

"Still Flying after all these years ..."



"Nice Three Point Landing"

Nearly forty years ago, Fairbanks businessman John E. Anderson, Jr. flew over Interior, northern and western Alaska as a crew member aboard the old Pan American pilgrim aircraft over such Pan Am routes as Fairbanks to Nome. These days, when John is not tending to his fuel business at Johnny's Express in Fairbanks, he still takes to Alaskan skies frequently to fly his Champion Citiabria from village airstrips to gravel river sandbars to keep tabs on "the best country on earth." Last week, the Tundra Times was fortunate to receive an invitation to join John on a trip to the village of Rampart on the Yukon River shortly after breakup.

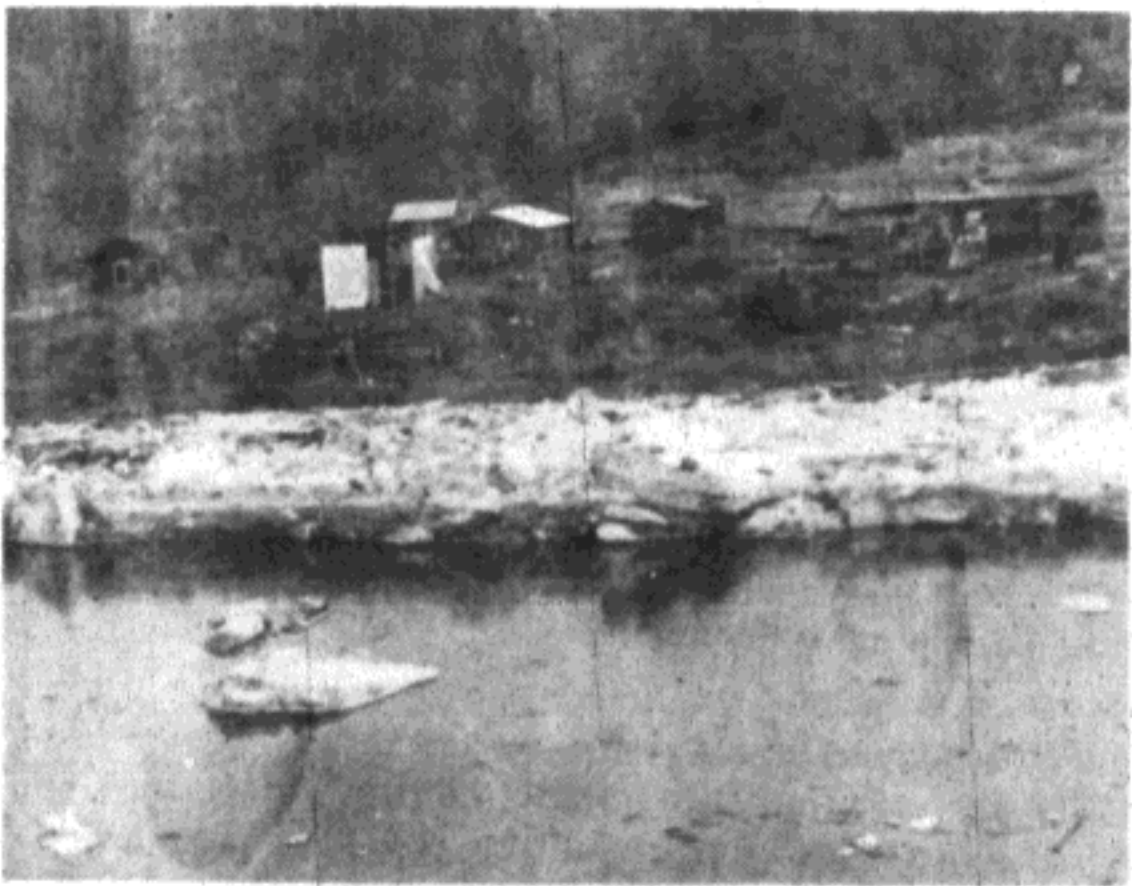
In the sequence of photos beginning at top left, Johnny walks away from a nice three-point landing at Rampart's excellent airstrip; (top right) on the road into town, Johnny stops to check the controls of the still-workable Adams Leaning Wheel Grader No. 10, a machine over 50 years old still in occasional use; in the village, Johnny stops to talk with Rampart Village chief Clyde Mayo, younger residents such as Clyde are breathing new life into the old town; mingled among old settling cabins are newer homes such as this snug log cabin built by Clyde Mayo two years ago; Johnny himself, a two-time winner of the Yukon 800 Marathon Riverboat Race, looks over veteran raceboat "Wild Savage" which won the 1969 Marathon and now rests on the bank of the Yukon River at Rampart, (below) leavin Rampart, Johnny flies above breakup ice piled on the bank in front of Rampart's historic cabins.



Old grader is still workable



Talking with village chief Clyde Mayo



"Leaving Rampart"



"Both were winners"



Rampart has snug new cabins