

RURALCAP's ACTION REPORTS

RurALCAP



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. 9

June 13, 1969

Old Harbor Builds Dam

Old Harbor has a new dam and a doubled water supply. The work was done by the Kodiak Island villagers with a grant of \$6,000 from the Alaska Rural Development Administration.

Rather than use an expensive electric pump, a gravitational flow of water will supply the village. Materials and tools for the project were supplied at a cost of \$891.39 by the community.

The work involved extending the original dam four feet higher; erecting protective fencing; and building a diversional dam with pipe line and 800 feet of ditch along the top of a hill to divert the stream and bring approximately a doubled amount of water to the reservoir.

Construction of a secondary dam was considered necessary to supply industrial needs without endangering the village's water supply. It was built below the main dam.

Also installed were 600 feet of 2-inch pipeline from the secondary dam to the waterfront for industrial use. A rock catcher was built to avoid falling rocks blocking the dam.

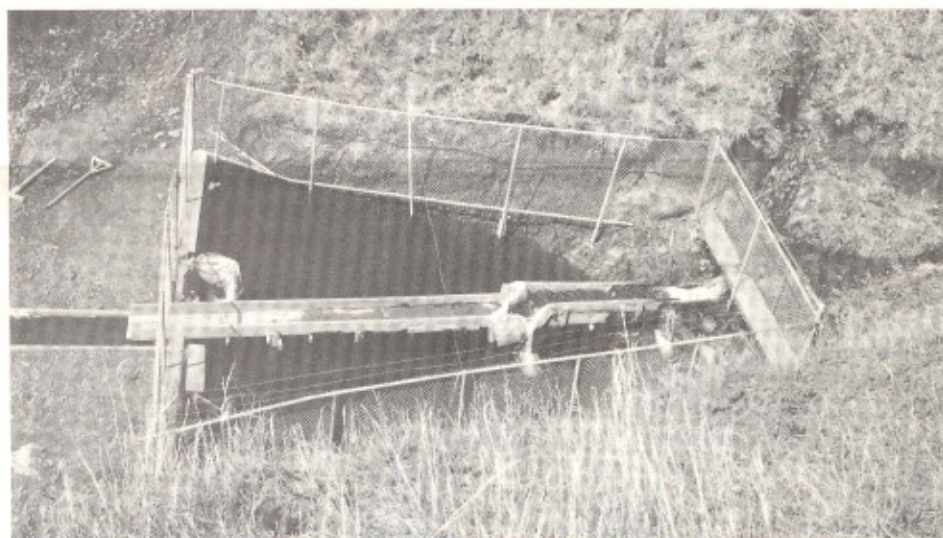
Elects President

Alfred Ketzler of Nenana has been elected president of the Tanana Chiefs Council.

Ketzler's election came at the Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks during May. Ketzler succeeds State Representative John Sackett of Huslia.

Larry Peterson of Fort Yukon was elected vice-president of the group.

The conference dealt with three major topics. These were: hiring and employment practices on the North Slope as these affect Alaska Natives; the land claims; and ratification of the Alaska Federation of Natives constitution by the Tanana Chiefs.



In this aerial view, fencing around the Old Harbor dam is shown. The gravitational flow of water comes from a mountain stream into the dam and the pipeline toward the secondary dam above the village.

RurALCAP Plans Job Banks For Rural Regional Centers

Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurALCAP) has tentatively planned to establish job banks at each of the nine regional service center offices across the state. The main goal of these job banks is to make contact between the men and the job.

The regional service center job bank has more means for finding the man for the job or the job for the man than any other organization in Alaska, according to Robert Mott, chairman of the Community Development Committee of the RurALCAP Board of Directors.

Mott has begun a survey in the Interior Region with area community developers going to each home. He said they should soon have answers to any question that may be asked regarding job banks. Mott feels this can produce the results needed for employment of the rural men of Alaska.

Mott said the area community developers can bring more men into the

job banks. He noted other agencies are willing to share their sources and work with the job bank.

According to the State Employment Service, out of 20,867 applicants filing new work applications in 1968, some 4,000 were identified as "disadvantaged."

State Labor Commissioner Thomas J. Moore said, "Considerable increases in job opportunities for Alaskans in seafood processing, logging and lumbering, and in wholesale and retail trades were noted in 1968."

Moore continued, "Alaska has an obligation to provide more training and employment opportunities to the people who in past years either have been forgotten or ignored."

RurALCAP has attempted to assist in doing something about the unemployed and untrained people by sponsoring such programs as the sawmill workshops, leadership training, equipment operators

(Continued on Page 4)

RurALCAP



Partners for Progress
with Alaska Communities

Mrs. Clifford Johnson (Marlene), Hoonah
President of the Board
Al Ketzler, Nenana
Vice-President
Rev. Ernest H. Jones, Nome
Secretary-treasurer
Elmer Armstrong, Kotzebue
Northwest Target Rep.
Archie Watson, Bethel
Southwest Target Rep.
Rev. Norman L. Smith, Ouzinkie
South Central Target Rep.
Robert Mott, Fort Yukon
Interior Target Rep.

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

LARRY BRAYTON, Executive Director
ELIZABETH GOSS, Editor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Moses Paukan, St. Marys
Mayor of St. Marys
Wyman Panigo, Barrow
Mayor of Barrow
Ben Guhrke, Naknek
Mayor of Bristol Bay Borough
Phil Carlson, Kake
Mayor of Kake
Mrs. Milan J. Tacker (Shirley), Anchorage
Alaska Federation of Natives Rep.
Lucien J. Poussard, Anchorage
Alaska Native Health Service
Harry A. Johns, Sr., Copper Center
Copper Valley-Prince William Sound
Allen John, Sitka
Mt. Edgecumbe High School

Tom Brown, White Mountain
Norton Sound Area Development Coop.
Frank Cox, Juneau
Director of State Planning and Research
Dwayne Carlson, Fairbanks
Pres. Alaska State Federation
of Labor, A.F.L. - C.I.O.
Mrs. Leo T. Frelin, (Marquerte), Anchorage
Alaska Council of Parent-Teachers
Richard Lauber, Juneau
Exec. Dir. State Crime Commission
William K. Jermain, Juneau
State Dept. of Labor
Bennie Leonard, Anchorage
Alaska Municipal League

Director Resigns



Mrs. Patricia Locke

The Board of Directors of the Anchorage Native Welcome Center has announced the resignation of Mrs. Patricia Locke, president of the Board and chief administrator and director of the center since the opening in winter, 1968.

Mrs. Locke was elected secretary of the American Indians-United, a national group, last October. She subsequently informed the Center Board of Directors that her increased activity on behalf of the national group requires extensive travel away from the Anchorage area.

A new director for the center is presently being sought by the Board of Directors (see related article). According to Mrs. Locke, the new director will need experience in office administration, knowledge of village life in Alaska and understanding of problems and issues confronting residents of rural Alaska. She has hopes the position will be filled by an Aleut, Eskimo, Tlinget, Haida, Tsimpsian, or Athabascan Alaskan.

Mrs. Locke said, "I have been forced to decide recently where my personal effort in the general movement in planning for America's original residents could best be applied. My special education is related to elementary schooling for Indian children and there seems to be a limited number of Indian people who are presently working in this field."

She continued, "After careful deliberation, I feel it is time for me to step aside from directing the activities of the Native Welcome Center. I have found the challenge and opportunity in the initial development of the center has been both a difficult and rewarding experience."

Mrs. Locke is half Sioux and half Chippewa Indian. American Indians-United serves over 200,000 American Indians in all the United States except Hawaii.

Alakanuk Builds Community Hall

Alakanuk residents will soon construct a community hall to hold meetings for village business, Head Start, Mother's Club and Remedial Education classes, according to Mrs. Mary Gange, director of Operation Mainstream in the RurALCAP Central office.

Alakanuk has long needed a community hall, said Mrs. Gange. The villagers have been using an abandoned church building which needed repairs. The people do only necessary upkeep, because the church building and ground are privately owned. The villagers are hesitant to make any major repairs.

A grant of \$10,000 from the U.S. Dept. of Labor Bureau of Work Training will pay wages of village workmen and provide work training and employment. The money is part of a larger \$179,000 grant for Operation Mainstream.

The Alakanuk Village Council has elected two work crews headed by Alex

Patrick and Placid Joseph. Paula Ayunerok, secretary of the Village Council, is bookkeeper.

A D-7 caterpillar tractor was sent via Military Cool Barge to Alakanuk in May for use on the construction project. The tractor will be used for grading within the village, for relocating a portion of the village and grading the airport strip.

Two Alakanuk residents, Alphonsus Damian and Edward Post, will operate and maintain the tractor. The men were trained at a special Surplus Equipment Training course held by RurALCAP in Seward in May.

Mrs. Gange visited Alakanuk to meet with the Council May 8. She explained the operation of projects under the Bureau of Work Training programs, and documents for the project were signed.

Alakanuk is a village of 450 people situated where the Yukon River runs into the Bering Sea.



Alex Patrick and Placid Joseph will head two crews building Alakanuk community hall. Paula Ayunerok will do the bookkeeping for the men. Workmen were selected by the Village Council.

Food Stamp Controversy Continues To Be A Problem

The Food Stamp Program is not actually doing the job it was intended to do, according to Junior Ramos, RurALCAP's Emergency Food and Medical Services program director.

Ramos sees two major inadequacies in the State's program. "The program is not running well because the State Dept. of Health and Welfare is understaffed. The Welfare Division cannot educate people properly about the Food Stamp Program. Many villages have no program and in many others the people don't know how to use it," Ramos asserts.

The second major failing is that the stamps are sold with no regard to price differences in different parts of Alaska, the director says. "My survey of homes in the rural areas indicate the stamps only last two weeks at the most," Ramos explains.

"People in the villages must pay food prices totally different from the cities, especially when food has been airlifted. As an example of costs in some villages, eggs cost \$1.30 a dozen; milk \$1.30 a half gallon; Corn Flakes, \$1.25. These prices were noted by nutritional aides working in the rural areas," Ramos says.

"Food stamps are supposed to serve all of Alaska, but the dollars spent in Anchorage will buy less than half as much in the bush."

"The Welfare Division recognizes the need for differences in salaries and travel costs in different parts of the state. They should do the same with the Food Stamp Program."

Food for the distribution program comes from surplus commodities supplied by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture through the State Dept. of Administration.

The State receives the food free of cost, delivered to one location in the state. Then it must pay for distribution within the state.

Ramos noted that in Alaska surplus commodities go to groups such as Head Start and school lunch programs rather than individual people, as in many other states.

Only once, Ramos explained, did the State of Alaska distribute food to hungry individuals. That was following the 1966 Bristol Bay fishing disaster.

Ramos also criticized the basis on which stamps are sold. "In a four-person household in the lowest income bracket, stamps would allow 55 cents per person for food. In a six-person household with the lowest income, stamps worth 45 cents per person are sold. By contrast, the California State Dept. of Welfare allows 60 cents a day for feeding a seeing-eye dog," Ramos said.

There are still many villages where the

program has not been initiated at all. In some villages, the program has never been explained, nor has a Welfare Division representative been selected.

Ramos called upon the Division of Welfare to extend the program to more needy people. "I think it's time the Division of Public Welfare examined why the program is not in some villages and move toward initiating it."

He criticized the Welfare office for publicizing the amount of money spent on the Food Stamp Program, rather than the number of people actually helped and the number potentially eligible and in need.

"One Anchorage newspaper printed a letter from a Division of Welfare area supervisor alleging that 600 households representing some 14,000 people were enrolled in the program during April. This averages about 23 persons per household," Ramos said. "We need more accurate information from the Welfare office than this sort of letter," he added.

Ramos said "The Welfare office is trying to improve the program by supplying the stamps to villages on a schedule, but when the villages get them, often the villagers don't have cash to purchase them at that particular time. So this is still no solution."

Help From SBA

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has launched an "Operation Mainstream" to expand programs of assistance of all minority enterprises.

(The SBA's Operation Mainstream is not to be confused with the U.S. Dept. of Labor's Bureau of Work Training Operation Mainstream).

Hilary Sandoval, Jr., Small Business Administrator, said the SBA's Operation Mainstream will bring all the programs and services of the agency together in a coordinated effort to put more minority individuals into business and help them succeed.

Closer coordination with other government agencies at all levels; and new and stronger ties with trade associations, financial institutions, larger businesses, and local civic and business organizations are featured in SBA's Operation Mainstream. They all will have a stake in this vital effort, Sandoval said.



The village of Alakanuk, located on the Bering Sea, is slated to build a community hall for village activities. Meetings are presently held in an abandoned church building not belonging to the village, and the villagers make only necessary minor maintenance repairs.

Legal Health Study

A recent OEO grant of \$270,353 for research to examine health laws and unequal provision of health care for the poor will be conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles.

The project will study legal aspects of the availability of medical services and public health programs; participation of the poor in planning of health care resources; the adequacy of existing laws and the enforcement of government regulations for environmental hazards to health as well as disability compensation programs.

Few of the Legal Services Program lawyers around the nation are familiar with the legal side of the poor's health problems, states a federal official.

Plans Job Banks

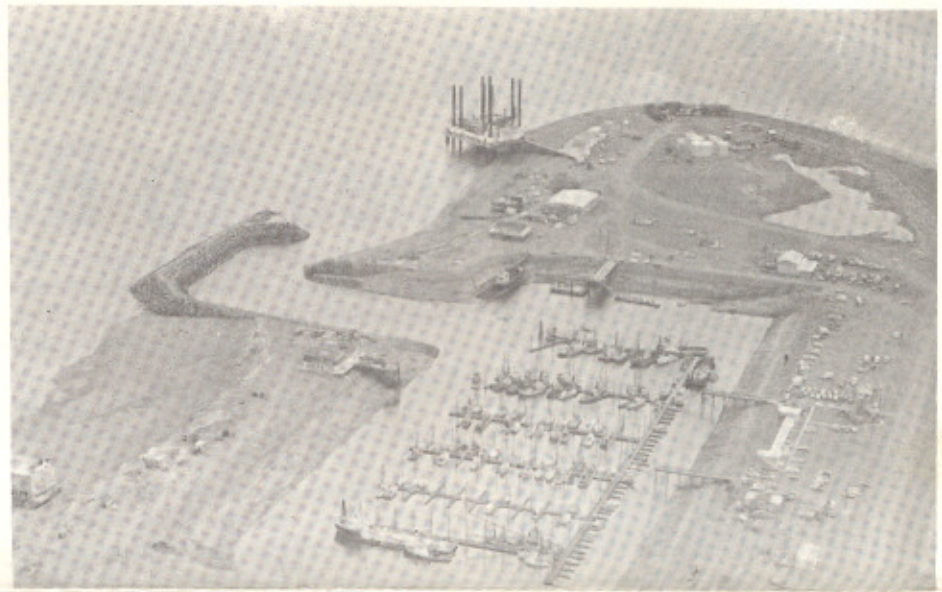
(Continued from Page 1)

training, adult education workshop skin-sewing classes and so forth.

Commissioner Moore said, "Local employment offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks had special employment interviewers who were working in outreach programs to assist villagers.

"Our records reflect that North Slope oil exploration and drilling firms in 1968 listed 155 openings with our State Employment offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks, with our offices placing 102 Alaskans in various jobs with them," Moore noted.

This has not answered the problem of many villagers. Therefore, RurALCAP is attempting to find a solution for these men through the job banks. The Community Development Committee feels with the sources of job information and men available to the regional center job banks, only the act of bringing the two together is needed.



Moored at the Halibut Cove dock is the M/V Victor, a vessel used to train Alaskan Natives in a new fish roe processing method. The Victor is leased from Skipper Gordon Sanvik by the International Seafood, Inc., a Seattle-based firm training the men.

Director's Post Open

Applications for the position of Center Director of the Anchorage Native Welcome Center are presently being accepted by the Board of Directors.

Those interested persons must have maturity, ability to communicate constructively, thorough knowledge of Alaskan village environment and experience in general office administration.

Inquiries and applications should be addressed to the: Board of Directors, Anchorage Native Welcome Center, 105 W. Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; or telephone, 272-5448.

The Welcome Center provides a meeting place for Anchorage newcomers to get information and guidance on city living. The Center opened in winter, 1968.

Oops - - - We Slipped

The editor regrets any confusion that may have resulted from the June 6 issue of Action Reports in which an article entitled, "Opening Bureau" on page four (4) stated: "The directors in the field - - - ." The article should have read: "The directors of projects or programs in the field - - - (meaning the central offices of the regions, such as Anchorage) - - -."

RurALCAP's ACTION REPORTS welcomes news items and reports on Community problems, special projects and progress in all parts of rural Alaska where the war against poverty is being waged. Community workers are urged to send reports on any items of interest to this paper at the address listed below.

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

RurALCAP



Partners for Progress
with Alaska's Communities

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

TO:

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 312
Anchorage
Alaska