

# *Village of Aniak Hosts Meeting Of Delegates from 17 Villages*

In the interest of social-economic betterment for 16 towns and villages on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers of Western Alaska, a series of meetings were held at Aniak, Thursday, Friday and Saturday January 26, 27, and 28, according to Don Harris, McGrath contractor.

The following towns and villages were represented: Nickolai, Medfra, McGrath, Stony River, Sleetmute, Red Devil, Georgetown, Crooked Creek, Russian Mission (Kusko

kwim), Aniak, Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Russian Mission (Yukon), Holy Cross, Anvik, Greyling and Shageluk.

The desire for such a meeting had built up to its present high pitch of interest over a period of the past several months. Thus, the meeting was planned and invitations were extended for each village to send representatives to the Aniak meeting. This groundwork was done by Cooperative

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# Aniak Meet . . .

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Extension Service Agent, Max Cole, who is stationed at Aniak.

In addition to the towns and villages, representatives from the University of Alaska, state and federal government agencies were also invited.

The first session was called to order Thursday afternoon with Cole presiding. The people in attendance were asked to present problems with which they are faced in their village that would be general problems affecting the area as a whole.

Five discussion groups were formed to discuss issues of common interest. After the discussion and listing of common problems, the group chairman reported back to the entire meeting their findings.

Committees were appointed and proceeded to establish priorities of the common problems.

Designated village representatives were then seated for the purpose of hearing state and federal representatives for possible solutions to the problems evolved, and also to establish a permanent organization. A constitution and by-laws were drafted and discussed. Adoption will be voted at the next meeting.

Temporary officers were Gary Nelson, Aniak, president; Diane Carpenter, Stony River, secretary. Other councilmen were as follows: Richard Winkleman, McGrath; John Andreanoff, Crooked Creek; Sam Phillip, Russian Mission; Misha Savage, Upper Kalskag; Alfred Demientieff, Holy Cross; Ernest Chase, Anvik; Earl Wulf, Shageluk.

The next meeting will be held in early April for the purpose of electing permanent officers, adopting a constitution and by-laws and attacking the problem of low income of the Native people.