

# RurAL-CAP ACTION REPORTS

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## RurAL CAP BOARD OPTIMISTIC FOR FUTURE

### MIKE HARPER HIRED RurAL CAP EXEC. DIRECTOR

One of the most important actions taken by the RurAL CAP Board of Directors at their meeting last week in Anchorage was to hire Michael C. Harper as their new executive director to succeed John Shively, who resigned.

Originally employed by the agency in July, 1971, Harper started as Program Planner, and was hired by the Board of Directors as deputy director in May, 1972.

After attending the University of Alaska for two years, he was at the University of Georgia for three years, where he graduated with a BBA degree. He also served more than two years as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was assigned to Korea.

An Athabaskan born in Fairbanks, Harper is proud of his heritage, and is not only well qualified for this position, but he is tremendously interested in improving conditions of low income people in the rural areas.

He said there is much to be done and echoed the sentiments



**NEW LEADER FOR POVERTY AGENCY** — Michael C. Harper of Anchorage has been hired as Executive Director of Rural Alaska Community Action Program by the Board of Directors at their December meeting. Mr. Harper is the former deputy director of the agency.

of Board members who repeatedly stated that there will always be a need for an agency such as RurAL CAP.

The new director commented that informing people in all aspects of the Land Claims Settlement, and opening communi-

cation with other agencies to assist in economic and social development are all part of the community action program, and said that he planned to continue this work and would seek to expand and improve the present programs.

## Group Feels as Long as Poverty Exists There's Room for Action Prog.'s

At their December meeting, the RurAL CAP Board of Directors spoke optimistically of the agency's future, strong in their belief that as long as poverty exists in Alaska, there will always be a need for community action programs.

John Shively, whose resignation as executive director was effective December 15, spoke on the relationship of the Office of Economic Opportunity to the poverty program and the need for change in CAP programs if they are to survive.

The Board met December 13-15 and hired Michael C. Harper to fill the executive director position. Mr. Harper has been deputy director of RurAL CAP since May, 1972.

New members seated on the board included Clarence Kat-chagat from Shaktoolik representing the Inupiat Development Corporation, Victor Alexie from Nulato for the State Parents' Advisory Committee, Don B. McCallum from King Cove for the Aleutian Planning Commission, Wesley M. Howe from Palmer for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Inc., and Leonard Stickman from Nulato for Koyukon Development Corporation.

With the addition of the Aleutian Planning Commission, two slots were opened, and State-Operated Schools and the Alaska Consumers' Federation were seated, making a total of 27 members on the RurAL CAP Board.

The Board also voted to create an associate membership category, with those members having full participation with the exception of voting privilege. Agencies such as Bureau of Indian Affairs, Community Enterprise Development Corporation, and the Alaska Native Foundation would be invited in this category.

A video tape on the Land Claims Settlement Act which was prepared by RurAL CAP and the Sky River Project of Community Enterprise Development Corporation, was viewed by the directors.

Narrated by Nils Sara, Program Specialist of RurAL CAP, the tape was made for the Northwest Alaska Native Association to show how the Act applies specifically to their region.

The feasibility of other Native corporations using this means of dissemination information about that very complicated piece of legislation to their people was discussed.

After hearing a report from the Aleutian Planning Commission Director, Dumitri Philemonoff, the Board adopted a resolution requesting aid for the residents of St. George Island to have their airport upgraded for commercial purposes, to allow more frequent delivery of mail.

Also, they voted to inquire the reason for lack of social services from the State Health & Social Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and requested that services such as food stamps be made available to needy recipients of the Island.

Chairman Elmer Armstrong, President of the Board, commended Mr. Shively for his excellent performance and dedication to the anti-poverty effort in the state.

The next meeting was set for Juneau in February, the date to be determined by the executive committee.

### Angoon ANB Chapter to Get \$10,000 Alcoholism Grant

Ralph Amouak, Alcoholism Coordinator for RurAL CAP has announced that the Community of Angoon in Southeastern Alaska will receive a grant of \$10,000 which will be delegated to the Angoon Chapter of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

On December 8, 1972, Mr. Amouak and Evelyn Myers, Field Counselor in SEACAP's alcoholism program, met with the ANB Chapter of Angoon. After discussing the particulars of the alcoholism program that would be needed in the village, it was decided that they would be the recipient of the grant.

Money from the grant will be used to hire a full time alcoholism counselor to work with the people on related problems.

Recognition is given to the Presbyterian Church for donating office space in their Manse Building which has room to accommodate a small gathering along with providing an office for individual counseling.



**SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS FOR ALCOHOLISM GRANT** — These people from the Angoon Chapter of the Alaska Native Brotherhood were delegated to work on a grant proposal to receive alcoholism funds which will bring \$10,000 to their community. Left to right, Matthew J. Fred, Sr.; Cyrus Peck, Sr.; Charlie Jim, Jr.; Daniel G. Johnson, Sr.; Evelyn Myers, Field Counselor from Juneau SEACAP; Joseph Johnson, Barbara Johnson, The Rev. Gordon Olson, and Cyrus Peck, Jr.

## APUC to Hear North State Telephone

The Alaska Public Utilities Commission will reconvene the public hearings which it is holding in conjunction with the investigation of the quality of service being provided by North State Telephone Company, Inc. in its Kotzebue, Dillingham, King Salmon-Naknek exchanges.

The public hearings will continue at 9:00 AM, Tuesday, December 19, 1972, in the hearing room of the Commission in Anchorage.

The Commission has previously held public hearings in this matter at Dillingham, King Salmon and Naknek on October 18 and 19. A hearing in Anchorage began on October 26 and recessed October 28 (due to the illness of one of the participants). At that time the hearing was continued until

December 5, 1972.

During the hearing held December 5, North State motioned the Commission for a continuance of the proceedings until after February 1, 1973. However, the Commission denied the motion and set December 19, 1972 as the "date certain" that these hearings shall continue.

The Commission directed its staff to conduct a field inspection of all the financial and accounting records, including property records of North State and its affiliates prior to the hearing on December 19. The Commission further ordered the utility to physically produce these financial records and its equipment and cable assignment records at the hearing.

These hearings are being held

in order that the Commission may determine whether or not the operating authority of North State should be revoked, suspended or modified or whether the Commission should prescribe how the utility is to upgrade its facilities and services in order that the requirements of the public's convenience and necessity are reasonably satisfied.

### Freeze-Tolerant Insects to Be Probed

Senator Mike Gravel has learned that the National Science Foundation has awarded Professor L. Keith Miller of the Institute of Arctic Biology of the University of Alaska, a grant of \$15,000.

The grant will enable Professor Miller to study the physiological properties and physiological characteristics of freeze-tolerant northern insects.

"There has never really been a thorough study of northern insects and many species have been discovered in the last 20 years that were unknown to man, making the areas of Arctic insects virtually unexplored."

"I'm sure this grant will help Professor Miller conduct his 12 month study and further man's knowledge of northern insects."

#### CATS AND KITTENS

Hundreds of unwanted and homeless cats and kittens are killed in Fairbanks every month. Don't be guilty of contributing to their pathetic picture. If you are concerned or would like to adopt a lovely neutered or spayed cat, call your local Pet Pride representative for information. Phone 456-7198.

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