

# FT. YUKON REVEALS HOUSING PROBLEMS



THIS ONE ROOM house holds 8 adults and 4 children.



AGNES AND PAUL James are renting this house for \$10 per month. They have no electricity. They are too far from the city pump house. This house is in no better condition than the house prior to moving into this one.



BESSIE WILLIAMS rents this house and she said it is too small now that two of her children are in their teens. She said she has no lot or means to build.



JAMES NATHANIEL is renting this house. James does not have any lot or means to build a house of his own. James is raising his four children by himself. The children will require more room as they grow older.

**FORT YUKON**—The Fort Yukon Native Association recently took a survey of the housing conditions in Fort Yukon and what the association has found is not good.

The members counted 116 houses that are now being lived in. Some are in livable condition but most are substandard and inadequate.

There are 48 people who do not own houses. These people are either renting from residents who moved away from Fort Yukon and others are living with relatives.

The population of the town is around 600.

Twenty-three years ago, the men who used to go out to their camps to trap and hunt for their families had little use for their homes in town. Now they find themselves without housing.

These people are now among the old age and some have no homes. Some live in their run-down houses because they have no other place to live.

Recently, the community aide Addie Shewfelt tried to do something about the old age housing. She requested the use of the town community hall for boarding home for the aged for the winter.

Although her request was granted, something else came up she thought was important for her people so she withdrew her request.

The Native association, however, came around to help and told Addie Shewfelt they would back her request. The association will turn over the log building home when it is finished.

In the last couple of years, only six new homes have been built but the builders will need help before they can finish their new homes so they can move in.

In 1949 when the flood washed away the town in the old section of Fort Yukon, new houses were built for some people. But 23 years later these are in need of repair or they are completely rundown to the point where they have to be torn down and perhaps new houses can be built in their place.

Most people the association talked to said they would rather have new houses rather than repairing the old ones because it doesn't do any good to repair them.

The following are groups of people who require housing:

- Those with no lands and means.
- Those with land and no means.
- Those with no land or means.

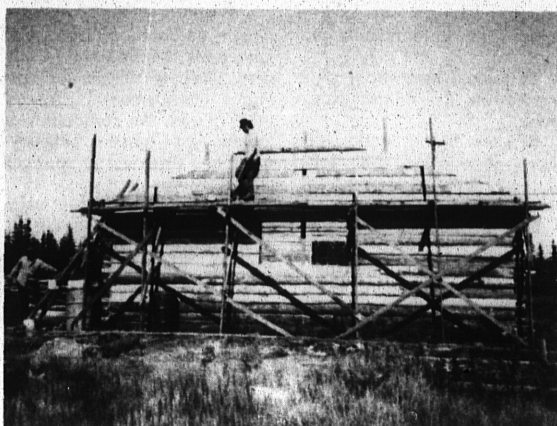
The main reason that there is very little rental housing being developed is because the land required to build is held by the people that do not have the capital, while people desiring to build do not have land.

There are very few acceptable building sites in Fort Yukon area.

The Native population tends to want to remain close to the river, which might be a problem, but again it might not be a problem because there is now a dike in the slough where the water used to flow through and cause erosion.

For those who do not have land, but who need homes, may build in the old village area where the flood had washed the houses away. This is a flood hazard area but they do not have any other choice unless they buy lots at \$200-\$300 a lot.

The community aide Addie Shewfelt said she will continue to try to do something about the needs of her people and the most need she can see now is the need for housing.



THIS BUILDING will be used for the old age boarding home this winter. Anyone wishing to donate to this project can mail their donations to Addie Shewfelt, Fort Yukon, Alaska.



THIS IS ONE OF THE oldest houses in Fort Yukon. John Jonas, one of the oldtimers, lives here and his daughter and family lives in the adjoining back room. These people have no land or means to build.



THIS HOUSE is a rental unit. Such houses are rented, too, because people just can't find any place better.



JESSIE LUKE moved her house in 1957 to where she thought was a good location. Erosion and during the break-up of the river moved her house 30 feet to the river bank. She said she is on welfare and have no means to move her house or build a new house.