

AFN Treasurer Takes Financial Managing Course

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON — Nels Anderson, treasurer of the Alaska Federation of Natives and deputy director of RURAL CAP, is spending this week in Washington State at the invitation of Bob Jim, president of the Yakima Nation.

The stateside tribe is giving a financial management orientation course and Anderson has been invited to learn as much as he can about how the Yakima's do business.

"I hope to gain an idea of how AFN can deal with large sums of money, in preparation for Land Claims settlement," Anderson said. "The Yakima Nation deals with about \$24 million a year and it's a great opportunity to see how they operate."

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Rural Water Supplies...

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contaminated lagoon behind the village.

Bert Puchtler, project administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency implementing the federal project, reports two different solutions to these village problems.

Since attempts at well construction in the Yukon Delta have met with poor results, water will be taken from the Yukon Delta at Emmonak and given a high degree of treatment.

"This will result in drinking water of a high quality and good taste," he said.

Treatment consists of a succession of steps. First, chemicals are added which will encourage sedimentation of finely suspended particles and some dissolved impurities.

Then the water passes through filters which remove all the micro-organisms that are too large to be affected by chlorination.

Finally, chlorination will provide protection against sickness in case of accidental introduction of germs into the water during delivery and storage.

In Wainwright finding a satisfactory water source is more difficult. Puchtler thinks pumping water from lakes several miles from the village using a large storage tank may be a solution.

"The complete plant will probably be the result of an inter-agency cooperative effort with Bureau of Indian Affairs, Public Health Service and Environmental Protection Agency each contributing components," he said.

Since low-lying land around Emmonak does not permit constructions of sewage lagoons waste water from laundry and showers will receive physical-chemical treatment to meet requirements of environmental protection.

Human waste from honey buckets and chemical toilets will be kept entirely separate from wastewater. Together with other garbage, it will be burned in an incinerator of high efficiency.

Heat produced by this combustor will be recovered for heating a structure about 3500 feet square which is to house laundering equipment, toilets, showers and saunas.

Puchtler notes that design criteria for the building came from meetings with the city council and residents of Emmonak.

No Loitering Sign...

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fic or in such a manner as to annoy, molest or interfere with passage of pedestrians.

There is also a sub-section of the ruling which says no person can sit, lie or sleep upon the street, sidewalk or public way. (It does not apply, we are relieved to note, while watching a parade or using a public seating facility.)

Sundberg said the ordinance was particularly important two years ago when crowds in front of the pool hall on Second Ave. got out of hand.

"But I think the number of arrests this summer have not been over six...mostly long haired, bearded types.

"We're taking a very cautious approach. We don't want to use the a... route if possible. If we see a group starting to congregate we ask them to move along. The cooperation we've received has been very good."

Ingraham is quite familiar with Sundberg's ordinance.

"You can't loiter and conduct

yourself in a lewd, lascivious manner or in such a manner as to molest pedestrians or obstruct traffic. But why don't the signs say that?"

"I never did like those signs and a couple of weeks ago an attorney friend mentioned a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling where loitering ordinances, at least certain aspects of them, were unconstitutional. The right of free assembly is, after all, guaranteed by the First Amendment. The signs at best have a chilling affect on the first amendment and the Supreme Court has said a state or city cannot do anything that has a chilling affect on free assembly.

"I'm sure the purpose of those signs is to keep the Natives and long haired kids off the streets. I have personally seen city councilmen and prominent city officials loiter all over Second Avenue and they have never been detained by the police."

The attorney brought the subject to the attention of Mayor Julian Rice, "just as a joke," but discovered it is no laughing matter at City Hall.

"In the first place there have been no end of complaints of molestation and interference with individuals using our city streets," Rice explained. "With the signs people are warned in advance not to interfere with use of the sidewalks."

The Mayor reported he'd heard nothing more than a general complaint about the signs, and only from one source.

"I checked with the City Attorney and as far as I know we have a clean bill of health," he said.

Tundra Times also checked with City Attorney Ben Delahay who said for the record. "The signs are up and the police should be enforcing them. As far as this is a constitutional ordinance, for the city, it will be enforced."

Delahay would not comment on constitutionality of the ruling, noting he was a hired consultant to advise the council.

"No man has more respect for the constitution than I do," Mayor Rice added. But he did not care to comment further unless the ordinance was questioned more specifically.

"We're always willing to be convinced," he concluded.

In the meantime, anyone wishing to deliver any material on the subject to the Tundra Times office had better walk swiftly. We, too, have a city "no loitering" sign posted outside our front door.

Alaskans on the Potomac

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the units can be built would result if, for example, 120 houses each were constructed in ten locations rather than building 12 houses in 100 locations, he said.

One of his biggest fears, noted the Senator, is that the Alaska Federation of Natives may decide to begin the program by building units in so many villages that delivery problems could prevent construction of all available housing during the coming fiscal year.

The AFN has received the contract as primary consultant for the federal housing program in Alaska and has the responsibility of deciding where the 1200 units will be placed.

"If we can prove that we can deliver these homes this year, we can move into smaller villages in future years," he said.

Senator Stevens indicated that he favored adoption of the modular concept of construction for the rural Alaska program.

The greatest success in public housing programs of this type have come about through the use of the modular concept. The comparative ease of delivery of materials, rapid and quality construction, and the freedom for homeowners to select from variations of one basic design are positive favors of the modular concept, he said.

One recent survey shows that eight thousand new homes are needed now in Alaska villages, Senator Stevens added.

It must be remembered that the purpose of the program is to meet this necessity. However well intentioned, any attempt to make this a hiring project for small villages must not jeopardize the emphasis on housing, Senator Stevens stated.

Another important consideration, he added, is the cost of the homes. The cost to the consumer is important. It should be kept as low as possible because Congress may expect recipients to pay a greater share after the Native land claims are settled, he concluded.

Attending the function were representatives of the American Indian Press Association, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, lobbyists working on behalf of the AFN, and members of Alaskans on the Potomac originating from many places in Alaska.

The group feels its efforts are significant because there are so few non-commercial concerns offering support to Alaska Natives while they are in Washington.

Alaskans on the Potomac began seeking contributions for its operation during June. The funds they receive are their only

source of income, since no payment is requested of Native representatives who make use of their facilities.

Most of the furnishings for the Alaska group's new office are on loan from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Mrs. Anna McAlear, one of the founders of Alaskans on the Potomac, remarked, "We would like to thank the BIA for recognizing the value of what we are trying to do and for helping us with the furniture."

Mrs. McAlear and her husband, James, with Mr. and Mrs. Adam John and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Rowan, founded Alaskans on the Potomac last December. It has grown to include about 25 Alaskans, primarily natives, who live in the Washington area.

"Alaska Natives have so little input into the decisions which affect their lives and which are being made every day in this town. What Alaskans on the Potomac are trying to do can really work if people would just give a darn," Mrs. McAlear explained. "Heck, we can have our own little Alaska Native embassy going here in Washington, D.C."

Included in the project are members of the Alaska Congressional delegation, congressional staff workers, educators, government administrators, political and Indian consultants, doctors, lawyers, as well as military personnel.

President is Thomas Richards, Jr., of Fairbanks and Kotzebue. Paddock is vice-president and Adeline Katongan of Unalakleet is secretary-treasurer.

AOP is a non-profit corporation which hopes to use resources of its members and any professional staff it can afford to hire to evaluate proposed legislation and public or private programs that may affect Alaskan Natives.

It is compiling a library of information on Alaska Natives and also working on a program to make travel arrangements easier for Alaskans visiting the nation's capital.

Progress towards financing the venture was begun with the reception. It made some money, but it is a small beginning.

"Funding could be a problem," Mrs. McAlear said, "but we are persistent people. If it can be done at all, I think we can do it. We are working darned hard."

The determination shown by Alaskans on the Potomac seems to nearly equal that shown by Alaska Natives recently in their land claims battle. With that kind of attitude, they may well succeed.

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