



RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS



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Governor Miller Signs RurAL-CAP Fund Grant

Weekly Reports—

RurAL-CAP Starts Page News

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc., with headquarters in the City of Anchorage, is starting a weekly page in the Tundra Times starting with this issue.

Late last year, Byron Mallott, director of RurAL CAP, decided to begin publishing its weekly reports in the Tundra Times which the agency formerly published in its own weekly, Action Reports.

The Fairbanks based native newspaper will be fed with RurAL CAP news each week from the Anchorage office of the agency.

It is expected that the first few weekly pages might be erratic in the early stages but this will be corrected in the shortest time possible as the newspaper and the RurAL CAP office get things coordinated for a smoother run.



BYRON MALLOTT

The RurAL CAP is an agency for war on poverty in the State of Alaska and is funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity, a nationwide agency designed to help the poor of the states with the involvement of the poor in the programs.

The director of the agency, Byron Mallott, is a young man of Tlingit ancestry and he is from the town of Yakutat in southeastern Alaska. He is a former mayor of his town.

Mallott is also the representative of the Alaska Native Brotherhood on the board of directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives. Before becoming director of RurAL CAP, he was a special assistant on Alaska native matters for Sen. Mike Gravel of Alaska in the latter's Washington, D.C. office.

\$800,000 Package to Finance 9 Regional Centers and Boards

The major news from RurAL CAP is that Governor Keith Miller has signed off on the RurAL CAP grant for 1970. This, combined with the earlier approval given by the Office of Economic Opportunity, authorizes RurAL CAP to operate for the next twelve months.

The major program funded in the more than \$800,000 package approved by Governor Miller concerns nine regional centers and regional boards to plan and advocate for the needs of their regions.

The nine regional development corporations are: The Bristol Bay Development Corporation, serving the Bristol Bay area; Southwest Regional Development Corporation, under the Association of the Village Council Presidents, serving the Yukon-Kuskokwim area;

The Inupiak Development Corporation, serving the Nome-Unalakleet area; the Kikiktugruk Development Corporation, serving the Kotzebue area; the Koyukon Development Corporation, serving the middle Yukon and Tanana River area;

The Upper Yukon Development Corporation, serving the Fort Yukon area; the Prince William Sound - Copper Valley Corporation; and the Southeastern Community Action Program, serving Southeastern Alaska.

The grant also includes funding for a shortened surplus acquisition program to allow RurAL CAP time to find funding from other sources than OEO for this valuable program.

Because of the expense of this program, it was felt that OEO funds would not be enough to continue the operation for a full year. RurAL CAP is actively soliciting funds through the state legislature and through government sources to continue this program.

The package will also allow the funding of the central office in Anchorage, which will be responsible for administrative guidance, technical assistance to the regions, financial and bookkeeping services, and program development capability.

The new Human Resources Development staff of the agency, which will be responsible for looking for more funds for rural Alaska, will be headed by Roy S. Ewan.

At present, their major effort is a cultural heritage project which would help villages in Alaska perpetuate the Eskimo, Aleut, and Indian cultures for future generations.

Also funded is a summer youth program for Seward. This is a continuation of a program which has run for the past two years.

Centers Around Job Training—

No. 1 Priority for Poverty Agency: Development of Human Resources

The number one priority of RurAL CAP for 1970 is the development of human resources or, otherwise stated, the development of people, according to the deputy director of the agency, John Shively.

This phase of the program centers around securing job training for the people in rural Alaska, and instilling in them a better understanding of the system and how they can affect it, he said recently in his Anchorage office.

The natives control a sizeable number of the votes, he continued, and potentially can have a say.

RurAL CAP, through developing human resources, hopes to develop rural leadership which will keep the villagers informed and encourage them to make their voices heard.

The second priority for 1970, Shively said, will be communications on the land claims settlement—helping the people to understand the issues.

All of the staff will be informed so that when they travel to the villages they can answer questions on the land claims issue and can assist in getting speakers to

the villages.

The agency will outline the different positions, he explained, and let the people choose for themselves.

"Of course," he added, "it is not difficult to see that we support the AFN position. We must support what we feel is best for the people we are working with. Our goal is to break the cycle of poverty and nothing offers so much potential for doing this as the AFN proposal."

Explaining that RurAL CAP, as a federally funded agency, is only prohibited from participating in political activities, Shively said that the land claims issue is not political and that the agency will encourage the villagers to write letters, sign petitions and do whatever is necessary to get a bill passed that is favorable to them.

Shively mentioned that several programs of RurAL CAP might be affected by President Nixon's recent vote of a \$19.7 billion appropriation for education, health, and labor programs.

When asked where and how cuts might come, the deputy director replied that the agency

had received no specific information from Washington on the matter.

Eight Elderly Kake Indian Men Reviving Cultures of Tlingits

The City of Kake (the smallest First Class City in the State) with a population of 550 and located in the heart of Southeastern Alaska completed on January 15 a phase of their Tlingit Heritage Program which is a joint project administered and funded by Kake ANB and the Rural Alaska Community Action Program.

The purpose of the Tlingit Heritage Program is two-fold; namely:

1. To revive the history and legends of the Tlingit Culture, whereby the Tlingit children will be able to establish an identity with their past rich heritage.
2. Through the medium of the printed work, the non-native would be able to better understand and appreciate the native.

The community, under the direction of Arthur Johnson and the Heritage Committee selected six storytellers who are: John Jackson, Aaron Bean, Billy Friday, Tom Jackson, David Stuteen and interpreter, Frank Johnson.

These elderly storytellers have stored in their minds the legends and history that has been passed on from generation to generation.

The history and legends were recited by the storytellers and recorded by a tape recorder then translated into the English language by Frank Johnson. The translation work was a slow process as the intention was to capture and retain the subtleties, nuances, the color and vividness.

This recording and translation took 120 hours and 30 days of hard work.

The next step in this Tlingit Heritage Program will be to prepare a manuscript of these legends and history. The approved manuscript will be used to print books for sale and also be available to school educators for possible inclusion in the school curriculum as part of the history of Alaska.

The people of Kake believe that this project will assist the native to see himself in proper perspective, to instill a sense of pride in our younger generation based on the dignity of their forefathers.

The history is intended to remind the Tlingits as to who they were in their own society. They had respect for their elders, were concerned for others, and proud of their vast achievements.



TLINGIT HERITAGE—Eight venerable old Tlingit Indians of the village of Kake in southeastern Alaska have launched an important program of reviving the history and legends of the Tlingit culture. The aim of the program is that the Tlingit children will be able to establish an identity with their rich heritage. Legends are narrated by the elderly Tlingit men and then they are translated into English by the venerable Kake citizen Frank Johnson. Left to right, standing: Frank Johnson, interpreter; John Jackson, Aaron Bean, and Arthur Johnson, director. Seated, left to right: David Stuteen, Tom Jackson, Fred Friday, and Billy Friday. The painting looming behind the men is of the Tlingit superman, Doog-doodth.

Largest Head Start Program Discussed

RurAL CAP's Head Start Policy Advisory Committee meets in Juneau February 4, 1970 to consider the regular business of administering the "largest Head Start program in the United States."

State Chairman, Marguerite Frelin of Anchorage reports that with the addition of Old Harbor and Ketchikan, rural Alaska now has 42 full time Head Start Programs scattered in remote villages in an area roughly larger than the distance from Washington, D.C. to Dallas, Texas.

The Committee: Marguerite Frelin, Anchorage; Marlene Johnson, Hoonah; Philip Carlson, Kake; Elmer Armstrong, Kotzebue; Moses Paukin, St. Mary's; Vera James, Fort Yukon; Margaret Wolf, Anchorage; and Robert Newlin, Noorvik; is responsible for directing statewide policies regarding personnel, budgets, administration and classroom programs.

Head Start is funded in rural Alaska by OEO/HEW federal grants.