

RCA Direct Distance Dialing System Causes Big Rush

A telephone engineer at Municipal Utilities System in Fairbanks pointed to the rapidly moving circuits, switches, and lighted trunk lines.

"That guy didn't get through," he said. "That one tried and failed. That one made it."

Over-enthusiastic users of the new Direct Distance Dialing System which went into effect Sun-

day at 12:01 a.m. overloaded the system Monday during peak business hours.

MUS telephone manager, Dale Wormus said this had been anticipated to some extent. "It's human nature to try out something new," he observed.

RCA officials could not give an exact traffic count but it was obvious that the 40 to 58 long distance lines were "going wild"

as one technician put it.

By the middle of the week, it was expected that the novelty would wear off and traffic would revert to normal.

"The average person," said Mr. Wormus, "has no idea how complex his phone system is."

MUS is still operating with some equipment 20 years old. "It's like driving around in a Model-T," he said. "It's a good Model-T, but it doesn't have all the latest improvements."

RCA is bringing on some very sophisticated equipment, such as the new DDD equipment. MUS is hopeful that a bond issue to be put before the voters on June 13 may provide some funds for badly needed upgrading of local equipment.

(Continued on Page 6)



WHO SHALL WE CALL? — Jimmy Oscar and Willy Pitka on Nunapitsinchak ponder the prob-

lem with more fun than worry as they put the village's first and only phone to use.



COUNCIL PRESIDENT Irvin Brink breaks in Kasigluk new telephone, recently installed in the

second phase of RCA's bush phone project.

RCA DDD . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Like all else in Alaska, the phone system is a blending of the old and new, and the advanced, ultra-model DDD must tie in with a system that has survived a flood, a fire, and just general wear and tear.

If you have any complaints about telephone communications in Alaska, you might try calling your Congressman in Washington. But please, wait until next week.

(For full story on RCA's new service, see page 8.)