

How Does One Explain Claims to Non-Literate Alaskans

DID YOU KNOW ?



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How does one explain the Native Land Claims settlement or the complexities of municipal government to non-literate Alaskans who live in remote villages of the state?

These are among the interesting projects being undertaken by

teach basic literacy in far-flung villages, using native languages.

The instructional program includes English, basic math, fishing, nutrition, health, and other topics of interest to the villagers, using symbols such as seals, fish, and dogs to teach arithmetic, for example, rather than abstract symbols used in the standard classroom.

The presentations are made by simplified film strips, slides, and workbooks, which are used by VISTA instructors in the bush areas of the state.

The initial teaching materials were prepared at ACC's Adult Basic Education Center on 403 W. Northern Lights Blvd., using native students to record voices on filmstrips and tapes.

These materials were field-tested in four native villages and critiqued by native representatives of the Alaska Native Federations, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Calista and other native-oriented agencies.

Native teachers, in such villages as Shaktopik, White Mountain, Hoonah, Togiak, Tooksook, Iliamna and Nulato field tested many of the materials, along with larger native communities, such as Nome, Bethel, Kotzebue, and Pt. Barrow.

In addition to Eskimo, the

materials are being prepared in other native languages, such as Athabaskan, among others.

Following success of the basic literacy materials, other projects are now being carried out to stimulate learning in the villages.

Among these are books depicting village folk tales, the problems of land selection (prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management), municipal government, basic grammar, and boating safety. The program is also urging natives to establish and staff small village libraries.

"We're trying to make education more meaningful and relevant to the Alaska natives and it seems to be working well," said James Irany, assistant professor of sociology and director of ACC's Community Services Division, which is overseeing the project.

Among the ACC staff members who are working directly on the project are Nancy Gross, Laura Hendricks, Gretchen Bersch, and Reginald Hendricks.

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Because of the anticipated volume of hook-ups versus limited manpower and equipment, line extension delays of two months or longer can be expected if the customer fails to complete ALL his requirements by July 1 for overhead line extensions (see special underground requirements below).

To help us meet your electrical requirements and minimize delays, we recommend that you:

- construct your new residence or business adjacent to Golden Valley's many miles of existing power lines if possible.
- check with GVEA Customer Service department concerning availability of electric service if you plan to purchase property that is not adjacent to suitable distribution facilities.
- purchase your property, arrange for financing, THEN apply for power and complete necessary paperwork and pay required fees EARLY.

UNDERGROUND LINES

Due to the limited (June to September) construction season for high-voltage underground facilities and production delays for required material, GVEA will be unable to install high-voltage underground lines in approved platted underground subdivisions unless the following requirements are met:

- apply for power, secure Borough/GVEA approval of plat for underground power installation, complete ALL paperwork and pay required fees and charges by May 15.
- ROW clearing and conduit for road crossings must be ready for GVEA final inspection by June 1.
- no excavation or construction (except by GVEA) should be in progress near ROW or conduit road crossings after June 1.

This message from Golden Valley Electric Association is intended to assist those planning construction during 1973. Please contact our Customer Service Department for further information.

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