



RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS



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RDA MANPOWER FUNDS HELP HEAD START

Circus Day in Fort Yukon

The theme for the day in Fort Yukon Head Start Center was, The Circus, during a recent visit of field trainer Linda Rowell.

The staff had a well organized day planned around the central theme. The circus motif was introduced with a large poster by the center's mascot, P. Mooney, the puppet.

P. Mooney had a discussion on the various acts in the circus and then a movie was shown. The eager children then had a choice of two activities.

The teacher-director, Mary Frens, led a group in the production of circus clowns from paper plates and colored paper; while Laree Fields, the teacher-aide, played a circuslotto game which was on loan from an interested parent.

After lunch the children heard a circus story read by their delightful friend, P. Mooney. Due to popular demand, the circus movie was repeated.

Although the circus theme involved most of the day's activities, there were other exciting project areas available during free play.

An interested community member came in late in the afternoon and showed some home movies on fishwheels, a previous



ENERGY COORDINATOR — Mrs. Stachelrodt, planner for the RurAL CAP Energy program, indicates the location of Pilot Station, which will be one of the first villages to receive an emergency loan for fuel.

Villages Receive Fuel Loans

Pilot Station and Fortuna Ledge are the first villages to receive

day's central theme. Mrs. Rowell said that this is just an example of the creative, educationally oriented lessons which occur daily in the Fort Yukon program.

"The children are fortunate to have an excellent facility for a center," she commented, "with abundant materials, a resourceful staff, and a helpful, involved parent committee".

non-interest bearing loans under RurAL CAP's Energy program.

Fred Nick, President of the Pilot Station City Council, and Johnny Oney, President of Fortuna Ledge City Council, contacted Yupiktak Bista in Bethel about their emergency fuel need.

Yupiktak Bista, in turn, notified the coordinator for the RurAL CAP Energy program, Mary Stachelrodt, who met with the City Councils in their villages and negotiated the terms of the loan. The RurAL CAP Board of Directors Executive Committee approved the loan for \$1,500 for each village.

The ANICA store in Pilot Station ordered fuel to be delivered in October, but because of the early freeze-up, the barge was unable to make it all the way to some of the villages on the Yukon River. This caused a fuel shortage problem this winter in those communities.

Fortuna Ledge is now clearing a runway so that a box car can fly the fuel in from Bethel to them.

Mrs. Stachelrodt commented that other communities that have an emergency fuel situation should contact the regional RurAL CAP offices, or get in touch with her directly at the central office in Anchorage.

Alaska Spends Its Quota of Funds on Manpower Prog.'s

Unlike many other states, Alaska is not having any trouble spending its manpower funds. The Federal Secretary of Labor recently blasted states and local governments around the nation for not putting people to work under recent amendment to the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA, Title VI).

Alaska, however, through a cooperative effort between the Division of Rural Development Assistance (in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs) and RurAL CAP, is not only putting people to work, but also assisting Head Start Programs throughout the State.

Basic Emergency Employment Program funds under CETA Title IV were recently awarded to the State Department of Labor. DOL, in turn contracted some of the funds to Community and Regional Affairs.

RDA and RurAL CAP got together, and decided that one of the major priorities for these funds would be placing additional Teacher Aides in Head Start classrooms throughout the State.

On a whirl-wind tour of the Bethel area, Jim Sanders (field representative for RDA) and Agnes Kelly (RurAL CAP Head Start Field Trainer in Bethel), assisted local governments in filling out the required paperwork, and planning for the placement of employees under the new Manpower Program.

Sanders and Kelly helped to place additional Teacher Aides in Nunapitchuk, Kwethluk, Chevak, Hooper Bay, Mt. Village, Fortuna Ledge, and Alakanuk.

In addition, the village of Kwigillingok was assisted in reestablishing its Head Start program by hiring four new staff members. (The Kwigillingok program had been defunded two

years ago because there were too few children to meet Federal Guidelines).

Sander was extremely enthusiastic about the program: "Funds were unexpected and will help to alleviate unemployment in the Bethel area, as well as to help make strong Head Start Programs even stronger."

Phil Smith, Acting Executive Director of RurAL CAP, felt that "Not only has RDA put a considerable number of people to work in an amazingly short period of time, but the agency has put them to work in meaningful jobs."

"RurAL CAP's Head Start programs provide an excellent training ground for paraprofessionals. These new aides will receive not only on-the-job training, but can participate in correspondence courses, and receive some excellent training through the visits of our Field Trainers."

"This is a good example of two agencies, one private and one public, working together to provide some real answers to problems in the rural areas. We're looking forward to further cooperation between RurAL CAP and the State Government."

Some funds are still available for community projects, and the Division of Rural Development Assistance is currently contacting local governments throughout the rural parts of the state to assess their manpower needs.

Bursting at Seams—

Stebbins Head Start

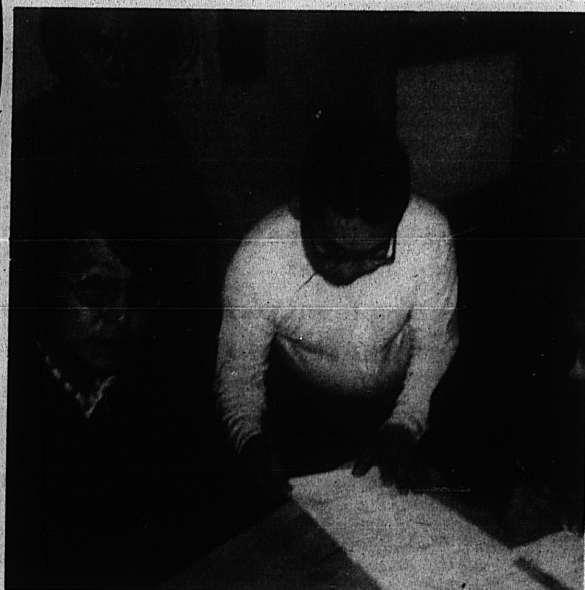
Stebbins Head Start center almost bursts at the seams with an enrollment of 28 enthusiastic little people, reports from Field Trainer Charlene Thomas. One eager Head Starter comes from St. Michaels so he can go to class.

Under the direction of Ursula Lyon, the Teacher-Director, and Marcia Pete, Teacher Aide, the program is currently operating on a split week; the three-year olds on Tuesday and Thursday, and four and five-year olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"That helps to break up the large enrollment," Charlene commented, "but many volunteers are still needed and are very welcome."

The Head Start classroom is filled with art work done by the children and a beautifully constructed "alphabet chain" built with the imagination and ingenuity of the staff.

Music time is lively, with much marching, singing, and careful listening, so that a step will not be missed when acting out a song.



PILOT STATION LOAN — Council President Fred Nick, center signs a loan application, along with two other council members. This village is one of the first to receive an emergency fuel loan under RurAL CAP's program. Harold Napoleon, left, is executive director of Yupiktak Bista, Bethel.

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