

BSNC calls for emphasis on Use of village hunting guides

Low cost Phones for Northwest?

Northwest Alaska may soon have the benefit of a modern, low cost regional telephone system. The OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc. of Kotzebue, has announced plans to expand its service area to include the entire NANA region and hopes to begin construction of new facilities early in 1976.

This region located just above the Arctic Circle, has eleven villages scattered over an area roughly the size of Ohio or Virginia and except for Kotzebue, has no telephone service.

Alex Hills, President of the Cooperative, said today: "Our region's most critical need is communications, and a modern reliable telephone system which can serve the complete requirements of our customers is long overdue."

"Our system when completed in late 1976, will allow every household or business to have a private telephone for the same rates now enjoyed by our Kotzebue residents with the added benefit that calls anywhere within the region can be placed without a toll charge."

Mr. Hills noted however, that, "until our system is fully operational we intend to utilize the RCA-State owned earth stations to provide a number of public toll outlets in every village where an earth station is located."

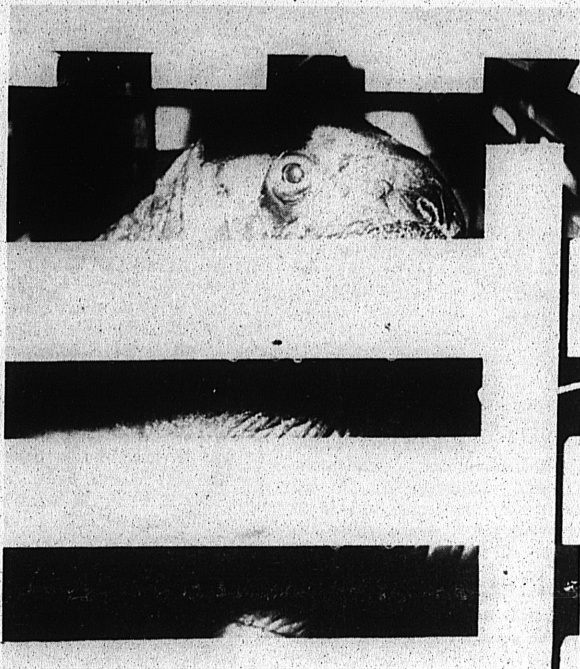
Unfortunately, this system does not address local service needs and during this interim period a toll charge will be necessary on every call placed from a village."

"Such a system as planned for our region is possible only through long term, low interest financing from the Rural Electrification Administration," Mr. Hills added; "this organization has loaned more than three billion dollars to finance rural telephone projects such as ours over the past thirty years, and are largely responsible for the provision of millions of telephones to rural areas of America which could not otherwise afford to have them."

Manager, Keith Ragsdale, explained: "plans for the regional telephone system began shortly after the cooperative was organized. The project will cost an estimated four million dollars, which will be financed over thirty five years at two percent interest."

OTZ recently applied to the Alaska Public Utilities

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BABY WALRUS—Quite a number of young walrus have been caught off the villages of Savoonga and Gambell on St. Lawrence on the Bering Sea for many years past for marine zoos in the lower 48. Adult walrus are sometimes considered more dangerous than hunting bowhead whales. They have been known to gash holes in the frame skinboats or umiaks with their tusks.

Being taught in jails-- Inupiaq language

By EMILY IPALOOK WILSON

What is it like going to jail to teach the Inupiaq language? Teaching the Eskimo language has been very rewarding. Seeing men eager to learn their own identity and culture, I am glad that I have this opportunity to help.

This new program was started

by state legislator Glenn Hackney who is a regular visitor to the state jail and is interested in these people. The program started December 2 and will last for six weeks.

Nancy McSheehy, a counselor at the state jail, organized the program which is funded by the

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Rep. Don Young--

Likes congressional job; And ANCSA amendments

"I like the job and I think I'm doing a good job," Congressman Don Young told the Tundra Times.

Young, of course, is well into campaign activities for this year's election and he is showing confidence even at this stage of the game.

"Nobody has declared to run against me from the other side as yet, but I consider this in my favor, sort of a bank on my side."

The congressman was in Fairbanks for most of the week last week and then he was planning to visit other parts of the state. Young defeated State Senator Willie Hensley in the last

go-round. Hensley is a democrat from the Kotzebue area.

Congressman Young was also happy over his part in the mark-up of amendments on the Act of 1971 (ANCSA). It is known as HR 6644 in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I was pretty happy that my bill, HR 6644, went through in good style," Young pointed out.

The "Briefing Paper" designed to accompany each member of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs stated:

"This is intended to clarify certain ambiguities in ANCSA and to deal with problems of

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Sports walrus hunting Pin-pointed by corp.

By MARGIE BAUMAN

NOME — Bering Straits Native Corporation is calling for greater emphasis on use of village hunting guides when the state takes over management of walrus herds from the federal government.

The recommendation comes in response to state proposed regulations on management of walrus when the changeover occurs.

Among the eight regulations proposed is one stating "people who do not depend on walrus for food may take one bull."

"This means people in the villages would be allowed to act as guides for resident Alaskans or non-residents. We are hoping the guide board will authorize special guiding permits for village residents who are qualified," the state proposal said.

Caleb Pungowiyi, vice president of village affairs for BSNC, argues that the state "should be more positive in authorizing village guides who are qualified to take out hunters."

After all, notes Pungowiyi, whose family is from the traditional walrus hunting village of Savoonga, "village residents in essence are the only ones who are equipped and qualified to take people walrus hunting."

Non-Native hunting guides from outside the region may offer customers seal mammal hunting trips, when it comes right down to it, what they do is collect a large fee for bringing the customer to a Bering Straits

village where veteran Eskimo walrus hunters do the actual guiding, for a smaller fee.

Since the proposed regulations would have obvious economic impact on the region, Bering Straits is taking a stand. Of equal importance, of course, is concern for preserving an environmental situation to support the traditional culture of the region.

To qualify as a village walrus hunting guide, the hunter should not be forced to pass a technical written test, Pungowiyi said.

Pungowiyi said the criteria should be:

- * experience in walrus hunting
- * proper equipment to hunt safely on the open sea and ice of the Bering Straits
- * sufficient knowledge of weather, sea and ice conditions to provide for the safety of the hunter

—MEAT—

The experience of Eskimo hunting guides in the region has been that non-Native hunters are not interested in taking home the considerable amount of

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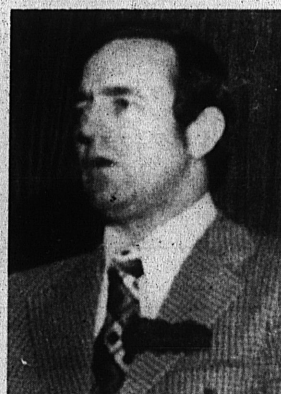
Coordinators For Arctic Winter Games appointed

Sport coordinators to select Alaskan participants for the upcoming Arctic Winter Games have been appointed by Junior Ramos, 1976 Chef De Mission. All Alaskans wishing to participate in any of the 13 Arctic Winter Games sports should contact the respective coordinator for times and places of tryouts.

The 1976 games will be held in Schefferville, Arctic Quebec during the week of March 21 thru March 28.

Negotiations are presently on-going for transporting athletes to Schefferville. Each participant should anticipate a charter cost of approximately \$500 - \$550 as their share of the transportation expenses.

Final team selections is expected to be completed by 1 February 1976 with a registration deadline of 14 February. All transportation money will be collected at the time of final registration.



DON YOUNG