

Arctic Medipod Will Serve Remote Villages

The Arctic Medipod arrived in Alaska last week, ready to be outfitted as a flying medical clinic to accompany U. S. Army doctors in their treatment visits to remote native villages.

The flying medical facility is being converted from the cargo pod of one of three CH-54B Sikorsky TARHE helicopters USARAL received last week. The three giant "flying cranes" came across country from Connecticut piloted by a crew of army fliers.

The medipod will greatly expand the facilities available to army doctors participating in the army's bush medical program.

The program has been going on for about a year on an interim basis. Medical teams that have gone out into the field with army units have been going to nearby villages to give whatever medical and dental help they could.

Now, the giant cargo helicopters can drop a completely equipped medical clinic with the

doctors, ready to open for business. The giant helicopter is designed to transport large cargo loads.

Army plans call for expanding their bush medical program perhaps to as many as 20 trips per year. Army specialists have also gone to the Barrow and Kotzebue Alaskan Native Hospitals to work with the doctors there.

The activity is being coordinated with the Alaskan Native Health Service.

Auroral Study Of Infrasonics

COLLEGE—A grant of \$43,291 has been awarded to Dr. Charles R. Wilson, associate professor of physics at the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska, by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, to continue study of auroral infrasonic waves.

Egan Appoints Reapportionment Board

JUNEAU—Governor William A. Egan appointed a five-member board to draw up plans for reapportioning the Alaska Legislature, as required by the state constitution following each decennial census.

Named to the State Reapportionment Board were Felix Toner, Juneau; Miss Frances Degnan, Unalakleet; Clifford Warren, Anchorage; Richard J. Greuel, Fairbanks; and Thomas J. Miklautsch, Fairbanks.

"All are long-time Alaskans," Governor Egan said, "and are highly qualified for the important task before them."

The Reapportionment Board, under constitutional provision, acts in an "advisory capacity" to the governor.

Its job is to prepare a recommendation for reapportionment of the Legislature, based on the 1970 Census, and present the plan to the governor.

23 Crews—Barrow Whalers Get Set to Hunt

By GUY OKAKOK
Barrow Correspondent
BARROW, (Special)—Hunters this week have seen whales go by. Now whalers are getting ready to go out anytime. Right now there is no lead out there. Whalers today, this winter 1971 are around 23 canoes. Names as follows:

Ralph Ahveoganna, Robert Aiken, Alfred Hopson, Roxy Oyagak, Thomas Itta, Thomas Brower, Alfred Leavitt, Joseph Panigee, Percy Nusunginya, Thomas Panningona, Arnold Brower, Sr., Bert Okakok.

Whitlam Adams, Warren Matumeak, Allen Kaleak, Nate Neakok, Luther Leavitt, Winfred Ahvakana, Merle Solomon, David Brower, Wyman Panigee, Joe Sikvaugungak and Simeon Patkotak.

These mens' names above are the captains who will own the umiats this spring, but I do not know how many crews each umiak will have.

Each were urged to have flares in their canoes. If any one canoe has an accident, they must shoot three flares one after the other, then the other canoes who saw the three flares signals, they can go to this canoe who needs help in a hurry. That's No. 1.

No. 2, If any umiats needs help in towing the whale to shore ice, they must shoot two signal flares. These are the two new rules the committees have bring out.

All boats who anticipate going on the lead to whale will get a share of the first whale caught before they can get to the lead. But on the second whale caught boats that are not actively whaling or without representation during cutting of a whale will not be entitled to a share.

This is not new to whalers. It's been that way ever since we men are old enough to remember.

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Walrus Carnival at Savoonga

On Sunday, May 2, the 800 residents of St. Lawrence Island and visitors from throughout Alaska will gather to dedicate the huge "walrus freezer" completed at the Eskimo village of Savoonga as part of their annual Savoonga Walrus Carnival.

The installation, under development for four years by the University of Alaska Institute of Arctic Environmental Engineering, is a circular wooden tank 55 feet in diameter and 12 feet deep, with a capacity of 200,000 pounds of meat.

It is designed to conserve resources and bolster the village's subsistence economy by preserving the walrus meat, a dietary staple, from spoiling during the summer months. The pilot project was financed principally by the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce - which provided \$150,000 for development and construction of a prototype model.

Eventually similar "ice boxes" may be installed elsewhere in the Arctic and Bering Sea walrus hunting region and even in interior villages where warm summer temperatures pose a serious meat spoilage problem.

The dedication ceremony, timed to coincide with the start of the Spring walrus hunt, will be part of the annual Savoonga Walrus Carnival. Many visitors have been invited and transportation has been arranged from Nome at noon on Saturday, the 1st day of the Carnival.

Visitors should bring sleeping bags, warm clothes and make their own reservations to Nome. Sharon Nelson of the IAEE (479-7330) will make reservations till April 30, after which she leaves for Nome to coordinate flights.

The walrus freezer, which cost about \$150,000 has been a cooperative effort between EDA, the University of Alaska, IAEE and the village of Savoonga, with assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the University's Sea Grant program.

In 1966 Gladys Musgrove, now a retired home economist of the University's Cooperative Extension Service, asked University personnel if they could help solve the walrus meat spoilage

problem.

In some years, half the spring harvest of 185 to 400 walruses, was inedible - or had to be eaten in a putrid state - after summer storage in makeshift holes in the ground covered with sheds.

The walruses, which stay near the end of the solid ice pack, migrate northward past St. Lawrence Island in May and June on their way to the Arctic Ocean. This is the best hunting season - better than their southern migration in November and December cold.

Two years of research on the UA campus followed their EDA grant, and the Savoonga freezer was built in Seattle and shipped to the island last fall. Then followed excavation problems in the difficult frozen silty clay volcanic ash which had to be dug-out by pick and shovel.

Almost continuous storms raged in the late fall and communication and transportation for outside consultants was poor. However, the freezer was completed in time for the spring hunt.

Also, at the potlatches, the chiefs discussed the past year and advised their young men on what to expect and prepare for in the year to come.

"Today," according to Robert Charlie, "we think of the potlatch as celebrating together and getting to know each other better."

The fishing is good at Minto,

the road should be dry and visitors who expect to stay overnight should bring their own tents and camping equipment. Also, the village asks, no alcoholic beverages please.

Anyone requiring more information on the potlatch can contact Robert Charlie, Box 4079 North Pole, Alaska or call him at 488-6891.

Minto Schedules Three-day Potlatch Celebration at New Village Site

Native dancing, food, fun and festivities will be found in Minto this spring as the village hosts a three day potlatch and open house at their new village.

The potlatch is scheduled to begin June 4 and continue through three days of festivities.

In the old days, the potlatch was the time for the leaders of the tribe to distribute gifts to the chiefs of neighboring tribes.

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