

Pacific Rim villages consider development

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The seminar's second day was dominated by presentations by the Bureau of Land Management (see related story Page 1) and the Community Enterprise Development Corporation. Dennis Freeman of CEDC said the purpose of the corporation is "to provide easy money to people that have a good idea." While CEDC used to provide outright grants to new business ventures, Freeman said, the emphasis now is on loans and possible ownership of a venture by CEDC. CEDC is a private non-profit corporation funded by the federal government. Besides financing, CEDC offers a variety of technical services to business ventures.

The third day of the seminar, speakers hammered at the theme of thorough and comprehensive planning. Ross Miller, Bureau of Indian Affairs Area Industrial Development Specialist, urged

the villages to seek assistance outside the village and region if necessary for development projects. Both Miller and Jim Deagon, State Department of Commerce, said that careful planning was necessary in approaching government agencies for money. Careful preparation is essential because many agencies are not as eager to provide financial assistance as they once were.

Speakers from the University of Alaska, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs and the City of Cordova discussed the impact of government in the unorganized borough on economic development.

Alan Epps, of the University's Cooperative Extension Service, said there may soon be a move to impose a property tax in these areas of the state not governed by an organized local body. "I'd almost bet on

it," Epps said.

Hollis Henrichs, Cordova City Councilman suggested a municipal government for the entire Prince William Sound area. The important considerations in forming any municipal government, according to Pat Poland, one of the state's local government specialists, are what services are being provided and who is paying for them.

In addition to the formal sessions, the seminar divided into three groups to discuss joint ventures and enhancement of existing ventures, new ventures, and recreation potential. Although the small groups were only charged with developing mock proposals, there was a strong feeling that some of the ideas should actually be pursued by the village corporations.

The group working on enhancement of existing business headed by Jim LaBelle of Port Graham, proposed seeking a

controlling interest in a canner operation. LaBelle said this would be accomplished by offering Native corporations money to double existing production levels and adding new processing operations to the plant.

Pete Kompkoff of Eyak led the group on recreation, a resource not highly developed in the Chugach region. Kompkoff's group examined the possibility of expanding the skiing facilities on Mt. Eyak by adding two chairlifts and building a lodge. Kompkoff suggested that with these improvements, such a facility "would even surpass Alyeska skiing."

The third group, led by John Borodkin of Tatitlek, explored the advantages of beginning actually new ventures.

The fourth day of the seminar featured a presentation by the Prince William Sound Aqua-

culture Corporation and discussion of material prepared by each of the three economic development groups.

Although Prince William Sound weather disrupted the scheduling of guest speakers and even prevented some of them from arriving, the seminar ran smoothly. Although not the first opportunity for villages to meet together, one participant suggested that the seminar provided the impetus and direction of the first meaningful meeting of Chugach village corporation presidents yet held.

Easements center of controversy

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Sorensen and Sutton fielded hard questioning and some criticism for BLM's easement policies.

Many people expressed concern over trespass problems that may arise from easements. Representatives of Port Graham suggested that deciding who is to blame for death or injury that occurs within an easement is a problem they may face in their area.

Another problem is that BLM does not make on-site inspections of easement proposals to determine if a trail, road or a site is actually being used. In the case of trails, BLM has relied on villagers' testimony. However, one Eyak man, Bill Barnes, complained, "They don't take our word for it when we tell them."

He said a lot of the easements proposed for the Eyak selection were animal trails. "A lot of these trails were only used by a bear and a rabbit." He added that in one area they had four or five easements going to one lake.

In spite of Eyak's objections, the Land Use Planning Commission has recommended that most of the easements be left intact.

Sutton acknowledged that BLM had been inconsistent in developing easement policy and said it was the responsibility of those agencies or parties requesting easements to prove that they are necessary.

However, the anti-easement feeling seems to run deeper than legal technicalities. One listener pointed out that even when Natives get title to what is supposed to be their land, "somebody's still got jurisdiction over us."

postmaster asks early mailing

As the 1976 holiday season approaches, Fairbanks Postmaster Otis Dean urges all residents to begin mailing greetings and parcels as soon as possible.

Dean said, "The key to the successful mailing of cards and parcels is to allow adequate time. Shop early, allow enough time to properly prepare cards and parcels for mailing, and mail early. By cooperating with the Post Office in this matter, you will help us to help you have a better Christmas."

AVCP-Yupik Bista seek contracts to run twenty-eight schools

According to Mr. Carl Jack, Executive Director of the Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc. and Yupik Bista, Inc., plans are underway to study the feasibility of AVCP, Inc. contracting for the operation of the 28 BIA schools in the AVCP (Bethel) Region. "The plan to do a feasibility study for the take over of the 28 BIA schools by AVCP is the result of concerns expressed by the people from the villages that

currently have BIA schools" stated Carl Jack. "Their concern is whether the quality of Education will suffer when REAA's take over their schools due to a lack of adequate funding."

The current goal of the State Department of Education is to take over all BIA schools in the next three (3) years or by 1979. Further, the State Commissioner of Education is trying very hard

to get the BIA to agree to keep funding the BIA schools even after REAA takes them over. Further the State Department of Education wants the BIA to keep paying for the following for 5 years after the REAA takes the BIA Schools over:

- AVEC costs (19 schools)
- Maintenance costs (32 schools)
- Hot Lunch Program (32 schools)
- New construction costs
- Take all Title monies and
- Operations including salaries, etc.

It is estimated that over the next 8 years, if the BIA schools are taken over by REAA's, that this will cost the AVCP more money than the Bethel Agency get to run schools and other program to the fact that the responsibility for paying for education will go from State to local government through Unorganized Borough concept that the State is working on.

The State of Alaska has been very reluctant to spend any of its general fund for bush education. The money from oil and other resources currently goes into the State general fund and currently the state is meeting their responsibility for bush education by two primary sources, one is through bond issues in which the public pays for it and the other is through BIA funding.

"The final decision for AVCP to take over the 28 BIA schools is contingent upon several factors: first is the full authorization by the AVCP delegates to undertake a feasibility study for the administration of the schools under contract with BIA. Second is the results of the feasibility study and third, which is probably more important than the first two is the consent from the villages for AVCP to administer the schools" Mr. Jack stated. "We have submitted a letter to the BIA notifying them of our intent to contract for these schools with copies to the Alaska Commissioner of Educa-



CARL JACK, Executive Director of the Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc. and Yupik Bista, Inc.

d affected REAA Boards Superintendents. This move have taken is within the spirit of the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act and as long as we intend to contract for these schools, the BIA cannot transfer them to the REAA's. If all goes well, AVCP will become the largest educational agency within the State of Alaska and will be able to maintain, if not escalate, the Federal support of the BIA schools." Mr. Jack further stated.

festival ...

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crafts from known artists in the local area. Linda DeWitt, a member of the Festival of Native Arts Committee, said items will include jewelry, soapstone, and wood carving and other crafts.

Other highlights of the festival will be dancing by students from the southeast as well as Yupik and Athabaskan areas, a fashion show of traditional clothing and ceremonial costumes of various native groups and the sale of festival souvenirs such as patches, t-shirts and items made by students.

Admission at the door will be \$1 for students and children and \$2 for adults. The funds raised will be used for the larger Festival of Native Arts scheduled for March.

Book Review

by Wally Olson

ALASKA: High Roads to Adventure. Special Publications Division, National Geographic Society. Photographed by George Mobley. 1976 Price \$4.75.

With its usual brilliance and professional approach, the National Geographic Society has produced a beautiful new book on Alaska. Beginning with a tour up the Alaska Highway, the book goes on to explore the State by regions—Southeastern, Anchorage and the Aleutians, Interior and Coastal. The final chapter, "The Northern Giant Comes of Age", sums up the present conditions and looks to the future. The impact of early exploitation, the Gold Rush, discovery of oil and the Land Claims Settlement are interwoven to give a concise background to contemporary Alaska.

Although it is the magnificent photos that first capture the reader's attention, the text is equally attractive. In the first place it is extremely readable. It is the sort of book you hate to put down. Secondly, the writers have done their homework. This reviewer could not find one major error in facts, dates, names or places. But above all, they have remained objective. They are able to see the big picture and put things in their proper perspective without many value judgements or simple explanations that may be misleading. And for a change, it is the Natives who are seen in business suits and it is not a Native shown passed-out in the bar on page 174! In fact, the entire treatment of their cultures, the Land Claims Settlement, village and urban conditions—seems to this reviewer to be done in a fair and understanding manner.

It may be too late to order this book for a Christmas gift, but it would be a welcome anytime. It is the kind of book that any Alaskan would be proud to own and to give to others. Our hats are off, and we say "Well done, National Geographic!"

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