

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

Mailing Address: Drawer 412 ECB

Telephone 279-2441

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION COURSE**John Shively
Optimistic on
Future of CAP**

When he resigned as executive director of RurAL CAP in December, John Shively was asked what he thought the future of community action programs, and RurAL CAP in particular, was in Alaska, and his reply follows.

"A great deal has been said in recent months about the problems community action programs are going to face as a result of the change in national philosophy from one of active support of programs such as community action to at least passive resistance to such programs.

"Many people feel that OEO programs will shortly come to an end because the national administration has expressed a desire to make major changes in how social programs operate.

"I personally do not share the pessimism expressed by many in this regard. One should remember that over two years ago, President Nixon proposed a revenue sharing plan that would have eliminated community action programs as they presently exist by this year.

"Those revenue sharing programs, known as Special Revenue Sharing, have never passed Congress, and there is some indication that they never will. For instance, Senator Stevens has expressed himself as opposed to Special Revenue Sharing programs because they hurt Alaska.

"The reason for this is that revenue sharing programs are based largely on population and therefore Alaska will always stand to lose funds.

"My impression is that on the whole, OEO programs and particularly RurAL CAP, are quite strong in this state.

RurAL CAP itself has a strong political base and close ties to most of the regional Native associations in the state.

"I believe that the effectiveness of OEO programs was recognized by Senator Stevens when he voted to override the Presidential veto of the OEO



HEAD START WORKSHOP — Rosemary Davidson, Acting Regional Training Officer, conducts training at the Field Training Supervisors' Workshop December 18-22 in Anchorage. From left, Kay Moor, Assistant Director of Child Development; Marion Henniger, FTS; Rosemary Davidson; Justine Albert, FTS; and Kai Dickey, FTS.

legislation in 1971.

"However, despite the strength that I see in community action programs, I think we all must be aware that there are changes occurring nationally. There must be a total government reorganization which would place OEO programs in a big government bureaucracy rather than acting somewhat independently as they have in the past.

"I feel that the real strength of RurAL CAP has been that we have been able to organize low income people to effectively speak out about the problems in rural Alaska.

"I believe that this voice is a necessary part of the democratic process as it operates in our state, and those people who are interested in keeping alive the concept behind community action programs must work together to protect the programs we have developed.

"This will mean educating both our state legislators and our national legislators to what is happening in Alaska and as to why the OEO programs should continue.

"It also means that we, as participants and administrators of OEO programs, must assure

that these programs operate effectively and efficiently, so that there is both success in the programs which operate and wise administration of the monies that will be available to us.

"It is my opinion that if we can work together, RurAL CAP and other OEO programs and the ideals behind these programs will remain in this state for decades to come."

**Harper Asks for
Rural Hearings**

At a December meeting of the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission, Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, expressed a need for expanded village hearings which would benefit those people most affected by the Commission's recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior.

He stated the need to review planned easements, which as currently drafted, call for excessive land withdrawals, and that existing radio facilities should be used to disseminate information on Commission activities.

He said that allotments were also discussed at the meeting which was held in Fairbanks.

**Internal Revenue Service
Offers Course Aimed
Toward Rural Areas**

A free course in preparing an income tax is available from the Internal Revenue Service and will be offered in rural areas through RurAL CAP offices to villages or groups requesting it.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, known as VITA, is a course prepared by the Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which covers all necessary information required for low income people or those with uncomplicated taxes, who wish to file their own returns, or who want to learn more about income taxes in general.

The Southeastern Alaska Community Action Program (SEACAP) has been the first to request the course in response to a priority set on their work program for more information regarding income taxes.

Bob Flint, VITA Volunteer, who holds a BA degree from California State University in Chico, will conduct the initial course in the SEACAP region. He is hopeful that the program will generate enough interest so that it can be expanded next year.

All RurAL CAP regional offices are urged to contact villages in their areas to find people interested in taking the course so that dates may be set for the sessions. Ed Ness, Trainer for RurAL CAP, will conduct courses and said that IRS officials have agreed that the VITA course is needed in rural Alaska.

Ness, who holds a secondary teaching degree from Indiana State University, and is presently taking a public accounting course through the International Accountants' Society, has evaluated VITA as an excellent course which every taxpayer should take.

It is a two-day or three-night session course and all materials are furnished by the Internal

Revenue Service including a course book entitled, "Chart Book", 1040 Blow-ups, and other training aids.

In addition to the VITA program, RurAL CAP and the Community Enterprise Development Corporation is co-sponsoring with the IRS, a special income tax information session especially for commercial fishermen in Alaska.

The session will be held on January 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or longer if necessary, in the Kenai Room of the Anchorage-Westward Hotel. The IRS will conduct the instruction and a representative from the Alaska Department of Revenue will also be available to answer questions. It is expected that Senator Gravel will attend the session.

The special income tax session for commercial fishermen will be the first one of its kind in Alaska. Travel expenses to attend the sessions are tax deductible for 1973.

Ness stated that plans were underway to carry the program to all rural areas and expressed the hope that much interest would be generated in rural Alaska.

It is estimated that more than half of the returns filed are done by someone other than the taxpayer.

With these basic courses, people would have a better understanding of what is required, and especially for those who have uncomplicated returns, it may not be necessary to pay someone else to do it.

Pete Visits, Sam & Mabel Vacation

By GUY OKAKOK
Barrow Correspondent
FAIRBANKS — Mr. Pete Sovalik, employee of A.R.L. for several years, came to Fairbanks with his wife Isa. Pete said he doesn't know when he and his wife will return to Barrow.

He also said a young hunter there in Barrow by the name of Thomas Napageak caught four wolves, and also another trapper

by the name Tukayak caught wolverine and wolverine.

Pete said the trappers only started after a season opened and there will be more after the trappers come home from hunting. Right now, he said, most of them are all out yet.

Pete said it's even most amazing about our weather here, mild almost every day. No ice along the shore of Barrow yet.

Pete is now over 65 years of age. He takes care of the tame animals of A.R.L.'s. He said he about to retire soon now. Pete is a very good singer and also a dancer. A very good performer in Eskimo dance.

SAM AND MABEL

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hopson, employee of Wien Airline for several years, are taking their vacation.

Mrs. Mabel Hopson, wife of

Sammy, said that they will take four children with them. Other kids will stay behind. Mabel said they will go through San Francisco and then go to Hawaii from there.

Mabel is the daughter of Mr. David Brower who resides in Barrow. David Brower's first wife Marie died several years back and David married another woman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Nukapigak. Bruce is a long time resident in Barrow is now he's single. His wife died month ago, Jennie.

Bruce is over 70 years old now, good hunter and whaler in his younger days. A very good Eskimo dancer even.

Anyway, according to Mabel Hopson, she said she doesn't know just how long they would be away.

Unification Charter Commission

Hearings by the Unification Charter Commission are scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on January 11, 1973, at the Salcha school and the Two Rivers school (green building).

The purpose of the hearings is to obtain testimony on interests and concerns of rural residents as related to a unified government. Interested persons are invited to present their views at the hearings.

The commission is interested in how residents feel about extending services such as fire protection, waste disposal, planning and zoning, and how they feel these should be organized.

The commission is also interested in how residents feel about taxing to provide services, and

whether they prefer service districts or area wide powers.

Testimony is invited from individuals as well as organizations. Persons wishing to be heard should notify the charter commission office (452-4761, ext. 18), to assure enough time for all interested individuals to be heard.

The January 11th hearings are the last in a series before drafting of a unification charter begins.

CATS AND KITTENS
Hundreds of unwanted and homeless cats and kittens are killed in Fairbanks every month. Don't be guilty of contributing to their pathetic picture. If you are concerned or would like to adopt a lovely neutered or spayed cat, call your local Pet Pride representative for information. Phone 456-7198.

