

Arctic Institute of North America Finds Real Oldtimers in Alaska

Archeologists revealed at a meeting this past week that we are all Cheechakos compared to some of the real old timers of Alaska.

The Arctic Institute of North America (AINA) represented by Mr. Robert Faylor and anthropologist, Dr. John Cambell made a progress report to the Bureau of Land Management of their activities in monitoring the archeological field research conducted by the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

The Alyeska archeologists are exploring the length of the proposed trans-Alaska pipeline route for archeological sites.

Except for small portions between the Yukon River and Prospect Creek, and Fairbanks and Delta Junction, the entire proposed route of the pipeline has been surveyed for sites.

Dr. John Cook of the University of Alaska, one of the archeologists under contract with Alyeska, stated that nearly 200 sites were discovered. Most of the sites were small and of minor importance; but a few large sites were located.

Artifacts discovered at the sites ranged from a few stone flakes or chips where historic man made a tool or weapon, to complete village locations with house pits and tent rings. Numerous artifacts were recovered and are being catalogued.

The eighteen archeologists and

anthropologists who were involved in the project worked out of the "Alyeska" construction camps. The scientists traversed most of the route on foot, using helicopters primarily for travel between camps and from camp to each day's starting point.

The heavy cover of vegetative growth in some areas reduced the effectiveness of the search for sites, said Mr. William Workman of Alaska Methodist University, a chief researcher of the project.

He stated that only one artifact was located between Gulikana and Valdez, mainly because of the density of the vegetation. Mr. Workman felt that more evidence of early man's presence in the area would show up after preliminary construction work removes some of the heavy plant growth.

Dr. Helge Larsen with the Danish National Museum, Dr. William E. Taylor, Jr. of the National Museum of Canada and Dr. Elmer Harp, Jr. of Dartmouth College, and also chairman of the AINA consultant group were among those attending the meeting.

Mr. Ronald Bookman, who heads Alyeska's archeological research program, stated that the remaining preliminary research in the unsurveyed areas would be done this coming summer.