

RURALCAP's ACTION REPORTS

RurALCAP



Partners for Progress
with Alaska's Communities

The weekly newsletter of the NON-PROFIT, PRIVATE CORPORATION
which serves rural Alaska in the battle against poverty in our state.

An information and education function of Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.



Volume III, Number 7

January 10, 1969

RDA Announces Nine New Grants

Nine villages in central and west Alaska have been selected for development grants totaling some \$33,430 from Rural Development Agency.

Keith H. Miller, acting Governor of Alaska said the largest grant of \$7,750 will go to Kasiglook on the Kuskokwim River. This will pay the wages of residents to move a wooden house to the village for use as a community hall.

Andreafski, on the Lower Yukon, will receive \$6,000 in wages for construction of a 30 x 40 ft. community hall. The community will use the building for movies, meetings and as a classroom for the village Head Start program.

Quinhagak, located on the Kuskokwim, has been granted \$5,200 to be used to build a road to the village airport. Point Hope will get \$5,000 for residents to construct a 5,500 gallon water tank.

St. Michael 125 miles southeast of Nome on Norton Sound, will get \$3,500 for construction of a water tank and transmission line. Koliganek will get \$4,000 for a community hall and Ekuk will get \$1,000 to repair its airstrip.

The last two grants go to Teller, \$680, and Koyuk, \$500, to stake trails which will benefit local trappers.

Announcement of the new grants came only three weeks after the Agency announced ten other grants funding projects of road building, construction of community buildings and trail staking.

These grants went to Kotlik, \$8,000 for moving an abandoned church to the village; English Bay, \$3,000 for a road; Ekwak, \$2,000 for a community building; Igiugig, \$1,000 for a road; Shaktoolik, \$400 for trail staking; Kivalina, \$400 trail staking; Kotzebue, \$400 trail staking; Brevig Mission, \$160 trail staking; Shishmaref, \$152 trail staking; and Noorvik, \$250 for trail staking.



Two men work on reconstructing the damaged bulkhead at Akhiok. Directly behind the bulkhead are several homes which have been victims of high tides in the past. The new bulkhead will be higher and more sturdy than the last

Akhiok Men Work to Rebuild Breakwater, Start Access Road

Workmen in the small village of Akhiok on Kodiak Island have worked in freezing temperatures during the last two weeks to build 200 feet of breakwater intended to curb corrosion caused by high tides.

Plans call for yet another 200 feet of breakwater and 500 feet of an access road leading away from the town. The project is expected to be completed by the end of January.

The Bureau of Work Training Programs, U.S. Dept. of Labor, authorized funding for the new Operation Mainstream project late in November, 1968. Operation Mainstream is sponsored locally by Rural Alaska Community Action Program.

Mrs. Mary Gange, director of Operation Mainstream, said high tides and wind had washed away much of the fill behind the

village's bulkhead and had destroyed a 400-foot section of the actual bulkhead. In many instances, waves were lapping at the doors of village homes.

Graded fill from the access road, expected to be built during the next two weeks, will be used to brace the new breakwater. The breakwater is also being made a log higher than the last one.

The access road will begin about 50 feet from the breakwater and will eventually wind around a mountain a full-three-quarters of a mile from the village to the only store in the area and to the point of docking for a processing ship. Only the first 500 feet of the road will be built this year.

People from the village need to get to the other side of the mountain either to sell their fish to the processing ship,

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Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

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Council Opens Anchorage Office

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians last week opened an office in Anchorage in an attempt to hasten settlement of the \$500 million native land claims suit filed against the United States government.

Council President John Borbridge, Jr. said the new office was opened in Anchorage because of its proximity to the federal and state agencies with which the council must work on the claims.

The council, representing more than 14,000 Tlingit and Haida Indians in Southeast Alaska, was awarded a \$7.5 million settlement last January in a claim separate from the one now filed by the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN).

The AFN represents Alaska's 54,000 Natives in the land claim which seeks title to 40 million acres of land including the mineral rights and to \$500 million in compensation for relinquishing what they consider their Indian title to another 240 million acres of land.

The \$7.5 million awarded the Central Council was settlement for 16 million acres of land taken by the federal government for establishment of Tongass National Forest, Glacier Bay National Monument and Annette Island Reserve.

In addition to being part of the AFN land claims, the council has separate three-phase suit pending in the Indian Claims Commission.

The council is seeking amendments for the bombing, burning and looting of the village of Angoon in 1882 by the U.S. Navy, compensation for "certain tidelands in Southeastern Alaska taken between 1935 and 1946," and an appeal relative to the fisheries in the Southeast.

Borbridge, who recently resigned as Chief Officer of Native Affairs to the Alaska Area Native Health Service, is also first vice president of the Alaska Federation of Natives and a member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

The new Central Council offices are in the Kaloa Building, 1675 C Street. A Central Council office will be opened later this year in Southeastern Alaska, according to the council.

The Economic Development Administration is now preparing a manual to help local groups set up business development corporations to stimulate economic growth. The Practising Law Institute will work with a special advisory board in preparing the manual.

USDA Begins Nutrition Campaign

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has provided funds for the Cooperative Extension Services of the University of Alaska to participate in a nation-wide experimental program in a people-to-people nutritional education campaign.

Junior Ramos, director of Rural Alaska Community Action Program's Emergency Food and Medical Program, last Tuesday attended a meeting of the Extension staff to discuss the new program. RurALCAP's emergency program includes training sessions for nutritional aides which are already underway.

The Extension Service plans to use the funds for its nutritional training program in the Anchorage Community. Aides in the program will be trained and supervised by professional Extension home economists.

The nation-wide program is a \$10 million endeavor on the part of the Department of Agriculture to teach the

poor to get more nutrition in their diets. Most of the money will go for the hiring and training of aides, mostly from the low-income groups and who will work in their own areas.

According to reports from Agriculture officials, all 50 state extension services are preparing proposed projects for the campaign which will be reviewed by federal officials for approval.

RurALCAP is training nutritional aides in the Kobuk, Wade Hampton and Bethel districts. These aides are taught to teach people in their villages how to make the most use of their grocery money and how to prepare nutritious meals. They also are able to inform the people on details of the state's food stamp program.

Mrs. Rosalie Eddy, nutritional trainer for RurALCAP, is in St. Mary's this week to conduct the second of three scheduled one-week training sessions for nutritional aides from the Wade-Hampton area.



"Yeah, it just might keep the fresh milk from the trading post from freezin!"

W. Wirtz Defends Community Action

Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz has defended on a national television broadcast the community action program in the United States and has predicted the new Nixon administration will continue it.

Wirtz said the community action approach has not worked perfectly, but "has brought out a leadership in the local communities which will be here for a very long time."

The secretary was referring to remarks attributed to both Robert Finch, newly-designated Secretary of Health Education and Welfare, and Daniel Moynihan, the new urban affairs advisor to President-elect Nixon. They had indicated that to ask the poor to administer their own programs is not a valid concept.

Answering questions on the television show "Issues and Answers," Wirtz said he believes the new administration will continue the program although they may combine some of the programs such as the Urban Coalition Program, the Concentrated Employment Program and the National Alliance of Businessmen.

He said he did not think Nixon's suggestion to utilize tax credits to involve private enterprise in the war on poverty is a realistic approach to slum clearance.

Nixon has made the involvement of private enterprise a major point in his anti-poverty plans. Wirtz said he would like to see an expansion of private initiative but not in the form of tax credit.

Christmas came again Tuesday, Jan. 7, for those persons who celebrate the Russian Orthodox Church holiday. The difference in dates in observance of Christmas arises because the Russian Orthodox Church still observes the ancient Julian calendar.

ASHA Opens Apartments for Elderly

The Alaska State Housing Authority has completed a three-building low-rent housing complex for elderly persons in Mountain View, a suburb of Anchorage.

The new complex, designed to meet the needs of the elderly in Alaska, is the first public housing of its kind. There are ramps and wide hallways to permit wheelchair access, grab rails in the bathrooms and a game room with fireplace and adjoining patio.

Harold Grindle, assistant executive director for the agency, says twelve elderly



This picture shows the poor condition of the bulkhead, with the center section completely missing and all the fill gone behind the section in the foreground. The boat at the far left is left setting on dry ground during low tides.

Anchorage Wins Grant for Port

The federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) presented a \$178,000 check to Anchorage City Manager Robert E. Sharp as part of a \$476,000 grant to help develop the city's Port Industrial Park.

The money will help pay for water and sewer mains and paving access roads to the complex, next to the Port of Anchorage. The total cost of this development is \$1,152,000 and the city is paying its share with general obligation bonds. EDA gave a first payment of \$144,000 late last summer.

Anchorage is applying for another EDA grant of \$1,168,000 to finance 50 per cent of the cost for expansion of the dock.

persons moved into the new building and others will be moving into the specially-designed apartments within the next few days.

Residents must be 62 years of age or older and meet specific minimum income requirements, Grindle said. This project is the only one planned so far for the elderly, states Grindle, but the housing authority will conduct surveys to determine if others should be developed in the future.

Akhiok Rebuilds

(Continued from page 1)

shop at the store, or go to work at the store.

The villagers now must go all the way around to the store and processing ship in small boats. When the tide is low or the waters are rough, travel becomes very difficult, Mrs. Gange said.

Operation Mainstream has allotted \$6,264 for the project to pay labor wages.

Akhiok is a community of about 200 in the southern section of Kodiak Island. Walter Simeonoff, village council president, is supervisor for the project.

Indian Center Opens in Capitol

The Department of the Interior has established a Field Employment Assistance Office in Washington, D.C. to help Indians moving to that area find a job.

Any Eskimo, Indian or Aleut living on or near a reservation may apply to the Washington, D.C., office for assistance in finding a job in the capital area.

The operation was begun experimentally last summer and is headed by Mary Ellen Rawley, who until recently was director of the Seattle Orientation Center of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Seven other such offices across the country are at Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, Oakland-San Francisco and San Jose, California.

Village Lights First Christmas Tree

More than 150 persons - - many of them children - - gathered in Hooper Bay Dec. 16 to see the lighting of the village's first community Christmas tree.

The seven-foot tree had been flown in from Bethel and was decorated at Hooper Bay with multi-colored bulbs, tinsel and electric lights.

Hooper Bay is one of the first Alaskan villages electrified by the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative. All of the homes and stores in the village have been electrified.

The ceremony was timed so that the

Hooper Bay tree was lit when Pres. Lyndon Johnson pushed the button in Washington D.C. to light the national Christmas tree Dec. 16. John Dudley, acting principal of the Bureau of Indian Affairs School there and coordinator of the project on a local level, maintained radio contact with Richard Birchell, BIA area supervisor in Bethel, who in turn maintained phone contact with Washington D.C.

The two tree lightings - - 5,000 miles apart - - occurred simultaneously. Hooper Bay is a community of about 550 on the far western Bering Sea Coast.



School principal John Dudley Coordinated the tree-lighting ceremony for Hooper Bay.

Ford Foundation Aids Alaskans

Grants totaling \$654,500 to help American Indians "enter the mainstream of modern American society" have been announced by the Ford Foundation.

The Alaskan grants are: \$100,000 to the Alaska Federation of Natives, a native-run organization to coordinate efforts to widely dispersed tribes. The term "native" in Alaska includes Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos, all groups directly or indirectly governed by federal Indian policies; \$56,500 to the University of Alaska, for support of the first International Conference on Cross-Cultural Education in the North to be held in Montreal, Canada in August, 1969.

The remaining grants are: \$310,000 to the National Congress of American Indians Fund; \$150,000 to the Center for the Arts of Indian America; and \$38,000 to the Citizens Crusade Against Poverty.



Trygve L. Jorgensen of Kotzebue, left, who worked on electrifying Hooper Bay, congratulates Roy Joseph, secretary of the Hooper Bay City Council for a successful electrification project.

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DRAWER 412, E.C.B.
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

TO:

