

Rural village prompt in paying phone bill . . .

paying long distance charges. Villagers in Quinhagak can call Bethel and several other communities without charge. The villages are billed by the local telephone company in their area.

Villages which have earth stations pay no monthly service charge and have no "local" calling capability, so the earth station villages pay only for their long distance charges and are billed directly by RCA Alascom.

The village council in each community chooses the location of the telephone and selects someone to be responsible for its use.

Selection of the telephone location and the attendant is extremely important, since it determines the effectiveness of the telephone for the village.

Ideally, the telephone should be in a location that is attended at all times. In Quinhagak, the telephone is in Peter Williams' store, which is in his home. Hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. except for emergencies.

In other villages the telephone is located in the village store, community center or health clinic.

Some villages pay their attendants a salary, but the majority oversee the telephone as a community service.

Each telephone attendant keeps a daily log book to record the date, place, person calling and charge for each call. The attendants also explain the charges for the use of the telephone to all users.

Most villages with VHF telephones have a small service charge for use of the phone, in addition to charges for long distance charges.

Some villages get into financial trouble with their village telephones because of administrative problems. In some cases the telephone is in a location that is not attended at all times and unauthorized calls can be made.

In other cases the village does not have an active collection policy and the bill can become so large that available village funds will not cover it.

One village council allowed the telephone attendant to keep 25 per cent of all money he collected for telephone calls. That put the village behind 25 per cent each month, even if money for every long distance call had been collected, since there was no additional charge for making calls.

Eventually the village got so far behind in its bill that service was cut off.

RCA Alascom has instituted procedures to assist villages in setting up effective programs to administer their telephones.

Bert Campbell of RCA Alascom's community affairs staff has been assisting villages, particularly those which have had problems with telephone bills, to meet with village council members of telephone attendants.

Campbell goes through a checklist for telephone administration with the villagers, emphasizing the importance of telephone location and selection of a village attendant.

A payment program can be set up for villages which are behind in

(Continued from page 4)

paying their bills. During the past month, Campbell has visited 19 villages and makes frequent trips to assist in improving administration of bush phones.

A number of new procedures are being set up for administration of earth station telephones. A packet of information has been sent to earth station villages and the mailing is followed up by telephone calls to attendants to make sure they understand the information.

The packet includes instructions for telephone attendants on the use of the telephone, along with typical rates and information on how to compute the federal tax on long-distance calls.

Telephone directories for Anchorage and the major community nearest the village also are included in the mailing.

In addition, RCA Alascom is updating its Bush Telephone Operations Manual to include information on the earth station program.

This instruction booklet will

contain information on the various aspects of operating a village telephone.

RCA Alascom also has prepared a comic book titled "How to Use the Telephone in Alaska" which is designed to help familiarize students with the telephone.

The monthly Alascom newsletter "Rural Communications" contains information on various aspects of the bush telephone program.

To help school children, many of whom have never used a telephone, learn about

communications, RCA Alascom has developed a puppet show which will be shown throughout bush Alaska.

The puppet show, with two members of Alascom's public affairs staff as puppeteers, presents information on satellite communications in entertainment form.

The show, booklets and other instructional material, along with personal visits, are designed to make the transition to advanced satellite communications easier for rural Alaska.

Postal resolution supported

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, recently joined a majority of his colleagues in supporting a resolution which seeks to keep the U.S. Postal Service from closing numerous small post offices around the nation as part of a cost-cutting program.

The resolution (H.Res. 1216) states the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that: "The U.S. Postal Service may not close or suspend operation of any post offices, without compelling need, or implement any major service reductions within one year of adoption."

The resolution also urges the Postal Service to continue cost-cutting programs which do not affect service levels.

"This resolution cites the importance of the mail service, and particularly the small post office which is so important to Alaska's bush communities," said Young. "It's imperative that in its attempts to cut costs the Postal Service does not lose sight of the valuable services provided by Alaska's remote post offices. I would prefer that they cut costs in non-service areas, rather than in areas which would adversely affect the public."

The resolution also cites the following:

(1) New policies and guidelines

LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS
STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Sealed bids in single copy for furnishing all labor, materials and equipment, and performing all work on Project BW-TQS-0646(5), Ballaine Road Bicycle Path described herein, will be received until 2:00 p.m. prevailing time, July 22, 1976 in the Commissioner's Office, Department of Highways, Island Center Building, Douglas, Alaska.

This project will consist of light grading and hot asphalt paving along 4.36 miles of bicycle path. Principal items of work consist of the following: 8,800 cubic yards of borrow and 1,500 tons of asphalt bicycle path.

All work shall be completed in 60 Calendar days.

In accordance with requirements set forth by the "Federal Highway Administration," the following provisions are made a part of all advertisements for highway construction contracts:

Bidders must submit certifications stating whether or not they intend to subcontract a portion of the work and, if so, that they have taken affirmative action to seek out and consider minority business enterprises as potential subcontractors. Each bidder intending to subcontract part of the contract work shall make contact with potential minority business enterprise subcontractors to affirmatively solicit their interest, capability and prices, and shall document the results of such contacts. A bidder's failure to submit this certification or submission of a false certification shall render his bid nonresponsive.

Certification form (14-60) and a Directory of Minority Business Enterprises will be included with the bidding documents.

Plans and specifications may be obtained by all who have a bona fide need for them for bidding purposes from the Chief Road Design Engineer, P. O. Box 1467, Juneau, Alaska 99802 at a charge of \$10.00 (non-refundable) for each assembly. Checks or money orders should be made payable to: State of Alaska, Department of Highways. Plans may be examined at Department of Highway Offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Valdez.

H. D. Scougal
Commissioner of Highways

Pub.: June 30, July 7 & 14, 1976.

regarding the closing of small post offices were promulgated by the U.S. Postal Service without comment by the public, employee organizations, or the Congress;

(2) The U.S. Code states that no small post office may be closed solely for operating at a deficit;

(3) Reductions in business deliveries have been implemented, and cuts in delivery days are being considered;

(4) Those and other accomplished or proposed service reductions, together with rate increases have caused the public to lose confidence in the Postal Service;

(5) The U.S. Code provides for annual appropriations as reimbursement for providing a maximum degree of effective and regular service in communities nationwide, regardless of whether their post offices are self-sustaining; and

(6) Congress is currently considering temporarily increasing Postal Service funding levels while a complete Postal Service financial study is conducted.

LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS
STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Sealed bids in single copy for furnishing all labor, materials and equipment, and performing all work on Project TQS-RS-0525(18), Wasilla to Fishhook Paving described herein, will be received until 2:00 p.m. prevailing time, July 22, 1976 in the Commissioner's Office, Department of Highways, Island Center Building, Douglas, Alaska.

This project will consist of crushed aggregate base and hot asphalt paving along 10.6 miles of road.

Principal items of work consist of the following: 17,300 tons of crushed aggregate base, grading "C"; 17,500 tons of hot asphalt pavement; 1,155 tons of asphalt cement, AC-2.5; 427 square feet of standard signs; highway lighting system complete, lump sum, all required; painted traffic markings, lump sum, all required; 88 each, approaches, and 10,636 miles of reconditioning.

All work shall be completed in 60 Calendar days.

In accordance with requirements set forth by the "Federal Highway Administration," the following provisions are made a part of all advertisements for highway construction contracts:

Bidders must submit certifications stating whether or not they intend to subcontract a portion of the work and, if so, that they have taken affirmative action to seek out and consider minority business enterprises as potential subcontractors. Each bidder intending to subcontract part of the contract work shall make contact with potential minority business enterprise subcontractors to affirmatively solicit their interest, capability and prices, and shall document the results of such contacts. A bidder's failure to submit this certification or submission of a false certification shall render his bid nonresponsive.

Certification form (14-60) and a Directory of Minority Business Enterprises will be included with the bidding documents.

Plans and specifications may be obtained by all who have a bona fide need for them for bidding purposes from the Chief Road Design Engineer, P. O. Box 1467, Juneau, Alaska 99802 at a charge of \$10.00 (non-refundable) for each assembly. Checks or money orders should be made payable to: State of Alaska, Department of Highways. Plans may be examined at Department of Highway Offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Valdez.

H. D. Scougal
Commissioner of Highways

Pub.: June 30, July 7 & 14, 1976.

RCA to lease White Alice system

RCA Alaska Communications, Inc., has announced recently that the Department of Defense has approved an agreement between RCA Alascom and the U.S. Air Force for lease of the White Alice Communications System owned by the Air Force.

Alascom President Ben W. Agee called the agreement a significant breakthrough in communications of Alaska. He said, "The lease will enable Alascom to develop a modern cohesive communications program that will fully satisfy the communications requirements of Alaskans anywhere in the state."

Agee explained that the lease agreement places operation of the White Alice system with the state's long lines carrier.

It also enables Alascom to begin a three-year construction program to totally replace obsolete TROPO (radio) links

with a network of satellite earth stations to improve communications throughout the state.

Earth station construction is scheduled to relieve system constraints at traffic congested locations. The schedule was determined by service priorities and provides for uninterrupted communications for the public and military. It will enable Alascom to introduce modern communications to many remote areas of the state where service is marginal.

Over a three-year period from 1976 Alascom will construct a total of 21 earth stations. Locations for the construction of major earth stations are as follows: 1976—Kotzebue, Barrow, Dillingham, Adak, Galana, Unalakleet, and Unalaska; 1977—Cold Bay, Sand Point, Tanana, Indian Mountain, Fort Yukon, Kodiak and Shemya; and 1978—King Salmon, McGrath, Iliamna, Sparrevohn, Cape Romanzoff, Cape Newenham and Cape Lisbourne.

Alascom President Agee said conversion of the White Alice system to a commercial long lines system gives Alaska several advantages. Primarily, it permits Alascom to add urgently needed circuits in the rural areas of the state by re-routing traffic over the White Alice circuits, phasing out obsolete TROPO (radio) systems, and freeing the system of traffic bottlenecks with installation of new facilities at critical service points.

Snowmobile repair garages

WASHINGTON—Five Alaska villages will be the recipients of snowmobile repair garages built with funds awarded by the Economic Development Administration, the office of Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, announced recently.

A Kotzebue-based non-profit corporation, Mauneluk Associates, was awarded the \$308,000 grant to construct the garages.

The garages, for the shelter and repair of snow vehicles, will be built in the villages of Buckland,

Kiana, Kivilina, Norvick and Shungnak. During the summer, the buildings will serve as repair centers for outboard motors and city-owned equipment.

Wind . . .

(Continued from Page 6)

implement a project using wind power for agriculture in Kodiak."

All projects will be monitored and recorded, with the information made available to the public, according to the energy director. "We hope to prove wind power to be a viable economic alternative to fossil fuels and that these alternate energy projects will be the first of many serving all Alaskans."

Alaska Journal

Just how directly the health and vigor of a community's newspapers reflect the conditions of the community itself is the underlying theme of a lead article in THE ALASKA JOURNAL, a quarterly publication on the history and arts of the North, released this week.

Alaska's interior city of Iditarod, scene of one of the last great gold rushes, quickly spawned two competing newspapers and other marks of civilization promptly followed.

In addition to the newspapers, there were eventually 2 banks, 12 saloons, 2 wholesale liquor houses, a hospital and a population approaching 6,000 early in the century.

But gold production did not live up to expectations, business indicators began to slip, people drifted away and one of the newspapers died. The surviving paper struggled on, finally giving up in 1919. It was one of the first and one of the last business enterprises in the community.

Other features of the Spring issue of the JOURNAL, published by Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, cover the remarkable photography of Clarence Leroy Andrews, who was among the first to capture frontier Alaska on glass plates, the wreck of the Revenue Cutter

SUBSCRIBE!!!