

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.



Vol. IV, No. 12

July 3, 1969

Job Survey Grant Goes To AFN

The Alaska Federation of Natives has received a \$60,000 contract to conduct a labor force survey of Alaskans for oil-related jobs.

The three major oil firms involved in construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline presented the grant to AFN. The firms — the Atlantic Richfield Co., Humble Oil and Refining Co., and British Petroleum Oil Corp. — made the grant to the AFN after a recent job conference held in Anchorage.

Announcement of the grant was withheld from publication to give attorney Arthur Goldberg, the AFN representative in the land claims issue, a chance to look over the agreement.

The Federation will find what job skills are available and where they can be obtained in Alaska. The survey is already underway in anticipation of the \$900 million project.

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline will be 48 inches in diameter and will transport oil 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. Estimated capacity per day for the pipeline will be 500,000 barrels.

A plan for 1972 initial operation calls for five pumping stations. Future maximum capacity will be two million barrels with 12 pumping stations.

The plan also includes that operation of the line be completely automated. Facilities for a crew and micro-wave communications system will be included in each of the five pumping stations.

Gets New Title

Jule M. Sugarman, former Associate Director of Head Start, has been named Acting Director of the newly established Office of Child Development which will operate Head Start beginning July 1.

The new OCD was created to carry out President Nixon's national commitment to the crucial first five years of life.

Klukwan Tribal House Progresses

Residents of Klukwan, a small Southeastern Alaska village, are already thinking about an appropriate celebration for their new Tribal House.

The Tribal House is under construction by a crew of Operation Mainstream workers, residents of Klukwan who are unemployed. The structure is being constructed mainly by hand, of logs as large as 45 feet long. Totemic carvings will decorate the front of the structure.

"It has been tough work getting 45-foot logs hoisted into position almost by hand," says project supervisor Dorothy E. Fossman. "We do not have any fancy equipment for this job, and when completed, one could say it was built with sweat and hard handwork."

The crew building the Tribal House is composed of men over 57 years of age, working close to 40 hours a week each, with time out only for fishing. The men

are all using whatever hand tools they own. Materials come from the surrounding woods, and several other sources.

One source of materials is the Haines Lumber Company, which provided three large windows, 4 x 7½, for the Tribal House through the Klukwan Village Council. Money for materials was also obtained from the proceeds of a Bingo game organized by the Klukwan Community Action Committee.

A flatbed truck with a block and tackle and other tools were also furnished by one of the village residents, Willie Lee, who is part of the construction crew.

The men are receiving the Alaska minimum wage of \$2.10. Operation Mainstream funds provide wages only, with materials from local sources. Money for wages comes from the U.S. Department of Labor through RurALCAP.



Massive logs will form the new Klukwan Tribal House, due for completion later this year. Operation Mainstream is paying wages of a construction crew from the village, with materials donated by villagers, and the Haines Lumber Company.



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Above is Frank Peterson, RurALCAP Community Service Corps director.

Telephones Ease Communications



Attaching wiring to an insulator is part of the Copper Center telephone system.

Ten homes in the Copper Center area are getting their first telephones as the result of an Operation Mainstream-funded project.

The homes are scattered throughout the Copper Center area. In the past, distances between them have made it difficult for residents to quickly reach help for fire, illness and other sudden disasters.

Not only will the telephones provide quick communication for emergencies, but community meetings and special events will be made easier. In addition, all the telephones will be connected to the home of Harry Johns, who has a commercial line.

Work on the telephone system has been done by a crew of local people, with wages paid by Operation Mainstream.

Materials for the project have been provided by the village. Poles were acquired by cutting logs, and telephone instruments, insulators and wiring came from other sources.

Workers In the Field

The Area Community Developers (ACD) of RurALCAP are people chosen by the area residents whom they will serve. There is one ACD for each region working directly under the supervision of the regional center director.

The ACD's work varies in different regions according to the areas needs. A lot of travel is required as the ACD is responsible for approximately ten villages in his area and visits each village about once a month.

Travel is delayed often times because of weather conditions. Methods of travel vary according to the seasons and area terrain. In the summer, ACD's travel by airplane, boat, walking, and in some areas by car. During the winter months when there is snow and ice, they travel by dog teams and snowmobiles.

When the ACD is first selected, he receives a series of in-service training in understanding and defining community interests and problems.

The ACD is responsible for establishing social and economic organizations in the village communities to which he is assigned. He assists each village in determining its development priorities, concentrating first on self-help activities.

He defines the needs of each particular village, inventories the resources, surveys the basic characteristics and assesses its potential. He assists each village in more complicated projects and more sophisticated cooperative education programs as they develop.

Some ACD's are presently surveying for the nutritional survey. Some are surveying for their area's job bank. They are getting information on all available people in their areas with different job skills.

ACD's stay busy doing a number of different types of jobs. They are required to submit periodic reports to their regional center director and to the deputy director of Community Service Corps in the RurALCAP Central Office.



ACD James Coppock of the Kotzebue area meeting with Deering Councilmen Gilford Barr, James Moto Jr. and Alfred Carman. ACD's often meet with village officials to discuss problems that may have arisen.

Head Start Transferred to HEW

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) has lost Head Start, one of its major programs. Head Start was transferred to the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare by President Nixon effective July 1.

Head Start has been under OEO since its origination three winters ago in Alaska and held both summer and winter programs. President Nixon's decision to place Head Start under an established department demonstrates the success of the program.

During the 1968-69 school term some 35 villages opened community halls, churches, quonset huts and abandoned buildings to approximately 900 pre-school

children between the ages of three and six years. The year before there had been 52 villages for 1,200 children.

Head Start staffs consist of teachers, directors, teacher-aides, cooks and janitors, all Natives of the villages where they work. The village council of each community is directly responsible for their Head Start Program.

Head Start readies the rural child for what otherwise might be an unfamiliar and frightening experience. By attending Head Start classes, the child quiets his fears with his enthusiasm to continue to learn.

The parents have a voice in what will happen to his child and who will teach

him. The family is part of the daily activities in the Head Start Center.

Head Start has offered developmental opportunity (as well as employment) for approximately 600 Natives over the past three winters. It especially provides university-oriented training, career and job development for some 250 teachers and aides.

The community also becomes involved by learning to take on responsibility for the programs and provide in-kind contributions. Some of these contributions are rent free use of buildings, helping the cooks, serving as aides and donating food.

Head Start also has a medical services program providing medical and dental checkups and treatments for the children.

Head Start is recognized as one of the most effective tools in the war against poverty. Many villages operate Head Start Programs on their own without funding from RurALCAP or any other agency.

The RurALCAP Head Start program is part of OEO's largest single program with a national budget of \$318 million.

Although President Nixon has transferred Head Start from OEO, he plans to continue the Office of Economic Opportunity. He will, however, delegate more OEO programs to other federal agencies.



Bethel Meet Of AFN Board

The Alaska Federation of Natives met in Bethel the end of May to discuss the need of a better communications system for the rural areas and within the organization.

Many suggestions were submitted and a newsletter was adopted as the most feasible. The newsletter will be sent to regional councils with minutes to the RurALCAP offices for getting daily information when there is a delegation in Washington, D. C.

The group decided to establish a legislative office in Washington, D. C. with general rules for its conduct and performance under the responsibility of the board's executive committee. The executive committee shall in turn act within the limits imposed on it by the Alaska Federation of Natives' constitution and expressions arising thereunder.

This Kotzebue Head Start class was one of 35 similar programs underway in rural Alaska during the 1968-69 school year, as part of the Office of Economic Opportunity. The successful program is being transferred to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare this week, by order of President Nixon. (Photo by Ed Isenson)

Turnkey Project Proves Itself

Operation Bethel Turnkey Housing has received a grant of \$50,000 from the Office of Economic Opportunity Regional office.

The program will run concurrent from July 1, 1969 to June 30, 1970. The conditions of the grant remain the same as the previous program which has proved to be successful in the past.

John Tetpon, program specialist in the RurALCAP Central office will continue to coordinate with the Bethel project staff through Phillip Guy, Bethel Regional Center Director.

The Bethel Housing staff consists of Willie Nicolai, executive secretary; Grace Lieb, counsellor; George Paul Charles, counsellor; Margaret Hoagland, book-keeper; and Paul Albert, part-time maintenance man.

The Bethel project was formally funded as a demonstration grant from Washington.

Gets Funded

Grants totaling \$22,200 will go to seven villages from the Rural Development Agency for community development.

Chistochina, Crooked Creek and Venetie each receives \$3,500 for community halls. Goodnews Bay gets \$2,300 to complete a sewage system; Tooksook Bay, \$2,400 to rebuild a community hall and level edges of an airstrip; Hooper Bay, \$3,000 to build seepage pits; and Port Lions gets \$4,000 to build and repair their road system.



Kodiak youngsters sit at their tables waiting for lunch. Seated with them is one of the three teenagers assisting the center personnel. These teenagers offer their assistance as in-kind contribution to the center staff which alleviates some of the supervision of the children.

Center Continues Operations

The Kodiak Day Care Center is presently at its summertime lull with about 15 children attending daily, older school children included. During winter months, there are as many as 25-30 children attending each day.

Mrs. Wanda Kubitz is acting as director while Mrs. Rose Ann Goodman is away on a leave of absence.

The center has continued operating without interruption since its opening Sept. 2, 1968. The children keep busy with a variety of toys.

There are several sturdy toys that could be moved, rocking toys, and scooters for plenty of exercise. One

corner contains a complete kitchen, miniature size, with a sink, cabinets and stove complete with dishes and cooking utensils. In another corner there are plenty of books and quiet toys.

The center staff serves cookies and Kool-aid for snacks. The children are well-treated and seem very happy. They are learning to get along with each other. They don't seem to mind being left there by their parents. The children are treated with discipline along with wholesome love and freedom of movement, said one visitor.

A sliding scale payment enables a mother to pay as little as \$1 per day depending upon her salary.

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