

ACC forms rural insurance company

An insurance company designed to meet the special needs and conditions of people living in the Bush Alaska, has been formed by the Alaska Commercial Company.

ACC president Allan D. Galant and Martin Horn, president of Rural Alaska Insurance Agency, announced the formation of Rural Alaska Insurance Agency Monday.

RAIA, headquartered in Anchorage, specializes in developing and servicing insurance programs geared specifically to the particular concerns of people living in remote areas of Alaska.

Coverage includes standard and deluxe dwelling insurance; specific coverage for all-terrain

vehicles, snow machines, and boat motors; automobile coverage; boat owners and aircraft policies; life and health; small business coverage; and employee benefit packages for small businesses.

The agency will work through Alaska Commercial Company's 18 stores, which initially will serve as information channels and later will provide office space for locally trained agents and representatives of the Agency.

Insurance carriers include Pacific Marine Insurance Company of Alaska and Umialik Insurance Company.

"When a home is destroyed

by fire in Rural Alaska, a homeowner there faces a whole series of problems unlike any other situation elsewhere," said Horn. "Our unique Rural Alaskan Dwelling Insurance Policy will help solve these problems within the community of the policy holder."

Horn said the policy provides almost immediate access to \$2,500 for replacement of food, clothes, and other personal necessities destroyed by the fire. It also provides \$750 a month cash for up to 10 months of temporary housing, an essential element in towns and villages where a family can't just move into a motel.

But most important, according to Horn, an agreement is reached on the value of the dwelling at the time the policy is issued, and this amount is paid if the dwelling is destroyed.

Traditional homeowner's policies require that the insured party prove the loss regardless of the amount of insurance in the policy and only the amount proven is paid. This can be difficult, says Horn, when there is

nothing left to value but ashes.

"Alaska Commercial Company is delighted to see this kind of insurance become available," says Allan.

"The towns and villages of rural Alaska are the communities in which our customers and employees live and work. We're a company that has been committed for 116 years to providing the necessities and luxuries that make for a good life in these communities."

In its start-up phase, the Agency will provide service to Barrow, Bethel, Kotzebue and Nome. At first, customers will be served directly by Horn, who will travel to each town on a regular basis. In between his visits, information about the program can be obtained from the local office of the local Alaska Commercial Company store. As soon as possible, local residents will be recruited and

trained to serve as agents in each location.

Horn visited Nome and Kotzebue early this week and was travelling to Barrow on Jan. 27 and 28, and Bethel Jan. 30 and 31. Horn may be contacted on those dates through the manager of the local Alaska Commercial store.