

Rural and urban interests vie for spotlight . . .

progress was the key issue, people in the interior would like to progress backwards." The Conference has a firm belief that moving slowly is important.

Chris Anderson puts it in terms of "working slowly, working together, working things out." He admits that it might look like they are moving too slowly, but feels in that way, better goals will be set and can be met.

Representing the recently formed Interior Village Association (IVA) made up of Doyon's member corporats, Ken Sandy reported that IVA's goal in the next six to eight months is to offer general business management and land management services to the village corporations. Stating it was learned that Doyon was not the vehicle to run the corporations due to Doyon's present staff functions, its nature as a reviewing body of the corporations, and possible conflict of interest over land, Sandy emphasized that IVA was in business "to train to do, not to do for them."

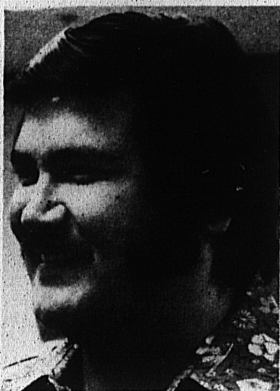
With that in mind, financial consulting, business training, tax information, land plans, cash flow projections, a resource inventory system, and a legal services fund are among the programs underway. Right now, the bulk of IVA's time is spent with individual villages, helping them get off the ground as functioning corporations.

IVA derives its income from service fees paid by each of the 30 village corporations which have contracted for its services thus far and charges on a time-use basis for specific work for individual villages.

Sandy estimates that out of 37 villages in the Doyon region, 25 want to get into financial development but don't know how or what. The IVA staff of four therefore sees 25% of its time and budget going toward education, though probably not in the traditional sense.

As to the spectre of bankruptcy, Sandy agrees that some corporations will probably prove to be economically unfeasible and will either spend

themselves out of existence or will merge with other corporations. He feels there is no way that bankruptcy can be a



CHRIS ANDERSON

good thing but it may be relatively minor, involving some loss of land. But IVA is in business to see that that doesn't happen.

Its major stumbling block, as Sandy calls it, is the tie up of land titles and interim conveyances. "The longer the land sits without being developed, it's just money out of their pockets."

A report of the numerous developments of NANA Regional Corporation was first on the second days' agenda. Willie Hensley described Kotzebue's recent reindeer roundup which brought the corporation \$7 per pound for reindeer horns, and he presented a 'comprehensive listing of the corporation's ventures, stating that NANA's objectives "are not just for profit due to the nature and needs of the shareholders." He announced a new plan, approved at the recent board meeting, to construct a building near the Kotzebue airport housing a tourist attraction of mountain and village scenes, stuffed Alaskan wild animals, dioramas, an auditorium with slide show, gift shop, jade cutting area, and a presentation of Eskimo dances.

Some of NANA's most profitable ventures thus far have

been those associated with the pipeline. They provide all security forces north of the yukon and control Atwood Enterprises, Great Northern Express, and Arctic Utilities in Deadhorse as well as NANA Commercial Catering, NANA Construction Company, NANA Oil Field Services, and NANA Environmental Systems, all meant to take advantage of pipeline activity.

NANA operates a profitable 53-room hotel, bar and restaurant in Kotzebue which will be expanded within the next year. Also in Kotzebue are Jade Mountain Enterprises, a building supply company, a property and maintenance business, as well as NANA Reindeer Enterprises.

With 4,700 shareholders and a fairly homogenous area, Hensley says NANA has few of the administrative problems faced by some of the other corporations. 10 of the 11 village corporations in the NANA region have merged, realizing that due to their size, major business ventures would not be profitable.

Only one corporation, Kotzebue, felt itself large enough to make a go of it on its

own. Hensley admits to a consolidating problem and lack of trained managers within the corporation with 200 to 400 employees and a company policy of hiring at least 60% Native out of which 50% must be NANA shareholders.

Currently NANA is "holding the status quo," concerned over the wind-down of pipeline activity and looking at potential post-pipeline ventures. The reindeer business is a long-term investment, now a subsistence livelihood for some families but with hopes for growth based on recent authorization by the board for purchase of 1,500 more deer and predictions of diminishing caribou herds.

When asked if NANA is showing a profit, Hensley replied, "we're not losing money." He described the Native corporations as a competitive, complicated business which had to take the ball and run with it without any business experience. He foresees some failures down the road, "but we more or less asked for it because we didn't want the heavy hand of the Interior over us."

Although he says it would probably be better for NANA to be based in Anchorage than Kotzebue for administrative reasons, Hensley thinks it's more important to retain the confidence of the shareholders because "the source of our power and authority is amongst the people." But he also feels that Native corporations cannot be in the business of social services because they would go broke and "the problems are fairly huge."

The ARDC heard of bush education efforts from Elaine Ramos, head of the University's Office of Rural Educational

Affairs (REA) who announced the establishment of two new centers at Galena and Sand Point as well as an application from Valdez for community college status.

Rural housing headaches were discussed by Roger Riddell, State Director of Housing and Urban Development and by H. Prent Gazaway of the BIA. HUD reported that it is asking for construction of 600 more units of housing although it has not successfully constructed and overcome the problems on the current 900 underway.

Stating that their only real success has been 360 units of housing in Southeast, Riddell maintained that design, delivery and administration of the housing program works on the Alaska level, but is a failure on the Washington level. He wants a switch from plywood to log houses and a recognition from Washington that a decent sewerage system can be installed without flush toilets. Riddell says he has concluded that the best method is to give houses to people and help them try to live in them rather than to administer housing sales or rentals.

Prent Gazaway agreed and admitted that BIA needs to do a better job of technical assistance to local housing authorities. As a support system for HUD and a go-between for the people, Gazaway sees that BIA program growing in the future now that all regional districts have housing authorities and are in need of the funding and assistance BIA can provide.

Gazaway personally feels that more emphasis must be placed on local building materials and

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Letters

She originally is from Noorvik, Alaska, and has a brother, Joe K. Carter, Sr., there who is most anxious to find her take her home if circumstances permit or to go and visit her wherever she may be found.

Miss Carter was sent out to Morningside Hospital at Portland, Oregon, in late 1920s. Mr. Carter has never been contacted or written to about his one and only sister and had given up hope until recently a former patient of Morningside Hospital asked him if Ruth Carter was any relation to him. She stated that Ruth was her roommate when she was there in the spring of 1932. Ruth does not know that she is from this area and she acknowledged his to her. Miss Carter should be 60 years old now. He is my husband's aunt and we want more than anything else to have her father re-united with his only sister.

Anyone knowing of Miss Carter's whereabouts. Please write or call collect Norman G. Carter, Box 4, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752, 907-442-3356. On behalf of myself and my in-laws, thank you.

Sincerely,
Barbara M. Carter

Arts seminar . . .

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State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Further information about the conference can be obtained by writing to Andrew Hope, conference coordinator; c/o Arts Alaska, Inc., 360 "K" Street, Suite 240, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Health grant . .

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Public Law 93-638, enacted January 4, 1975, gives federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives the option of serving their own health needs in a manner of their own choosing, by directing the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, to enter into contract with them, at their request, to carry out all his functions, authorities, and responsibilities for their health needs.

It further authorizes the Secretary to make grants to tribes desiring to exercise this option, for the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of health facilities and services. Grants are also authorized for planning, training, and evaluation projects to help tribes improve their capacity to contract.



WILLIE HENSLEY



JUVENILE RIGHTS MEDICAL CARE

A minor can give consent to his or her own medical or dental treatment. But, parental consent is still required for abortion. If you can't show your ability to pay for the treatment your parents will probably be contacted. The doctor is required to keep information about you confidential.

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