



**RADIO AT 13,700 FEET**—The Bureau of Land Management radio repeater station is being put up at one of Mt. McKinley's northwest peaks at 13,700 foot level. Two technicians, Roger Wirch, left, and John Senn, are finishing up the anchor-

ing devices for protection of the radio unit from howling gales. In the background is the cloud shrouded crest of Mt. McKinley.

—INTERIOR DEPARTMENT Photo by BLM

## BLM Radio Perches at 13,700 Feet

On one of the Mt. McKinley's lesser peaks, 14,000 feet above sea level, with its perpetual ice and snow, howling blizzards, and bleak loneliness, the blue, green, and white emblem of the BLM is affixed to the highest and only radio station of its kind in the world.

The elevation may be debated, but there is no other known radio repeater station that depends solely upon the sun as its primary power source and can only be reached by supercharge equipped helicopters or expert mountain climbers.

The radio repeater station, whose mission is to enable aircraft despatchers at Anchorage to talk to aircraft over half of Alaska, is a compact and highly insulated module, designed, developed, and installed by BLM Electronic Technicians.

Built in two sections, the lower part is box-shaped, approximately 36 inches on the side, while the top section is a four-side pyramid which supports a short antenna on its peak and 10 solar converters on two of its sides.

This unique radio station is the first of a number of similar stations to be installed in the Wrangell Mountains and the Alaska Range. The stations, although anchored, are definitely portable.

Where installed at lower elevations and more easily accessible by most helicopters, the primary power source may be thermoelectric generators using propylene gas during summer months and supplemented by aircraft-type wind-driven generators during the winter months.