

VILLAGES GET 24 HR. RADIO



RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS—Medical assistance by radio is important in remote villages of Alaska. Here Janet Napoleon, PHS medical aide, receives instructions by radio from the Doctor at Bethel Hospital for a patient at Hooper Bay.

—Bureau of Indian Affairs Photo

BIA-PHS Installing Emergency Radio Sets in Remote Areas

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Public Health Service are currently cooperating to provide villages radio contact 24 hours a day

to take care of health needs and emergencies.

Don Stichler, BIA electronics technician, has been installing new sets in BIA schools and PHS clinics in the Fairbanks District during the past few months.

The sets are new known as single side band (SSB) which means simply that the AM frequency is cut in two parts, the upper and the lower side band.

Bureau schools will use the upper side band and PHS the lower on same frequencies. Single side band doubles the working capacity of any given frequency and out-powers comparable AM units.

Recent government regulation now requires that SSB be used by all federal installations in Alaska. The new system cuts down on the overuse of existing AM transmitters.

It has been a common knowledge in the past that on the existing frequencies, and many of them on the same time schedule, the traffic got so crowded that it sometimes took a message several hours to get through.

In time, each agency or installation will have its own radio unit, its own band and its own time schedule. When these are completed, the older AM radios will be left in villages for a time as

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Village Radios

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back-up stations.

EMERGENCY STATIONS

Emergency listening stations are also being installed. The first of these is now operable at the PHS hospital in Tanana. It has two 1,000 watt SSB units with remote controls at the nurses' stations.

The Tanana station is attended 24 hours a day making it possible for emergency calls to be heard and attended to speedily.

Similar stations are planned for PHS hospitals in Barrow, Kotzebue, Bethel, Kanakanak, and in Anchorage.

Stichler and his assistant George Kidder plan to complete SSB installations in the Fairbanks District in the near future with additional work at Barrow, Wainwright, Kaktovik on Barter Island, and Kaltag down the Yukon River.

Installation of new radios is being planned in the many villages of the Bethel area in lower Kuskokwim in 1969.