

McGrath store open

The residents of McGrath now have a new place to shop. The Alaska Commercial Company opened a new store facility in the community on August 23rd. Grand opening festivities were conducted outdoors in the sunshine, where the majority of McGrath's 350 residents enjoyed the marvelous weather and witnessed the ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Officiating at the ceremonies were Myrtle Johnson, president of CEDC of Alaska's board of directors, Alfred R. Ketzler, Executive Director of CEDC of Alaska, and Allan Gallant, president of the Alaska Commercial Company.

Also in attendance were representatives of the Community Services Administration and the Department of Housing and Urban Development from Washington, D.C. in addition to the traditional speeches, grand opening festivities included drawings for various door prizes, such as a 22 rifle and Homelite chain saw.

The old store, which was constructed in 1940, had become too small and cramped to accommodate the growing needs of the community. Thus the construction of a new store was approved by the board of directors of CEDC of Alaska, in December of last year with construction beginning in the summer of 1979. The new store facility is located on the airstrip at McGrath, next door to the old ACC store building.

Warehouses owned by ACC were moved a short distance to

a location behind the new building, and became part of the new facility. The new store has a total of 4,800 square feet, with 3,000 square feet of selling space and the remainder, for storage. This represents an increase of over 500 square feet from the old facility.

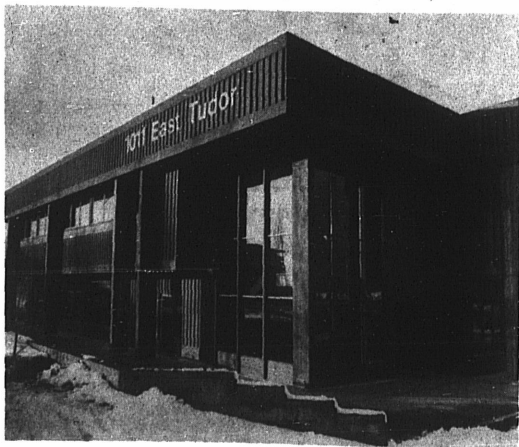
This additional space allows for the expansion of all merchandise lines, which is particularly noticeable in the areas of hardware and houseware products. In addition, for the first time in the community's history fresh meat and produce are available.

At this time a determination has not been made as to the disposition of the old store. However, one thing is certain: the building will not be torn down, but will remain as a historic landmark in the community.

The McGrath ACC store is currently managed by Jim Pearson, who has been employed by ACC for seven years. Prior to moving to McGrath Jim was a grocery manager in the Bethel store for two years. Jim has been in McGrath for five years now and is pleased with the new building. He is proud to be able to offer his customers expanded services at lower prices.

The Alaska Commercial Company is also proud of this new facility and will continue to strive to provide its customers with better product variety at lower prices.

Congratulations McGrath and best wishes.



CEDC of Alaska offices in Anchorage are shown in the photograph at right.