



call letter

850 am • 100.3 fm stereo

box 820

nome, alaska 99762

WINTER 1977-1978

VOL. XVI - NO. 2

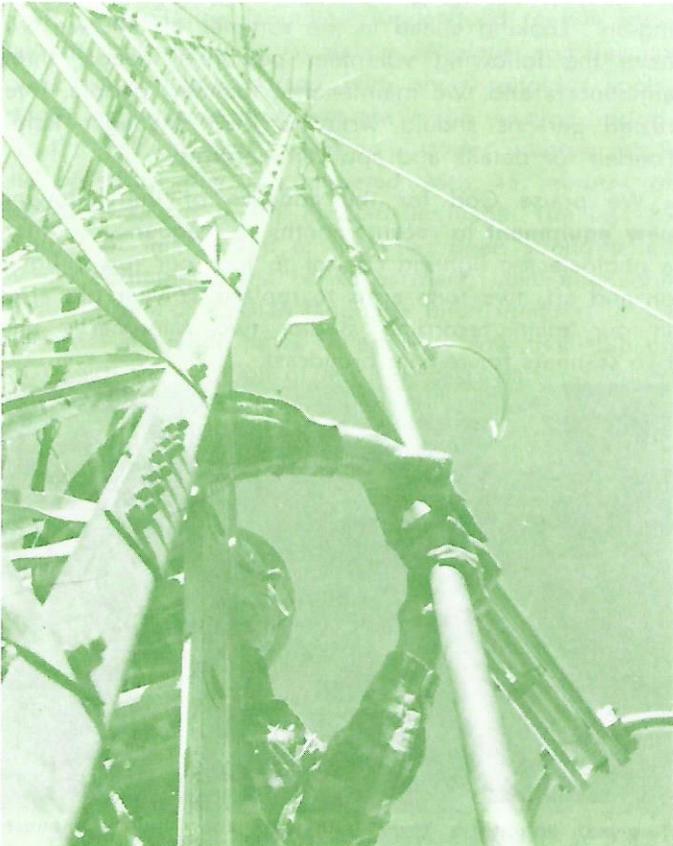
FM Is On the Air

KICY - FM began full time stereo broadcasting of its 6 A.M. to Midnight "Bright 'N Beautiful" music format on September 11. A dedication service was held on October 1, with an open house for the community on October 2.

KICY-FM broadcasts with a power of 84 watts so can be heard only in the immediate Nome area and is programmed to serve the Nome audience. It was constructed with the assistance of a \$30,000 grant from the American Lutheran Church, a cooperating mission in our area. As a result of some unexpected costs and inflation, FM equipment costs have run \$1,700 over the budget. If you would like to help wipe out this deficit send your gift to KICY and mark it "FM".

Day by day costs are low and are being met by selling advertising on FM to local merchants.

The "Bright 'N Beautiful" format means basically easy listening secular instrumental music with plans for



The FM antenna being mounted by volunteer retired Communications Engineer Al Zellmer



Manager Ralph Fondell (right) receives gift of \$30,000 for FM equipment from Bishop Clarence Solberg of the American Lutheran Church

adding religious music from our own library. Regular season college and professional sports, the bi-monthly Nome City Council meeting, and the weekly call-in show "Speak Out" are aired on KICY-FM along with newscasts at 7 A.M., Noon, and 5 and 10 P.M. Three daily five minute evangelistic programs are aired along with the 30-minute "Nightsounds" program by Bill Pearce. Several 30 and 60 second religious spots per day will be added in the near future.

The FM studio and transmitter are both located in the KICY studio building. We are using IGM automation equipment, one Otari and four Revox tape recorders, a Harris transmitter and antenna, and a Ramko all electronic control console.

Because FM is mainly automated, only one additional volunteer staff person is needed at KICY. We praise God for the expert leadership of volunteer Al Zellmer of Sacramento, CA in installing the FM equipment with the help of regular station engineers Chip Swanson and Terry Reynolds. Consulting Engineer Bob Jones of LaGrange, IL assisted in the final equipment testing. Stan Summers led the staff in program planning.

KICY-FM is primarily evangelistic in nature, geared to the needs of the Nome audience, allowing KICY-AM to carry programming of greater interest to the village listener and longer Christian nurture programs for all of Northwest Alaska.



Summer volunteer John Olfelt worked evenings remodeling to make room for the FM studio

KICY's **financial** status was affected this year by a 50% increase in utility costs and a 100% increase in property taxes. We have increased our AM air time rates 25%; FM rates are 50% of the AM rates. In spite of rising costs we were happy to be able to keep our Covenant subsidy request under \$100,000 when budgeting for 1978. "KICY Sunday" offerings (taken in area churches in April) were down this year totaling \$1,500. The Arctic Broadcasting Association tax exempt status has recently been clarified by the IRS, thus insuring that all gifts to KICY will continue to be tax exempt.

With the addition of KICY-FM geared to Nome, our AM **programming** is now directed more particularly to the isolated village listener. We continue to broadcast five-minute daily newscasts in two area Eskimo languages, and now have the Daily Light Bible readings in all three Eskimo languages understood in our area. Daytime programming is mainly religious and secular country music interspersed with short religious spots. Longer inspirational programs are in the evening (including the Eskimo Hour, children's stories, drama, etc.). The broadcast day is completed with 45 minutes of Gospel programs in the Russian language. The last 15 minutes of this section of time has been strengthened by the addition of the books of Mark, Luke and John to our library of Russian language Bible readings. More extensive statewide news coverage is now available on KICY with the addition of ten newscasts daily produced by the newly formed Alaska Radio Network composed of eight Alaska radio stations.



Doreen Englund, summer announcer volunteer, at AM Control Console



Chip Swanson (right) receives staff send-off for one year leave of absence to be Village Pastor

Our Listeners . . .

From Mekoryuk . . .

" . . . I love the songs that are played or sung by people from the different villages. . . Keep it up, we love you."

From Koyuk . . .

"I'm a steady listener to KICY. It's a great help, especially for young Christians like me and our other young people who have chosen to follow our Lord and Savior. . ."

From Unalakleet . . .

"Tonight is the second time God has strengthened me as I listened to you and the music presented. Sometimes I feel like an oddball and misplaced but when I hear you I'm encouraged."

From Nome . . .

"I am very impressed by the addition of your FM Station. I enjoy your selection of music with uninterrupted songs. Keep up the good work."

From Nome . . .

"I've been listening to it (FM) and I feel that this is the best thing that's happened to Nome in a long time! I hope it will help the morale of people . . . as it has mine already!"

From Nome . . .

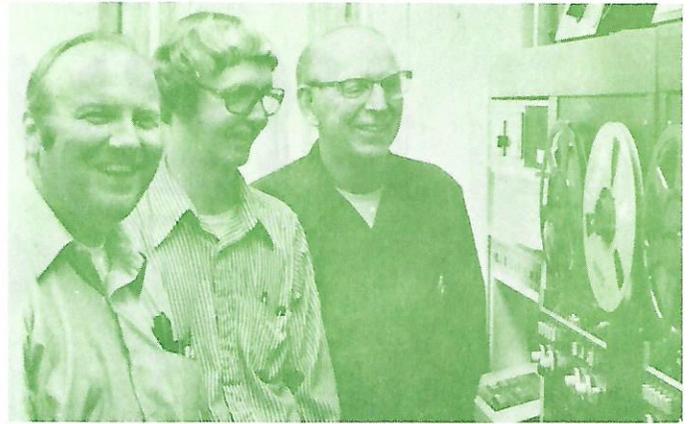
"Congratulations on the most successful debut of KICY-FM. As one who has long been hungry for some real listening music I can say only 'thank you'."



Eskimo Pastor Peter Smith (front left) and Jack Koutchak (front center) receive ordination charge from Dr. Milton Engebretson (front right), president of the Evangelical Covenant Church of America



Program Director Stan Summers at new FM Control Console



Consulting Engineer Bob Jones, KICY engineer Terry Reynolds and Summer Volunteer engineer Al Zellmer inspect FM automation gear

NEWS IN BRIEF . . .

Staff travel last spring and summer included a trip by Chip Swanson to the Covenant Lower Yukon Conference in Hooper Bay, AK., and Kathy DeVries and children to a missionary conference in Soldotna, AK.

Terry and Linda Reynolds, two-year volunteers from Warren, PA, arrived in May. Terry takes on the responsibilities of engineer; Linda gives secretarial assistance, and both help "on the air". Terry was a volunteer announcer back in the winter of 72-73.

The Lowell Mattson family from Minneapolis, MN left KICY in mid July. Now after four months of vacation and itineration they have returned for a second two-year term of volunteers.

The Ralph Fondell and Jim Engwall families both spent six weeks in the lower 48 on vacation in June and July. While there, the Fondells had the privilege of attending daughter Becky's graduation from North Park College (nursing) and her marriage to Wayne Carlson. Chief Engineer Chip Swanson left in July for a one year leave of absence. He is pastor of the Covenant Churches in the small nearby villages of White Mountain and Golovin. Station Manager, Ralph Fondell spent three weeks in October and November traveling to California and Arizona Covenant Churches representing KICY and Covenant Home Missions.

Summer volunteers this year were Karen Gerdin, Nome Elementary School art teacher, John Olfelt from Minneapolis, MN, Doreen Englund, North Park College student from Edmonton, Alberta, and Mr. and Mrs. Al Zellmer of Sacramento, CA. Karen willingly helped with



KICY staff preparing to sing during FM dedication

all sorts of duties while Doreen's work was mainly on the air. John volunteered his services evenings doing the carpentry work for our new FM station. Al, a retired communications engineer, headed up the installation of the FM. His wife, Pearl, helped out with cooking. We are grateful this fall for the volunteer help of two local young men. John Handeland and Robert Martin are presently splitting the evening shift.

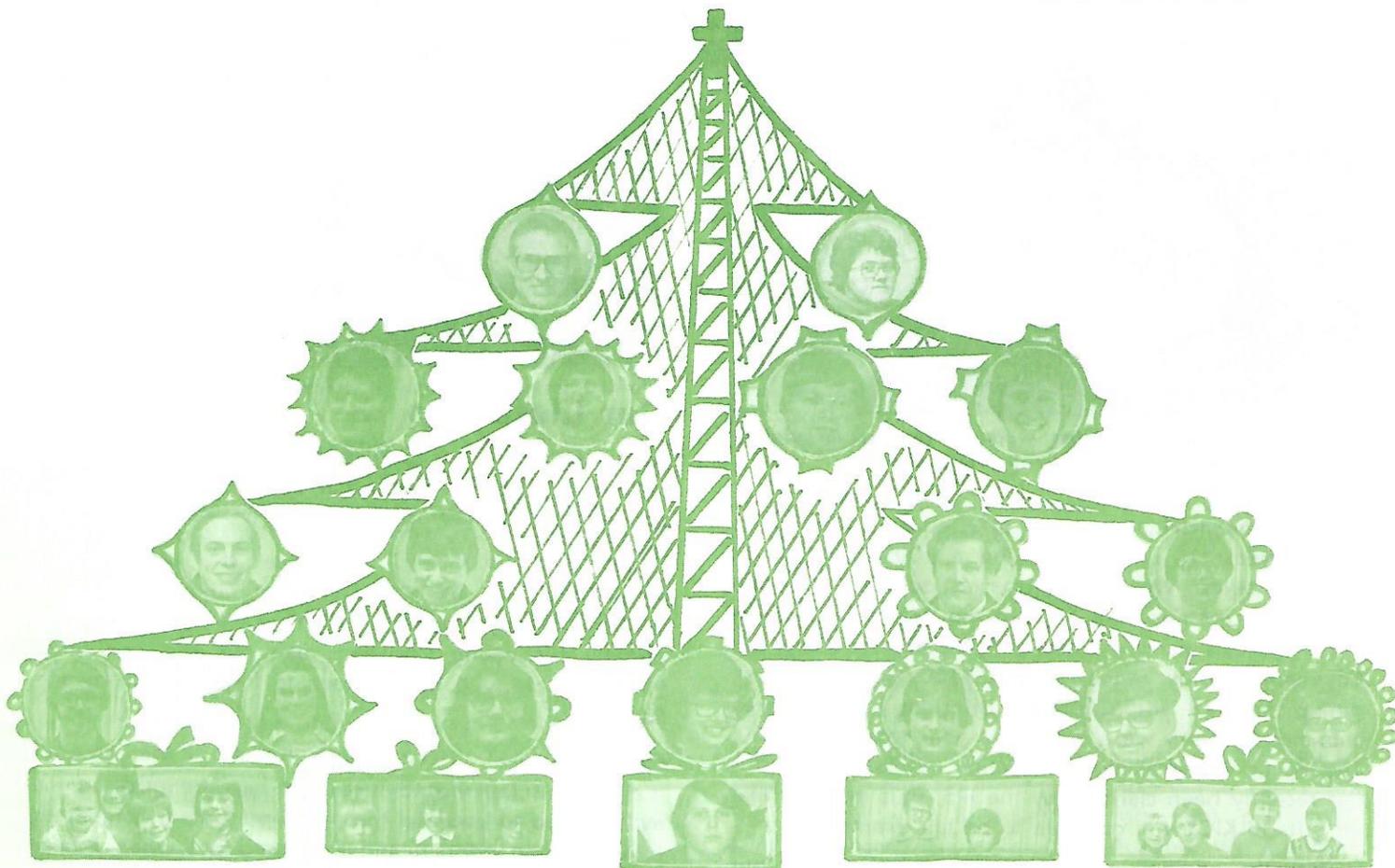
Needs . . . With the addition of our new FM station, we still need one more announcer this winter (3rd class FCC license with Broadcast Endorsement preferred). Another concern is our housing situation. We are now renting a mobile home for use by our volunteers. If you can help out with this extra-budgetary item, please designate your gift "Rental", and send it to KICY. We are trusting God for wisdom as we consider additional permanent housing by either building, buying, or "adding-on". Looking ahead to the summer of '78, we will have the following volunteer personnel needs: three announcers and two maintenance (painter) people. Interested persons should write to KICY Manager Ralph Fondell for details and application forms.

We praise God for the addition of the following **new equipment** in recent months: a frequency counter; a photoelectric lighting control to turn our tower lights on and off; two tone arms to replace 16-year old arms in our main recording studio; two Mini-Martis and two scanners for remote broadcast.



Two-year volunteers Terry (engineer) and Linda (announcer and office) Reynolds check out the FM transmitter

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE KICY STAFF



PAUSE FOR PRAYER . . .

PRAISE . . .

- . . . That the FCC inspector recently found both our AM and FM operations to be in "excellent shape".
- . . . for good health and safe travel by our staff over thousands of miles in recent months.
- . . . that the installation of the FM station went smoothly and it is now broadcasting to Nome listeners.
- . . . for new equipment to aid in KICY operations.
- . . . for a gift of \$30,000 over a period of 5 years from the Epaphroditus Foundation.

PETITION . . .

- . . . For the village pastors "on the front lines" having direct personal contact where KICY has "sown the seed".
- . . . for the volunteer announcer still needed this winter and three announcers and two maintenance volunteers for the summer of 1978.
- . . . that gifts will come in for the extra-budgetary \$4,000 needed this winter to pay the rent for additional staff housing.
- . . . for wisdom as we consider future construction of additional housing.
- . . . for the ministry of our Gospel music and Gospel programs to the people of NW Alaska.
- . . . for guidance as we continue to research possible increase in power for KICY-AM.

The KICY Call Letter is published periodically by the Staff of Radio Station KICY, Nome, Alaska. KICY was built and staffed by the Evangelical Covenant Church of America, and is operated under a subsidiary corporation, the Arctic Broadcasting Association, in cooperation with the American Lutheran Church, the Alaska District Council of the Assemblies of God and the Alaska Yearly Meeting of Friends. Correspondence may be addressed to: KICY, Box 820, Nome, Alaska 99762, or to The Evangelical Covenant Church of America, Department of Home Mission, Rev. Paul K. Anderson, Executive Secretary, 5101 North Francisco Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625.

ARCTIC BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

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Address Correction Requested