

Letters to the Editor

Mountain Village, Alaska

August 13, 1967

Dear Sir:

I am corresponding in hopes of getting assistance of some kind.

The Mountain Village people have been trying to get an airport for the past 20 years. Thus far, an airstrip has been constructed at 2400 feet by the Northern Consolidated Airlines.

The airport at Saint Marys (incomplete) is insufficient. The reason is because the airport is located on the highest peaks in the surrounding area. The prevailing winds and fog are constant, making it impossible for the planes to land. High winds are constant and fog is forever hovering over the area while the rest of the area is fair. The airfield is hurting the entire Yukon Delta due to the fact that the NCA mainlines are unable to land at least 98% of the time due to prevailing winds and low ceiling. For an example: Last winter, in one month, we had two (2) outside mail services. The F-27 was able to land only twice during the entire month.

The present airstrip we have at Mountain Village can be extended to at least 8,000 feet, with room for a cross runway of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles along the Chuilnook slough.

Lengthening the airport at St. Marys will not help the weather to be better. It will only see our money go down the drain. Nor will it improve our mail service on the entire Yukon Delta. Also the airport is located in the windiest spot of the entire Yukon Delta. Ask any pilot where the most turbulent spot on the Lower Yukon is. Most likely, they will tell you that St. Marys is. Speaking for the people of the Yukon Delta, they will all agree that St. Marys is a very poor place to terminate the mainlines services. Except for charter services, who benefit by so many charter flights into the area due to the impossibility of a mainline making a landing at St. Marys for a connection of a bush mailplane, there is no other way to get out.

Also, the gravel here by the airstrip is available instead of a 3 to 4 mile haul as in St. Marys. We have a whole hill gravel reserve just for the digging and the weather is open at least 90% of the time.

If you have the assistance to give, we may get a sufficient airport for the Yukon Delta. Mountain Village would be centrally located for the area.

So, far, the Village Council has tried to get help from the area senator, our Representative, and our Congressman, but to no avail, so I'm turning to you.

Thank you kindly,

Matthew Bean

Mrs. Ignatuis Beans