

Satellite Programs To Continue

FAIRBANKS — ATS-1, the radio satellite program reaching villages across the state with Native news and community service broadcasts, has received a new six-month federal grant of \$58,374 to operate the program.

Grant approval was announced Sept. 20 at Fairbanks by Melvin Charlie, director of the ATS-1.

Fifteen per cent of the total funds will be contracted out to the Fairbanks Crippled Childrens Association for their speech and hearing clinic, with the remainder for production of educational materials over ATS-1, Charlie said.

The satellite radio program, aired two hours a day, is heard in 25 villages scattered through the state, including 17 in the Tanana area.

It begins with program manager Pam Buckway, at University of Alaska station KUAC, in Fairbanks at the microphone:

"Good evening," she says. "This is K-B-2-X-T-C college remote." Then follows the date, time, program introduction and a brief pause, in case of emergency traffic."

On a given day, the program might vary from a report on ac-

tivities of the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska to the athletic competition at the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics.

One hour of morning programming is generally aimed at classroom use. The objectives here are to use cultural heritage programs and stories of Alaska Natives to enhance a child's awareness of his past, said Charlie. Community service programs, aimed at reducing disease and accidents, may also be aired at this time.

In the evening, programs may vary from health talks with Georgianna Lincoln at the Fairbanks Native Center to a three-credit college course on teaching techniques for rural Alaska, sponsored by the National Education Association. At times like this, the program manager may take role before the program begins.

And at any time during the program, listeners in the villages may respond or ask questions.

"One program we did last year and hope to do again is a class exchange program with the University of Hawaii," Charlie said. This allows grade school youngsters in both states to exchange ideas via satellite.