

Partners for Progress
with Alaska's Communities

RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS

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Executive Committee Meet Covers Important Subjects

Joyous St. Mary's Christmas

December 18 was truly a red letter day for over 250 children of the St. Mary's mission and school, located on the Andrefsky River, near the mouth of the mighty Yukon.

The many happy children were greeted by Santa Claus bringing two C123J Fairchild plane loads of gifts, with the aid of the Alaska Air National Guard.

The weather was cool and clear as the large planes landed on the snow covered field and taxied up to a group of excited boys from the school, who started unloading the many gifts as soon as the planes opened their ramps and Santa Claus stepped off.

Many things came off the planes, which included individual gifts from far away places in the South 48, to special friends at St. Mary's.

Other gifts included assorted fresh fruits, toys of all kinds, record players and other musical instruments, and several dozen bicycles.

When Santa Claus reached the village in the pickup truck, rather than a sleigh, he distributed hundreds of pounds of candy to the younger children.

At that point the National Guard and press visitors were invited into the community hall to share a wonderful Christmas program conducted by the young people of the community.

This included a rhythm band by the real young children, Christmas songs sung in English, Latin and Eskimo, and Eskimo dancing.

Darkness overtook the program. All haste was made to return to the plane. The village people were so reluctant to see us leave that some of them climbed on the back of the open truck with us to share the six mile ride back to the airport.

The recently installed runway lights were turned on as our plane's engines were warmed up for the return trip to Anchorage.

Bennie Leonard, a director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, went along to take the pictures included.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM—St. Mary's High School students are rendering a Christmas song under the direction of their song leader. A varied and interesting Yule program was performed at the huge and cavernous gymnasium-auditorium of the high school. Everyone in the village turned out for the visitors, the Santa Claus and his helpers, the Air National Guard from the Kulis Air Guard Base.

Byron Mallott Submits Resignation from CAP

Byron Mallott, Rural Alaska Community Action Program Executive Director, submitted his resignation to the agency's Executive Committee Thursday, December 17.

In his letter of resignation, effective December 31, Mallott stated, "I have been with RurAL CAP over a year and the work has been exciting and challenging.

There is no question in my mind that RurAL CAP is playing a vital role in the development of the rural areas of our state."

Mallott was recently appointed by Governor William A. Egan to be a member of his staff as Director of the State Local Affairs Agency.

In accepting the outgoing Executive Director's resignation, Elmer Armstrong, RurAL CAP Board Chairman said, "There is no question that in the past year, RurAL CAP has made tremendous strides forward under your leadership. Your understanding of the problems in rural Alaska has allowed RurAL CAP to become a program which truly meets the needs of rural low-income people."

John Shively, RurAL CAP Deputy Director, will assume temporary administrative control of the 2½ million dollar program upon Mallott's resignation. The RurAL CAP Board of Directors is currently advertising the position of Executive Director.

RurAL CAP Refunding, New Executive Director, And Others Discussed

The Executive Committee of the RurAL CAP Board of Directors held a one day meeting in Anchorage, December 17th.

Discussion and action concerned: (1) Advertising for the position of Executive Director of RurAL CAP; (2) Establishment of a \$500.00 account for RurAL CAP's delegate agencies for the purposes of advance per diem to attend board meetings; and (3) The date of February 4 & 5 for the next Board of Directors' meeting to be held in Juneau.

Committee approval was given authorizing loans to Alaska Legal Services and the Alaska Federation of Natives in the amount of \$50,000 each. This authorization was granted due to delays in processing their letters of credit.

It was announced that RurAL CAP's refunding application has

been approved. Approval came during the week of December 7th.

It is anticipated that the grant will also reflect the funding of the Citizens' Participation Committee in Juneau; Nome Housing; Legal Services; Regional Corporations and Central Administration; Youth Program; and Emergency Food.

A resolution entitled "For Increased BIA Realty Personnel in Alaska" was unanimously adopted by the Committee.

Resolution requested that the Bureau of Indian Affairs become responsive to the needs of the Alaska Natives by providing additional Realty Officers needed to process the vastly increased load of Native Land Allotments which are now and will continue to be backlogged in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Alaska Realty offices.



HERE COMES SANTA—Santa Claus rested his reindeer for several hours last week and took a C123J Fairchild aircraft to St. Mary's School at the village of St. Mary's.

—Photos by BENNY LEONARD

Ask Reconsideration on Denial—

Senators Seek Land Use Fund

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Alaska's two Senators, Mike Gravel (D) and Ted Stevens (R), have joined forces to urge reconsideration of the House Subcommittee on Supplemental Requests' denial of a \$550,000 request by the Interior Department for a land-use plan in Northern Alaska.

In a joint letter to the Chairman of the Senate's corresponding subcommittee, Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-West Virginia), Alaska's Senatorial team pointed out that the study constitutes an area almost twice the size of the State of California and that, of this area, 98 per cent is under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

Pointing out that the Depart-

ment extended the Alaska land freeze for an additional six months to allow Congress to resolve the Native Claims issue, Senators Gravel and Stevens said, "it is very important that the land-use study be initiated as soon as possible."

"The overall objective of the study is to provide a mechanism to amicably resolve the future competing claims for the use of this large land mass from Native, environmental, industrial and state users," they said.

"It is most important that these competing claims be resolved by a group meeting together rather than through open conflict that would exist without a plan or a mechanism to resolve them."

The two Senators declared it was their "strong hope that the Senate will see the wisdom in replacing the funds of this important land plan and thus allow the Department of the Interior to initiate the study and the Advisory Board early during 1971.

"Without this type of planning," they warned, "the proposal to build the trans-Alaska pipeline may be overwhelmed by opposition from the very people who will be involved in the formation of the land-use plan if it is initiated now.

"Their participation at this time is essential to orderly development of Alaska's resources," the Senators concluded.

RurAL CAP Asks BIA—

More Realty Personnel

The executive committee of RurAL CAP in Alaska has sent a resolution to the Bureau of Indian Affairs demanding they provide additional Realty Officers to speed processing of Native Land Allotment claims.

The resolution states that the Native Allotment Act of 1906 will probably be repealed in the Native Land Claims Bill. Thousands of Native people are now filing applications for land under this Act, causing a major backlog within BIA offices due to insufficient personnel.

"Resolved, that the Executive Committee of RurAL CAP demand that the Bureau of Indian Affairs become responsive to the needs of the Alaska Natives by providing additional Realty

Officers to process the vastly increased load of Native Land Allotments which are now and will continue to be backlogged in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Alaska Realty Offices".

The Native Allotment Act is one means by which Native people can obtain individual title to lands they traditionally use and occupy.

The resolution was unanimously passed December 17 by the RurAL CAP executive committee, according to RurAL CAP executive director Byron Mallott.

Copies were forwarded to State and federal officials, senators and representatives, Native association leaders and BIA officers.