

# **RCA announces DDD capabilities for Ketchikan area**

**KETCHIKAN** — Ketchikan and six other Southeast Alaska communities will convert to direct distance dialing on March 6, extending DDD to all reas of the state, RCA Alaska Communications, Inc., announced today.

Working with local telephone companies, RCA Alascom is extending DDD capability to Ketchikan, Craig, Hydaburg, Annette, Wrangell, Metlakatla and Klawock. Residents of those communities will be able to dial their own long distance calls for the first time.

The conversion to DDD was made possible by the completion of a microwave system which links Ketchikan and its tributaries to RCA Alascom's switching center at Lena Point near Juneau.

The manual operator board in Ketchikan will be phased out and long distance telephone traffic previously handled through Ketchikan will be routed to operators in downtown Juneau through the switch at Lena Point.

The RCA Alascom operators work with traffic operator position system (TOPS) units which are eature of the northern electric SP-1 switching system in operation at Lena Point.

Before TOPS units allow operators to handle calls more rapidly with less chance of human error. The TOPS consoles handle many functions automatically and even notify the operator of an error and what must be done to correct it and complete the call.