



CUTTING LOGS — From left, Pat Schuerch, Lorry's oldest son; Wilber Atoruk; Lorenz Schuerch Jr.; Vincent Schuerch, Lorry's brother; Tommy Reed and John Morris. These men are all helping with construction, being careful to cut logs so they don't mess up the symmetry of the forest.

— Photo by Lael Morgan

Goingest Town—

Kiana Is Modern

By LAEL MORGAN

KIANA — Ernie Norton, Eskimo Mayor of Kotzebue, was discussing his town's growing pains.

"The population is about 2,000. Only one third of Kotzebue has sewer and water yet. I can't get it. It doesn't matter who you are," he chuckled. "If I want running water, I have to visit my wife's family in Kiana."

Kiana, population 278, is the goingest town on the Kobuk. Not only has it had a functioning sewer and water system for two years but a host of other goodies.

In 1970 a state bond passed for a \$2 million high school for the village, complete with a gymnasium to hold 300 people, and the building is expected to be in operation next fall.

In 1971 ASHA put 16 new homes into Kiana and as many more have been built privately since that time.

Kiana was the first village to be electrified by AVAC.

A new \$24,000 clinic will open there soon.

It has 2.5 miles of gravel highway built by the city through a \$30,000 contract with the State Highway Department.

It has a lighted airstrip, large enough to land a 727.

And now there's the Kiana Hilton!

Well, it's not really a Hilton Hotel but a first class, \$60,000 hunting and fishing lodge. It's under construction now, about a three-quarter hour run by snow machine up the Kobuk River from the village.

The building is being undertaken by Lorenz "Lorry" Schuerch Jr., formerly with the

Alaska State Troopers and the Kotzebue Police Department.

"I like police work," Schuerch says. "But it's great to be home and out working on the land again."

Schuerch has applied for a loan from the State Department of Economic Development, parlaying his 160-acre Native land allotment as collateral.

The lodge, a four-bedroom 20 x 30 fabricated building, is being manufactured in Washington State and Schuerch hopes to have it flown in this spring.

In the meantime he's clearing ground and building a log utility unit and sewer system.

The spot he picked for the lodge is on a beautiful bend of the Kobuk called "Naluk" which means in Eskimo, "Place where the animals cross." And sure enough, they do. Caribou mosey across the river right in line with Schuerch's planned picture windows.

Fishing will be good, too, he promises. Shee fish, Arctic Char, grayling and pike. June 25 to Sept. 1.



Modern Town of Kiana . . .