

Scope Statewide—

RurAL-CAP Cultural Heritage Project Progresses

Mr. Gordon Jackson, Program Specialist for the Development of Human Resources Department of RurAL CAP has announced progress toward the implementation of a state-wide Cultural Heritage Project.

At a meeting on March 9, 1970, it was decided the Cultural Heritage Group and the Regional Directors and Area Community Developers from RurAL CAP'S nine regional development corporations would complete incorporation on March 17th during the Alaska Training and Planning Centers training session on Program Development.

In the month of March, after incorporation, the Human Resources Department plans to develop a proposal to be submitted to every possible funding source available. This will be completed by the end of March.

In April, it is hoped enough funds will have been secured to hire a "temporary" Native Director and secretary. The temporary staff would make plans for the Cultural Corporation's first board meeting.

The board would then hire a permanent Native Director and secretary, select boundaries and modes of selecting the board members, by-laws, and project priorities.

The main purpose of this non-profit cultural corporation, administered and managed by a staff consisting of a native majority would carry out activities and work programs to revive interest and preserve the six major cultures of the State of Alaska.

Suggested projects are the tapping of legends, stories and the history of the various cultures before the elderly storytellers die; a history book to inform the non-native and native alike of the vast history of the Native Alaskans; written diagrams of the an-

cient dances to the younger generation who will be able to continue their use, and the preparation of an Arts and Crafts Handbook containing instructions on such things as totem carving, the making of a war canoe, ivory carving, silver work, how to sew a parka, and other forms of art work.

Art shows displaying native arts and crafts will also be shown throughout the State by the corporation. The items in this proposed art show would be collected or borrowed from museums by the corporation.

The sale of native items such as the proposed booklet on Arts and Crafts, a booklet of native legends and myths, the history

book and various art objects would be used as a fund for scholarships and grants to native art students attending college or art school.

The money could also be used to train an artisan to teach the subjects in colleges, high schools and elementary schools throughout the state.

Of vast importance would be a public information system informing the non-native and natives of various aspects regarding the six major cultural groups in the State.

This will bring back lost pride in the native and inform the non-native of the arts and crafts, history and other important aspects of the six cultures.