

Rain, Snow, Sleet, Hail Delay Mail?—

Alakanuk Accuses Wiens for Not Delivering Mail

Traditionally, neither rain, snow, sleet or hail will keep the postman from his appointed rounds but something sure is delaying him in Alakanuk.

Villagers are so concerned they've passed a resolution on the subject.

"During the last several weeks and many periods before that, Wien Consolidated Airlines has been seemingly neglecting regular mail and air freight services to Alakanuk.

"There have been many times when the airfield here was open during good weather but Wiens didn't come or would send a small chartered plane with the mail instead.

"For an example: On January 4, 1972, a council member and about 11 other passengers were waiting for transportation to Bethel. Some had urgent meetings to attend and others

were going to the hospital, etc. The airlines canceled the flight for no apparent reason.

"That same day, January 4, 1972, there was a flight into Emmonak and they left the mail. This is a distance of about eight miles to the north.

"On many occasions when the mail has been left off at Emmonak, thereby laying up for sometimes a week at a time, and the Postmaster here has made many trips up to bring mail back by snowmobile and sled, which he is doing at his own will so the people can get the much needed mail. If he did not do this, the backlog of mail would be very great.

"This does not make any sense when Wien Consolidated Airlines has the mail contract from the U.S. Postal Service to service the village at a regular schedule.

"This is a small example of the very irregular air-service this village has been getting during the past, and this village feels that it is past due for some changes in our service."

This resolution is dated January 8, 1972 and arrived at the Tundra Times post office box in Fairbanks on January 21.
