Partners for Progress with Alaska's Communities

RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS

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PADILLA U.S. OUTSTANDING YOUNG WOMAN

Kotzebue Parent-Child Center–

Center for Low Income Folks in Its Fifth Year

The Parent-Child Center at Kotzebue will begin its fifth year of operation this school year with 23 children enrolled.

The Center, which is part of the Child Development program in RurAL CAP, focuses on low income families with infants and children from three months to four years of age.

A great deal of emphasis is placed on parent involvement with their children. The Center has recently begun sponsoring family nights with sewing classes and driver education among the activites offered.

The PCC is open five days a week all year round and includes in their activities for the children group instruction, record listening, short field trips, free play and naps.

Director Earnest Norton administers the PCC with his staff consisting of Vera Chasley as assistant director; three Child Aides, Bonnie Thomas, Velma Stein and Irene Gallahorn; the cook, May Henry and Janitor John Kowanna.

The teachers are bilingual in the local Inupiak Eskimo language.

Peggy Sherman, Director of Child Development for RurAL CAP, remarked that it is felt that probably one of the reasons participation in the Kotzebue program has increased is because all of the staff are local Native residents.

AH-NAH-AH! — This means cute in Eskimo and this little one is cute in anyone's language as he peers intently at the camera. In the background, two others play quietly, unaware of their picture being taken. These are several of those enrolled at the Parent-Child Center in Kotzebue.

Director of Kodiak Area Comm. Development Corp. Wins Nat'l. Honor

The Regional Director of the Kodiak Area Community Development Corporation, Dolores Padilla, has recently been selected as an Outstanding Young Woman of America for 1972.

Now in its eighth year, the Outstanding Young Women of America program recognizes women between the ages of 21 and 35 for their contributions to the betterment of their communities, professions and country.

Mrs. Padilla was nominated for the honor by the League of Women Voters.

She has been with RurAL CAP since February 1969 when she was hired as an Area Community Developer for KACDC. In June of that year, she was hired by their board of directors to Regional Director for the corporation.

Planning and economic development is handled through her office for eleven villages, including referral services for health needs, housing, child care, job training and employment.

Supportive services are provided for two Head Start programs and for an alcoholism program.

Mrs. Padilla is also a member of the board of the Kodiak Area Native Association, and past secretary-treasurer for that organization; board member of Koniag; chairman of the Kodiak Native Board of Health; Emblem Club; Kodiak-Aleutian Historical Society; Kodiak Property Owners Assoc.; Kodiak Beautification Committee; and the University of Alaska Citizens Advisory Committee.

Also, Kodiak Vocational Dormitory Advisory Committee; Kodiak Mental Health Board of Directors; Kodiak Child Day care Center Board; Kodiak Council on Alcoholism; Governor's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped; Overall Economic Development and Planning Committee; and also other groups.

Married to Kodiak Police Officer Rey Padilla, she has three children, Mary, 6; Thomas, 4 years; and Rey, Jr., 7 months.

John Shively, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, commented that the agency feels Mrs. Padilla was well chosen for this honor.

He said that she is very perceptive to the needs of the people in her region and has long been dedicated to improving their condititon of life.

She has been responsible for the villages uniting and has been a strong proponent of village autonomy.

The director mentioned that fire protection has been a number one priority of the KACDC region, and Mrs. Padilla was coordinator of a multi-agency effort that brought fire extinguishers to the villages.

Donates $1,000–

BBNC Donates to Alcohol Commission

The Bristol Bay Native Corporation has generously donated $1,000 to the Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

Ralph Amouak, who is president of the commission and also the Alcoholism Training Coordinator for RurAL CAP, said that with continued cooperation and assistance from interested parties such as the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, the Alaska Native Commission will be able to support and give technical assistance to the existing alcoholism programs throughout the state.

The newly formed Alaska Native Commission will be the technical assistance arm of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and will also aid communities who wish to begin an alcoholism program.

RURAL CAP ANNUAL MEETING

Elmer Armstrong, Sr., President of the RurAL CAP Board of Directors, has announced that their annual meeting is scheduled to be held at the Wildwood facility on September 20, 21 and 22, 1972.

The agenda will include changes to the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the agency and election of officers will also take place.

Mr. Armstrong stated that RurAL CAP Board meetings are open to the public.

Mt. McKinley Nat'l. Park

Study visitor reaction to transportation

The University of Alaska will conduct a study of visitor reaction to the public transportation system initiated in Mt. McKinley National Park this year for the National Park Service.

Announcement of the $18,200 federal grant to the university by the Department of Interior for the study was made by Senator Ted Stevens.

Earlier this year, the National Park Service had announced a plan to stop all motor vehicle traffic within the first 12 miles of Alaska's national park and conduct all visitors through the park on buses.

The park service stated their motive for closing the balance of the 3,030 square mile park to traffic was the condition of the roadway.

At that time Stevens stated such an arrangement would be unsatisfactory to most Alaskans. He cited those families who had planned for years to visit the park in campers and, now that a satisfactory road was available they were being notified that campers would not be permitted beyond the first few miles.

An agreement was reached between Stevens and park service director George Hartzog, Jr. to open available campsites for motor vehicle traffic by reservation during the 1972 season.

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