

# CAP HOSTS VISTA VOLUNTEER TRAINING

## 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 Unalaska, 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.