



RurAL-CAP

## ACTION REPORTS



Mailing Address: Drawer 412 ECB

Telephone 279-2441

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

## RurAL CAP REGIONAL DIRECTORS MEET

## Discuss Aging, Allotments, Etc.

On October 11 & 12, RurAL CAP Regional Directors met in the AFN Conference room to discuss and make plans in the areas of aging, housing, energy, allotments, legislative priorities, transportation, telecommunications, and respective budgets.

In attendance were: Connie Chya, Regional Director from Kodiak, Ray Coppak, Alternate for Ernest Norton from Mauneluk in Kotzebue, Martina Little, Director

from Nome, Marie Olson, new Director from SEACAP, Lillian Boston, Director from Copper Center, Pat McCarty, replacing former Director Jimmy Huntington from Galena, and Nancy Harvey, Alternate for Harold Napoleon from Bethel.

Also attending the meeting were ten very enthusiastic VISTA Volunteers who came to Anchorage on Monday, October 7, to begin their year-long service in Alaska as VISTAs.

Several presentations were made on the first day of the meeting, first being, Mr. Vince Hayes from the Social Security Administration clarifying the operations of his program to include SSI making site visits to Bethel, Dillingham, Nome, and Kotzebue once a month and visits are made to villages of less than 500 once a quarter.

Hayes defined eligibility for SSI to be 65 or older, blind, disabled, or a disabled child. Lillian Boston of Copper asked Mr. Hayes if alcoholics would be classified as disabled and the reply was: yes, providing they would be willing to receive treatment.

Another question posed for Hayes was if the ANCSA payments and land bonuses were to be included in the income guidelines, Hayes' answer, no, not before December 31, 1974.

The next speaker, Carrie Johns, from the Easter Seal Society outlined the Directory of Health Social Services and Related Resources in Alaska, prepared and distributed by the Easter Seal Society. Instructions for using the book was the most important thing, stressed Ms. Johns in order to find what the various programs available are.

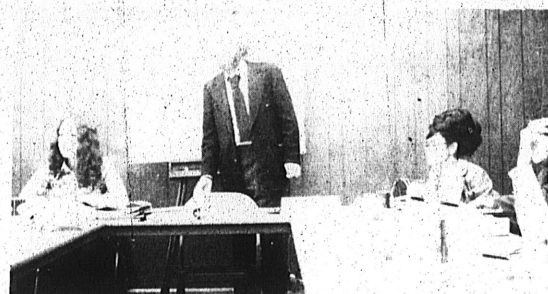
The alcoholism people were next on the agenda to include, George Barril, Director of the ANCADA Media Program, Ralph Amouak, Director of the NIAAA Mini-Grant Program, and Evelyn Myers, RurAL CAP Alcoholism Coordinator. The above programs were explained and hopes for the future were expressed.

Evelyn Myers stated that "Mr. George Barril has received \$450,000 from NIAAA to work in designing applicable prevention material for rural Alaska." "ANCADA is going to be responsible for identifying skills that are needed by people working in health delivery systems in rural Alaska, particularly, alcoholism counselors, health aides, social workers, etc."

"This needs assessment will begin in November, 1974. You can write or call Mr. Barril at: ANCADA, 528 West 5th, Suite 3, Anchorage, Ak. 99501, or call at 274-7435."

Ms. Myers added that questions regarding the Mini Grant Program should be directed to Ralph Amouak, 528 W. 5th, Suite 9, Anchorage, Ak. 99501, or call 277-2578, although this program is in no way connected with the ANCADA Program.

On the current situation regarding land allotments, John Shively, Executive Vice-President of AFN, says that BLM has re-



MIKE JONES, Director, SEOO explains housing in Alaska.

jected approximately 95 per cent of the Native allotments. As a result of this figure, RurAL CAP and Alaska Legal Services found the problem and report that it is a lack of use and occupancy on the part of the applicant.

After getting the information, RurAL CAP and ALS developed an affidavit which essentially means that the people have witnesses to prove that they have been using the land specified in their allotment. These forms are available through the Alaska Legal Services offices and the RurAL CAP office.

Jim Grandjean, Lawyer, Alaska Legal Services spoke on the application and said that it was the intent to be as easy and understandable as possible.

"There were 10,000 applications printed and most of them have been distributed to people in rural Alaska already, but the ALS Offices are located in Barrow, Bethel, Kiana, Fairbanks, Nome, Juneau, and Sitka and they have these forms available," said Grandjean. Another ALS representative Mike Frank was on hand to tell of a suit that ALS would file on October 14 which would enable individual hearings for the villages vs BLM to ask why they were not granted their allotment.

"BLM is viewing from helicopter to determine if applicant has legitimate use and occupancy of allotted land. Suit will, hopefully, get BLM out of their helicopters and down in the villages," said Frank.

Both ALS lawyers agreed that everyone needs to work together and not give up on their allotments.

Phil Smith, Deputy Director of RurAL CAP, then took the floor to explain the current status of OEO and some of the hardships being faced by CAP as a result of the continuing resolutions and not a full grant award.

"CAP people are in the awkward position of surviving from day to day along with doing the best job possible of helping low-income Alaskans in essence two large jobs."

Smith stressed that the CAP Programs throughout the state have been very cooperative in sticking with their jobs and truly helping people even with this added question of funding. Smith also stated that he was very optimistic that OEO would remain alive mainly because of the fact that there is still so much to be done throughout Alaska.

SEOO Director Mike Jones then painted a very thorough and

informative picture of housing in Alaska beginning with "before 1937, there was no housing legislation or codes in Alaska and virtually no way to channel Federal assistance in the State."

"Problems have, since then, been met head on and plans for adequate housing in Alaska are being sought."

Jones explained the on-going programs in Alaska and how they relate to families in rural Alaska and low-income percentages and where they fit into housing programs.

Kay Moor, RurAL CAP Controller, then ended the day's session by presenting the regional budgets and discussing the reasons for disbursement decisions made by the RurAL CAP Board in September.

The Second day began with a presentation by Phil Smith for the Directors and VISTAs and how they should relate to each other in regard to the community.

Harry Carter, Frank Flavin, Reed Stoops, and Barbera Hipsman presented the limited entry plan, rules, and regulation, currently in effect regarding fish and game in Alaska. The major concern was now getting the laws but, enforcing them. Information on limited entry can be obtained through Fisheries Entry Commission, Pouch KB, Juneau, Ak. 99801 or call 586-3456.

Bush Justice expectations were defined by Frank Flavin of ALS by hoping to get the recommendations of the Bush Justice Conference in Minto implemented.

Gordon Jackson spoke on educational delivery systems in Alaska. Recommendations will be made to get a more adequate delivery of services to help keep villages from having to transport their children thousands of miles away for long periods of time to go to school.

Jackson also spoke of future plans and a piece of legislation to be introduced to require a Cultural Impact Statement before the government can make the big decisions regarding development in the bush such as the road to Nome.

Telecommunications was touched on by Jackson and it was his feeling that "this is a subject that has been studied to a point of being ridiculous and that a proposal to combine the efforts of all agencies into one is what is really needed right now."

The two day meeting was ended with a discussion period.



JOHN SHIVELY speaks to RurAL CAP group on allotments.

## VISTA

George Irvin has conducted another training/orientation program to help the new VISTA Volunteers in the State of Alaska familiarize with the state, Native people, their problems, and possible solutions.

Hopefully, as a result of this effort, volunteers will be able to fit into the community to which they are stationed and get to some of the really deep-rooted problems Alaskans are faced with.

The names and duty stations of the volunteers are: Barbera Baker-Juneau, Jesse Hamilton - Nome, Leonard Busby - Ft. Yukon, Earl Mowen - Galena, Bill Marsh - Juneau, Jeff Smith - Anchorage, Debbie Karz - Bethel, Bob Lohr - Copper Center, Howie Kleiman - Anchorage and Steve Cole - Kodiak.

One of the highlights of the 5-day session was Joli Morgan from Community Enterprise Development Corporation explaining functions and accomplishments of the corporation since its beginning in 1968. Morgan showed a film on the Emmonak Cooperative and spoke of future plans and funding levels of CEDC.

Another film was shown to depict Native village people's problem of getting children educated. Title of the film: The Children Go Away to School, produced by SkyRiver, a former OEO funded media program. The story of the film was William Trader's opinion of his daughter leaving her family and home to attend high school at Wrangell.

Irvin explained that this procedure is "emotionally crippling children in villages of rural Alaska not to mention the effect on the parents and other loved ones."

This problem has resulted from a lack of planning, funding and proper legislation to get high schools into rural Alaska. Although, Alaska Legal Services has filed a suit entitled "Class Action Suit" on the part of the parents of these such children. If this case is won, continued Irvin, it will provide for several high schools in rural communities.

Irvin then progressed into discussing the hows and whys of developing Native controlled borough government. "The only such borough in Alaska is the North Slope Borough in the northern part of Alaska which has been in existence for approximately 1 1/2 years."

"This borough consists of a boundary of 54 million acres and enables Native people within the



JIM GRANDJEAN speaks on allotment form.

realm of the structure to have school rights and proper taxation rights. Native people are getting more and more involved in deciding the laws that govern them," noted Irvin.

Allotments was also a point discussed at the session in which Irvin explained that allotments were not being filed from 1906 because of non-existent knowledge of rights, and a lack of communication.

The Native people that were aware of their rights were forced to file an allotment, explaining the description of their particular allotment on the map, do their own surveying and prove use and occupancy, before their application even had a chance to be awarded.

From 1906 - 1968, there were approximately 80 allotment applications filed. In 1968 RurAL CAP picked-up the responsibility of informing people of their rights and having a drive to get allotment applications, and at the end of 1971, 8400 applications were on file and due to be processed.

John Shively, Executive Vice-President of AFN, former Director of RurAL CAP, and former VISTA Volunteer, also commented on allotments adding that the rejection rate for allotments is 97 per cent. The use and occupancy affidavit has been agreed upon as legitimate proof of use of the land by applicants.

Shively added, the threat facing rural Alaskan people is a default in the Claims Act stating that at the end of 20 years, the land becomes transferrable and that it may be bought and sold which would result in the ethnic control of the land being lost.

In conclusion, Shively quoted Roger Lang with "Success or failure of the Claims Act will depend on courage, intelligence, and cooperation of Natives with Natives."

The volunteers were very pleased with this training and the session ended on Friday, October 11. Once again, RurAL CAP would like to extend their sincere appreciation to Mr. George Irvin for providing this fine program.