

RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS

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OEO CHIEF OPTIMISTIC AT RECENT MEETING

Advisory Board On Alcoholism

Evelyn Myers, RurAL CAP Alcoholism Training Coordinator, Cyrus Peck, Jr., Southeast Regional Alcoholism Counselor, and Joe Meade, Chief Administrative Services, RurAL CAP, attended the Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism held in Juneau Feb. 23.

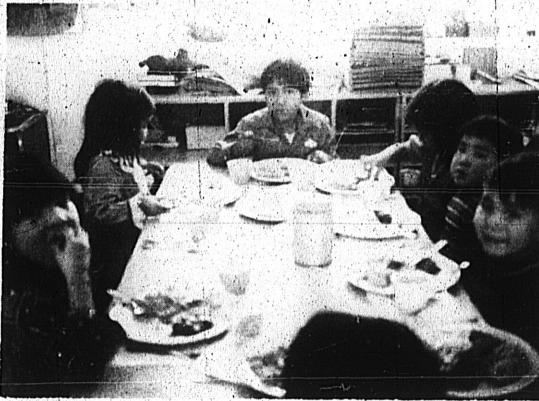
The Governor's Board reviewed alcoholism grant applications for funding this fiscal year, and RurAL CAP will be receiving a total grant award of \$46,000. Forty thousand dollars will be utilized for salary increases and travel for seven regional alcoholism counselors. Evelyn Myers stated, "The salaries of our alcoholism staff are not at all in line with the work load of our counselors. We need to be realistic with the spiraling cost of living in our state."

"We have operated our regional alcoholism programs on a shoestring and travel within our regions has to be quite limited. We still will have budgetary limitations, but will be able to function in an expanded capacity."

"The State Office of Alcoholism and their board is demonstrating their concern for reaching all of Alaska by this grant award. Six thousand dollars of this is for innovative ideas in the field of alcoholism, and our staff will be discussing the best ways to implement this amount."

The regional counselors, i.e. Lena Andree, Dillingham; Sarah Cravens, Fort Yukon; Constantine Emanoff, St. Paul Island; Rodney Hunnicutt, Kotzebue; Stewart Nicolai, Copper Center; Cyrus Peck, Jr., Juneau; and Ted Velanis, Kodiak, are all busy in their respective regions.

The alcoholism staff will be attending an Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Board meeting in Anchorage followed by a Preventative Approaches to Alcoholism workshop in Copper Center the week of April 8 through 13.



LUNCH TIME — A family style hot meal is provided to Head Start children in Noorvik daily, along with two snacks which provide the basic five food groups.

Head Start Staff Goals

Head Start staff and parents in Noorvik and Selawik have begun writing educational goals and objectives for classes next year, with the help of Field Trainers and the Director of Child Development for RurAL CAP, Roger Mooney.

In Selawik, a new Parent Council was elected and began the process of putting down on paper the kinds of things they want their children to learn next year in Head Start.

With the aid of Field Trainer Sandra Hareld, they began to make some decisions about how the program would change and cooperate with the new kindergarten planned at the local school.

In observing classes in Selawik, Mr. Mooney and Ms. Hareld had high praise for Laura Norton, the center director. Classes are held in a community building and equipment must be put away each afternoon because of the use of the building by other community groups.

In spite of these hardships, Laura managed to have new and exciting things for the children to do every day.

In Noorvik, Field Trainer Alex Matthias stressed the need for parent involvement in the center. Volunteers donated four caribou during Alexis' visit, and he was impressed with the community support of Head Start.

Noorvik's building is used only for Head Start and is one of the best equipped and managed centers in the state. Policy Council goals for Noorvik include a bilingual and bicultural program for Head Start students.

Hearings on New Game Regulations

Beginning April 1 and until April 7, the State Board of Fish and Game will be holding hearings on new proposed game regulations at the Holiday Inn. Anyone who is interested in testifying before the board to express their views on these new, proposed regulations should do so at this time.

For the past few years, more and more hunting pressure has been applied to large game species.

There has been a considerable reduction and change in migration patterns of caribou herds in Central Alaska, also there has been a reduction in Dall sheep population, and fewer quality trophy heads due to hunting pressures, from both resident and non-resident hunters.

The means in which they hunt, whether it be by terrain vehicles or aircraft, has taken a considerable toll on wildlife populations.

If the Board of Fish and Game cannot pass strong regulations that are synchronized with the natural realities of our wildlife population, then it should be the responsibility of the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game to utilize his powers to initiate a constructive and aggressive role in public relations to protect wildlife resources in this crucial period of Alaska's economic expansion.

The behavior of the hunter must be modified. Instead of paying too much attention to supplying the demands of the hunters, he should rather pay more attention to the resources.

National Director Expresses Outlook for Future OEO Prog's.

An optimistic outlook for the future of anti-poverty programs was offered by Alvin J. Arnett, national director for the Office of Economic Opportunity at a recent meeting in Seattle.

The director told members of the Washington State Association of Community Action Agencies that there has been a dramatic up-surge in congressional support for OEO as a result of pleas for clemency from municipal leaders and state governors.

He commented that two months ago, probably 100 congressional votes could not have been obtained to save OEO, but chances now are about 60/40 in favor of passing a bill to extend the program for three more years.

Since some legislative extension appears more likely, Arnett indicated that the problem would now be to try to lessen the threat of a presidential veto. Should this happen, Arnett is of the opinion that Congress would not override it, although he noted that the previous strong veto threat may have been tempered by recent action of a majority of governors, who have endorsed extension of the anti-poverty bill, and the National League of Cities, which passed a favorable resolution.

Michael C. Harper, executive director of RurAL CAP, Alaska's anti-poverty agency, who attended the meeting on March 24, reported that Arnett was obviously impressed by the attitude of the state administration for the agency, and during a general session mentioned a letter of support that had been received from Governor Egan on behalf of RurAL CAP activities.

Commenting that this was the kind of response from the may-

ors and governors of the nation that was causing the Congress to reconsider OEO, with the result of an optimistic outlook for the future of the agency.

Sen. Jacob Javits, Republican from New York, has urged that the very popular Community Enterprise Development program in OEO, rather than being transferred to the Department of Commerce, also, the Senior Citizens' program still remains in OEO rather than being transferred to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The Alaskan delegation, consisting of Ed Anders, special assistant to the governor; RurAL CAP board members Jonathan Solomon from Fort Yukon, and Richard Whittaker of Ketchikan; Joli Morgan of Community Enterprise Development Corporation (CEDC), Anchorage; along with Harper, met at what was considered to be a beneficial luncheon with the national poverty director in Seattle.

Harper said that Arnett was invited to visit Alaska for a first-hand look at poverty problems still existing in rural areas, and although a tight schedule precluded the possibility at this time, Arnett indicated that he was interested and might have an opportunity to come to the state later in the spring.

It is felt that in previous years, visits to Alaska by concerned persons such as Sargent Shriver and Ted Kennedy have proven helpful.

Management Problems

Responding to a continuing village need of further education and training regarding village management problems, RurAL CAP has recently sponsored several training sessions in Fort Yukon, Tok, Copper Center, Haines, and Anchorage for village board members.

As village ANCSA Corporations begin to get organized, hire staff, prepare budgets, and select land, this type of effort is becoming an increasingly important priority throughout the bush Alaska.

The poverty agency has been able to utilize some of its own technical accounting staff as well as contracts with several experienced trainers such as George Irvin and David Katzeek to go to places such as Fort Yukon and train the village clerks in such areas as Revenue Sharing, both state and federal, and in the mechanics of how to prepare a budget and balance sheet.

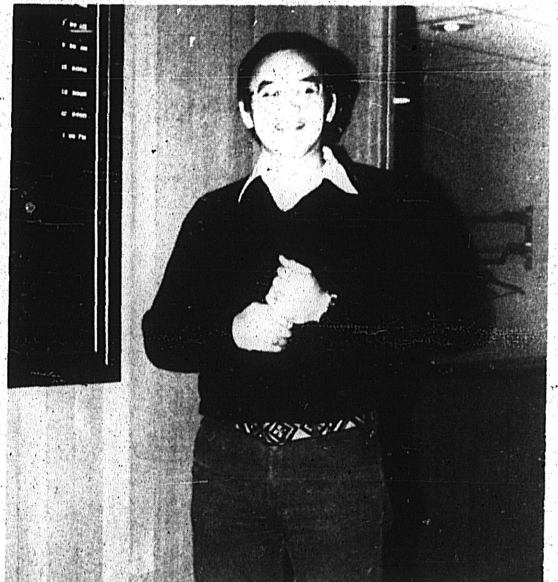
The most recent effort occurred in Anchorage on March 27 and 28 when seven or eight

village clerks were sponsored by the Aleutian Planning Commission to receive training in financial management areas.

Katzeek reports that the trainees were extremely good students in that they were able to prepare a balance sheet and the proper forms to enable their communities to accurately report the receipt and expenditure of Federal Revenue Sharing Funds.

Chief Accountant for the Agency, Sherry Hoover, trained a smaller group in Tok and came away from a two-day session with a report that the village clerks had demanded for the training.

RurAL CAP is attempting to coordinate with the Department of Community and Regional Affairs and other agencies such as CEDC to get this training to the leadership and the administrative managers in each of the village municipal governments and also to those village corporations that have requested it.



CAP OFFICIAL — Mike Harper is steering the far flung operations of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program covering the huge state. Mike is originally from Fairbanks and he is the executive director of RurAL CAP. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Doyon, Limited, the regional corporation of the Tanana Chiefs.