

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?"



Arctic Slope Village of Nuiqsut