

Brings Home Bacon—

Bulkhead May Save Historic Ft. Yukon from Mighty Yukon

State Representative Don Young, of Ft. Yukon, was one of the more jubilant legislators to return home recently

from Juneau.

Reason: a \$75,000 line item appropriation in this year's state budget to construct a bulkhead at Ft. Yukon.

To some, the item may not mean much but to the villagers of Ft. Yukon it means a great deal—perhaps their very existence.

For the past several years a slough adjacent to the village has opened up and the mighty Yukon River has been chewing away at the town.

The river long ago gobbled up the town's main street and 12 homes. In five years it has eaten away 195 feet and only has 210 feet more to go to reach the state school and water system and the historic Hudson Bay Fort, which the town has been rebuilding as a long term project.

The fort, to be a centennial attraction this year, is valued at \$75,000. The

state school built at a cost of \$1 million would take

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Bulkhead . . .

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\$2 million to replace.

The Corps of Engineers attempted to construct a bulkhead across the slough in 1962 but they only had an appropriation of \$56,000. The work was not let out on a contract however, and when the appropriation ran out the bulkhead was constructed only about half way across the slough.

The river soon melted away the work that had been done; the project went down the drain.

Young explains that obtaining the State appropriation was no easy matter. "It was touch and go for a while, he says.

"It was taken out by amendment; then we got it back in. I was really sweating they would take it out again.

"I am very happy I was finally able to bring home the bacon," Young said.

Construction is expected to get underway this summer.