



ON TO JOB CORPS—Tommy W. Porter is being sworn into the Job Corps by J.E. O'Rourke, manager of the Alaska State Manpower Center in Fairbanks. The swearing in took place on August 28. A resident of Fort Yukon, Tommy, 16, is being assigned to the Curlew Conservation Center in Curlew, Washington, which is one of many centers operated by the Job Corps.

Manhattan Comes to Grips with Icefields

ABOARD THE SS MANHATTAN—The world's largest icebreaker began the job she was designed for as Humble Oil & Refining Company's especially converted tanker pointed her bow into an extensive ice pack in Baffin Bay.

The SS Manhattan warily approached the pack, some 1,500 miles after departing Halifax, Nova Scotia, at dusk last evening shortly after crossing the Arctic Circle at 66 degrees and 33 minutes north, latitude, 58 degrees west longitude.

Humble's mighty icebreaking tanker approached the ice pack along a path strewn with towering icebergs, bergy bits, cottage-sized pieces of bergs, and growlers, chunks of ice the size of a family automobile.

Working her way through the maze, the Manhattan shared the seaway with the John A. MacDonald, a Canadian Department of Transport icebreaker. The Canadian vessel joined the Manhattan Saturday night for her attempt to cut a channel through the Northwest Passage.

Humble's ship, which was certified as a tanker-oceanographic research vessel by the U.S. Coast Guard after extensive modification and ice-strengthening, is to be the first commercial vessel to ever attempt a passage through the Canadian Arctic.

Humble is using the elaborately instrumented vessel to precisely determine the ice conditions a proposed new generation of tankers might expect during year-round use of the Northwest Passage.

Data acquired by the Manhattan will also be used to determine the design and economic feasibility of ice-strengthened tankers

that could bring new crude oil supplies from Alaska's North Slope to the United States' East Coast.

"Today's test will give us a real idea of the behavior of the vessel and the performance of our instrumentation in ice," S.B. Haas, project manager said. "The Baffin Bay pack will not be a severe test for us, the ice is three feet or so thick according to reconnaissance reports, but it offers us an excellent opportunity to develop a 'feel' for the project before we reach the truly difficult ice in the Passage."

Mr. Haas said the Baffin Bay pack contained stretches of ice that included the remains of old ice ridges.

"These will be relatively hard spots, and we should obtain some good data testing them," he said.

Unique Dial System for Medical Assistance in Alaska Coming

WASHINGTON—Physicians throughout Alaska will soon have access to a unique dial system for medical assistance, according to U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel.

Gravel said that physicians and technicians who have access to a telephone will be able to dial one of several code numbers and hear an audio tape on a specific patient problem, depending on the code dialed.

"The National Center for Biomedical Communications has supported the service," Gravel said, "and is installing its own

ground station in Maryland through which it will communicate with Alaska."

The station will be on site this week Gravel said.

Bernard Poirier, special assistant to Gravel who has been assigned to this program, will outline the dial system Thursday in a speech prepared for a Satellite Communications Conference in Anchorage.

"The system will not, however, necessarily be dependent on the availability of a satellite," he said.

The communications link was developed as part of a satellite communications package that Gravel has been working on for Alaska.

Gravel said he approached the center with regard to the nine-month program he has proposed to bring live educational and cultural television to Alaska. Four sites have been mentioned for the first phase of this pilot program—Fairbanks, Fort Yukon, Nome and Kodiak.

"During the scope of our discussions," Gravel said, "we discovered that this service could be made available to Alaska regardless of the status of the satellite."

"The National Center supported the concept," Gravel said, "and is seeking additional ways

to increase its medical services to the state."

The system, which Gravel said would soon be operational is the Wisconsin Dial Access System (WDAS). Basic costs of the system will be borne by the federal government, Gravel said.

Gravel said he is also discussing the possibility of linking the Vermont system with the national Center system. The Vermont system provides specialty diagnostic and therapeutic information, he said.

"Once the satellite system is functional," Gravel said, "the Center, through the National Medical Audiovisual Center, will provide motion pictures, slides and videotapes to be used as part of the medical education system of the program."

At that time, Gravel said, physicians and technicians throughout Alaska will have at their fingertips the latest available medical information, audio and video.

"The more we delve into this communications program," Gravel said, "the more evidence we find to substantiate the need for the complete system."

"The benefits available under the system certainly warrant a massive effort by all those concerned with the welfare of the people of Alaska," he said.

Long Distance For Ft. Yukon

SEATTLE, WASH.—Colonel Jack C. O'Dell, Commander of the Alaska Communication System, announced that the ACS has extended nationwide long distance telephone network service to two Alaska communities—Teller and Fort Yukon.

On 13 August, operator direct dial service was offered to local exchange subscribers at Teller. State Senator and Mrs. Robert Blodgett manage the Teller exchange.

On 18 August, dial telephone service was offered to subscribers of the Interior Telephone Company, Fort Yukon. The Fort Yukon exchange serves 60 people and is managed by Mr. Richard Rhyner, President of the company.

Prior to the dial connections to the long distance telephone network, communications service to Teller was on a daily schedule basis via "bush phone." Service to Fort Yukon previously consisted of one agent toll station telephone in the village.

Both exchanges are served with long distance service through the ACS Fairbanks toll switch.

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