

# RurALCAP's ACTION REPORTS

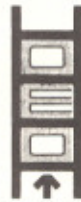
RurALCAP



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.



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## Plans House/Lodge

Residents of Arctic Village are planning to build a Community house and lodge with Operation Mainstream Training funds and help from the Bureau of Indian Affairs sawmill.

The construction workers were trained by BIA Supervisor Walter Sellens in running a sawmill, and by BIA representative Tom McGill in log cutting.

The Arctic Villagers are cutting logs and rafting them down the Chandalar River to the village.

The community house construction project is underway in conjunction with a BIA housing project. Two new chain saws have been provided by the BIA for the two endeavors.

Operation Mainstream director Mary Gange says villagers participating in the projects are expected to be very capable construction workers when their work is finished.

Arctic Village is located in Northeastern Alaska and has about 100 residents.

## Willow Community Library

### Gives Villagers Reading Facility

The Willow community library, project funded by Operation Mainstream and backed with considerable in-kind contribution from the people of Willow and Neighborhood Youth Corps is in full operation.

Operation Mainstream authorized \$6,200 funding for the project. Willow had no library facilities before starting the new building.

The library is furnished with 30 book-cases and 13 chairs contributed by RurALCAP, which also supplied 300 books to the initial 300 books Operation Mainstream provided.

Mrs. Mary Gange, director of Operation Mainstream, said, "For a town the size of Willow, we commend the people for their community efforts."

She said citizens of Willow have contributed more than \$7,000 in in-kind

materials, fixtures and equipment used for the library. Robert Douglas, expeditor and Lloyd DeHart, supervisor, headed up the library building project.

The community, in addition to donating work and materials, made and sold quilts and applied the proceeds to building materials, said Mrs. Gange.

The 24 by 32 foot building has a full basement, well water, bathroom facilities and oil heat furnace with ducts, all donated by the community.

Operation Mainstream is a program jointly sponsored by RurALCAP and the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Work Training Programs.

## Brayton Resignation

Mrs. Marlene Johnson, chairman and spokesman for the RurALCAP Board of Directors made this statement regarding the resignation of Larry Brayton, executive director of RurALCAP to the Action Reports' editor.

"RurALCAP has utilized the services of Larry Brayton for the past two years. He recently notified the Board that he will soon be resigning."

"Although there has been much adverse publicity regarding the reason for his resignation, there is no controversy between the Board and Brayton. His reasons for leaving are his own."

"As far as the Board is concerned, the working relationship between the Board and Brayton has been very good and we hope it will continue so until he leaves us."

"The Board feels it can never repay Brayton for his dedicated work. It will take about five years for us to realize the great impact Brayton has made for RurALCAP. He will continue working in his position as executive director until the Board can find a replacement."



The children of Willow are using the community's first library, constructed with Operation Mainstream funds and donations of work and materials by Willow residents. Books, cases and chairs were donated by Operation Mainstream and RurALCAP.

## RurALCAP



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## Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

LARRY BRAYTON, Executive Director  
ELIZABETH GOSS, Editor

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## Finishes Road, Builds Bulkhead

Akhiok has completed putting through an access road and rebuilding the bridge/bulkhead that had continually become damaged due to high tides.

Akhiok received a \$6,000 operational grant last winter from Operation Mainstream in the RurALCAP Central office. Operation Mainstream pays only the wages of workmen on projects, so communities must supply the materials.

Mrs. Mary Gange, director of Operation Mainstream, said the workmen were unable to complete the access road last winter because of frozen ground. They had 300 feet of roadway left to complete. Now that has been done, completing the contract with Operation Mainstream.

The workmen have gone even further. They expanded the road another 3,000 feet on an in-kind basis and intend to continue into the summer.

Also, having a few hours remaining in the last work week, the men used that time to paint the kitchen side of the community hall, and do some minor repairs to the Head Start classroom, village library and village water system, according to Mrs. Gange.

The access road and bridge were badly needed to allow the people of Akhiok to travel to work safely, said Mrs. Gange. "In the past, the people had to surmount many obstacles such as crossing turbulent creek waters or to travel far distances to avoid them in order to get to their work," she said.



High water periodically flooded these homes in the Kodiak Island village of Akhiok, until a bulkhead was built to deflect the water. Pictured here, the bulkhead project is getting under way funded by Operation Mainstream.

## Holds Elections

The Kuskokwim Valley Native Association held their annual election June 3 of new officers and a board of directors.

The new officers and five-member board was elected by the full membership of the association, including State Senator Raymond C. Christiansen and State Representative George H. Hohman, Jr., both of Bethel, who were present for the elections.

The new officers are: President, District Judge Nora Gwinn; 1st vice-president, Edward Hoffman, Sr.; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Lucy Crow; secretary, Mrs. Susan Murphy; and treasurer, Mrs. Nellie Watson.

The new board of director members are: Archie Watson, Sr.; State Rep. George Hohman, Jr.; Robert Mick; Philip Guy; and Clarence Clark, Sr.



New protection against high water will be provided these Akhiok homes by the new log bulkhead shown here. The project was one of a number of village improvements funded by Operation Mainstream and carried out by Akhiok residents.

## Mentasta Women Swiftly Progress

The Mentasta Indian Village campground is swiftly changing its appearance since the women of Mentasta began building on the 1,700 foot strip.

Presently, there are two dog houses completed and six hoops made for the fish traps. A good supply of spruce roots have been pulled to tie the fish traps. The women are now working on the cache and it is almost complete. The store building is now 12 logs high and growing daily.

Mrs. Mary Gange, director of Operation Mainstream which is sponsoring the Indian Village, praised the women for their intellect, construction knowledge, fortitude and positive attitude.

Helping the Mentasta women is Virgil McClure, who lives 11 miles from Mentasta. He travels and transports his equipment to the campground, all on an in-kind basis. McClure has donated time and heavy equipment to the project from the beginning.

McClure was recently in Anchorage getting parts for his grader, which became inoperable on the Mentasta project. Even the parts are a donation from him.

Mrs. Gange especially commended Mrs. Ruth Hicks, who donated the five acres of land for the project, and Kattie Johns, Nancy Stevens, Lena Craig and Jenny Sanford for their hard, dedicated work.



Building a cache and dog houses calls for peeled logs and yards of peeled spruce roots. These women workers are refining their knowledge of traditional Indian crafts in constructing an authentic Indian village near Mentasta.

## Board Reviews Regional Projects

The community of Nome will soon have a low - income housing project, through the efforts of the Inupiak Development Corporation.

The housing project was announced by the Community Development Committee

at the RurALCAP Board of Directors meeting in Anchorage from June 3 to 5.

Inupiak initiated the project with a request presented to the Alaska State Housing Authority. It will be similar to a low-income housing project in Bethel.

The RurALCAP Board endorsed a new five-month plan of operation at the Anchorage meeting, including planning, field preview and final budget and results.

As part of the plan, all board minutes are now due for submission to the Office of Economic Opportunity, along with a list of employees earning \$10,000 annually, personnel policy and procedures, and forms from all the agencies separately funded through RurALCAP.

RurALCAP Directors heard residents of Seward commended for their work on the surplus military equipment acquisition program.

Ollit Amend, who worked on the acquisition program as a maintenance specialist and mechanic's course instructor, noted that Seward residents helped move the equipment to ready it for distribution to the villages.

Some of the heavy equipment parts are still in Seward and will be used to repair equipment in the villages where necessary, Amend added.

During the Board's executive session, RurALCAP Executive Director Larry Brayton resigned, effective upon his replacement. (See related story.)



Peeling spruce roots to use in log building construction are these women of Mentasta, workers in a project to create an authentic Indian village for visitors and travellers along the Glennallen highway. The peeled roots tie logs together; traditional log buildings have no nails.

# Remember, Sign Food Stamp Book

People who participate in the food stamp program are cautioned to sign their food stamp coupon books as soon as they buy them.

Lost or stolen food stamp coupon books are often turned over to welfare workers, OEO offices and other agencies. Unless there is a name on a book, there is no way of returning it to the rightful owner.

Concerned about the situation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has asked people to sign the food stamp coupon

## Training Center

A standing federal committee will be established to work with a Manpower Training Team established by Governor Keith Miller.

The committee is the result of a meeting between state and federal officials and the Alaska Congressional delegation in Washington. The groups will meet to work on a training center for disadvantaged Alaskans.

## Position Open

Alaska Legal Services has informed Action Reports of a position for a bookkeeper/secretary in the Anchorage office. They ask that interested persons be experienced in typing, shorthand and bookkeeping. For information contact Alaska Legal Services, 425 "G" Street, Anchorage, Alaska or call 277-8666, Anchorage.

books as soon as they are received on the outside back cover.

The Department has also reminded food stamp coupon users to buy coupons regularly. In buying food, stamp users should observe the following rules:

1. Tell the food dealer you are using stamps before he begins to check you out.
2. Show your identification card.
3. Don't try to buy non-food items with the stamps, such as soap, napkins, mops, pet foods, alcoholic drinks or tobacco. That is not allowed.
4. Don't accept \$2.00 or 50 cents food stamps for change. Don't ask for or accept cash for change or credit slips of more than 49 cents for change.
5. Tear \$2.00 food stamps out of your book only when paying for food at the store.
6. Don't try to pay back bills with food stamps.

## Youth Program

Daniel P. Moynihan, Urban Affairs advisor to the President, told newsmen the Government's Summer Youth Program will put 891,000 youngsters in jobs this summer.

Moynihan said this year's program would have a greater recreational component than last year's, and is an increase over last year's 877,000 jobs for teenagers.

A Federal expenditure of \$643.8 million for the summer work programs will be a total for this year, said Moynihan.

## Goldberg Stays With Natives

Attorney Arthur Goldberg will represent Alaska Natives in pressing for a land claims settlement before the U.S. Congress.

Goldberg's agreement was announced last week, after several weeks of conflict between the Alaska Federation of Natives and attorneys representing some of the regional and village groups belonging to the AFN.

One of the most influential attorneys in New York and Washington, Goldberg served as a Supreme Court justice, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and U.S. Secretary of Labor.

Two representatives of Goldberg's law firm are in Anchorage working with AFN leaders on the native land claims.

The conflict between Goldberg and lawyers for the regional and village groups developed over what part the Alaska attorneys representing the groups would play in the land claims case.

In his statement announcing his acceptance of the land claims case, Goldberg said he expected to be able to work with the Alaska lawyers.

"It now appears that an effective team of attorneys will be able to work together, in harmony, to help the natives formulate and advocate their position on the lands issue."

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.

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