

Ft. Yukon Enjoys Nicest, Biggest Community Center in Alaska

By LAEL MORGAN
Staff Writer

FORT YUKON—The biggest, nicest, newest community center in Alaska is located in Ft. Yukon, population 700. The \$618,704 facility is the result of five years of hard planning and perseverance and villagers think it was well worth the work.

The idea originated with Capt. Tom Trull, army worker for the Episcopal Church. He did the early planning and much of the footwork to government agencies using his vacation time to travel to offices in San Francisco and Washington.

The community backed him all the way raising \$30,000 for equipment and offering a \$5,000 contribution of land. Housing and Urban Development came through with a \$317,264 grant.

The State of Alaska granted \$203,220 for the project and the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska made a 10 year, interest free loan of \$92,220.

The facility has a gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, library, kitchen, meeting rooms, office space and -most convenient- public laundromat and showers.

"It saves us all so much carrying of water," remarked Mrs. Carolyn Peter program coordinator. "The kids spent so much time under water-some were taking three or four showers a day-that we had to limit them. It's working out just fine."

Even more heartening is the use made of the center by Ft. Yukon families.

"We have family day every other Sunday from 3 to 6 p. m. and you can only come if you bring your family. It's free for all and it's really cool to see the people playing with their children," Mrs. Peter said.

The center also offers a program for oldsters, baseball and basketball competitions, arts and crafts.

"This winter the old people want to get their stories down on tape and we hope to have the kids dramatize the stories. The Alaska State Library has given us a grant for \$12,000 for equipment and also 2,000 volumes. We're working to establish an Indian Section."

To show exactly what the center means to the community, Mrs. Peter got quotes from the villagers who use it.

"I think it is the best thing to ever happen to Ft. Yukon," said Robert Englishoe. "It is a place for the younger people to go. I think it is good for the younger generation because when I went to high school there was nothing like it."

The Definition Of Civil Rights

BETHEL—Rogue Vaquera, Civil Rights Specialist, Region X Seattle, attended the recent meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives and spoke briefly on the services of his office.

He was followed by Charlie Edwardson who urged members to take an interest in the field, "If you can define 'civil rights' as we have been allegedly uncivilized all these years."

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THE KIDS LIKE IT—Everything from the library to the showers. And there are recreational programs too for all age groups. The facility was built at the cost of \$618,704. With funding from government, church and local agencies.

Rose Baalam said, "It is good to have the community center. Especially for the kids. It is good for the showers and washing clothes. . . and when we drink a long time."

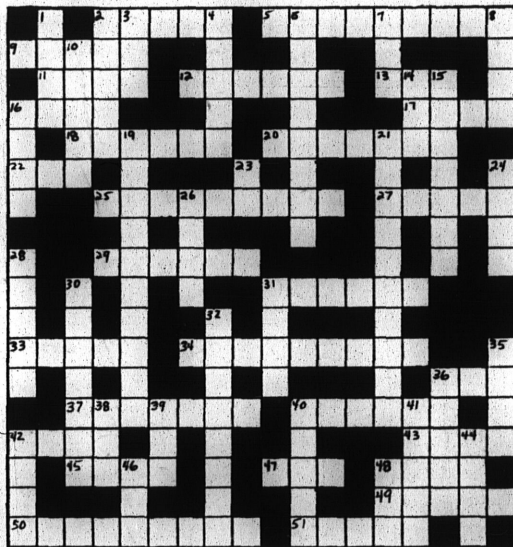
"I never thought that a place like that would be in Ft. Yukon.

It is like a dream," added Minnie Peter.

"An excellent meeting place, a good place to chit-chat with long-time-no-see friends," observed Nels Petersen. And Nat Englishoe Jr. concluded, "I see clean Indians all the time now."

Crossword Puzzle Qanereyart Qeraruataaleriit (No. 8)

This bilingual crossword puzzle is designed for those who are literate in the new Yupik writing system developed by the Eskimo Language Workshop at the University of Alaska in College. The answers are in Yuk Eskimo. The correct answers to this puzzle will appear next week. Piluaqaqina.

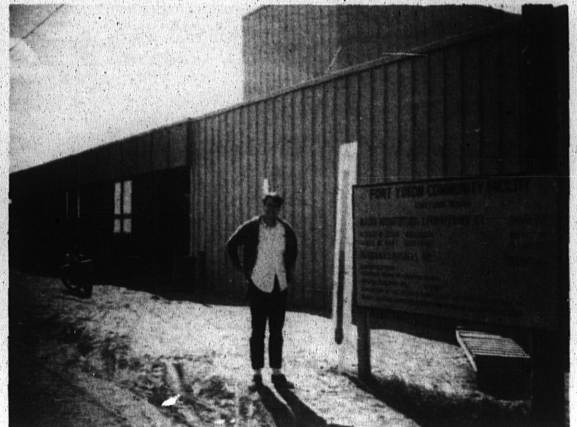


Across
Akitmun

2. a real thing
5. It was her saliva.
9. floor
11. land, place
12. Let him! (future)
13. skirt (Kuskokwim) pelvic area (Yukon)
16. a drop (of liquid)
17. Smell! Sniff!
18. Play!
20. breasts
22. flood, tide
25. mukluks (Kuskokwim)
27. Stay home!
29. my follower, one who goes with me
31. a hole, perforation
33. an expression of caution
34. the parkas she made
36. mouth (of river, etc.)
37. He passes it.
40. his (own) daughter(s)
42. There. That's it.
43. hem
45. pillow
47. dog harness (Yukon)
48. Move away!
49. Grow (you-all)!
50. I go out to him.
51. traditional skin boat (closed)

Down
Acitmun

1. lap, anterior (frontal) area of torso
2. bluff, cliff
3. dirt
4. its rivers
6. two cheeks
7. handle, shaft
8. He puts them on.
10. He steps on it.
14. Go out!
15. one's own
16. tooth (spelling var.)
19. They waited for her.
21. She was a companion to them.
23. short form for 'Hey you!' (nearby) (Kuskokwim)
24. ice
26. egg yolk
28. again
30. He takes care of her.
31. night
32. He goes down.
35. a grey hair
36. Do unto me! (in the future)
38. his eyes
39. your husband
40. power, strength
41. trees
42. body
44. Open your eyes (you-all)!
46. expression of repulsion (Yukon)
48. this one



TOM TRULL, Army worker for the Episcopal Church at Ft. Yukon stands grinning in front of his dream come true...a super, deluxe Community Center. He's been working on the project several years and, with the backing of the town, it became a reality in July.

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