

# Minto Considers Plans On Village Relocation

The perennially flood-plagued village of Minto 50 miles west of Fairbanks is struggling to decide where to move the little community and away from flood dangers.

Three sites are now under consideration. First one is the location on the west fork of the Tolovana River where the original village used to be located.

The second is in the area around five miles west of Murphy Dome.

The third is on the south side of the Tanana River 18

miles west-north-west of the village.

Joe Nichols told the Tundra Times that most of the Minto people seemed to favor the move to the west fork of the Tolovana River.

"It's close to water there and much more favorable for game," Nichols said.

Nichols said that the location was ideal for duck hunting and Mintoites could establish game guide service if they wished. He said it was also close to Manley Hot

(Continued on page 4)

# Minto Considers Relocation . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Springs road.

There is plenty of timber in the area also.

"It's close to water and they can use their boats during summer to move their things from Minto. They would also like to set up a tent camp there soon so they can start work on the site and earn money, too. Those people haven't got much food right now," Nichols added.

Minto people met last week in Fairbanks with representatives of the state and federal governments to explore reasonable relocation plans.

Attorney Barry Jackson at that meeting said that he hoped that under the native land claims the village might be able to acquire about 200,000 acres.

Also at that meeting, Bureau of Indian Affairs District Superintendent Wallace Craig said he had applied for supplementary appropriation of \$28,000 that could be used for the move.

Joe Nichols, state regional director for the Neighborhood

Youth Corps in Fairbanks, also told the meeting that the governor's office had \$20,000 that would be available to the village to help fund the move.

Nichols said that \$5,000 of this money would be available immediately.

The present site of the village of Minto was apparent-

ly established during the heyday of the river steamers that plied up and down the rivers of interior Alaska from Fairbanks to St. Michael near the mouth of Yukon River.

Minto and other villages were fueling points for the steamers where timbers were cut to stoke the furnaces of the steamers.