

Partners for Progress  
with Alaska's Communities

## Rural-CAP

## ACTION REPORTS

Partners for Progress  
with Alaska's Communities

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# Land Appeals Board Favors Native Allotments

*With Aides and Cooks, Too—*

## Head Start Teacher Directors Workshop

Teacher directors, aides and cooks from some 37 Rural CAP Head Start programs will be participating in regional workshops, commencing January 19th. The main topics highlighted on the agenda are parent involvement, career development and health problems.

For the first time this year, participants will have the opportunity of enrolling in one credit college courses, offered by University of Alaska instructors.

The courses to be presented included "Developing Curriculum for an Early Childhood Education Center" and "Theory and Techniques of Bilingual Education in Preschool."

According to Don Goldberg, Assistant Director of Rural

CAP Child Development, "The idea for the regional workshops and the suggestions for topics to be covered or college courses to be offered are the results of recommendations from the Rural CAP statewide Career Development Committee meetings of August and December, 1970.

"The workshops are a continuation of the summer training sessions conducted at university campuses during the summer of 1970."

The training program is made possible by a Leadership Development Program grant from the Office of Child Development, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

*Ask More Realty Officers Also—*

## Resolutions Favor Allotment Act

Two resolutions concerning Native land allotments were unanimously passed by Rural CAP's regional directors.

The first resolution called for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to fund and staff realty offices in the Nome and Bethel area for a minimum of six months or until the Native Allotment Act is repealed.

Justification for this request stemmed from the pressing fact that the two BIA realty offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks are severely understaffed and underfunded to meet the heavy demands of a fully implemented Native allotment program.

The resolution further resolved that the Department of Interior, through the BIA, transfer on a temporary basis some of their realty specialists from the contiguous United States to Alaska to process the Native land allotment applications in the Anchorage and Fairbanks offices.

The second resolution requested that the U.S. House and Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committees delete from the Alaska Native Land Claims settlement bill any provisions which act to abolish the Native

## Archie Wheeler Case Decision

### Confirms Allotment Act Alive, Useful

The Board of Land Appeals and the Department of Interior, on December 7th, 1970, rendered a landmark decision in favor of native allotment applicants.

The case of Archie Wheeler, confirms that the use and occupancy necessary to gain a Native Allotment is to be judged in terms of:

—(1) Native custom and mode of living,

—(2) climate and character of the land, and

—(3) the customary seasonal occupancy.

The heart of the Archie Wheeler decision, however, is that a Native Allotment applicant who is able to establish such prior use and occupation upon State selected or State tentatively approved land has established a prior right to that land and will be preferred over the State.

This means that the Native Allotment Act is still alive and a useful tool to Native people who live in areas that have been selected by the State and/or tentatively approved to the

State.

Native leaders feel that the Archie Wheeler decision is the first step on the long road back to the protection of Native land rights and interests.

The Archie Wheeler decision could mean substantial amounts of land to Native people who are now participating in the Native Allotment drive jointly sponsored by Rural-CAP, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Alaska Legal Services, and specifically endorsed by the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Nels Anderson, the Native Allotment drive coordinator with Rural CAP, said that the Archie Wheeler decision has special meaning now that the land freeze has been extended.

The extension of the land freeze for six months extends the practical deadline for filing Native Allotments for six months.

He explained that the original filing goal of December 31, 1970, was established because of the potential revocation of the Native Allotment Act by the Senate Land Claims Bill, S-1830.

Now that both the lifting of the land freeze and the revocation of the Native Allotment Act are no longer threats for six months, Native people, Anderson explained, have been given a practical extension of six months in which to file their allotment applications.

Anderson said that the Archie Wheeler decision and the extension of the new year show promise of a bright new year for Native Allotment applications.

According to Anderson, 1500 applications had actually been received by the BIA Realty Offices by the end of the year.

Several thousand more applications are being processed in the regional centers, he estimated.

Against these optimistic facts, however, Anderson said that two problem areas have developed.

The most significant problem has been the inability of the BIA Realty Offices to keep up

with the large influx of Native Allotment Applications since the beginning of the Native Land Allotment drive.

The Fairbanks and Anchorage BIA Realty Offices are working at full capacity, but due to staff and funding shortages, are totally unable to process the applications as they arrive.

It is only after the BIA Realty Office processes the applications and forwards them to the Bureau of Land Management, explained Anderson, that the Native Allotment applicant has his land protected.

Thus, the slowdown in the BIA Realty Offices could potentially thwart the success of the Native Allotment drive.

The other problem area, according to Anderson, are the proposed BLM Multiple Use Withdrawals north and west of Fairbanks and along the Kobuk River.

Within these large, multi-million acre withdrawals, the Native Allotment Act would either be excluded entirely or to a significant extent.

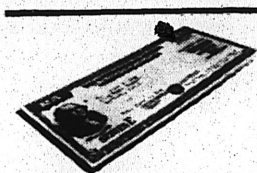
These multiple use withdrawals have not been enacted yet but if they were enacted, they would have a serious effect on new filings under the Native Allotment Act.

The affected villages would be Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk, Eagle, Northway, Tanacross, and Circle.

People in these villages should take an active interest in this land withdrawal and make their feelings known to the BLM.

Despite these two problem areas, Anderson said that he was generally pleased with the progress of the Native Allotment Filing Project and that the Regional Rural CAP centers have done an outstanding job in searching out applications thus far.

"More important," Anderson stated, "the Native Allotment drive shows Native people becoming aware of their land rights and standing on these rights to the full extent of the law."



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*FHA Reveals—*

## 1970 Best Housing Yr.

Figures released by Mr. Claude Millsap, Jr., Director of U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Alaska Insuring Office (FHA), indicate that 1970 was the best housing construction year in HUD-FHA Alaska's history.

Previous to 1970, 1969 was the best year, but figures for 1970 show that there were 1232 new construction starts, of these 1142 were insured mortgage loans by HUD-FHA, totaling

\$46,415,105 as compared to 1185 new housing starts in 1969, with 642 insured mortgage loans totaling \$26,949,900, an increase over 1969 of 58% in insured mortgages.

There were 311 insured mortgage loans on existing housing totaling \$9,523,469, as compared to 386 insured mortgage loans in 1969 totaling \$11,653,350, a decrease of 18% over 1970.

The combined total of new construction and existing housing loans under HUD-FHA subsidized and non-subsidized insured mortgages was \$56,166,574, as compared to the 1969 figure of \$38,603,250, an increase of 69% over the previous year.

*'Outstanding Job'—*

## Alyeska Pipeline Service Lauds North Gulf Natives

ANCHORAGE, DEC. 31—Alaska natives who completed work at Valdez recently under a contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company have been commended for an "outstanding job" by E. L. Patton, president of the pipeline firm.

In a letter addressed to the contracting organization, North Gulf Natives, Inc., Patton commented on the "outstanding manner" in which the terms of the contract were fulfilled, and said this "is indeed a credit to the people of the Chugach Native Association."

North Gulf Natives, Inc., (N.

G.M.) is a business enterprise of the Chugach Native Association. Gilbert Olson, of Cordova, is president of N.G.N. George Gordaoff, also of Cordova, was superintendent of the job at Valdez.

The contract was for removal of light metal bevel guards from 16,600 pieces of 48-inch pipe stored at the pipeline company's pipe storage yard at Valdez.

It was the first contract secured by the native group. It was the third contract awarded to native organizations by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

Patton said it had been esti-

mated the project at Valdez would take months to complete, but was finished in less than two weeks.

"That," he said, "certainly attests to the initiative and energy of the men who worked on the project."

"North Gulf Natives," the pipeline company president said, "has demonstrated that it is capable of conducting business on a competitive basis, and I am looking forward to future relations between your company and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company."

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