

Mekoryuk resident receives award

Fred Don, of Mekoryuk, was recently given a Life Saving Award by the Alaska Wing Civil Air Patrol. The award came about as a result of a search on March 9, 1982.

The Alaska State Troopers had been searching with volunteers on snow machines for two men who were believed to have been musk ox hunting on Nunivak Island and had been reported three days over-due. The troopers requested that the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) make an air search of the island but the Bethel Squadron was unable to get in due to the weather.

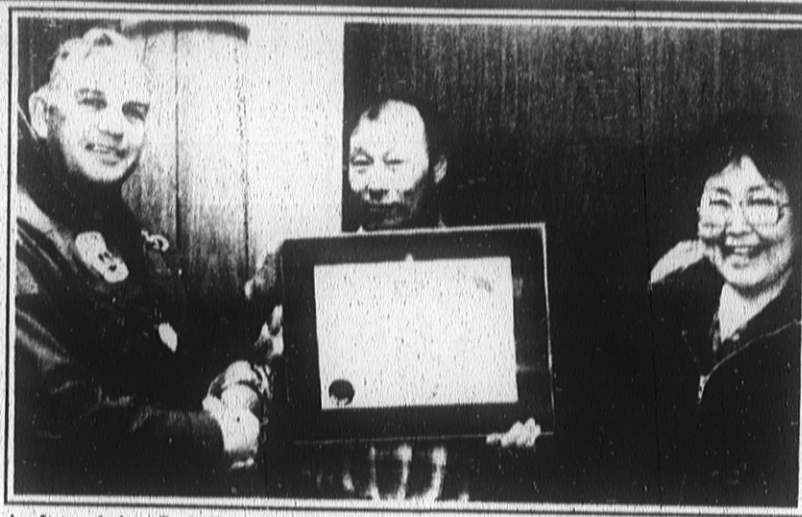
They contacted Fred Don who owns the only airplane on the island. Don made the air search and located the two hunters whose overloaded snow machine had broken down. There was no

place for Don to land so he directed a ground team to pick the hunters up with snow machines. The hunters were in good condition but low on food. In view of the food shortage and the severe weather, Don was credited with saving the lives of the two hunters.

Don is a life-long resident of Mekoryuk located at the mouth of Shoal Bay on the northside of Nunivak Island. He is a commercial pilot, carpenter, registered guide and outfitter. He is also a member of the Bethel Senior Squadron 150 miles away which is the closest squadron. He and his wife, Annie, have three sons.

Alaska Wing Commander Col. Russell J. Anderson presented the award to Don on March 2. According to the Alaska Wing Civil Air Patrol, this rescue mission is

not your classic CAP search by the standards set in the lower 48 states but is typical of many search and rescue missions flown in the remote bush areas of Alaska. CAP has a number of its members scattered in remote areas who are unable to participate in regular CAP activities but are an important part of CAP in Alaska when the need arises.



Left to right: Col. Russell J. Anderson, Commander Alaska Wing Civil Air Patrol; Senior member Fred Don; and Fred Don's wife Annie Don.



Photos by Mel Fry Pao

Group photo of CAP Party, Fred Don, Annie Don, two of Fred Don's sons and some Mekoryuk villagers.