

Elmer Pitka Petitions for Membership of His Corp. in CEDC

Mr. Elmer Pitka, President of the Board of the Innuvit Co-op of Beaver, Alaska, was in Anchorage for the 1974 annual membership meeting of the Community Enterprise Development Corporation of Alaska (CEDC) held on December 12, 1974.

This was the first corporate meeting that Mr. Pitka has ever attended. He petitioned for membership in CEDC on behalf of the Innuvit Co-op. Upon approval, he participated by voting on by-law changes, ratifying actions and setting policy for the corporation for the upcoming year.

Innuvit Co-op is a cooperative retail operation located in Beaver on the Yukon River, 110 miles north of Fairbanks. It opened this September; the 100 residents set up this organization when the former Beaver Trading Post, the

only store in the community, announced its planned closure in the fall.

Mr. Jack Van Hatten had operated the store for 30 years.

The "Innuvit" (Eskimo for: People) Co-op was designed to benefit its members. It was the first business to be established and owned by themselves. The residents raised \$3,000 in equity through membership shares. They made decisions on the kind of goods and services to be provided, many technical questions on the operation and how it should be developed in the future.

Mr. Pitka stated that the store was a positive influence on the community because of the "experience in setting up and running the venture. Everyone in the community has learned." Mr. Pitka is a life time resident of the community. He is a trapper and has a part time job as mail carrier. He is on the village council of Beaver.

While the facility is modest, the store offers a wide variety of goods at low prices. The old structure was remodeled to provide a more efficient utilization of space. New gondola shelves and a check stand were installed. Because there is no electricity available, the store is



INNUVIT CO-OP BEAVER, ALASKA

lighted by coleman lantern and heat is from a wood stove.

Innuvit Co-op employs two residents. Mr. Herman Joseph is the manager and Mr. Leo Edwards is the clerk. They were trained in retail management and

accounting as part of the technical assistance offered by CEDC.

The business was financed by CEDC and a loan from the Beaver Kwit'chin Corporation, which is the village corporation. Doyon Limited was also instrumental in

getting the project organized.

CEDC is a nonprofit corporation that has financial, technical and training assistance to develop and support business enterprises in low income areas of rural Alaska. These businesses must be broadly owned and have a positive economic impact on the community or region from which it operates.

Bids on Minto Road Project

On February 13, 1975, the Department of Highways opened bids on the Minto Road project which is located approximately 45 miles northwest of Fairbanks, Alaska.

Herman Brothers Construction Co., Inc. of Palmer, Alaska, submitted the low bid of \$1,552,389.95. Work on this project will involve grading, drainage and gravel surfacing on 11.3 miles of roadway.

Included in the work will be installation of roadway insulation and beam type guardrails, seeding and placement of standard signs. The Engineer's estimate was

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Soil Testing Course

By CARLENE BOWNE

The Tanana Valley Community College is offering a course in "Soils Testing and Inspection" beginning March 6. The course includes sections on construction environment, elementary surveying, permafrost problems in construction, and soils technology and testing.

Registration is being taken weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm at the Hutchison Career Center on Geist Road. For further information call 479-2261.

Instructor Larry Katkin is employed by Bechtel as a field engineer of soils, and is currently involved in planning the trenching for pipe along the pipeline.

When asked why he wanted to teach the course Katkin said, "The industry needs qualified people that understand earth work and soils technology. The State Highway Department, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Bechtel are all in need of qualified persons in this field."

The field of soils inspection is basically one of quality control — of the enforcement of technical specifications. Graduates of this course might well be employable on such various projects as road building, construction of airports, and preconstruction investigation of pipeline right-a-ways.

Soils inspection and testing is another job oriented course in keeping with TVCC's policy of offering what the community needs.

Ombudsman

Statement from Lieutenant Governor Lowell Thomas, Jr.:

"As the person named by the Governor to supervise the drafting and submission of a bill creating the Office of Ombudsman, I am pleased with the Senate's action today in passing Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1, a good version of an Ombudsman bill.

"Some critics misread the role of Ombudsman; some are apparently looking for a superman, or a super cop, to ride herd on all branches and facets of government. That is not the idea at all.

"The role of an Ombudsman is: 'To investigate the administrative acts of this agencies' when complaints are brought to his attention and to unravel some of the red tape impeding services to the people. The bill passed by the Senate today provides for just that..."



Blazing the Iditarod Trail



Carl Huntington
1974 Iditarod Champion

It's a thousand miles from Anchorage to Nome, via the Iditarod Trail. A thousand miles of ice-locked wilderness, bone-chilling cold. But, for the veteran mushers who run the Iditarod, it's the ultimate challenge in sled dog racing — the world's longest and toughest race.

"Iditarod" is a word which sparks the Alaskan imagination, for its legends are rich with history. Established at the turn of the century, this trail stretched from Seward to the gold town of Iditarod. And, when word reached Nome that gold had been discovered in the Interior, the rest of the trail was born.

Nome needed that trail, for in 1925, as diphtheria loomed over that Bering Sea village, 300,000 units of serum were sent by train to Nome to suppress the epidemic. Then, as the country watched and waited, 20 relays of dog teams — including one led by then world championship musher Leonhard Seppala — raced the 674 miles from Nome to Nome, in just 127.5 hours.

In 1967, the Iditarod Trail was re-established as a part of the Alaska Purchase Centennial celebrations. Then in 1973 the first annual Iditarod Race was held. Now each year men and dogs race the clock —

and other teams — in a test of their skill and endurance. If successful, they share this year's \$50,000 purse and the recognition which goes with being among the world's leading long-distance mushers.

At Atlantic Richfield Company, we're proud to be supporting the 1975 Iditarod International Sled Dog Race. The race is a tradition which should be preserved; and, by tradition, the number one starting position is reserved in memorium for the late Leonhard Seppala. In Anchorage, on March 1st, the first sled dog team will take off from Mulcahy Stadium. And from that moment on, we'll be watching and waiting.

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