

'Chichalyu' May Be New Name For the New Village of Minto

The village of Minto is slated to move come spring but "Minto," the name of the village, will not be going along if the present plans prevail.

The new village that will be located on the Tolovana River, 20 miles north from the present

village site, will probably be called "CHICHALYU."

The spelling of the new name is not official but it was done in that manner between former Chief Richard Frank and Howard Rock, editor of the Tundra Times. The two men worked the spelling out to follow the sound of the name.

"Chichalyu" means, "the back fin of the fish."

"The people of Minto have always been known as Chichalyus from way back," said Richard Frank. "The name sounds pretty good to Minto people at the moment but they are still thinking of other names."

Frank said he also suggested

the name, "Holland," after Carlos W. Holland, the man who had a great deal to do with the first blanket land claim Minto people made back in February 13, 1938. Holland helped Minto citizens in drawing up the claim document.

"I discussed the name 'Holland' with the Minto people but most of them seemed to favor the name 'Chichalyu.' We would also like to have some outside suggestions on what to call the new village."

Through the years past, Minto has suffered numerous times from floods usually during the spring ice breakup. The village was also inundated, along with

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'Chichalyu' . . .

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Fairbanks and Nenana, during the great flood of August 14, 1967.

"The villagers are all agreed to move to Tolovana River," stated Richard Frank.

Other sites considered were Chatinika River, nine miles from Fairbanks, and Tochaket, about 15 miles upriver from Nenana.

Richard Frank was chief of Minto in 1960-1962. Peter John is now the chief of the village.