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RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS



Mailing Address: Drawer 412 ECB

Telephone 279-2441

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

TOTEM BACKDROP AT SEACAP BOARD MEET

Villages Voted in-- Southeastern Leaders Attend 3 Villages Join Koyukon First Quarterly Session at Klawock

Roger Huntington, Local Government Specialist and George Irvin, RurAL CAP Trainer, recently attended the Koyukon regional meeting held in Galena January 28.

The villages of Takotna, Telida, and Holy Cross were unanimously voted in by the board.

Mike Dozette, AFN Housing Program, gave a presentation on the Turnkey III Program. He stated that the first year's focus would be on villages which are easily accessible. Priority will be based on the present conditions and needs of each village.

Don Johnson, State Economic Opportunity Office, gave a talk on the pros and cons of starting a timber corporation. Mr. Jack Smith, a timberman from McGrath, also gave his views.

Board members represented were: Jim Huntington, Chairman Galena; Don Honea, Vice Chairman, Ruby; Frank Madros, Secretary/Treasurer, Kaltag; Kenney Sam, Huslia; Alfred Attla, Hughes; Leo Lolnitz, Koyukuk; John Andrews, McGrath;

Anna Frank, Minto; Mich Demientieff, Nenana; Nick Petruska, Nikolai; William Ambros, Nulato; David Miller, Takotna; Ardie Peters (alternate for Richard Grant), Tanana, Nick Nikolai, Telida.

Visitors included George Irvin and Roger Huntington, RurAL CAP; Don Johnson, State Economic Opportunity Office; Mel Charlie, State Economic Opportunity Office; Richard Frank, Tanana Chiefs; Mike Dozette AFN Housing; and Mr. Jack Smith, timber businessman from McGrath.

The Southeast Alaska Community Action board held its first quarterly meeting of 1972 amidst the totem poles of the Tlingit village of Klawock January 27, 28 and 29.

An eighteen-man board composed largely of an "all star" cast of imposing Southeast leaders were in virtually unanimous agreement with Chairman Clarence Jackson's comment that this was "one of the most productive—if not the most productive—meeting of SEACAP."

Chairman Jackson led discussions that included participation from Mrs. Daisy Phillips, Haines, Judy Christiansen, Sitka; Dick Whittaker (a noted lawyer/legislator), Ketchikan; Ed Churchill, Wrangell; Chris Hanson, Petersburg; Walt Johnson, Yakutat; Victor Haldane (Haida Nation Chief), Hydaburg; Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Klawock; Tiny Triplett, Craig; Dorothy Thornton, Juneau; Martha Shields, Saxman; and Matilda Gamble, Angoon.

The informative and constructive discussion resulting from numerous presentations by village board members and state and federal agencies including Economic Development Department, Labor Department, Craig School District, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tlingit-Haida Central Council, Rural Development Agency, Rural Alaska Community Action Program, and Alaska Legal Services led to the passing of 40 resolutions.

The SEACAP board, as well as the other eight regional corporations for the RurAL CAP organization, make the policy and provide the direction for its hired staff.

The Juneau based staff then activates the resources necessary to accomplish their goals and priorities.

The current SEACAP staff consists of Gordon Jackson, Executive Director; Bob Bradley, Deputy Director; Emma Williams, Secretary, Arnella Osborne, Clerk Typist; Virginia Demmert, Field Training Supervisor, and Loren Domke and Reed Stoops, VISTA Planners.

The controversy and resulting scare evolving from the mercury content in halibut has resulted in a tremendous financial loss to Southeast Alaska fisherman.

Reed Stoops has concentrated on a mercury analysis project that will hopefully result in the adoption of analyzers that will reveal the actual mercury content within each halibut and thereby save the bulk of halibut fishing industry.

Other activities that Gordon Jackson reported on:

1. Native Land Allotments;
2. Regional Comprehensive Health Planning Agency;
3. Possible Law Center;
4. Legislative Information Program;
5. Grants Available from Church Sources.

A memo of agreement between RurAL CAP and SEACAP was passed as well as a similar memo of agreement between SEACAP and the Tlingit-Haida Central Council.

SEACAP and T & H Central Council will hope to complement and coordinate their efforts as the post Land Claims era begins.

After three days and nights of arduous meetings, the SEACAP board members and visitors to Klawock were feted by the housewives of Klawock.

Prior to an analysis of the Land Claims Bill by John Borbridge, President of T & H, Fannie Brown's Tlingit class of the Klawock Elementary School, gave a sterling presentation of Native songs and dances.

Statewide Career Development Committee -- AMU Plan to Train Rural Head Start Staffs Meeting Topic

The Statewide Career Development Committee met January 13, 1972 to consider the training plan submitted by the Alaska Methodist University for rural Head Start staffs. The Committee is composed of Head Start staff members who are selected by village Head Start staffs to represent their areas throughout the state.

The committee did not accept the training plan submitted by the university and in presented requirements that must be met by AMU. The following five steps were listed by the Rural Alaska Career Development Committee and approved by the Statewide Committee:

- (1) Assess Needs: It is imperative that AMU determine what kind of degree, AA or BA, that the individual trainee wants and what they need to obtain that degree or whether they want training to be a better Head Start staff member in their program with no credit attached. AMU should also determine what institution the individual would like their degree to come from. It should also be determined how long an individual trainee wants to spend on working toward a degree.
- (2) Administrative Organization: AMU's files be updated and organized and a transcript sent out to each individual trainee and individual questions answered.
- (3) Incomplete On-Site Courses: It is requested that all incomplete courses be investigated to determine if the trainee still wishes to discontinue the course, be sure that all records are cleared. Deadlines should be set for these incomplete courses so that the individual trainee has a goal toward which he or she may work. If an incomplete course can no longer be offered due to the absence of a teacher from the institution, the individual wishes to finish the course, another teacher should be found.
- (4) AA Degree Program: It is requested that the university develop the requirements for fulfilling an AA Degree so that those trainees working toward this degree will know what is needed.
- (5) Training Plan: And finally, after Steps 1, 2, 3 and 4 are fully completed, it is requested that a training plan be developed based especially on the results of No. 1, the needs of the people. It is felt that any training offered before these steps are taken will be inadequate and probably of little benefit, and therefore, no training will be accepted until Steps 1, 2, 3 and 4 are completed.


The Committee stated that when Step 5 had been completed, they would reconvene their meeting and evaluate the university's work plan. They also stated that because they would like to have some training this year other than the seven regional workshops planned and conducted by RurAL CAP, the next dates of the Career Development Committee meeting were set for March 27-29.

Members of the Committee are: Laura Norton from Selawik; Annie Beans from Mt. Village; Exenia Fitka from Fortuna Ledge; Sophia Simeonoff, Old Harbor; Dorothy Ahalook, Wainwright; Marie Stalker, Kotzebue; Marian Henniger, Yakutat and Ray Coppock from the RurAL CAP staff.

The funds were available in September of 1971 and the Committee had hoped to have training started at that time.

Native Craft
CARVED IVORY, Slippers; mukluks; custom seal skin parkies.
— R.R. "Bob" Blodgett —
Teller Commercial Company
Teller, Alaska

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Soldier at Ft. Wainwright Shot to Death

At 2:05 a.m. Sunday morning Private First Class John H. Vallery, 20, was accidentally shot in the chest with a 45 caliber pistol, according to a U.S. Army spokesman. He was pronounced dead at 3 a.m. at Bassett Army Hospital, the spokesman said.

Military authorities are questioning Private Dennis Arquette, 21, concerning the incident, he said.

According to the spokesman, Vallery is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vallery, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Vallery entered the Army in February 1971 and had been in Alaska since October 1971.

Via Resolution— Asks Nixon Make Prisoners of War No. One Priority

The Bristol Bay Native Association has sent a resolution to President Nixon urging him to "assure that negotiations for the release" of prisoners of war be the number one priority "in future decision making as to the tactical and diplomatic judgment of further troop withdrawals" in Indo-China.

The resolution, entitled Prisoners of War and signed by Harold (Harvey) Samuelsen, Sr., President of the Bristol Bay Native association, is as follows:

"Whereas, President Nixon is currently withdrawing troops from military commitment in Indo-China, and

"Whereas, American prisoners of war are still interred in enemy prison camps, and

"Whereas, we, the members of the Bristol Bay Native Association, five thousand (5000) strong, are concerned that the bargaining power may be lost in the liberation of those prisoners of war by the withdrawal of those troops,

"Now therefore be it resolved by the Bristol Bay Native Association that we strongly urge President Nixon to assure that negotiations for the release of those prisoners of war be paramount—the number one (1) priority—in future decision making as to the tactical and diplomatic judgment of further troop withdrawals;

"And be it further resolved that the Bristol Bay Native Association urge that negotiations for their release, at any price compatible with the democratic principles for which our nation stands;

"And be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the Alaska Congressional Delegation and all congressmen of the United States."