

Anaktuvuk Pass Village Decides Not to Move

Anaktuvuk Pass villagers have changed their minds about moving. They informed the Bureau of Indian Affairs Fairbanks office this week that they had decided to stay where they were.

Their decision apparently was based on the Bureau of Indian Affairs' offer of 50,000 gallons of fuel oil and the stoves in which to burn the oil if the people stayed at Anaktuvuk.

A B.I.A. official at Fairbanks estimated the first 10,000 gallons probably would be delivered by air in September. The rest will be hauled in later by cat train. The B.I.A. is currently looking for the most economical method of shipping the fuel.

The village voted not to move at their council meeting June 3. They also elected new officers. The new officers, according to VISTA Bob Mandell, were among those who last spring favored remaining at the Pass, when the majority of villagers decided to move.

New officers are Zaccharias Hugo, president; Joshua Rulland, vice president; Noah Ahgook, secretary; John Morry, treasurer; Clyde Hugo, marshall. Board members are David Mediana, Simon Paneak, Susie Paneak and Thomas Rulland.

The village had considered moving to Umiat this winter

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because they had exhausted a nearby supply of willows used for fuel. They sent six representatives to Fairbanks last month to discuss the move with government officials. At that time they were told that in addition to the fuel, they could get help with much needed repairs of the airstrip if they stayed where they were. Villagers were told the B.I.A. had no funds to help them move.

No specific plans have been made for what will happen when the 50,000 gallons of oil, an estimated three year supply is exhausted. "First

things, first," a B.I.A. official said. "For future oil, the people themselves will have to take the initiative. The B.I.A. is not going to be the one agency doing everything for the people anymore."

In earlier discussions, B.I.A. officials suggested that future arrangements can be made for the people to buy their own oil.