

# Portable Antenna Brings Bilingual ... Television to Villages

JUNEAU — A demonstration to prove the feasibility of using compact, low-cost ground equipment in bringing satellite communications to Alaska's remote communities, and villages was kicked off last week in Juneau.

The state of Alaska demonstration project, which was requested by Governor William A. Egan, will make use of a small Comsat antenna and portable earth station unit to receive television and voice transmissions from Anchorage via Intelsat IV 22,300 miles above the North Pacific Ocean.

Similar demonstrations to the one in Juneau will follow during the next two months in five other Alaska communities.

Comsat is carrying out the demonstrations for the state in cooperation with RCA Alascom.

At the Juneau earth station site, to the west of Glacier Highway at about Mile 7, satellite transmissions will be received for public broadcast Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights over KINY-TV.

The television transmissions will originate in Anchorage, be transmitted by RCA microwave to Comsat's Bartlett Earth Station at Talkeetna, beamed up to Intelsat IV and then relayed back down to the Juneau earth station.

Voice transmissions will be possible both to and from Juneau via Intelsat IV.

The Juneau earth station will be open to visitors from 1 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Those visiting it will have a chance to make satellite phone calls free of charge within Alaska from 3 to 6 p.m. each day. Fifteen to 20 persons per hour will be selected at random to place calls.

At the site Thursday at noon, plans call for Governor Egan to place satellite phone calls to Governor John Burns of Hawaii and to Dr. Clayton Whitehead, director of telecommunications policy for the President, and Dean Burch, Federal Communications Commission chairman, in Washington, D.C.

The project's goal, Egan said, "is to prove that high-quality television and voice transmissions can be achieved through the use of satellites and small, low-cost earth stations.

"This must be achieved if Alaska's far-flung and remote communities are to enjoy the many kinds of information which Americans in other states have long taken for granted — among these being medical consultation and aid in times of critical illness and emergency, assistance in educational programming and instruction, news reports, and accurate weather information so vital to air and water travel throughout Alaska.

"We know that the cost of large earth stations such as the Bartlett station at Talkeetna make them economically prohibitive for rural communications."

The Federal Communications presently prohibits the use of small earth stations for fear such units might be bothered by interference problems.

"One of the main purposes of these tests is to show that quality reception is possible," Egan said, "and hopefully the FCC might reconsider its ruling, at least for Alaska."

The governor said satellite communications "are ideally suited to Alaska, with its vast distances and rugged terrain and weather. Where terrestrial transmission facilities are hard put to operate efficiently under such conditions, satellite transmission

is unhindered by them.

"A signal is beamed up to the satellite from one location and then back down to the small earth station in another distant location, almost instantaneously.

Thus, the distance and conditions on the ground between two points is of no regard in satellite communications.

"The demonstration being kicked off in Juneau is aimed at pioneering a way to utilize this satellite communications technology which already exists and is ideally suited to the 49th State."

The governor said interest by Juneau area residents "can greatly contribute to the success of the demonstration project. I hope all area residents will watch the programs being transmitted to Juneau by satellite and that everyone who has the chance to will drop by the Juneau earth station site and take a look at what is taking place there."

The satellite broadcasts over KINY-TV, each an hour's program, will be from 9 to 10 p.m. Wednesday 8 to 9 p.m. Thursday, and 9 to 10 p.m. Friday.

The opening program Wednesday night will include comments by Governor Egan about the demonstration project, a short filmed history of communications and communications satellites, and a historical film on Alaska.

Thursday night's broadcast will be an hour-long newscast originating live from KENI-TV in Anchorage. And the Friday night program will include a University of Alaska television presentation called "Campus Magazine" dealing with life at the university; and a Public Broadcasting Service educational program similar to "Sesame Street" prepared for the older children.

Among those expected to be in Juneau for the state demonstration project include General Robert G. Ruegg, head of the Alaskan Command, Rear Admiral James Palmer, 17th District Coast Guard Commandant; Fred Chieie, executive vice president

of teaching materials and resources.

"For example, there are no physics books in Eskimo," he explains.

The objective of the Bilingual Program is to help students become literate in Eskimo and English. Each year, more and more English will be taught with the emphasis gradually shifting from Eskimo. By about the fourth year, students would be learning mainly in English.

The Bilingual Program this year is continuing in the original four schools and has been extended to nine others — state schools at Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Kongiganak and North Aleknagik and BIA schools at Kasigluk, Tunutuliak, Kipnuk and Quinhagak.

Without the pioneering work of the University of Alaska's Department of Linguistics and Foreign Languages and the Eskimo Language Workshop, there would be no Bilingual Program.

Dr. Michael E. Krauss initiated Eskimo studies at the university in 1961. A visiting Japanese scholar, Osahito Miyaoka, undertook with Miss Reed in 1967 the teaching of Eskimo courses. They with Dr. Krauss, Paschal Afcan and Martha Teeluk developed the uniform system of Yupik for classroom

of RCA Alascom;

John M. Stern, Jr., Alaska Public Utilities Commission chairman; A.G. Hiebert, Alaska Education Broadcasting Commission chairman; and Ken Crandall, assistant vice president of Microwave Communications Inc., Washington, D.C.

Comsat representatives already in Juneau include W. M. Lauterbach, assistant to General Sampson for the Alaska project; Bill Patterson, manager of the Bartlett Earth Station; and Jeff Steinhorn, electronics engineer and a principal designer of the small earth station being used in Alaska.

Other communities scheduled as sites for the series of demonstrations are Kodiak, Bethel, Nome, Barrow and Fort Yukon.

instruction.

The Eskimo Language Workshop provides most of the textbook materials used in the Bilingual Program — workbooks for language training, science and mathematics workbooks, story books.

Helping to develop these special materials are Winifred Lande, an associate professor of education, and John W. Dudley, coordinator for the teaching of English as a second language. Both are assigned to the Center for Northern Educational Research.

Once a uniform system of writing in Yupik and supplemental teaching materials had been developed, the university began training bilingual Eskimos from Southwestern Alaska as teachers.

These Eskimos are now teaching Yupik in their own villages. They use the standard writing system which they learned in training sessions at the Eskimo Language Workshop. At these sessions they were also taught methods of teaching by personnel of the Center for Northern Educational Research, the BIA and the Alaska State-Operated School System.

The English language portion of the Bilingual Program is taught by the regular English-speaking classroom teachers assigned to the participating BIA and state-operated schools. These teachers also undergo special training — to learn the philosophy behind the bilingual program and methods of teaching English as a second language.

This summer they will have the opportunity to take a basic course in Yupik which would strengthen their teaching in the bilingual situation.

With the Bilingual Program in its second year and a third year in prospect, the Eskimo Language Workshop is busily engaged developing new teaching materials. One major project: an English-Eskimo and Eskimo-English dictionary.

## Postal Service Announces 3 Appointments

The United States Postal Service has announced three appointments for positions for postmasters in Alaska.

Mrs. Pearl J. White has been appointed as postmaster of Valdez, Mrs. Gerda A. Mumey has been appointed as postmaster of Homer, and Mr. Alfred Tyson has been appointed as postmaster of Saint Mary's, Alaska.

## Classified

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Please send your resume to: Mary M. Gregory Community Liaison Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation P.O. Box 536 Bethel, Alaska 99559

The deadline date for sending resumes is May 26, 1972.

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