

# RURAL SURPLUS EQUIPMENT PROG. ENDS

## RurAL CAP Executive Director Commends Head for Job Well Done

The RurAL CAP program that brought surplus equipment to the rural areas no longer has funds to operate and the equipment has been transferred to the Indian Action Agency, BIA.

John Shively, Executive Director of RurAL CAP commended Oliver J. Amend who was director of the Village Equipment Mobilization Program, remarking that he felt a great deal of its success was due to Amend's dedication.

Hired by RurAL CAP in June, 1969, Amend became director of VEMP in August of that year.

He has been responsible for the transportation of all equipment by barge to the West Coast of Alaska; has had to physically follow-up each vehicle and piece of machinery to inspect its condition, and also to help people in the villages with maintenance and operation.

An expert in the field of heavy equipment maintenance, Amend commented that one of the main problems had been transportation. He also said that most of the communities appreciated the equipment, took good care of it, and put it to good use.



OLIVER J. AMEND

The VEMP program was originally funded in 1969 by the Office of Economic Opportunity to RurAL CAP and presented an excellent opportunity for people at the village level to be responsible for determining the type of projects they wanted to accomplish in their area.

Roads and airport runways have been constructed and have been maintained by grading and clearing of snow; garbage dumps, landfills, sewage channels, water systems and other general improvements of environmental conditions in the villages have been performed by local residents.

The Indian Action Agency has a grant that will allow them to take students who are based at Wildwood in Kenai, on field trips to the villages where the equipment is located.

Along with this program, Amend stated, he understood their future plans were to teach aircraft pilot operation to coincide with the field trips, accompanied by the instructors.