

**RurAL-CAP****ACTION REPORTS**

Mailing Address: Drawer 412 ECB

Telephone 279-2441

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

RULINGS HURT PENDING ALLOTMENTS**Alcoholism Program
Forms New Board**

A national conference for Indian alcoholism programs was held July 25-28, 1973 on the Mescalero Indian Reservation in New Mexico. The purpose was to form a national Indian Board representative of the ten Health, Education and Welfare regions in the United States.

There were two representatives selected from each of the regions to be seated on the National Indian Board, and one of the stipulations was that the person selected was to be present at the conference. From Region Ten, which is comprised of Alaska, Washington State, Idaho and Oregon, the two representatives are Steve LaBauff from Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon; and Ralph Amouak, formerly of the RurAL CAP alcoholism program. Amouak was also elected secretary of the board.

Presently, the goals of the Board are to see that the representation of alcohol programs are equally distributed to Indian and Alaska Native alcoholism programs throughout the states.

The Alaska Native Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ANCADA) will have a regional Board meeting in the near future which is comprised of the twelve regional Native associations under the Land Claims Bill to select a permanent representative to the National Indian Board.

There were representatives present from every state in the union, and one from Canada who attended to keep abreast of alcoholism programs in the U.S. The long range goal of the Board is to be recognized by HEW, Indian Health and the Bureau of Indian Affairs as the voice for Indian alcoholism programs.

Amouak; Herb Powless from Wisconsin; Eugene Begay, Florida; and Alvin G. Echo Hawk from Oklahoma will travel to Washington, D.C. in the near future to meet with BIA, NIAA and Indian Health people, and to establish a national office of Indian alcoholism.

Originally hired as the Alcoholism Training Coordinator for RurAL CAP, Amouak was later hired as Director of the Alaska Native Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and is now Project Director for the National Institute on Alcohol and Alcoholism (NIAAA).

Replacing Amouak in the Anchorage office will be Mrs. Evelyn Myers who has been an alcoholism counselor for the agency since July 1971 in Juneau.



BRISTOL BAY GRANT RECEIVED — Donald Nielson, left, discusses the official notification of the \$9,300 grant from the Alaska Humanities Forum Director Gary Holthaus in Anchorage. Entitled, "The Bristol Bay Fisheries Dialogue Project", the program will include a documentary film which states the views and concerns of resident Bay area fishermen.

**NEWS OF THE ALEUTIAN
PLANNING COMMISSION****NYC PROGRAM**

Dennis Philemonof, Regional Director of the Aleutian Planning Commission, was able to visit eight of eleven villages on the Chain to recruit students for the Neighborhood Youth Program which was recently allocated \$838,500 from the federal government. Travel was paid by the Division of Rural Assistance, but not all communities were visited because of weather conditions.

Philemonof commented that about 80 students are now in the program which places young people from 14-21 years of age with state and federal agencies, or on projects which are for the betterment of the community.

Persons donating their own time to supervise were Marie Osterback, Sand Point; Glen Mack, King Cove; Gilda Shelli-ko, False Pass; Frank Mielke, Unalaska; Gabe Stephen, St. Paul; and Boris Merculief, St. George.

FIRE PROTECTION

As with most RurAL CAP regions, fire protection has been a high priority on the Chain. According to Bill Hagevig of the State Fire Training Office, efforts in that direction will bring extinguishers to seven communities, under Revenue Sharing. These villages are: Akutan, Belkofski, Sand Point, St. George, St. Paul, Unalaska, and Nelson Lagoon.

Communities not submitting their applications before the deadline will hopefully be receiving extinguishers next year, Philemonof said.

Also participating in the project were: Don Argetsinger, Department of Community and Regional Affairs; Andree Schalk, Regional Fire Marshall; Ronald Hendrie, State Fire Marshall, and Ilidor Philemonof, Aleut Corporation.

RDA GRANTS

Word has been received from Al Adams, Director of Rural Development Assistance, that Commissioner Byron Mallot of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs has approved grants for two villages on the Chain. Sand Point will receive \$15,623 for a multi-purpose building, and False Pass will construct boardwalks with a grant for \$4,000.

**Copper Center
Has Busy
Youth Program**

The Neighborhood Youth Corps Program (NYC) is keeping at least forty young people busy this summer in their area, according to Hector Ewan, Executive Director of the Copper Center — Tanana Regional Development Corporation.

Ewan commented that students are doing village cleanup and maintenance work in Gul kana, Taslina, Mentasta, Chistochina, and Copper Center. The State Highway Department is also utilizing at least six persons, and five girls have been allotted between the Copper River Native Association, Aging Office and RurAL CAP office.

In other news of the region, Ewan stated that information had just been received from Al Adams, Director of the Rural Development Administration, that a grant for a campground had been approved for Gulkana. Work on the \$8,000 project is expected to begin at once, with local residents doing the labor.

**New Guidelines
May Ax Most Claims**

The Department of Interior's new and extremely restrictive guidelines on adjudicating Native Allotment applications puts the vast majority of 9,000 applications in severe jeopardy of being lost, according to the executive director of RurAL CAP, Mike Harper.

Previously, if the allotment applicant could show use and occupancy of the land prior to it being withdrawn as a reserve (an example - Rampart Power Site Classification in 1963, or State Selection 1900-1960) he could obtain the allotment if he had filed prior to passage of the Land Claims Act on December 18, 1971.

Only 200 allotments had been processed prior to 1968; virtually all of the 9,000 applications derived by a major coordinated drive of the Alaska Federation of Natives, RurAL CAP, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Alaska Legal Services in 1970 and 1971 will be lost.

It is a tragedy that throughout the years, Native people have berry picked, hunted and built fish camps over lands that could have easily been theirs, but due to an unbelievable lack of knowledge, few took advantage of the Allotment Act. The frenzied effort in 1970 and 1971 could well be in vain merely because of technicalities that the Department has seen fit to place on the applicants.

The case of Bertha Trefon et al, based on an earlier decision of the Yakutat Railroad vs Setuk Harry, forced a change in the Department of the Interior policy to one of allowing Native allotments to be filed despite the super land freeze of 1968.

This tightening of the regulations with regard to use and

occupancy goes against the broad intent of the 1906 Allotment Act and prior policy dealing with the Act. Although the Allotment Act has been called the Native Homestead Act, there is a distinct difference over the use and occupancy in the Allotment Act which has meant a TRADITIONAL use of the land.

Those policy guidelines to implement the existing 1906 Act have such a drastic effect that they essentially become new regulations. As with any new federal regulation, they should be adopted through the procedures of the Administration Procedures Act, i.e., draft of regulations appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, allowance for 30 days for public comment, etc.

It is clear that the effort to have 9,000 Native applications filed in 1970 and 1971 was done under a different set of rules than are now being followed to actually process the applications. Those 9,000 people completed the bureaucratic red tape to the best of their knowledge and in good faith that the Department of the Interior would handle their applications justly.

Harper reported that he was writing the Congressional Delegation for their support to relieve the extreme limitations placed upon applications by virtue of this recent action.

Harper-Thompson Letter Urges Justice

In a letter to Governor Egan and Commissioner Morris Thompson of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, RurAL CAP Director Mike Harper urged that at the August 6-8 meeting with the Johnson-O'Malley Committee, a just resolution be made for the educational need for some 1,500 rural students.

It seems clear that the State has an obligation to educate all of its secondary school age stu-

dents, as depicted in the pending Molly Hootch suit. The JOM Committee took a strong stand attempting to make the State education system fulfill their educational obligation, and RurAL CAP fully endorses that concept.

Apparently the State Department of Education alternative is to have correspondence courses for 1,500 rural students, which is totally unrealistic.

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