



SIMULATION AND CARIBOU—A caribou passes under one of the underpasses provided in a simulated pipeline barrier at the Prudhoe Bay oil fields on Alaska's North Slope. Stacked

pipe for a proposed 800-mile crude oil pipeline, and a pipe coating plant, are in the background.

About Half Wandered Away—

Caribou React in Varied Manners as They Encounter Simulated Pipeline

ANCHORAGE, September 9—Arctic caribou on their annual migration to Alaska's North Slope got their first glimpse of a

pipeline was erected across sand dunes and tundra at Prudhoe Bay.

Purpose of the field experiment was to determine the reaction of these nomadic animals to simulated sections of pipeline. As would be the case with the real thing—they could cross in three ways—over, under or around to a point where the pipeline would be underground.

The caribou, who seemed to wander by in small groups rather than large herds, took all three alternatives. Some went under, some over and about half just wandered away. Nobody knows where.

Scientists who carried out the test said migrating animals in large herds would be subject to strong "directional responses." The smaller groups observed at the test apparently did not have this reaction. Each took its own route.

The test was sponsored by the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The UA Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit directed the tests. Results, they reported emphatically, were not conclusive.

They will continue to collect and study material for several months.