

88-49-04

Host Jeff Kennedy

Paul Sherry: Tanana Chiefs restoring satellite service to villages

Emil Notti: Alaska Native Foundation (non-profit formed in 1968, reorganized in 1970)

Emmonak Dancers

Mike Harper, Stan Howett: Threats to the Alaska Native consumer

Paul Sherry: Seven weeks prior to this episode of Potlatch satellite service to the villages had been disconnected. Paul Sherry, who worked for Tanana Chiefs, explains that ~November 11 [1974] programming and funding was taken over by Tanana Chiefs; from the State operated schools. Programming includes boarding home programming time, teacher traffic, community exchange, opportunities to contact health aides, to talk about pay/administration problems, various educational programs, music, conventions, meetings, potlatches, guests from fed and state agencies, etc. These programs will be on a rotating basis. The purpose of this programming is to promote village feedback about the types of things that are going on in the villages, health and education services, building services, etc.

Jeff Kennedy asked Paul Sherry about the satellite transmission schedule: Programming held in the evenings, Monday through Friday, 5/6pm – 10 pm. Hoping to get daytime schedules when village people have more opportunity to use the satellite. Stations are located in: Galena and Fort Yukon areas have a total of 16 satellite stations; with an addition of several ATS stations in Minto, Nenana, Nikolai, and Valdez. Tanana Chiefs' hope is to restore network programming to Juneau, Tanana, Nome, and Fort Yukon- for elementary school and high school students to access during the day and communicate with each other about what they've been doing.

Emil Notti: The Alaska Native Foundation originally limited its activity to helping regional corporations organize to implement the Claims Act (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act); they organized seminars around management concepts, investment policies, oil and gas leasing procedures, etc. ANF primarily is funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation, as well as other grants. Emil discusses a current [1974] project which ANF is working on: ANF is producing a history book on Alaska, centered around the Claims Act. It will be a 450 page book divided into early history (pre-western civilization), contact with Russians, territorial government, coming of statehood, organization of Native organizations and AFN around the state of Alaska, and finally a section on the Claims Act. This book is not be for profit, but rather has the goal of being for the school system at about a tenth grade reading level.

Emmonak Dancers, commentary by Father Jim Poole of station KNOM. Tom Moses and Willy Moor perform a story about a man with a sled going for drift wood; the man realizes he's getting old.

Jeff Kennedy notes that the people of Emmonak as well as other areas of Alaska have a little more money than they previously did, due to Claims Act. Consumer problems have also increased because of this. Assistant Attorney General for Alaska, Stan Howett and Executive Director of Rural CAP (Community Action Program) Mike Harpers, comment on consumer issues: Harper suggests a regional bush hearing to discuss the issues of poor air carrier service. One major issue is the size of carrier planes which have been assigned to bring materials out to the bush villages. In prior years, hearings such as this involved the local villagers, Wings Air, Civil Aeronautics Board, and Alaska Department of Transportation commission. Jeff Kennedy asked Howett how to prevent materials from arriving broken or damaged, from the cities to the villages. Howett explains that there needs to be better order in the handling and protection of the goods before and during the shipping process. They will need to check the airline's disclaimers, and find a way to examine the materials before they ship. It is also important to teach the villagers how to handle insurance claims, etc. He explains it's also important to teach villagers to speak up, as well as inform them of the importance of including insurance on their shipments. Villagers also need to be cautious of who they deal with for their shipments, insurance needs, etc. Some villages have issues of outside swindlers convincing them of unfair values of village goods. Strong leadership in each of the villages will be an essential component for overcoming these issues. Harper adds that a good way to understand who you're dealing with is for villagers to communicate with the Consumer Protection Office; this will help prevent issues from arising.