

ANCADA Opens Doors On New Headquarters

Nondalton Plans Head Start Program

The village of Nondalton is making plans to begin operation of a new Head Start program. At its last meeting in Fort Yukon in May, the RurAL CAP Board of Directors decided to fund Nondalton to run Head Start beginning in September. Mildred Jacobsson, Head Start Field Trainer for RurAL CAP, visited Nondalton to help parents and the community plan for beginning classes for preschoolers in the fall.

Parents of preschoolers to be enrolled are forming a Policy Council which will be largely responsible for the operation of the program. Mrs. Jacobsson explained Head Start policies and procedures to parents and interested community members, and helped Nondalton residents develop a plan for action to set up the Head Start program.

One major problem is being solved by a steering committee formed by village residents. The building that Nondalton planned to use for the program is too small but the steering committee has already started to expand and renovate the facility to be ready for children in the fall.

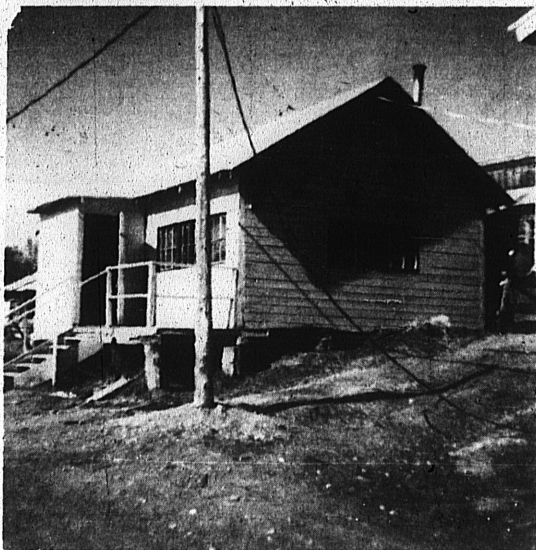
The Policy Council formed will hire local staff, order supplies and equipment and monitor all components of the program which includes early childhood development, parent involvement, health and social services and career development.

Nondalton is on Six Mile Lake, south of Lake Clark. Nondalton is home for approximately 40 families, with a total population of approximately 260 people.

Slots Open In Public Health Program Studies

Information was received recently at the RurAL CAP Office regarding the availability of slots for the fall of 1974 in the area of Public Health at various universities across the nation.

Elaine Walbroek, University of California at Berkeley, telephoned Mike Harper, executive director at RurAL CAP, and explained briefly the Masters' in Public Health Programs. Past recipients of this degree are Jerry Ivy, Bob Sinyake and Conrad Baines. However, this year no Alaskan Natives have applied for the program. Major fields of study that are available for Master candidates are 1) Environmental Health Sciences, 2) Public Health Education, 3) Hospital Administration, 4) Health Administration and Planning, 5) Work Health Nursing. Ms. Walbroek explained that although the program was funded for Native Americans out of the University of California at Berkeley, other programs that covered the



The building to be used for the new Head Start in Nondalton.

Community Action Agencies To Continue Under HEW

The House of Representatives, on May 29, approved legislation to continue Community Action Agencies such as RurAL CAP through a new agency in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The overwhelming vote of 331 to 53 surprised most experts in Washington and could very well cause President Nixon to re-evaluate his stated opposition to OEO/Community Action-type programs.

The new legislation, as proposed by the House, is entitled the "Community Services Act of 1974" (HR 14449) and would take the place of the Office of Economic Opportunity Programs that have been in existence since 1964.

Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, said that President Nixon wanted to kill OEO and has already essentially killed the OEO in name. However, the programs such as RurAL CAP, Head Start, and Community Enterprise Development groups will survive.

Harper reported that having Community Action Agencies administered out of the huge bureaucracy of HEW is not his idea of responsive government; however, "We are glad that the House did take this step and feel that we can live with the legislation as passed in the House."

individual areas were available at the University of Michigan, University of Texas, University of Washington, University of Minnesota and UCLA.

For an example, Minnesota has an excellent hospital administration program while the Seattle-based University of Washington has excellent Environmental Health Science Departments.

If you are interested and require further information, you can contact Elaine Walbroek, School of Public Health, University at Berkeley, Calif. 94720.

must consider legislation on behalf of OEO and it is reported that Senators Javits and Kennedy will soon co-sponsor legislation supporting an independent agency for OEO rather than moving the program into HEW.

At the same time that the much-belabored Community Action Agency Program was coming to a vote in the House, the legislation creating an independent Legal Services Corporation was about to clear the last hurdle in the legislative process.

It is reported that the reason for the sudden strong support throughout the Congress has been because of surprising approval of the program by Governors and Mayors throughout the country. Governor William A. Egan wrote a strong supporting letter for RurAL CAP earlier this spring and had much to do with the attitude of Congressmen.

Natives Open Alcohol Center

Unspiked punch and traditional Native foods met visitors to the open house of the Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ANCADA) Friday. The new headquarters are at 528 West Fifth Avenue, Suite Nine.

Formed several years ago by a group of concerned persons, the commission attempts to speak to Native alcoholic problems in what some might call the alcoholism shouting match for funds.

"As you probably already know, with state and federal funding, whoever speaks loudest gets the most," explained George Barril, executive director of the commission. "Because rural Alaska had no spokesman, we usually were left with whatever was left over."

The group now has an 18-member commission including representation from each of the 13 Native regional corporations. As one of four alcoholism organizations in Alaska, ANCADA has projects going in 166 villages and \$1.6 million public education program to start soon.

Their most successful project so far comes from small grants supplied by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). Through these grants, rural communities are able to put human resources together for projects of their own choosing to reduce the need to consume liquor.

"This is providing an alternative to drinking; renewing traditional lifestyles by providing activities to unify the community," explained Ralph Amouak, project director for the 166 grants. "For instance, many communities are building community halls — the program gets people aware of village problems through their own city council, which has the job of administering the programs."

Amouak said a 70 per cent reduction in drinking has been documented in Galena since their community hall was built about eight months ago. Barril says the most important part of the agency's job is educating people.

"Alcoholism is a problem Caucasians are having trouble understanding," Barril said. "And its compounded in Natives — its been less than 100 years since it was introduced to Alaska Natives and treatment for anybody just started within the last 10 years."

Don Lee, field supervisor for the commission, recently visited in the Nome area at nine villages where persons are interested in doing something else beside feed alcohol addiction with their spare time and money. He says a lot of rural people have heard about alcohol and drug prevention, although little has been done about it.

We have a lot of alcohol kids who go outside to their villages to drink for an escape," he said. "It's part of the frustration, it's a symptom."

Next month, in connection with the National Council on Alcohol (NCA) the commission will start educating rural Natives with its portion of a \$2.5 million package allocated to combating the problem through Senator Ted Stevens, R-Alaska.

"We're not a temperance unit," added Barril, "we're just trying to educate people in the problems of drinking and its influence on their lives." — Anchorage Daily Times — June 3.

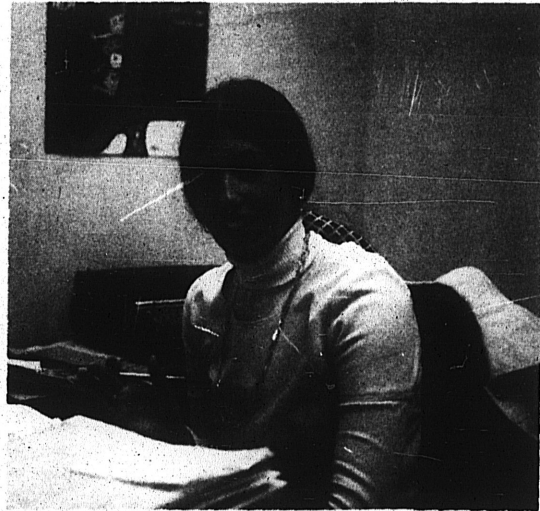
Susan Welsh Joins Anchorage Staff

RurAL CAP recently welcomed a new staff member with a wealth of experience in anti-poverty programs. Susan Welsh, a former VISTA Volunteer, was hired in Anchorage as the Anchorage Head Start Coordinator.

Miss Welsh has worked with anti-poverty programs since 1965, when she served in Tuskegee, Ala. She also worked in West Virginia where she organized a Head Start, Health, Education and Arts and Crafts Program. In addition, the new coordinator established the Creative Expression Center in Beckley, West Virginia.

In Pennsylvania, Miss Welsh served as assistant director for the Chester County Community Action Board, where she organized a youth group, and coordinated programs for the Spanish-speaking community.

Susan also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya, where she taught a variety of high school subjects, coached volleyball and track, and established a



New Anchorage Head Start Coordinator, Susan Welsh.

school library. Miss Welsh is a graduate of Immaculata College in Pennsylvania, and has taught multi-

media art and art history to elementary children. She has received awards for her sculpture, and has taught film-making.