



Partners for Progress
with Alaska's Communities

RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS



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HEAD START PARENTS MEET IN ANCHORAGE

Bulk Storage Facilities Bill

A bill which would establish a low-interest revolving loan fund for the purchase of bulk storage facilities and fuel product purchase has been introduced in the State Senate.

The bill (SB 392) was sponsored by Sen. Frank Ferguson of Kotzebue, Sen. John Sackett of Galena, and Senate President Chancy Croft of Anchorage.

"We're excited about this bill," stated RurAL CAP Director Phil Smith. "Beginning with a conference last fall, we have become increasingly aware of the need for this approach to the problem. Our own small energy program has demonstrated that need even more urgently."

"Our Board, and at least three regional boards have passed resolutions supporting the revolving fund. Now, we might get some place with it."

Details of the bill were worked out through a series of meetings between the Governor's Office and Mary Stachelrodt, RurAL CAP's Energy Coordinator.

"I think we've got at least the beginning of a good response to the problem," Stachelrodt commented. "We're looking forward to hearings by the Senate Affairs Committee." (Sen. Ferguson is chairman of the committee).

As submitted, the bill provides for a community to submit a request for a loan to the Alaska Energy Office. After negotiation and approval, the Energy Office would submit a "Certificate of Need" to the Department of Commerce which would issue the check.

Repayment of the loan would be directly to the Department of Commerce.

GGG Alcoholism Workshop Meeting

Gwitcha Gwitchin Ginhkye, the non-profit Native organization serving the Yukon Flats area, had its first regional alcoholism workshop and board meeting April 16-19 in Arctic Village.

The 3-G's and the Upper Yukon Development Corporation merged earlier in the year in order to consolidate and avoid duplication of services to approximately eleven villages in that area.

The purpose of the regional alcoholism workshop, which was chaired by Alcoholism Counselor Harry Fields, was to strengthen the village participation in the way of cross-exchange of village problems and needs, training, and education in the alcoholism/drug abuse field.

Representatives were present from eight villages, the Fairbanks Native Association, the Alaska Native Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ANCADA), the Fort Yukon Family and Children Services, the 3-G's, and RurAL CAP central office.

The Board meeting, which coincided with the village's Spring Carnival, elected new officers: Jonathan Sloman—President; Paul Williams—Vice President and Chairman; Gidson Jones—Secretary/Treasurer; and Clyde May—Sergeant-at-Arms. The 3-G's new board



HEAD START PARENTS Ignatius George, Alakanuk; Kenneth Oney, Sr., Marshall; and Simeon Mountain of Nulato prove fathers can make developmental toys for their children at a workshop during the annual parent conference in Anchorage. Left to right, Ignatius George, Alakanuk; Kenneth Oney, Sr., Marshall; Simeon Mountain, Nulato.



LEAH TOLZIN, left, workshop leader, smiles as parents Cecelia Redfox, Emmonak; Vera Atoruk, Kiana; Edith Pungalik, Noorvik; Ruth Kingeekuk, Savoonga; and (foreground) Shirley Pilcher, Anchorage, ponder their next toy creations.

LANDIS PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Nick Landis began work April 21st as the Program Specialist at RurAL CAP. Born in Elyria, Ohio, he graduated from high school in 1961.

After four years in the Air Force, including a year at Northeast Cape on St. Lawrence Island, he returned to Ohio to attend Ohio State University, graduating in 1969 with a degree in Economics.

After attending graduate school at the University of Washington, where he received an MA in Economics, Nick and his wife moved to Olympia, Washington, where he worked for a year and a half on Econometric forecasting models.

In July of 1973, Nick, with his wife and daughter, moved to Kotzebue, where he worked for Mauneluk Association as Economic Development Planner for the Northwest Area Native Association region (NANA).

His duties there brought him into contact with RurAL CAP, Alaska Federation of Natives, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Economic Development Administration, Rural Development Administration, Community Enterprise Development Corporation,

representative to Community Enterprise Development Corporation will be Louie John from Circle.

During the past quarter, the staff has been involved with: SSI/Elderly needs assessment



PROGRAM SPECIALIST HIRED — Nick Landis, who has started his duties as a planner for RurAL CAP.

Housing and Urban Development, and other agencies for a wide range of projects, including the housing and CETA programs, reindeer, bulk fuel storage, community facilities, fisheries, and an industrial site in Kotzebue.

Now at RurAL CAP, Nick will be involved in setting up a planning model for the non-profit corporations, and also in housing, as well as a broad spread of other program activities.

survey, Fort Yukon General Assistance, RurAL CAP Energy program, and extensive proposal writing, as well as the on-going program. Individual community reports were given by the representatives with the staff well aware of each village situation.

Tots' Folks Attend 3rd Annual Meeting

Head Start Parents from around the state gathered in Anchorage on April 10 and 11 for the 3rd annual parent conference. About 35 parents and others interested in the Head Start program met to discuss their children's needs and to make their own kind of music in a workshop headed by Laurel LeGere of Bethel's Kuskokwim Community College.

Under LeGere's direction, the parents learned how household items such as pots and pans and glasses might be used to make music and noise. During a power outage the musical program continued at the Holiday Inn, site of the conference.

Hotel employees and guests were surprised to hear singing and laughter coming from the dark windowless room as parents sang their names to the group as they passed around a candle.

LeGere suggested parents pretend they were three years old and gave them musical toys such as drums, cymbals, bells and tamborines. Other parents joined in the marching parade, banging on pots and pans.

Colleen Mayer, a consultant in child development, showed series of slides to help parents learn how their children's emotions develop.

Mayer commented that children should be allowed and encouraged to experience emotions such as fear, anger, and dependence. She stated that it is important for parents to set boundaries for their children to follow so the child will know what ways are acceptable for expressing himself.

The creation of toys and playthings was featured in a workshop led by Leah Tolzin of Alaska Treatment Center, who noted that toys are important and that, in playing, a child learns.

In her workshop, parents made puzzles, puppets, yarn balls, felt boards, and other playthings for their children.

Vi Steiner, child development consultant, spoke to parents on how children think and see the world. She asked parents to imagine the view children get of the world from so close to the ground. Steiner also explained how a child's mind, body, and emotions develop.

During part of the conference, parents sat on the floor and

watched films about children as they ate popcorn supplied by Juanita Webber, assistant child development director for Head Start, and conference coordinator.

For many, the annual conference was a chance for parents from around the state to meet and discuss their involvement with the Head Start program. During the second day, the parents shared experiences of how they involve families in their village or city's Head Start program.

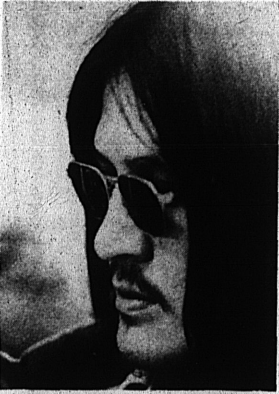
Friday afternoon conference attendants rode to a RurAL CAP luncheon in the yellow Head Start bus, laughing and talking just as their children might on their way to school. Some of the parents and one of the workshop leaders missed the bus and showed up late for the conference, just as their children might.

Head Start Child Development Director Roger Mooney explained to those in attendance at the conference about Alaska House Bill 362, which is a special funding bill in legislature.

Mooney encouraged parents who support the bill to write their elected representatives and urge passage of the legislation which will provide support for the Head Start program and enable more children to be served throughout the state.

Martha Agathluk and Cecelia Redfox from Emmonak; Vera Atoruk, Kiana; Ignatius George, Alakanuk; Lena Sleek and Cheryl Evan, Kake; Kenneth Oney, Marshall; Edith Pungalik, Noorvik; and Neva Rivers and Dorothy Riffe, Hooper Bay, represented their village programs.

Also attending were G.L. Tom, Stebbins; Simeon Mountain, Nulato; Carol Henry, Gambell; Norma Moore, Fairbanks; Victoria Watkins, Hoonah; Ruth Kingeekuk, Savoonga; and Shirley Pilcher of Anchorage.



BOARD CHAIRMAN DON HONEA (L) and Regional Director Pat McCarty (R) at the Koyukon Regional Development Corporation meeting in Ruby on April 9, 10, 11. Issues discussed at the meeting included communications, the establishment of a commercial fishing enterprise on the Middle Yukon, and implementation of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Guests included Phil Smith, RurAL CAP Executive Director; Claude Dementieff, Director of the Tanana Chiefs Health Authority; and Mary Stachelrodt, RurAL CAP Energy Coordinator.