

# BIA to Start Self Help Programs At Tanacross and Dot Lake

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The first self help programs to be sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs is going into effect for the combined villages of Tanacross and Dot Lake.

A set amount of money will be placed in the Alaska National Bank, Tok Branch, every month to be used for this program.

The village council will meet and decide what needs to be done to improve the village, find out if any of the older people need wood, or if someone needs special care for a time. Then they will find out who has no type of income, and if these people request work they will be hired according to their needs.

A man with a large family would be allowed a longer work period each month than a single man, but each one would be allowed to work every month until there is no longer a need for him.

Any money that is not used by the end of any given month will stay in the bank until there is enough to buy something that will profit the whole village, such as lumber and supplies for improving their homes, boat and motor for use on the river for hunting and fishing, garden equipment to improve their living standard, etc.

A board of three, a secretary and treasurer, will work together with no funds being spent except on their approval.

We feel this is a very constructive program, not only will it help the people help each other, make much needed improvements in the villages, cut the need in general welfare by a big percentage, but the people will be able to go to their own council members who understand them and their basic needs, instead of through the different welfare agents.

For a lot of the people the language barrier has been a problem, and meeting with their own councils will make a lot of difference to them.

We feel there is much merit in this new program as it will bring closer cooperation in the villages and where there is cooperation things automatically start improving.

This program, called the Self

Help Program, was started and worked out, with much time and effort, by Miss Ingrid Gurling,

who is associated with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Fairbanks.