

Grayling tunes in

By Mattie Pat Shaw

Most of the communities around Grayling have had TV for quite some time, and, but for the efforts of Grayling civic leaders, who persisted, there would still be no television for the local residents, and anyone wishing to enjoy the humor of "Fonzie" or the crazy antics of "Mork from Ork," would have to go over to Shageluk or some other, more distant village.

The great moment arrived at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 22. Wires were connected, all the right buttons and switches were pushed and pulled, lighting up the T.V. sets around the community. That first night, everyone in Grayling found someone with a TV and settled down for a night of entertainment.

Now, Grayling not only boasts running water, electricity and sewage in every home—but also television. Either we've come a long way—or we've gone a long way—only time will tell.

Henry Deacon got the TV ball rolling in February 1979, when, at the insistence of Grayling residents, he contacted State Senator John Sackett in Juneau. Senator Sackett promised to help. He did. He introduced a special bill requesting television services for Grayling. The bill was approved.

Henry Deacon in August 1979, visited the offices of Sen Stevens and requested an FCC license for Grayling. Members of the Grayling City Council, led by City council secretary, Tom Leffew, were untiring in their efforts to bring in television, making countless calls and writing letters to state and local officials.

On December 6th, the FCC license was finally approved, two days after the tragic death of Tom Leffew in a plane crash.

Sometimes it's so easy to enjoy the benefits without remembering the effort and frustration involved in the obtainment—but Grayling will remember.