

CAP HOSTS VISTA VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Representative

Charles Oxereok was hired as a field representative for the Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

Charles was born in Wales, Alaska of Eskimo origin and raised in Wales, Nome, Anchorage and Southeastern Alaska. He attended grade school in Wales and Nome and high school at Mt. Edgecumbe.

In 1966 Charles stopped drinking and went through counseling. He began working in 1969 for the Laguna, New Mexico Alcoholism Program and went through the University of Utah Alcoholism Technical Training, the Western Region Indian Alcoholism Training Center.

He returned to Laguna and continued working there for another four years. Since then, Charles has worked in the Nome Alcoholism Walk-In Center and was hired at the Nome Community Center as a counselor and was promoted to community coordinator and later on to director of the program.

Charles is 29 years old, married, with two sons. Upon starting his job with the Alaska Native Commission, Charles and his family reside in Anchorage.

Counselor

Bobby Mendenhall has been hired by Mauneluk Incorporated as their regional alcoholism counselor. Bobby officially began his position on July 19.

Bobby stated, "Working with people has been my lifelong ambition and I am glad that I can do something to help them understand that alcoholism is a problem among them and it can be curbed and treated."



PICTURED ABOVE: (back-left to right) Mark Duda, Aleutian Region; Bob Genevro, Head Start and Rich Foster, Copper Center. (Front) Linda Pomeroy, Head Start, Anchorage; Nick Balaches, Nome.

Mike Harper Hosts Kodiak ACDC

RurAL CAP's Director, Mike Harper, was recently hosted to a Board of Director's meeting

of the Kodiak Area Community Development Corporation.

The meeting was held in Kodiak on July 24 and those present included Alex Panamoff, Charles Christiansen, along with Herman and Arthur Haakenson and Hank Eaton.

During the meeting a resolution was passed to exclude the peninsula villages of English Bay, Port Graham, Seldovia and Ninilchik, because the Land Claims Settlement Act had established new entities that were responsible for these communities.

The KACDC work program was presented to the board the following morning revealing fire protection and economic development as top priorities for the region.

On the afternoon of the 25th, Harper made visits to Karluk briefly, and then on to Akhiok, a small isolated village on the southern tip of the island where he met with Village Council leaders and shared in viewing the inconveniences of everyday life for the people of Akhiok.

There is no bulk storage for fuel and the people have to make a trek, by skiff, weather permitting, to one of the neighboring cannery locations for fuel.

These two canneries are Columbia Ward's Moser Bay, approximately eight miles to the northeast through the "narrows" where traveling is next to impossible on low tide, and to the south, Alitak, which is by open sea and often times, the massive waves often hinder or halt efforts to supply their 50 gallon drums with fuel and then remains the return trip to Akhiok with the skiff bogged down due to the weight of the drum.

Because of the difficulty in obtaining fuel, some of the families in Akhiok went with unheated homes this winter.

The children of Akhiok were provided with a very old, unsafe, wooden-frame schoolhouse to try and obtain an education.

Harper, states, "The Village Council President, Walter Simonoff and some other concerned citizens drew up a resolution that will be presented to the Kodiak Borough for their implementation."

Harper further stated, "With the ambitious staff of KACDC and with all the experience of their Board of Directors, we anticipate Community Action to be strongly felt on the island."

Trainees Hurdle Over Orientation to Alaska's Problems

RurAL CAP was host to a training session for the VISTA volunteers for Alaska this week in Anchorage. Eleven volunteers went through an extensive, well-planned, orientation to Alaska's unique problems through the direction of George Irvin, a special consultant for RurAL CAP.

The training included an in-depth discussion on the regional operations of Alaska and several very good presentations were made by prominent people in the anti-poverty programs of Alaska.

One of the presentations made by Roger Lang, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors who stressed the importance of Alaskan Native history.

An entire day was spent reviewing the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act with Gordon Jackson of the Human Resources Department of AFN along with Harry Carter of the Land Use Planning Commission, John Reese from Alaska Legal Services and Bill Vaudrin of Human Rights Commission.

There was then a tour of the Alaska Native Service Hospital here in Anchorage to establish the health delivery system for Alaskan Natives.

Film depicting Native lifestyles and culture were viewed with lectures, audio visual presentations and informational reading.

Five of the VISTA Volunteers will be directly involved with RurAL CAP with three of them working in the field and the two remaining to be of service to the Head Start Program of Anchorage.

The two Head Start Volunteers are Linda Pomeroy and Bob Genevro. Genevro is a former Day Care Center teacher and hopes to continue teaching with Head Start during his service. Genevro attended college in California and will begin assisting the Head Start Program in the near future.

Linda Pomeroy was formerly a pre-school teacher and has had nurses-aide training. Roger Mooney, director of Child Development at RurAL CAP says, "Linda will be a tremendous asset to the educational and health components of the Head Start Program."

Rich Foster will be situated in the Copper Center area and will work closely with Tom Craig, the director of the Copper Valley Tanana Development Corporation.

Foster is very well-educated with a B.A. in Political Science and Rhetorical Theory. He was the deputy administrator of a planning program in Long Beach, Calif. and says he is "sold on Alaska."

Mark Duda is experienced in marine construction, dredging and surveying with a B.A. in International Business Management which will be invaluable to him as he will be situated in Unalakleet, a small community on the Aleutian Chain.

Dimitri Philemonof, regional director of the Aleutian Planning Commission, says that "Mark will be a tremendous help to the program as his talents are centered around the needs of the region and we are most fortunate to have a man with Mark's ability to work with us."

The Nome Regional Office of RurAL CAP will be assisted through still another very knowledgeable and talented VISTA, Nick Balaches.

Nick attended college at Mt. San Antonio College and has a B.A. in Political Science from the California State University at Fullerton.

Nick hopes to develop a career in law and eventually enter into politics. He states his desire to come to Alaska is to "put my university education to use in helping people to help themselves."

Nick will work with the director of Kawerak, Bob Madden, as they further efforts to alleviate poverty in the Nome region.

RurAL CAP would like to extend appreciation to George Irvin for putting together such a fine Orientation/Training Program for Alaska's VISTAS.



BOB REESE from the Alaska Legal Services making his presentation to the VISTAS.



THE CANNERY location at Moser Bay where the residents of Akhiok have to get fuel.



THE VILLAGE of Akhiok on the southern tip of Kodiak Island.