

## RurAL-CAP

## ACTION REPORTS

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## Rural Development, Electrification Endangered By Crisis

## 'Survival School'

The old Native crafts are still being taught to the young people of the Interior today in unique classes known as the Tanana Survivors School.

Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, visited the school in November as one of the weekly guest speakers who are invited to address the students, giving them more contemporary information on agencies and organizations dealing in Native affairs.

Clara Carroll, Director of the school, explained that it is aimed at teaching dropouts primarily, but also other Native students from the Interior, ways of the Old Native students from the Interior, ways of the Old Native life style. Trapping, hunting, and sled making are taught to the boys, and skin sewing, beadwork and basketmaking is taught to the girls by older Native people from up and down the Yukon River - a Shageluk woman was teaching basket weaving from roots and birch bark, and a Ruby man, Henry Titus, was demonstrating sled making out of birch.

Mr. Harper said he described RurAL CAP activities and showed a Head Start film. The group had general discussion on the Land Claims Act, with the young people making some keen observations regarding decision-making by the Native corporations.

A surprising factor was the group's opinion against oil resource development and also non-development of road new-

non-development of road networks through their communities. The teenagers declared that in twenty years they would like to see the village life as it is right now without the hubbub and frenzy of the urban setting.

This was the first of three courses, each of which will last six weeks.

#### ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY WORKERS FORMED TO SEEK CONTINUATION OF OEO

As one effort to continue the chief federal advocate for the poor, the OEO, the Association for Community Workers has recently been organized, according to Michael C. Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP.

The Association of Community Workers is an organization created by and composed of individuals interested in making donations to finance the necessary lobbying effort on Capitol Hill.

Anyone interested should contact the following address for further information: RurAL CAP, P. O. Drawer 412 ECB, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Memberships are available for \$20, \$10, and \$3.00.



COFFEE BREAK — Not really a coffee break, of course, but the Head Start youngsters in the Nunapitchuk program pretend in their dramatic play session. Ina Berlin is Teacher-Director of the program; Anna Sallison, Teacher-Aide; Elena Berlin, Cook; and Herbert Brink, Janitor.

#### PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM TAKES PLACE OF HEAD START IN TWO VILLAGES

Pre-school children in Kwigillingok, and Napakiak are painting, learning their numbers and alphabets, dancing and laughing again this year thanks to concerted effort among several agencies under the office of the Governor and the RurAL Alaska Community Action Program.

Funds for Head Start in Kwigillingok and Napakiak were cut this year because of new Office of Child Development regulations. Parents and village officials in Napakiak, and Kwigillingok, however, were still interested in running a pre-school program, and approached RurAL CAP, the Rural Development Agency and the State Economic Opportunity Office.

Staff from these agencies, with the help of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, researched resources in the state and found the way to operate the program in the two villages.

Al Adams, Director of the Rural Development Agency, awarded grants to the two villages to operate pre-school programs to replace Head Start. Janice Duncan, Community Services Representative for the State Economic Opportunity Office, and Agnes Kelly, Field Trainer for the RurAL Alaska Community Program, traveled to Kwigillingok and Napakiak in November to explain the grant to village officials and the pre-school staff and to provide training.

In Napakiak the Village Council was presented with a check and organized a work committee to handle book-keeping for the R.D.A. Grant.

A Policy Advisory Committee in Napakiak hired Annie Willie as Teacher Director, Anna Wassile as Teacher Assistant and Emma Berry as an Aide.

In Kwigillingok, the Policy Advisory Committee hired Margaret Beaver as Teacher Director, Dorothy Atti, and Jimmy Phillip as Aides.

Both Centers began operation on November 19. In Napakiak the Policy Advisory Committee has raised \$580.00 through Bingo games which they will use to supplement the grant.

Both Villages have written letters of thanks to the Rural Development Agency and to the Standard Oil Company of California, who supplied the oil in both of the villages.

#### NATIVE AFFAIRS MEET HELD IN ANCHORAGE

A number of meetings dealing with the Native affairs are scheduled for the latter part of December in Anchorage, including the following: Aleutian Planning Commission Executive Committee, at RurAL CAP office, on December 12-13; Kodiak Area Community Development Corporation at the Royal Inn on December 13; Community Enterprise Development Corporation Annual Membership Meeting at the Captain Cook on December 13 - 14 - 15; and the Alaska Native Commission at RurAL CAP on December 14.

Also, the State RurAL CAP Board of Directors will be meeting at the Holiday Inn December 14-15; the Upper Yukon Development Corporation at RurAL CAP on December 14-15; Mauneluk Corporation at the Nuggett Inn on December 15; Koyukon Development Corporation at RurAL CAP on December 16-17; and the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention will be held at the Captain Cook Hotel on December 16-17-18.

The energy crisis and its effects on the State of Alaska was one of the topics under discussion at the November meeting of the Alaska Rural Development Council.

RurAL CAP staff member Stewart Carlo attended the sessions and commented that the State's presentation

essentially went over federal regulations and the problems faced in allocating fuel for various sectors of the economy. A 10% fuel reserve (oil, diesel, gas, etc.) is being held for emergencies.

Another presentation was given by Mr. January, Union Oil distributor manager for Alaska. He said that, like the State, they will try to distribute oil products according to public and still follow guidelines made by both State and federal regulations.

In explaining the oil company's position, Mr. January stated that the American society which represents 6% of the world population, uses 36% of the world energy.

Lloyd Hodson, General Manager of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, told the group that some villages are going through a transitional economic development process where the use of fuel is becoming increasingly important for diesel generators supplying electricity.

There are 16 new area high schools that are to be provided with electric power by AVEC, but with a 15% cut in fuel allocations being made by the

State, Mr. Hodson explained that AVEC's ability to supply power to the new facilities would be in jeopardy.

In a recent resolution, bush air carriers have urged the federal government to ease the restrictive rationing and cut backs on aviation fuel because of the essential nature of transportation in rural Alaska, where there are no roads or adequate transportation system for medical emergencies, freight and mail deliveries, etc.

It is common practice that bush Alaska has to wait for a week or ten days, and in some cases even longer for service, due to weather and field conditions and the poor transportation network currently existing.

These factors, compounded with drastic reductions in fuel allocations, will make these extraordinary waiting periods even longer, working severe hardship on the people living in extremely harsh winter conditions.

As this paper goes to press, Wien Alaska Airlines has announced that there will be no Sunday flights after the first of January, 1974.

#### VILLAGE OF ATKA FINALLY GETS A POST OFFICE,

After many meetings and much deliberation, the Village of Atka on the Aleutian Chain may finally have a branch post office.

In a joint effort to establish this branch, Dimitri Philemonoff, Regional Director for the Aleutian Planning Commission, has been working with Jack Hodder, Assistant District Manager in Mail Processing, and William Kobus, Assistant District Manager in Customer Services.

Philemonoff stated that the paperwork is beginning to be processed and they hoped to have the office set up in early January. He is travelling to Atka the first part of December to located someone for the position.

This person would have to undergo intensive training through the U. S. District Post Office which is located at the Anchorage International Airport.

This branch office will bring many long-needed services to the people of Atka, making it possible for them to purchase money orders, insure valuables that are to be mailed, purchase stamps, certify mail along with other advantages normally associated by having a post office in a community.

Hours of operation for the office are also being discussed. Some of the possibilities are to have it open one day a week for four hours or when the Navy Tug arrives. No final decision will be made, Philemonoff said, until the residents express their desires.

The possibility of a branch

post office for St. George is also imminent, with Ivan Hanson, District Manager of the U. S. Postal Services in the State of Alaska, travelling to the Island sometime in December.

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#### Poem— I'm as the Sea

I'm as the sea, I'm as its fluid beauty —  
I'm as the tide that ebbs and flows.  
I'm as the stillness — the calm that falls before a storm...  
I'm as the moment before it breaks!  
I'm as the crest that steadily rises.  
I'm as the wave that forms.  
I'm as the wind, free and wild —  
I'm as a spirit flying high!  
I'm as the breaker that suddenly remembers the sea that is its home —  
I'm as its thunder, I'm as its impact on the mocking beach.  
I'm as the gentle laughing of the swirls,  
I'm as the remnants of the wave...  
I'm as I was — again — The Sea.

— ETHEL A. PATKOTAK  
Wainwright, Alaska

(After her first experience on the nalukutuk or blanket toss)