



HOUSING PROGRAM--The village of Lower Kalskag along the Kuskokwim River has launched a home building program and the news has spread to surrounding villages. The house shown is one the villagers built for the VISTA Volunteers. A portion of the house will be used for council meetings and other activities.

Lower Kalskag Village People Launch House Building Project

By Joan MacFarland
Lower Kalskag, Alaska

Work has just been completed on the exterior portion of an 18 by 36 foot model home in Lower Kalskag, Alaska, which marks the beginning of the village's forthcoming building project.

The building of the model home began last August upon arrival of Bill and Joan MacFarland, VISTA Volunteers.

With the help of Joseph B. McGee, BIA teacher, Bill directed the village men throughout the construction of the house. Labor was almost entirely voluntary.

However, the Rural Development funds were responsible for the initiation of the project since through these

funds the timber was cut and sawed at the village's small sawmill.

Help was obtained, too, from the BIA and from Max Cole, Extension Agent, came a considerable amount of technical assistance. Nearly all the village men participated in the construction of the house and were even assisted by several women and school-aged children.

The 4-H Club, directed by Mary Kameroff and Mrs. MacFarland did their share to help.

The completion of the building was a result of determined effort on behalf of the villagers as winter set in before the work was finished. Also, the men were hampered through out their work by the lack of a cat to haul the logs and the lumber.

Once it was completed sufficiently, the house became the residence of the VISTA Volunteers. However, the front part of it, a separate room measuring 12 by 18 feet, is an adult education annex and will be used as a library, sewing room, council meeting room and storage room for 4-H and pre-school supplies.

The villagers are very proud of their house and many are anxious to begin work on their own houses this year.