



RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS



Mailing Address: Drawer 412 ECB

Telephone 279-2441

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

STAFFERS CONDUCT VILLAGE TRAINING

S. Carlo Studies 10 Regions

As a two-month old staff member of RurAL CAP, Stewart A. Carlo is trying to feel and know some of the problems of the agency's 10 regions.

As a Program Specialist, he is working on the decentralization of State-Operated Schools; increasing Native study programs at Anchorage Community College, and subsistence hunting and fishing in rural Alaska.

Stewart graduated from La-throp High School in Fairbanks and attended three years at the University of Alaska.

He majored for two years in Electrical Engineering, spent a semester in Aeronautical Engineering at Northrop Institute of Technology in Los Angeles.

He was drafted into the Army for almost three years, where he worked as a radar air traffic controller in South Vietnam and Germany, and traveled extensively in Vietnam and Europe.

When he completed his tour in the spring of 1971, he took a four-month vacation, hitchhiking through Central and South America.

In the fall of 1972, he enrolled at the University of Alaska, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Business Administration and Economics. Stewart is



BOARD TRAINING—Members of the Copper Valley-Tanana Development Corporation Board of Directors are shown in a training session conducted by RurAL CAP Controller Ann Reid Stewart.

now enrolled at the Anchorage Community College.

He said, "At the present time, I am trying to build a knowledgeable base of all the different Native cultures and people in Alaska and at the same time pursue what is happening in international politics and economics, especially the polar countries."

"I strongly believe that the Native people will be more in-

volved in international affairs than in domestic affairs in a matter of a few years. Right now we lack in professional personnel experience to enter this field."

Aleutian Chain Villages to Have P.O.'s

Two villages on the Aleutian Chain may have post offices in operation by the time this article is printed.

Dimitri Philemonof, Regional Director for the Aleutian Planning Commission, said that Mr. Kobus, with the district postal services, had been instrumental in making this possible.

Atka is presently serviced by a Navy tug which makes the 12-hour trip once every month or

RurAL CAP Program Specialists on Session In Revenue Sharing

In early December, two RurAL CAP staff members visited Mentasta and Copper Center to provide training and attend a board of directors meeting.

Wilson Ticket, Program Development Specialist, conducted a training session on State and Federal Revenue Sharing and went over information on municipal corporations.

He said all of the villages in the AHTNA area had already sent in applications to incorporate as second class cities, and that Copper Center and Gakona were ready to be incorporated.

Classes on basic bookkeeping, accounting, and record keeping were given by Ann Reid Stewart, Controller for the agency.

The Copper Valley-Tanana Village Development Corporation

board meeting was held in the Mentasta community hall on Dec. 8.

The agenda included seating of new board members from Tanacross, Gakona, Gulkana, and Northway; consideration of investing their 10% of the Land Claims money in a credit union; and village reports.

Election of officers seated Harry Johns as the new president; Martha Goodlatau, Vice President; and Ken Baker, Secretary.

Fire Protection in Bush Areas

Twenty-two outlying villages will be the target of a fire protection program which is coordinated with State fire personnel the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, and RurAL

CAP.

Dave Bliss, a former VISTA volunteer who worked with the Southeast Alaska Community Action Program (SEACAP), listed objectives of the program as follows: To make contact with personnel in state and federal agencies who travel in rural areas — Public Health and the Extension Service offered their services; to develop workshops regarding fire protection and related subjects; and community instruction in the use of portable fire extinguishers.

Also, prior to closing the six-months program, an evaluation will be conducted, and recommendations made to participating agencies; data will be collected as requested by the agencies, and consulting services provided to the villages and agencies as required.

Mr. Bliss said that he felt it important that workshops be held in the regions so that selected personnel from Native corporations and villagers may be instructed in fire protection and revenue sharing.

Rekdahl Prog. Developer

RurAL CAP's newest staff member is Gertrude Larson Rekdahl who is a part-time Program Development Specialist in the Human Resource Development and Planning Department. Gertrude was born in King Cove and attended High School in Seattle.

In coordination with the Alaska Methodist University, RurAL CAP has hired Gertrude to work one day a week as a research assistant in the field of economic development in rural Alaska.

She will be assisting the RurAL CAP regions and acting as a liaison between the regions and State and Federal Economic Development Affairs.

Gertrude attended the University of Alaska, and is presently in her Junior year at AMU. She is also vice president of the Anchorage stockholders of the Bering Straits Native Corporation.

Bilingual Program—

Atka Program Is Deemed Successful

During a recent trip to Atka, Dimitri Philemonof, Regional Director of the Aleutian Planning Commission, said that he had an opportunity to talk with Moses Dirks who is presently teaching the Aleut language in their grade school.

Moses Dirks, an Aleut, was born at Atka in 1952. He attended grade school there, continued high school at Mt. Edgecumbe for three years and completed his education at Anchorage Community College, studying structural and pipe welding.

The present Commissioner of Alaska Human Rights Commission, Bill Vaudrin, who was then working for Alaska State-Operated Schools, was responsible for

setting up the bi-lingual program.

He arranged for Mr. Dirks to spend some time at the University of Alaska to study Aleut Introduction under Dr. Krauss, and for a trip to Norway, where he spent about three weeks training with Professor Burgsland.

The professor, who spent time in Atka in 1950, 1952 and again in 1971, reads, writes and speaks the language fluently, is self-taught through the help of local people.

The program began in January, 1973 and appears to be quite successful. Mr. Dirks teaches grades 4-8, and another Aleut, Nedesta Golley, teaches grades 1-3.

Community Education Task Force

A Task Force for Community Education has been brought together by RurAL CAP for the purpose of disseminating information to outlying areas.

The RurAL CAP Board of Directors has felt that there are two needs to be met:

First, there is an immediate need for information so that villages can effectively deal with questions concerning the Land Claims Settlement Act and Local Government.

And, second, that there is a long-range need for the schools in each community to be the fo-

cal point for community education.

Several meetings were held with representatives of the State Department of Education, Alaska State-Operated Schools, State Office of Economic Opportunity, National Education Association, the Alaska Native Foundation, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

RurAL CAP has accepted the responsibility of collecting, collating, and distributing the relevant information, as requested by the villages.



ATKA—This village on the Aleutian Chain, with a population of approximately 85 people, depends mainly on fishing for its existence.