

RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS

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SPECIAL TAX SEMINAR HELD FOR FISHERMEN

Lauds Noble Dick for Job Well Done

The RurAL CAP Board of Directors and the Executive Director of the agency has commended H. Noble Dick, former Controller, for a job well done.

Dick, who resigned as of January 31, has served the agency since July of 1971 and has been the Chief Financial Officer in charge of funding management.

Mrs. Ellen Lang, Secretary/Treasurer of the RurAL CAP Board, formally noted the Board's confidence in Dick which has been justified by his accountability, accuracy and dedication to the RurAL CAP Agency.

According to Dick, working for RurAL CAP has given him a better insight of the problems in rural Alaska. He stated that his service to RurAL CAP has been



H. NOBLE DICK

a most enlightening experience.

Mr. Dick leaves RurAL CAP to join the staff of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation in Dillingham.

Cited Major Means of Employment

On the 20th of January, a special tax seminar for commercial fishermen was held in Anchorage at the Anchorage Westward Hotel.

This came about through Ed Ness, a trainer for RurAL CAP, who established the contacts with the tax people to conduct a tax session centered specifically toward the individual commercial fisherman.

It was felt that a tax session of this nature was needed since one of the major means of employment in the state of Alaska is commercial fishing.

Along with aid from Community Enterprise Development Corporation, the IRS and the State Department of Revenue worked out an agenda together and a date and place was reserved for the session.

The session started at 9:00 A.M. with a welcoming address by Ron Haines, Executive President of Community Enterprise Development Corporation. Then the floor was turned over to the representative from IRS and the State Department of Revenue.

The main subjects covered on the agenda centered around the procedures of filling out individual tax returns. Through discussion, questions were answered in areas concerning computation related to depreciation of fishing gear and equipment.

They also related how to

handle expenses relevant to boat improvements and repair.

Also covered during the session was employment taxes related to shares and other wages. Answered were such questions as, "Who withholds taxes for whom in a fishing venture," and "What type of taxes can or should be withheld."

Charles McVay, Chief Audit Division, had this to say about the session:

"It was a session that was long overdue and gave us a chance to get together with fishermen to discuss some rather complicated areas of tax law in their own terms and relate them to their circumstances."

"Unfortunately we don't have the manpower to get out and participate in such meetings throughout the state. We do hope we can establish meaningful and productive communication through some effective medium with all the fishermen."

Stan McCartney, Internal Revenue Agent, had commented:

"I think that it's good that the taxpayer has a one-to-one, first hand contact with the IRS through seminars such as the one conducted with the fishermen."

"It has been a number of years since the IRS has participated in a program such as this. This enables the taxpayer to ask any questions he may have about his own problems. In this way he receives a direct answer to his questions."

A questionnaire was circulated to be turned in at the end of the session. The questionnaire asked if the seminar was helpful.

The majority answered "yes" to this question. There were a few who thought the answers given by the tax people were confusing. Others thought that the tax people should have gone into more detail on specific issues.

There was a definite realization that the tax people needed to increase their knowledge in the fishing industry in order to present a clearer picture.

However, when the question of holding more sessions of this nature in different areas of the state was asked, again the majority of the answers on the questionnaire was "yes."

Areas mentioned in the survey where sessions would be helpful were: Bristol Bay, Southeastern, Kodiak, Kenai, Homer, Prince William Sound, Aleutian Chain and points in the northwestern part of the state.

Since this tax session was the first of its kind to be held in Alaska where the individual fishermen could establish a first hand person-to-person contact with representatives of both the Internal Revenue Service and the State Department of Revenue, there were answers that may have sounded confusing to the fishermen.

However, the IRS in future sessions related to the concerns of commercial fishermen, can use this first session as a guideline and adjust their presentations and discussions according to the wishes of the commercial fishermen.

SEACAP Holds Meeting at Haines

The board of directors for the Southeastern Alaska Community Action Program recently concluded a three day meeting in Haines. The session, held jointly with the Southeast Rural Development Council, addressed itself to the solution of several problems currently facing rural southeasterners.

Guest speakers included: John Borbridge, Jr., president of Sealaska; Joe Wilson, director of southeast district of the BIA; Jack Norvell who explained the home improvement program of the BIA; Gordon Jackson, member of executive board of Community Enterprise Development Corporation; Bill Pritchard, local government specialist in the State Department of Community and Regional Affairs, and Mike Harper, executive director of RurAL CAP.

Representatives from each southeastern community presented a current report of progress and problems, with considerable interaction from the rural development council members.

Of special interest was the federal rural development act which, when guidelines are set up, will have funds available for fiscal year 1974.

The act will provide rural

communities with grants and loans for economic development, community service facilities and fire protection service.

Mike Harper, director of RurAL-CAP suggested that letters be written to federal congressmen to protest the possible substitution of special revenue sharing funds for the OEO funded CAP agencies.

Awards CAP's Poussard Community Service Award

Mr. Lucien Poussard, a member of the RurAL CAP Board of Directors, was recently cited by the Anchorage Federation Executive Association as winner of the community service award.

The award was given in conjunction with the U. S. Civil Service Commission week.

Alaska Senator Mike Gravel spoke at the Anchorage luncheon on the importance of civil service workers in today's society.

In his speech Senator Gravel outlined the civil service workers responsibility to the executive branch of the government.

Poussard, who is chief of area social services for the Alaska Area Native Health Center, is involved in many community activities.

Aside from his membership on the RurAL CAP Board of Directors, Poussard is a board member of the RurAL CAP Head Start Parents Policy Committee; a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Anchorage Area Community Action Agency; a member of the Anchorage Borough's Overall Economic Development Program and a member of the Comprehensive Health Planning Council. Poussard is also involved in many other professional organizations.

At the December meeting of the RurAL CAP Board of Directors in Anchorage, Board members gave Poussard a standing ovation in recognition of his



LUCIEN POUSSARD

interest and active participation in the agency's rural affairs.

Alaska Transportation Museum in Anchorage

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The Alaska Transportation Museum, in Anchorage, is beginning a statewide drive to gather any, and all items pertaining to the development of the transportation industry in Alaska.

According to Philip Redden, Curator of the Museum, a great many people felt that the history of aviation in Alaska was worth recording.

Hence, in June of 1967, a Centennial project was initiated. Jack Peck was named chairman of the CENTENNIAL AVIATION PROGRESS MUSEUM COMMITTEE, under the Aviation Chairman, Mr. Carl Brady (of Era Helicopters).

In 1968, the project was officially turned over to the State of Alaska, broadened in scope to include all modes of

transportation, and was opened to the public as the ALASKA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM, following the Centennial year.

The Museum is interested in all types of automobile, train, and airplane parts, as well as articles and photos of such items.

Also items such as skis, dog sleds, boats, snow shoes, tracked vehicles, etc. Some of the current displays at the Museum include a 1933 Stinson, a 1928 Model "A" Pick-up, a 1946 Eliason snow machine, a home-made helicopter, railroad cars, dogsleds, kyaks, and snow shoes.

With a little help from Major General William S. Elmore, and Major Kent Lee Woodman of the Air National Guard, items for displays are flown from all parts of the State to Anchorage (when space is available). Once in

Anchorage, they are restored, and put up for exhibition.

With an increased budget, Redden said, the Museum has been able to turn several "old wrecks" into valuable displays.

A thirty-year antique collector, Curator Redden has personally restored several automobiles, and is a knowledgeable antique airplane buff.

The Museum is located at 3833 International Airport Road just 5 blocks from International Airport terminal. Visitors and tour groups are welcome 7 days a week, admission free of charge. Museum hours Monday through Saturday, 10:00-5:00, Sunday 1:00-5:00.

For additional information please call either Philip Redden, Curator, or Bunny Cameron, Museum Assistant, at 277-2022.

JUNEAU The state has awarded a \$725,091 contract to A&G Construction Co. of Anchorage for realignment work on 1-4 miles of the Anchorage-Fairbanks Highway, and a \$293,180 contract to Hermon Brothers Construction Co. of Palmer for construction of a 20-foot roadway between the Kuskokwim River villages of Upper Kalskag and Lower Kalskag, Governor William A. Egan said.

The governor said another state contract for \$128,500, awarded by the Department of Public Works to Summers Construction Co. of Anchorage, provides for a 2,210 square foot addition to the elementary school at Kenny Lake.

It is scheduled for completion in August.