake in letting these applications go to patent."