

RurAL-CAP ACTION REPORTS

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MEETINGS REVEAL IMPORTANCE OF LAND

Angoon Needs Fire Truck

The Village of Angoon, which is located in Southeastern Alaska, needs a fire truck and the community has begun a drive to purchase it by collecting Betty Crocker Coupons.

According to an article in WIOOSH-GEE-EEN, which is the Southeast Community Action Program newsletter, there are approximately 400 residents who are among the poorest in terms of dollars, with a per capita income of \$523 reported in the 1970 census.

They are busy trying to catch up with the 20th century and have handicaps such as extremely substandard housing; and no economic base; and the fact that only 40 per cent of the villagers are high school graduates.

Mayor Cyril George commented that most of their people have to go on welfare in order to feed and house their families.

There is no high school so the young people have to leave their homes in order to attend and when they graduate they either go on to college — there are 25 in college now, or they must leave in order to find jobs.

If they do come home, they are faced with the prospect of resorting to welfare to exist. The Mayor stated that they can't support the people most needed, the teens, the young adults, the working married couples, the persons with education and training.

Fire protection will continue to be an urgent need because of the deterioration and overcrowded condition of the homes.

A new housing project is scheduled to begin next year and will more than double the size of the inhabited land area, thus the drive for a fire truck began.

The Betty Crocker Coupons will be very much appreciated and should be mailed to the Angoon Fire Department, Angoon, Alaska 99820.



DIRECTOR of Koyukon Development Corporation — Jimmy Huntington from Galena, left of center; and right of center, Don Honea, at a Koyukon Board meeting which was held in McGrath.

After Death of Woman— Native Ad Hoc Health Committee

As a result of the unfortunate incidents surrounding a recent death at the PHS Anchorage hospital, a group of concerned and responsible citizens has formed a Native Ad Hoc Health Committee.

The committee was formed shortly after a general meeting of some sixty interested people with the PHS administrative officials on April 20, in Anchorage. Members of the committee are representatives from nearly all areas of the state.

As was well stated by Lillie McGarvey, Chairman of the Alaska Native Area Health Board, "We need added input into all the decision making process for PHS."

Given that, the committee has set up various sub-committees to study grievance policy procedure, possible culture orientation sessions for all new employees of PHS, and also review and comment on the Patient's Bill of Rights.

Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP and Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, has been directed to meet with the Area Native Health Board and present some

recommendations on the above mentioned issues so that the Area Native Health Board can present these to the PHS administration.

The stated objectives for the Ad Hoc Committee were to serve as an interim body until the AFN 12-man Health, Education and Social Services body is formulated, and also to seek improvements in the treatment of alcoholics in the out-patient clinics of the PHS.

However, in addition to these primary objectives, many individuals are coming to members of the Ad Hoc Committee with personal complaints of past treatment.

The group will be gathering those complaints that cannot be settled at the local service unit area in hopes of resolving them or at least getting adequate explanations from the responsible parties.

Harper stated that the true purpose is to bring improvement in the areas where PHS has weaknesses, and not to spread malicious information that serves no good purpose to anyone.

Villagers Point Out Uses to Land Use Planning Commission

Director of the RurAL CAP regional corporation Koyukon, Jimmy Huntington, has been attending Land Use Planning Commission meetings in the bush.

He reported that in meetings at Holy Cross, Galena, and Allakaket-Altna that although there were few people attending, they were all concerned about the great need for the continuous use of the rivers and lands for subsistence use in all areas of the classified lands.

No matter how or when the agencies presented their program of possible use of the lands, the Indian knew he was losing his right to that land and they all pleaded with the Commission for the continued subsistence use of the land.

Huntington reported, "Like the old woman at Allakaket said that although she had never spoken at a meeting in all her life, she spoke to the Commission in her native tongue, and told them, 'I don't know what you are talking about and this makes it hard for us. I know you are talking about our land. If we can't use the land like we have been using it as all my parents used — for hunting, trapping, fishing, berry picking, and making cabins, then it's going to be pretty hard on my people.'"

"Then there was a young woman telling the story of how she lived with her grandparents up the Kanuti River and how the river and land was used. She said, 'My people have used the land for many, many years and there's still nothing wrong with the land. There's nothing wrong with the fish and game on that river and we have been using it all this time. I want to see my people use this land and its rivers like they always have. I want to be able to pick berries and fish up the Kanuti River for 100 years.'"

Huntington continued, "I have given you an illustration of the feelings of the people, both old and young. The feeling was 100 per cent that no matter what system the land went into, the Indian definitely needs the subsistence use of those lands."

The Commission and the agents of the four systems heard the 'Natives' pleas to get what is rightfully theirs, the continued subsistence use of the lands and Huntington commented that he felt sure it could be written into the Rules and Management of the lands.

"The attendance at the meetings is an evidence that at long last the Alaskan Indian has found out he has lost his land along with the rivers that flow through it which have been the arteries of the Natives' livelihood for thousands of years," Huntington commented.

"He is asking for only one thing all in one united body, and that is that he be allowed, no matter who owns the land, the continuous subsistence use of the lands under study of the four systems."



LEAVES CAP FOR AMU — Peggy Sherman, Director of Child Development for RurAL CAP, is leaving that office to join State Training and Technical Assistance Office at AMU this month.

Judge Guinn Does Course

Judge Nora Guinn of Bethel has recently completed an intensive two-week course for judges of the nation's special courts at the National College of the State Judiciary.

The National College, Special Court Division, located on the Reno campus of the University of Nevada, is the educational arm of the Judicial Administration Division of the American Bar Association.

Judge Guinn participated in an in-depth study of criminal law, sentencing, civil law, community relations, jury and evidence.

Also featured was an on-location dialogue with drug residence house members.

Subsistence Fishing Permit

The Department of Fish and Game announces that the new subsistence fishing permit system initiated last summer was highly successful and will be continued again this summer.

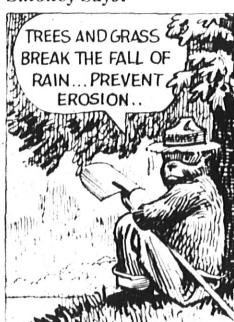
Ken Middleton, regional commercial fisheries supervisor in Anchorage, said that public acceptance and cooperation was excellent last season.

Although a fair number of people did not leave the permit-catch record at the check station after fishing, most of these people did mail the permits to Cordova at a later date.

There were 3,700 permits issued in 1972, compared to 4,500 in 1971. To date, approximately 400 permits have not been returned, and these people will not be eligible for permits in 1973.

The catch of red salmon totaled 26,500, down from the 1971 catch of 37,500.

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