

Pribilofs Ready for Self-Government, Says U of A Report

The Pribilof Islands community of St. Paul is ready to become a successful self-governing municipality, according to a report published by the University of Alaska's Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research.

Entitled "St. Paul Community Study—An Economic and Social Analysis," the 176-page report is the result of investigation and study of the economic and social base of the government-administered village.

The study was undertaken for the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in accordance with the Fur Seal Act of 1966. The act, sponsored by Sen. E. L. Bartlett, provides for St. Paul to obtain self-government if the Secretary of the Interior determines that a viable community "capable of providing adequate municipal services is established."

The legislation also allows for the transfer of government owned land, property and facilities to St. Paul and for transitional grants to assist the community in providing municipal services.

Following an examination of the community's ability to support municipal government and services, the report concludes that the necessary basis exists for the federal government to take the steps leading to the establishment of self-government in St. Paul.

Successful establishment of an incorporated community will help move St. Paul toward a higher level of per capita income and an improved standard of living," the report states.

The Pribilof Islands came under the direct jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Interior in 1910. In recent years, management of the islands' affairs has been vested in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The government's prime objective is the conservation, management and protection of fur seals," the report explains. "In addition, government responsibility has included providing for the health of the two Pribilof Islands communities—St. Paul and St. George."

The report states that in the past the residents of the island communities received free housing, clothing, food, household supplies, health care, education and other services. These were supplemented by a limited but gradually increasing cash wage.

Since 1962, all workers have received standard

(Continued on page 5)



4-H'ers are painting signs on the 44 fifty-five gallon trash containers. Prior to this they cleaned, painted the barrels and made

—Photo by JEANESSE SHEPHARD

Mt. Village Featured in National 4-H Magazine

Mountainette 4-H Club of Mountain Village, Alaska, is featured in the April issue of the National 4-H News.

The illustrated article explains the village beautification activities conducted by the club last summer.

The club received a \$500 grant from the Coca-Cola Bottling Company to assist in the project. This club was the only youth organization in Alaska receiving a grant from funds made available on a national basis by Coca-Cola.

Beautification activities included village cleanup, walkway improvements, and placement of barrels in appropriate places for throwing trash. These barrels were painted and a sign stenciled on them — "Help 4-H Keep Village Clean." The barrels are emptied by the club.

Other activities were planting of trees in the village which were brought by boat from several miles upstream. (The village is located on the Yukon River).

placement of fencing around trees to protect them from dogs, and making and painting a sign to put on the airstrip.

The article was written by Mrs. Jeanesse Shephard, a club leader.

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers.

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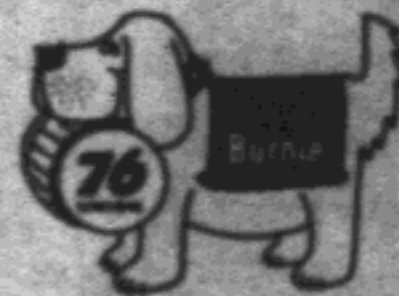
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