

Faster rescue by Coast Guard

Juneau-Alaskans needing maritime search and rescue services now have a faster means of reaching the Coast Guard. A toll-free telephone system is now in service which connects the caller directly to Coast Guard rescue centers in Juneau and Kodiak.

According to head of the Coast Guard in Alaska, the new service—obtained by asking long-distance operators for ZENITH 5555 (fifty-five fifty-five)—is to be used primarily for emergency calls. Rear Admiral John B. Hayes emphasized that routine business calls to the Coast Guard should be made on regular telephone circuits.

Admiral Hayes added that the ZENITH 5555 line can also be used to report other situations which require fast response time from the Coast Guard. These are to report water pollution incidents, advise of aids to navigation not working or missing; and, to report suspected violations of U.S. fisheries laws and treaties, or gear conflicts.

Calls to ZENITH 5555 can be made from anywhere in Alaska and toll charges will be billed to the Coast Guard. "Our intent," said Admiral Hayes, "is to achieve faster response to emergency situations by making it easier for those in need to reach us."

REAA election results

Official election results released by the Division of Elections place five new members on the Southern Panhandle REAA school board this week. Two Thorne Bay residents, Allen Strahle and Richard Madden Jr., join Donna Galla of Galla Logging Camp, Lucille Hedrich of Coffman Cove, and Kathy Pesterfield of Whale Pass on the new board. The five together will assume their duties immediately, preparing for the transition of the REAA to independent status on July 1, 1976. It is presently still part of the Alaska Unorganized Borough School District which was divided into 21 Regional Educational Attendance Areas earlier this year.

Among the new school board's first responsibilities will be the establishment of a central office and the selection of a school superintendent for the coming year. The board will also be developing policy for the school's programs and practices.

The election of the Southern Panhandle board members marks the end of elections for the 21 REAAs. Earlier elections brought 142 new board members to the other twenty REAAs.

Under federal law, persons who spill pollutants in any body of water are required to notify the Coast Guard. Spills on land

FOR MARITIME
SEARCH & RESCUE...
OR TO
REPORT WATER POLLUTION...
ASK YOUR LONG DISTANCE OPERATOR FOR
ZENITH 5555
CALL THE COAST GUARD TOLL-FREE FROM ANYWHERE IN ALASKA
HELP THE COAST GUARD HELP YOU

which have the potential to enter water are also to be reported. This same law charges the Coast Guard with the responsibility for insuring clean-up of these spills.

Increased funds to aid Natives

Senator John V. Tunney (D-Calif.) recently called the plight of the American Indian in this country shameful and urged Congress to correct past wrongs by increasing funds desperately needed to improve the health, housing and education of Native Americans.

In testimony for Senate Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations, Tunney emphasized California's Indians have particularly suffered not only because of a lack of funding but because of funding formulas which discriminate against the state Native Americans.

California has one of the largest Native American populations in the nation with more than 100,000 residing in the urban areas of Los Angeles, San


"We need help to insure the continued high-quality of Alaskan waters," said Admiral Hayes, "and we think the ZENITH 5555 system will make it easier for the public to notify us about pollution incidents."

Addressing the use of the ZENITH system for reporting aids to navigation outages, Admiral Hayes pointed out that the lives of all mariners depend on lights, buoys, and beacons operating properly in their locations.

While the Coast Guard hopes that mariners will continue to report suspected fisheries violations via radio, the ZENITH system should be used once a vessel reaches port. "Too often," observed Admiral Hayes, "we respond to late reports of suspected violations only to find that the offending vessel has departed."

"We have a potentially-good reporting system with ZENITH 5555," concluded Admiral Hayes, "but it will only work if it is kept open for emergency situations."

Francisco and San Diego. In addition, there are many more on isolated reservations and rancherias scattered across the state. This growing and complex Native American population is ill-served with the inadequate patchwork of domestic services provided by federal funds.

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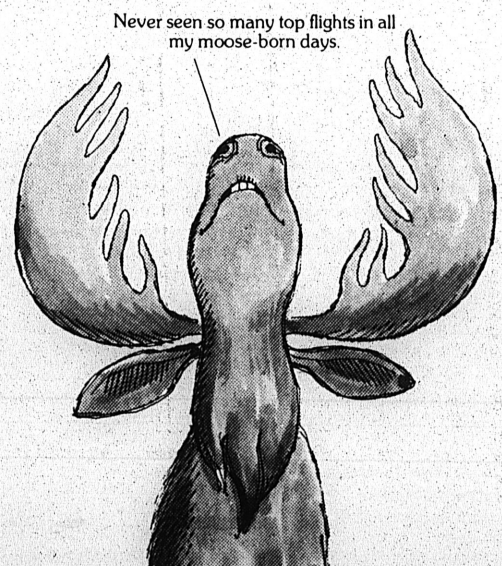
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