

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 Panamaroff, 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.

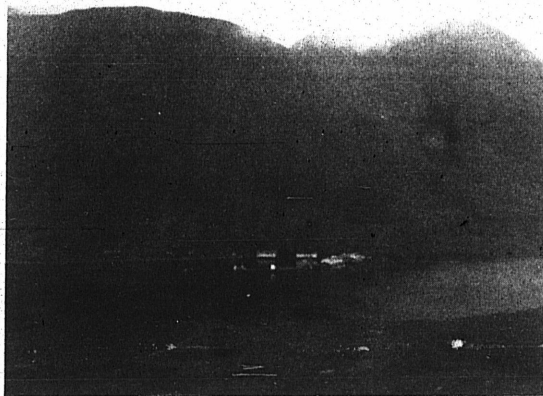
The children of Akhiok were provided with a very old, unsafe, wooden-frame schoolhouse to try and obtain an education.

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."



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.