



NUIQSUT 3RD LARGEST SOON

Re-Settled Village on Arctic Slope Springs U

By SCOTT SUTHERLAND

NUIQSUT — What started out as a tiny tent site slightly more than a year ago has rapidly emerged to become the third largest village in the Arctic Slope region and this time it looks like it's here to stay.

Sometime in June, residents of Nuiqsut will move into their permanent homes, ending a year of many hardships.

Located approximately 140 miles east of Barrow, village residents hope to have completed thirty permanent homes, a school, post office, hospital and a store by the end of the summer.

Once a thriving village, the community was abandoned in the winters years ago, because there was no school. Now, however, the people are returning to Nuiqsut. In April 1973 Joe Ash departed from Barrow with his wife and four children.

With him, was Raymond Ipalook and his family. The men selected the site for the new village on high ground about eight miles upriver of the original village. Approximately a month later, eighteen families came and erected tents.

During the winter, conditions

were not easy. Residents living in tents braved 75 mile per hour winds and temperatures dipping to 50 degrees below zero. When school opened in the fall, tents became classrooms during the day and homes at night.

Village women were teachers. Supplies are not easy to get, and expensive when available. The village is currently out of deisel which is badly needed to heat homes and run equipment that is used to build an airstrip.

A boat bought recently in Fairbanks for \$800 was returned when it was discovered that the cost of shipping it to Nuiqsut would be \$1444.

Currently there are 200 residents determined to make the village their permanent home. In June when their homes are completed they will celebrate with a community Open House.

As plans were being completed, one youngster innocently asked, "What's an open house?"

Nondalton Natives Resent Distorted Picture of Their Village

(From Bristol Bay By-Lines)

NONDALTON, Alaska — Invariably, we are faced with newspaper reporters who fail to give a true picture of our village and the people and what they really think. The latest such report appeared in Anchorage Daily Times, April 22, 1974. The story held infinite errors much of it based on a film, "No More Fish," which was shown at the village school, while other statements came from Don Nielsen, Dillingham host, who is not a native of the village. The Washington visitors remained in the village one and a quarter hours. During this time the reporter interviewed the Nondalton Co-op personnel, sat in on the 45 minute film, walked to and from the airstrip, ten minutes from the village, yet had time to give an elaborate account of our pros and cons relative to the Alaska pipeline hire and acceptance, welfare benefits in the community, our economic opportunities and even our failure at commercial salmon fishing.

It is not true that we, Natives of this community, decline to work on the Alaska pipeline. Right now we have 53 men ready, able and willing to go to the North Slope. All we ask is the nod from the employers that we are needed. Four of our youth have already been employed. Others are waiting.

We embrace the BLM fire-fighting. It has become a means

of livelihood now that Bristol Bay commercial fishing is something of the past. As for welfare money being distributed among families in this community, that, my friends, is a lot of "bunk." No one receives "welfare" in Nondalton unless we take into account those families that keep children for attending school purposes.

Our people believe in work. Any opportunity, or project, that offers us some kind of reimbursement cannot go unchallenged. In an area, as remote from a large city as is Nondalton, the employment opportunities are few. Projects, when granted, last but two or three weeks. Each family member then takes turn at work in order for all to be given the opportunity to earn a few dollars. Neither are the salary scales in the villages to be compared to those wages paid in larger cities. A 1974 hourly pay scale of \$2.50

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Got Yours?

"Troopers have noticed that many Alaskans have failed to put their 1974 tags on their license plates, and the deadline for this was May 31.

Drivers are reminded that they are subject to citation for driving with expired plates," Public Safety Commissioner Pat Wellington said last week.

Arctic Slope Village of Nuiqsut

"I Have Learned"—

Eskimo People Impress New York Writer

By MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN
The New York Times

NEW YORK — Sometime early in April my editor at The New York Times, where I work as a reporter, asked me if I wanted to go to cover a whale hunt in Point Hope, Alaska. It seemed that James Buckley, our senator here in New York, had been invited by the village, and my assignment was to accompany him.

I was tremendously excited. I had never been north of Montreal and I could hardly imagine a landscape of endless ice and a night of constant sun. I made some phone calls and obtained the very kind consent of the Tundra Times, the senator's host, to make the trip.

Now I am back here in New York. The temperature is in the high eighties and the traffic jams are fierce. I have been back a little more than a week and yet in a way I am not back at all. My memories still wander back to the wonderful week I spent camped out on the ice of the Chukchi Sea with Seymour Tuzroyluke, his family and his crew.

Perhaps the readers of the Tundra Times might be interested in my impressions. First off, I ought to confess, with some embarrassment, that before I went I knew next to nothing about the Arctic and the life of the Eskimos.

Like many, if not most of us here in the lower 48, I vaguely assumed Eskimos lived in igloos. In the same vague way I believed the Eskimos were similar in their culture to the Indians of the Southwest with whom I had some minimal contact. I humbly

apologize for my ignorance. I know now that the differences among natives peoples are as great and as significant as those among, say, Frenchmen, Greeks and Englishmen.

Obviously, spending a week among a people does not qualify me as an expert. I am (thank God) not an anthropologist or a sociologist. I was not studying my hosts. I was living with them. But I am a man and as such I do form impressions.

The strongest of these had to do with the cooperative spirit that I observed. Not once was an angry word spoken. At times things were tense and frustrating. In an incredible drama that I was fortunate enough to witness, Mr. Tuzroyluke, harpooned a

bowhead. It was a big one. But as his crew with the help of another tried to paddle the huge beast to shore, the harpoon worked loose and the whale sank to the bottom.

If a similar disaster had beset the people I live and work with, there would have been much cursing and screaming and people would try to blame each other. Out there on the ice there were no recriminations. Instead there was work. I had hoped to be of some help, but I learned quickly that I had none of the skills needed and that the best thing I could do was keep out of the way of those who worked through the night to claim the whale from the

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EGEGIK MEN SAY —

"We Want to Go to Work Now"

(From Bristol Bay By-Lines)

EGEGIK — "We want to go to work now," are the words coming from 17 strong, able-bodied men of the village of Egegik. The men, listed as follows, have given their names and skills in an effort to get themselves to work:

George Abalama, Jr., carpenter helper; Tom Alto, cook/laborer; Charles Ivy, Teamster or operating engineer; Dick Deigh, Teamster or operating engineer; Gabriel Chernikoff, painter; Morgan Chmiel, laborer; Kenny Chmiel, laborer; Robert Deigh, Teamster or operating engineer; Walter Kelly, Carpenter; Charles Myers, Teamster, operating engineer; Andrew Nelson, Carpenter Helper; Norman Olsen, laborer; Demetri Oaks,

laborer; George Strom, Jr., laborer; Joe Takak, Welder or Plumbing (after July); Ennis Zharoff, laborer; Gabriel Zharoff, laborer.

Ordinarily these men would be busily preparing now for the fishing season. However, this year the cannery in Egegik will not operate because there will be no fishing for sockeye salmon.

The men of Egegik say, "We do not want welfare. We want jobs! We want jobs now so that we can, in August, have the money needed to order grub and food for next winter for our families."

Bags are packed and the men ready to go on the Pipeline or other jobs as soon as they are notified.