

Crow Band May Celebrate Upon Completion—

BIA Dot Lake Home Building Program Proves Successful

Most of the people of Dot Lake, including Chief Andrew Isaac, head of the United Crow Band, will be moving into new houses this fall.

The sound of hammers pounding nail after nail has been in the air since the first part of May in the small village of about 45 residents, most of whom are natives.

The project has called upon the combined efforts of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Public Health Service, Neighborhood Youth Corps, and Operation Mainstream, not to mention the Dot Lake residents who are constructing the houses.

When the houses are complete, Chief Isaac hopes to have a celebration inviting the people of the United Crow Band to witness what can be accomplished through a combined effort.

According to Allen Gundry, Social Service Representative for the Fairbanks BIA agency, the Bureau is furnishing the building materials under a \$73,000 allotment for the construction of six homes at Dot Lake.

Each family receiving a home is asked to work on the project. While doing so, it is not paid for the work but is eligible to receive general assistance for food and clothing if necessary.

The Public Health Service is helping to provide heating and plumbing.

The State-operated Operation Mainstream program is providing a caterpillar tractor for road-clearing.

Eleven Neighborhood Youth Corps workers ranging from 14 to 18 years of age are working six hours a day cleaning the grounds and clearing land around the homes.

The houses are being constructed by seven men: Chief Andrew Isaac, David Joe, Paul Henry, Gene Henry, and Abraham Luke, who will live in five of the houses. Dick Osterby, a carpenter hired by the council and Carl Charles, brother of Stella Miller who will occupy the sixth house with her family.



DOT LAKE HOME BUILDERS—The building crew for the Dot Lake home building project are, left to right, Gene Henry, Carl Charles, Dick Osterby, David Joe, Paul Henry, Tom Wasky, and Abraham Luke.

The homes, Gundry said, are being constructed under the direction of Carl Charles, president of the council. He is responsible for finding, purchasing and transporting the materials, supervising the construction, and keeping the crew happy, Gundry said.

Charles recently reported that the cooperation of the crew has been very good and that construction on the homes is coming

along fine.

The United Crow Band includes the people of Eagle, Men-tasta, Tok, Tanacross, Northway and Tetlin, as well as Dot Lake. Chief Isaac, who is over 70 years old, has long been known for his determination and persistent efforts to protect the land claims of the Indians, especially in the Tanacross area against State selection.