

Call Number: 02-00-29

KNOM's Opening Program as Broadcast, 7/14/1971

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Notes: Original on 3 inch reels. Master copy on CD.

Harry Gallagher begins speaking about people making the right decisions about the candidate in office during election time, should he decide again.

Music begins playing and a man says "That was Harry Gallagher, KNOM Director." Music continues.

Representative Chuck Bergman sends greetings from Juneau. Bergman is thanking those who encourage new ideas and the ones who make the station possible. Bergman says "Welcome to the Northern Lights Airways, KNOM."

According to the narrator, this is the first broadcast of KNOM Nome, Alaska.

State Representative Frank Ferguson from Kotzebue speaks at 1:40. He welcomes the KNOM. The passage is difficult to understand.

At 3:25 the narrator states that KNOM will broadcast music and educational spots. KNOM has a whole new look for radio and educational radio. Educational spots are short entertaining messages that KNOM will play in between records. An example is given. There is a man snoring and a female laughing. The spot is a promotion of getting enough sleep.

Harry Gallagher is explaining that all the KNOM employees are all volunteers. KNOM has about 70 volunteers for the positions. Some of the staff comes through the Jesuit Volunteer Office in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. William R. Wood begins discussing at 6:30, the great opportunities for Northwestern Alaska of having KNOM. He says KNOM will play a role in educating people for tomorrow.

Harry Gallagher is being interviewed and asked about where the supplies to run KNOM are coming from. He says the supply of finances come from two services: one from people who work in Nome such as free volunteers, the other from donations. One example of people volunteering time are the nurses who include Ms. Ida Shilter [?], Ms. Sally Duggan [?], and Ms. Kitty Orris [?]. The other half of the support comes from people who are interested in the work. Gallagher says they will not ask for money on air. He said they will send letters called the "Nome Static" occasionally to ask for help. Father Gryfe [?] is named as the pastor for the radio station. Father Gryfe also takes care of the mission stations in Teller and Diomed Island. Gallagher's mother is the cook and housekeeper of the radio station. The business manager is Theresa Barrick [?] or "Tweet." Jack Carr is the maintenance man. Sister Paula Cosco [?].

There is also an Alaska Native Dennis Pickengana [?] who is working through NYC [Native Youth Council] who is a radio announcer.

Music plays at 13:56.

At 16:12 talk resumes.

Bob Hope begins discussing how he wishes good luck to KNOM. He begins telling a story about an old college professor from Harvard. A narrator says it has been 9 years since Father Jim Poole first thought of a new radio station. There were many legal battles and it was year before the recording that the station received the OK. Tom Bush, KNOM chief engineer, explains the problems at 18:00. He discusses how difficult it was to build anything because of the permafrost. Because of the difficulty the station had to use technology not widely used at other stations.

*"780...AM"*

Roy Robinson of the Alaska's Broadcast Association is congratulating KNOM for their first broadcast.

A rundown of the programs scheduled for tomorrow. Bing Crosby offers his congratulations for KNOM and says that music can brighten dark corners. Congratulations to Father James Poole.

"Oddly Enough: the Alex Hill Show" will start the day at 7 am. Alex will play all kinds of music. Alex is a former Army officer, engineer, and teacher from Sparta, New Jersey. He is 28 years old and is the only KNOM announcer sporting a full beard. At 10:30 am the show "What's Happening" will play. "What's Happening" informs of public events. 11 am Tom Bush will be heavy on the country music but he promises to play a good selection. He is 23 and from Philadelphia. He has been in Nome for 1.5 years and is KNOM's chief engineer. At 12:15 pm will be the "Village Hotline" with messages to the villages. More of Tom Bush until 3 pm. 3 pm is John Fifer who comes from University of Kansas. He's been a radio announcer since he was 16. John is a rumbling tumbling 6'4 and plans on rumbling and tumbling all through your radio. John is program director and his own program will become a fixture in the lives of young people, he will play popular music. Lee McKay is the man announcing all of the shows. He is from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He's 21 and been in radio for some years now. He has his own show from 7-11 pm.

Music plays until 26:28. Lee begins thanking everyone who has made KNOM possible. From Nome: Leonard Tickenbarg [?], Carl Lovinivoc [?], Dennis [inaudible], Steve Dixon, Sam Tucker, Sara Morgan, Dan and Pete Ross, Ed Booth, Lisa Johnson, Leo Rasmuson, Ralph Ondel [?], Don Johnson, Dan Summers, Lloyd Tobuck Sr. and Jr. [sp]. From Fairbanks: Bishop Francis Gleason, Bishop Robert, Brother George [inaudible], Brother Al Laufolatl [?], St. Mary's Mission for Inspiration. From Anaheim, CA: Brother Lenny Carson. From Anchorage: Craig Barbary [sp], Marie Berry, Max Bevlendorth [?], Walter Hicel. From Washington D.C.: Joseph Henson attorney, Senator Ted Stevens, John Mulaney engineering consultant. From Burnsville, Minnesota: Leo Monroe of Collins Radio Company, inaudible. A word of special thanks to the volunteers of the past: Betty Connor, Buddy Filbert, Carol Cochril [?], Tom Carlan, Brother John

Huck, Randy Mac[inaudible], John Sch[inaudible], Terry McMahon, Lee Birkland [?]. Finally Mr. and Mrs. Oggy Liebert [?].

“We’ve Only Just Begun” closes out the show.