



RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS



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RurAL CAP Am Presents Drug Abuse Program

CAP Executive Director Byron Mallott Leaving CAP Executive Program Points Out Deleterious Effects

Byron I. Mallott, Executive Director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, will be leaving the agency the first part of January to assume his duties as the newly appointed Director of the State Local Affairs Agency.

For the past year Mallott has headed the anti-poverty program, which serves all of Alaska with the exclusion of Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Prior to being the Director

of RurAL CAP, Mallott served as a Special Assistant to Senator Mike Gravel in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Charles Chong, Office of Economic Opportunity District Supervisor for Alaska and Oregon, stated that the RurAL CAP program is quite possibly one of the best community action agencies in the nation and that Executive Director Byron Mallott is to be highly commended for an outstanding job.

The Executive Committee of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program Board of Directors will meet in Anchorage December 17th.

Highlighted on the agenda will be a report from the Executive Director, Byron Mallott, a report on the food stamp program, changes in financial system and personnel matters.

The committee of six is comprised of Elmer Armstrong-Chairman, with Hank Ostrosky, Harry Carter, Al Ketzler, Sigvald Strandberg and Lucien Poussard.

As an extension of RurAL CAP's youth development proposal, Tom Potter the agency's Controller, has been presenting a program on drug abuse and its deleterious effects.

Potter has had previous and extensive experience in counseling both the using and nonusing drug addicts.

Thus far, he has been asked to speak before the student bodies of the Kenai and Soldotna junior high schools and the Seward Youth Center.

Recently, he made a presentation before a local 4-H Club in Anchorage, whose membership is composed of Native high school boarding students from various areas in the State.

Potter sees the drug problem as having expanded from the inner-city ghetto to include all segments of our society and more importantly, to our youth. He states, "There is a social pressure that is brought to bear upon a person to take and use certain drugs."

"Whatever the external pressure might be, the use and abuse of any drug is still an individual act and no addict is forced into doing it—it is an individual choice each person makes."

In his presentations, Potter stresses the uncontrollability of the chemical reaction which occurs in the body whenever drugs are taken (such as an overdose, impure drugs, and going on "bummers").

He further states, "Drugs affect the senses and change our perceptual view of the world."

"If the youth of today think that their ancestors have left them such a terrible world, then would it not be better to keep all of their senses and balances and do something about that world rather than to take drugs which makes them see a world that doesn't really exist. People don't abuse drugs—drugs abuse people."

Social Systems Trains CAP Staffers

The Northwest Social Systems, Inc., is presently conducting a two week training session for the RurAL CAP staff. The first week of training is for the central administration and the second week for the nine regional development corporations.

Under the direction of Howard Bond and Paul Michelson, training commenced December 7th in Anchorage.

Main topics of discussion included incorporation of villages; revenue sharing; and the responsibilities of the staff to the regional development corporations, with special emphasis placed on decentralization of certain staff functions to the regions.

Sigvald Strandberg, Acting Director of the State Local Affairs Agency, and a Board member of the RurAL CAP agency, gave a presentation on the incorporation of villages and their participation in state revenue sharing.

RurAL CAP Assists Skill Center

Cooperation between private industry and federal and State agencies has resulted in needed support and training assistance to the Alaska Skill Center located in Seward, Project Director Robert D. Booher stated.

Since its inception January 6, 1970, the Alaska Skill Center has acquired many pieces of equipment, such as trucks, graders, tractors, and engines, for use in vocational education training programs.

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program has been instrumental in acquiring government surplus equipment. Transportation, either by truck or Alaska Railroad from the surplus yard to Seward, is provided by RurAL CAP.

The Seward training facility uses this equipment in its mechanical program.

Skill Center trainees overhaul the equipment as part of their training, using parts provided by RurAL CAP. Once training is completed, and the equipment no longer needed, pieces are shipped by RurAL CAP to rural communities throughout Alaska for building and maintaining roads to other uses particular to the area.

This cooperative program results in a variety of heavy equipment for the mechanical training programs. RurAL CAP benefits

include the services and maintenance of equipment before re-shipment to Alaska communities.

Several private companies have donated tools and equipment for use in Skill Center training programs.

Donations to date include a D-334 Caterpillar marine engine from Northern Commercial Company, a TD-30 engine and dump truck from Carrington Company, and a Michigan front-end loader from Equipment Services.

The welding course offered

at the Center uses steel donated by Steel Fabricators, Inc. and welding rods donated by Industrial Air Products Company. Northern Stevedoring and Handling Company has provided a lift truck and other equipment used by Skill Center trainees.

Project Director Robert Booher stated, "The Alaska Skill Center appreciates the support of Rural Alaska Community Action Program, along with other State and federal agencies and private companies who have assisted us in acquiring this much needed equipment."

20 Villages Participate—

Equipment Mobilization

Some twenty villages in rural Alaska are participating in RurAL CAP's Village Equipment Mobilization Program. The equipment ranging from D-4 to D-8 cats are used for village improvement projects such as the surfacing of runways, road construction, erosion prevention, land clearing and hauling of materials.

In cooperation with other agencies, RurAL CAP's equipment has been utilized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Alaska State Housing Authority for their village projects.

Ollie Amend, Director of the surplus equipment program, reports that 90 per cent of the equipment is operable at all times. He attributes this to the proper training methods of village mechanics.

A majority of the mechanics have been trained at the Seward Skill Center which is administered by the State Department of Labor.

Amend feels this has helped tremendously in the preventative maintenance and operation of the equipment. In addition, the staff of RurAL CAP follows

through on the operation and maintenance problems in the field.

In a majority of the villages this is the first time they have been able to secure equipment for needed projects.

The requests for equipment are numerous and in order to meet as many requests as possible the equipment does not remain the property of a particular village but is transferred to other villages on a priority basis.

Cross-Cultural Arts in Alaska Published by AMU

The Alaska Methodist University Press, with the support of a \$2,000 grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, has published a new volume entitled, "Cross-Cultural Arts in Alaska."

About 40 full-page illustrations, including the work of Alaskan photographers Steve and Dolores McCutcheon, Ward W. Wells, and Dennis Cowals, appear in the volume showing examples of such varied arts as Aleut basketry, Tlingit woodcraft, and Eskimo yo-yos.

The volume is not, however, limited to traditional Alaskan arts: the jewelry of Ronald Senungetuk is distinctively cosmopolitan; and the art of school children of the village of Eek reflects the use of experimental tools and non-traditional media.

Essays published in the volume cover such topics as reviving

Native arts, reflections of Ronald Senungetuk, the methods of Paul Forrer in teaching art to Eek children, a totem recovery project in Southeastern Alaska, Eskimo music, and government support of the arts in Alaska.

Authors represented in the volume include Michael Kennedy, director of the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum, Ronald Senungetuk, professor of art at the University of Alaska, Saradell Ard Frederick, professor of art at Alaska Methodist University, Jane Wallen, director of the Alaska State Museum, Lorraine Koranda, specialist in Eskimo music, and Mary Hale, chairman of the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

"Cross-Cultural Arts in Alaska" is available at \$2 per copy. Mail orders to the AMU Press

should include 25 cents for postage and handling.

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Native Owned— Development Corp.

The wholly Alaska Native owned Native Economic Development Corp., Anchorage, Alaska, has been chartered by the State of Alaska to further economic development of the Natives of Alaska and the Native trading areas and promote the growth and development of business concerns.

The firm is a stock company. N. Niles Brandon, its president, points out that the new company is to be instrumental in formulating programs that will create employment of qualified Alaska Natives.

The firm will also help small companies employ the principles of financing and techniques of modern business management through planning, budgeting, and utilization of profits.

The company has already been successful in obtaining funds from the Small Business Administration as loans for three local business concerns. It anticipates that it will make about 25 loans this year.

Native Economic Development Corp. was chartered in August of this year with the help of the Bureau of Indian Affairs which has a relationship to Alaska Natives similar to that of the Indians of the "lower 48."

This is just one more example of the growth in Native-owned and managed business organizations that can do a job which has heretofore been done by non-Natives," said Louis R. Bruce, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.