

Naturally, you can't get by without them on the construction sites. However, the trailers, or shacks, as the roughnecks often call them, are a home for people who have lived here for dozens of years.

There is such a camp at the Nadym Air Transport Authority. It was from there that the editorial office received a letter with over thirty signatures. "The administration is not interested in the life of its employees," the letter stated. "The trailers in which we live have long ago rotted from the dampness; mice and rats run about in them. The camp is in an unsanitary condition, surrounded by rubbish heaps and dumps. There is nothing in the settlement for the children. Our water is trucked in and, since there are no access roads, trucks break down frequently. In the winter, the light is often turned off in the settlement. Everyone has children, and there is nothing to cook their food on. The heating is bad. However, the administration has never got the people in the settlement together to find out how we live..."

I should say right off that almost all the facts of the letter turned out to be true. There are frequent disruptions in the supply of electricity. It is cold in many of the trailers. There are problems with trucking in water and removing rubbish. Quite obviously, neither the administration nor the union local are doing their job, although sometimes even they don't have the power to do anything. We set up a meeting with the people of the camp in the auditorium of the Air Transport Authority's headquarters. We sat in coats: the small temporary boiler-house clearly was not big enough for what the people working here expect these days.