

# RurAL-CAP

## ACTION REPORTS

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# RURAL SURPLUS EQUIPMENT PROG. ENDS

## Philemonof Visits Remote Aleut Communities

Dimitri Philemonof, Director of RurAL CAP's newly formed Aleutian Planning Commission, made his first official trip to that region to evaluate the existing situations and to set up an office.

Philemonof spent three weeks in St. Paul, St. George, and Unalaska. He stated that he chose this particular time to visit St. George as it was the last time this year the vessel PRIBILOF was scheduled into St. George.

Without the aid of a charter plane (which is very costly), the next scheduled transportation is due sometime in March or April. The inhabitants of St. George Island have constructed an airstrip 3,500 by 62 feet.

However, the expansion of the strip for improved service has been curtailed by the National Marine Fisheries.

Philemonof has written a letter to the Regional Director of the Fisheries for the Pribilofs and is now awaiting an answer.

"Whether the problem lies in insufficient equipment, drainage systems, leveling, etc., the Aleutian Planning Commission will make every effort to resolve this problem," he said.

"The people are trying to develop their community and I think every assistance should be given to villagers who are simply trying to help themselves."

In a letter to Father Gromoff from Reeve Aleutian Airways, Robert Reeve stated that if the airstrip is suitably expanded, Reeve Airways will extend regu-



ST. GEORGE — The village of St. George, located on the Pribilof Islands, is one of the villages which will be served by the Aleutian Planning Commission.

lar air service to the Island.

Of the many requests that were made by the residents of St. George, in the immediate future they are asking Philemonof's assistance in getting an additional mail delivery via plane into the Island during the Christmas season.

Their mail is flown to St. Paul Island where it awaits transportation to St. George via the vessel PRIBILOF which arrives only five times a year.

The next scheduled mail delivery, which will include Christmas cards, presents, etc., will arrive in March or April.

The new director also noted the problem of shipping fresh fruits and vegetables via the ves-

sel. A good deal of the fresh produce spoils before it ever reaches the people of the small island.

The water system in the village has a high content of salt in the water which makes it unsuitable for drinking. Distilled water is available from the hospital facility but must be hand carried to the individuals' homes.

Philemonof also spend time in St. Paul and Unalaska, deeming their No. 1 priority as housing. The housing in St. Paul and St. George is good compared to the rest of the Chain, but there is not enough to adequately fit the needs of the people.

The housing in Unalaska is poor and must be acted on as the first priority, he emphasized.

The new director stated that, "A welfare or social worker is greatly needed in that area to make the people aware of programs that are available to them."

One social worker from the Department of Family and Children Services, Mary Tetzlaff, did make a visit as far as St. Paul and St. George but limited funding kept her from traveling to the other villages in the Chain.

"I would like to praise Mary for her dedicated efforts on the peoples' behalf," Philemonof

## RurAL CAP Executive Director Commends Head for Job Well Done

The RurAL CAP program that brought surplus equipment to the rural areas no longer has funds to operate and the equipment has been transferred to the Indian Action Agency, BIA.

John Shively, Executive Director of RurAL CAP commended Oliver J. Amend who was director of the Village Equipment Mobilization Program, remarking that he felt a great deal of its success was due to Amend's dedication.

Hired by RurAL CAP in June, 1969, Amend became director of VEMP in August of that year.

He has been responsible for the transportation of all equipment by barge to the West Coast of Alaska; has had to physically follow-up each vehicle and piece of machinery to inspect its condition, and also to help people in the villages with maintenance and operation.

An expert in the field of heavy equipment maintenance, Amend commented that one of the main problems had been transportation. He also said that most of the communities appreciated the equipment, took good care of it, and put it to good use.

said, "If more dedication of this type were shown, it would be much easier to get things accomplished."

Mrs. Tetzlaff stated that she would be willing to visit the other villages if travel monies could be provided. However, a limited budget keeps her in Anchorage the majority of the time.

The new director met with the Village Councils of St. Paul and St. George and was extended their full support. He also met the people on an individual basis. Philemonof exclaimed his trip was very fruitful and beneficial.

"I did not promise them the world," he said. "These things take time and I will keep them informed of what I am doing at all times."



OLIVER J. AMEND

The VEMP program was originally funded in 1969 by the Office of Economic Opportunity to RurAL CAP and presented an excellent opportunity for people at the village level to be responsible for determining the type of projects they wanted to accomplish in their area.

Roads and airport runways have been constructed and have been maintained by grading and clearing of snow; garbage dumps, landfills, sewage channels, water systems and other general improvements of environmental conditions in the villages have been performed by local residents.

The Indian Action Agency has a grant that will allow them to take students who are based at Wildwood in Kenai, on field trips to the villages where the equipment is located.

Along with this program, Amend stated, he understood their future plans were to teach aircraft pilot operation to coincide with the field trips, accompanied by the instructors.



STATIONED IN BETHEL — At the AVCP CAP office, left, John Emal and Geoffrey LeFond, who started their VISTA assignment in Alaska in October.

## Service Goes Bigger—

### Youth Employment Service Expanded

JUNEAU — A Youth Employment Services (YES) program started by the state this year will be expanded to 18 Alaska communities next summer, Governor William A. Egan said.

The goal of the program is to help find summer employment for people 14 to 25 years of age, and efforts will be made also to place students in jobs where they can continue to receive on-the-job training after they re-enter school next fall.

The program is a cooperative effort of the Departments of Administration, Education, Labor and Health and Social Services and is being coordinated by the Division of Vocational Education. Program coord-

inator is Sandra Matejka, of Juneau.

YES offices will be located next summer in Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Dillingham, Baknek, Fairbanks, Petersburg, Glennallen, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome, Palmer, Seward, Sitka and Wrangell.

Miss Matejka said the offices will be maintained "in store fronts, schools, Manpower Centers . . . wherever we can get space, preferably free of charge."

She said the YES program's most active period will extend from April 1 to mid-August, with initial efforts the first two weeks being on job development and with job enrollment procedures beginning on April 15.

## Openings Exist at Job Corps Centers in Lower 48

JUNEAU — A number of openings exist at Job Corps centers in Montana, Oregon and Washington for Young Alaskans who qualify for enrollment in the corps, Commissioner of Labor Henry A. Benson reported.

According to the commissioner, Job Corps is a federally funded program which provides vocational training and basic education to young men and women, age 16 through 22, who are out of school and unemployed.

Vocational courses for men include general construction and carpentry, heavy equipment, auto mechanics, painting, plastering, welding and food service.

Courses offered to women include business and clerical

training, health services (nurses' aide and licensed practical nurse), electronics and food service.

High school dropouts also receive assistance in obtaining their high school equivalency certificate (GED).

"Approximately 85 young Alaskans are currently taking

advantage of the opportunities offered by the Job Corps," Benson said. "I am sure others will find this program beneficial in choosing a career and preparing for it."

Information about the Job Corps may be obtained at any of the local Manpower Centers throughout the State.

## Safe savings.

