

Big Game Habitat Being Restored

NANA-Purcell Ltd., a joint venture under contract to Alyeska Pipeline Service Company has hired Eskimos from the Kotzebue area in northwestern

Alaska to restore willow vegetation along the trans-Alaska pipeline north of the Brooks Range.

The purpose of the planting,

a requirement of government agencies, is to restore critical big game habitat disturbed during pipeline and haul road construction.

The project will provide native species of willow primarily felt-leaf willow to approximately 950 acres of land close to the pipeline right-of-way.

Most of the willows will be planted as rooted cuttings at material sites from which gravel was taken for building the 360 mile Yukon River to Prudhoe Bay and the pipeline work pad.

Grant Ballot, lifetime resident of Selawik, which is located 150 miles east of Kotzebue, supervises the largest cutting crew consisting of 30 men. All men in the crew are Inupiat Eskimos from the villages of Noatak, Selawik, Noorvik, Deering and other smaller communities in the Kotzebue area, and are members of the NANA Regional Corporation.

Four Alyeska landscape architects at Anchorage, supervised by Bruce Sharkey, are responsible for planning and designing the willow cutting

program. This involved considerable research in agronomy, locating suitable cutting and planting sites, obtaining government permits and providing technical advice to field engineers in setting up the nursery at Dietrich.

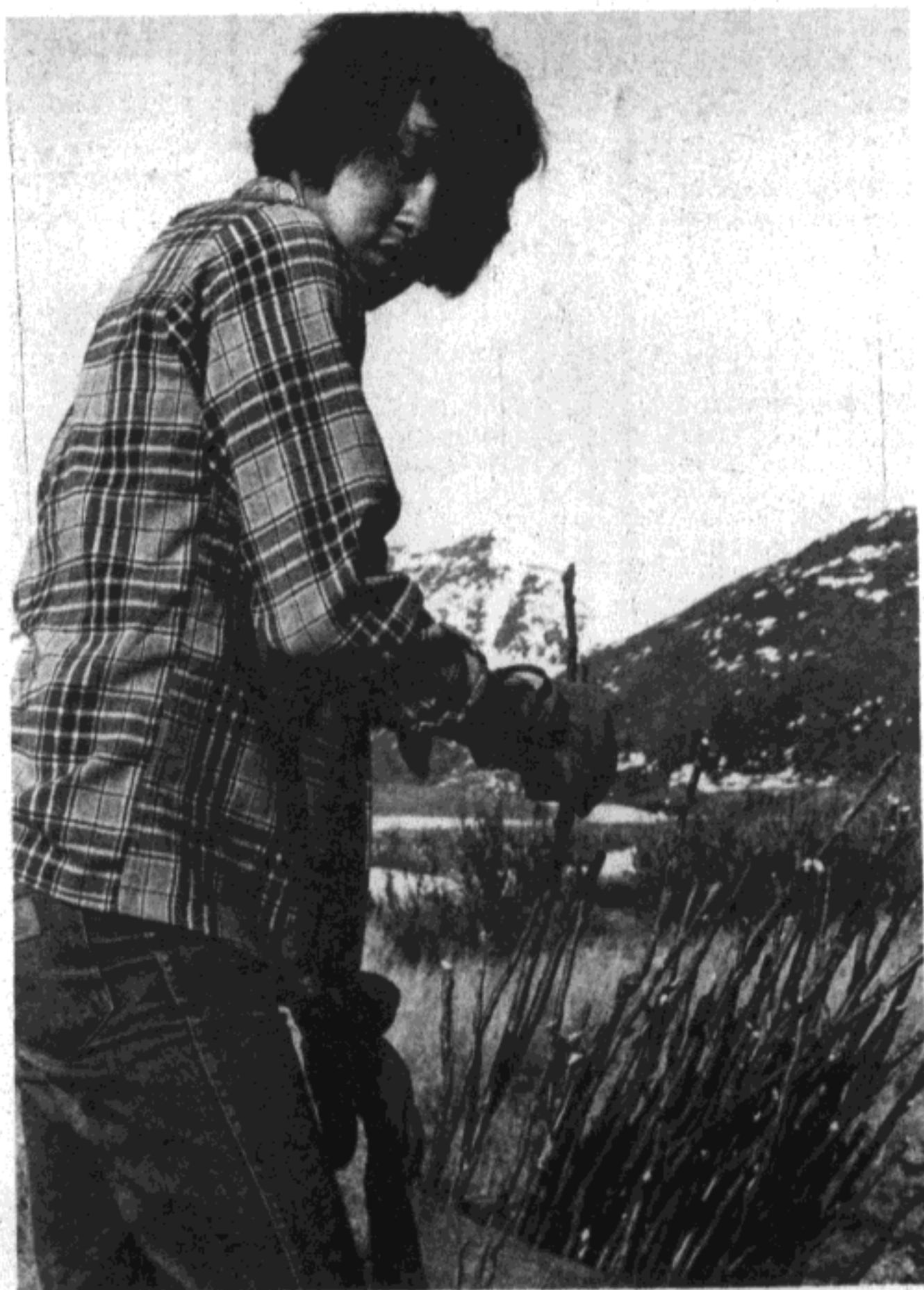
According to Al Condo, former supervisor of Restoration Engineering who recently transferred to another project, "Alyeska's restoration program is the most ambitious, comprehensive restoration program ever undertaken on a construction program."



SPRING GARDENING—Gilbert Smith from Selawik shed his jacket as spring temperatures climbed to the 50's in the Hammond River Valley, east of Galbraith Lake Pipeline Camp. There, willows are sniped with short-bladed pruning shears and placed into burlap bags for transport.



AT HOME IN THE BROOKS—Members of a crew cutting willows for Alyeska's restoration program are right at home in the northern wilds of the Brooks Range. All 30 crewmen are Eskimos, who were raised in northern Alaska, primarily in the Kotzebue area. Here, Whittier Williams, left, Norman Clark, Whittier Burr, Fred Norton, Kirk Howarth, and Grant Wright remove smaller limbs from the cuttings prior to packaging them in burlap bags for transport to Dietrich Camp. At Dietrich they will be processed and stored for rooting in a specially prepared nursery. They will be planted in mid to late July.



BAGGING EM' UP—David Mitchell from Selawik places willow cuttings in burlap bags so they can be loaded easily aboard trucks for transport.



EARLY START—The 30-man crew cutting willows for Alyeska's restoration project gets an early start, heading to the field from Pump Station 4 at 7 a.m. The crew is divided into three groups for transport to work-sites aboard a Bell 205 helicopter. The stack of burlap bags is full of cuttings in the foreground represents less than a days work.

Photos and information courtesy of Alyeska Pipeline