

# KICY

the voice of the arctic

# call letter

10,000 WATT • 850 am • 100.3 fm stereo

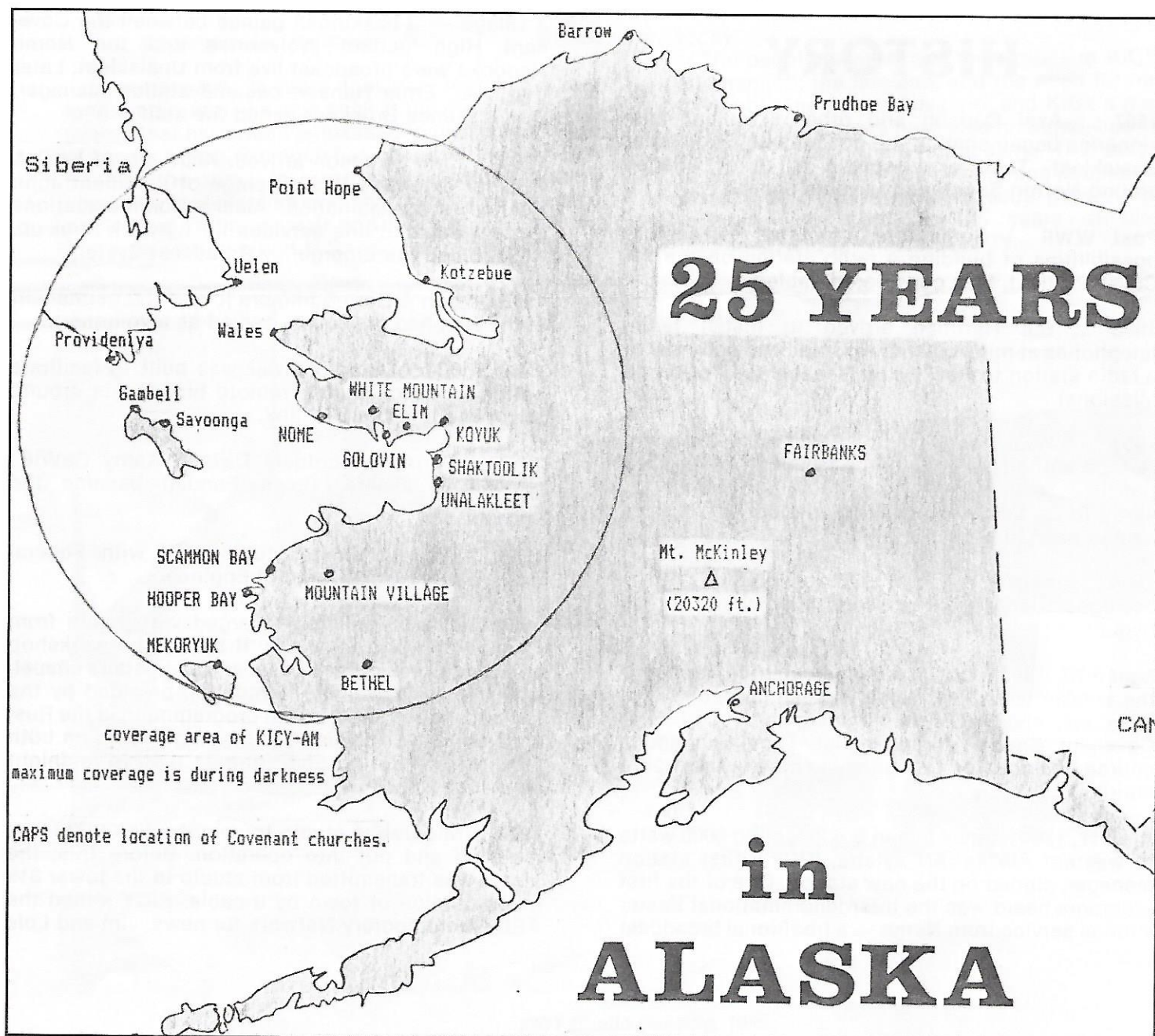
box 820

nome, alaska 99762

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25th Anniversary Edition

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# YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES ...



*KICY Studio Building - 1960*

## HISTORY

**1887** ... Axel Carlson and other Covenant missionaries began sharing the gospel with Eskimos at Unalakleet. Their work spread to other villages around Norton Sound as the years passed.

**Post WWII** ... Committee appointed to explore possibilities of building a radio station on the AK Covenant field. Idea considered, tabled.

**1956** ... Bill Hartman arrived to install radio-telephones at mission stations; reported potential of a radio station to Rev. Ralph Hansen (Sec. of World Missions).

**1957** ... Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church authorized application to FCC for radio station license in Nome ... also for other preliminary steps to be taken to begin the project. Art Zylstra named head of project.

**1958** ... Annual Meeting of ECC approved KICY project under Department of World Missions. Building began!

**March 27, 1960** ... KICY was dedicated. In Nome for the service were Rev. Ralph Hansen (Sec. of World Missions) and Rev. Paul Fryhling (pastor of First Covenant Church, Minneapolis). The Minneapolis church had donated the money to pay for the studio building.

**April 17, 1960** ... KICY began broadcasting 5000 watts to western Alaska. Art Zylstra, KICY's first station manager, signed on the new station. One of the first programs heard was the interdenominational Easter sunrise service from Nome — a traditional broadcast

which has been heard every year since. The staff at that time consisted of Art Zylstra (manager), Ralph Fondell (chief engineer), Howard Nelson (program director), and their wives.

**Summer, 1960** ... Fred and Gladys Savok join KICY. Fred was Director of Eskimo Broadcasts and developed "The Eskimo Hour" program. Both he and Gladys translated news and the gospel into native languages. They have served KICY off and on for many years.

**1961** ... Lloyd Sundstrom replaced Art Zylstra as manager. Later that year Ernie Hanson and family arrived.

**February, 1962** ... KICY's first remote broadcast from a village — 2 basketball games between the Covenant High School Wolverines and the Nome Nanooks were broadcast live from Unalakleet. Later that year, Ernie Hanson became station manager. Don & Eunice Bruckner joined the staff.

**1963** ... Chip Swanson arrived. KICY joined NBC & CBS for extensive live coverage of President John Kennedy's assassination. Alaska Communications system donated line services for network hook-up. KICY joined the Emergency Broadcast System.

**1965** ... Stan & Beth Summers joined the permanent staff; Stan had previously served as a volunteer.

**1966** ... 60-foot studio tower was built to facilitate better reception during remote broadcasts around town, and a future STL link.

**1967** ... Former volunteers Dave & Kathy DeVries replace Bruckners. Ralph Fondell became the manager of KICY.

**1969** ... Fallout shelter-studio built with Federal funds by the Army Corps of Engineers.

**1970** ... Studio building enlarged with funds from Friends of World Missions. It provided a workshop area, additional office space, and an upstairs chapel, and was built over the foundation provided by the fall-out shelter. KICY began programming in the Russian language, to Russian-speaking people on both sides of the Bering Sea, from 11 p.m. to midnight each night.

**1972** ... Microwave studio transmitter link (STL) was installed and put into operation. Before this, the signal was transmitted from studio to the tower 3½ miles outside of town by a cable. KICY joined the ABC Contemporary Network for news. Jim and Lola



Engwall arrived at KICY; they served until 1979. The Catholic Church began broadcasting via their new Nome radio station, KNOM. KICY was transferred from the auspices of the Department of World Missions to the Department of Home Missions. Studio and 5 staff houses were hooked up to sewer and water in late fall. KICY provided extensive coverage of the sea mammal hearings, designed to receive testimony from Alaskan natives who would be breaking the law by hunting the animals if the Marine Mammal Protection Act were to have become law in the original form. The bill did become law later in the year, amended to provide for subsistence and cottage industry rights for natives.

**November, 1974** ... Nome flood. KICY stayed on the air continually for 4 days disseminating information and covering the disaster.

**1975** ... KICY joined the CBS radio network.



*FOWM addition - 1970*

**1974-1976** ... Extensive village survey done. Resulting programming change was towards a "more music" format. Many larger villages had TV live via satellite at that time, and there were earth stations scheduled to be installed in every village. During this time the 1-year-furlough-every-four-years was abandoned, in favor of shorter, more frequent vacations for staff members. This had the effect of increasing the full-time staff to 5 — Ralph Fondell (manager), Stan Summers (programming), Dave DeVries (assistant manager and sales), Jim Engwall (business and news), and Chip Swanson (engineer).

**1977** ... Terry Reynolds replaces Chip Swanson as engineer. FM studio built. KICY-FM was dedicated on October 2, 1977, broadcasting 84 watts of beautiful/religious music to Nome.

**1978** ... Studio B, our production studio, was remodeled and new equipment installed.

**1980** ... Power boost year!!! The KICY transmitter building was remodeled; KICY-AM boosted power to 10,000 watts, both day and night. KICY-FM began broadcasting 24-hours/day, striving to minister to spiritually hungry and lonely people during the night. Karen Fagerstrom became our first Action Branch volunteer when she arrived in the spring to work as a nurse at the hospital. Jim Brewer arrived.

**1981** ... KICY's main control room was remodeled, original control board and tape players replaced with state-of-the-art equipment. May through September: KICY-AM stayed on-the-air all night to provide weather and fishing information and minister to the large number of fisherman who work in our listening area during the summer months.

**1982** ... Dave and Kathy DeVries leave KICY after 15 years of service.

**1983** ... Programming changes made to meet changing needs of our audiences. Music Radio 850 format, and successful contests combine to boost KICY listenership. FM transmitter replaced following an electrical accident. Doris Ahwinona joined staff; she is currently in charge of native programming.

**1984** ... Year of transition. Stan and Beth Summers left KICY following over 17 years of service. Christian radio station project for Anchorage was approved ... Ralph Fondell asked to be the fundraiser. Ralph and Gert Fondell moved to Anchorage after 25 years of living in Nome. Jim Brewer became station manager. The Associated Press provided a satellite dish to facilitate our reception of wire service news. Loan from National Covenant Properties enabled us to install satellite dish to receive high-quality network signals. We also received a Federal grant to purchase a new generator and accessories for the KICY studio building.

**Today ... 1985** ... KICY is looking ahead to serving our listeners even better. We are proud of what has been accomplished, and thankful to God for His provision throughout the years. But our task is not yet complete, and we continue to strive to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the people in this remote area of the world.

# TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. ACTS 1:8



# DID YOU KNOW?

Our **260-foot transmitter tower** has quite a story itself. Back in 1959, it arrived in Nome in pieces, sans instructions. Ralph Fondell and Dick Mack were in a race with the weather, and were forced to put the tower together as they saw fit. It was indeed put together, and erected ... when the instructions arrived weeks later it was discovered the tower was put together backwards. Back in the early 1960's, a bush plane flew into one of the tower's lower guy wires; it missed hitting the tower by only inches. In the past few years, the tower has been plagued by frost upheaval of the deadmen anchoring the guy wires which caused the tower to lean. This problem has been corrected. We know that it must be the Lord keeping that tower pointed toward Heaven!

From the beginning, KICY has had the opportunity to broadcast interviews with many well-known people. Being part of the media, most politicians make KICY part of their Nome visit to take advantage of exposure provided on "Face of our Town." Our state governor and Congressional delegation are no strangers to KICY. Others who have been heard over KICY include **Roy Rogers** (he had been polar bear hunting in Kotzebue and was returning through Nome), **Will Rogers, Jr.**, **Cecil Andrus**, **Lowell Thomas, Jr.**, astronaut **James Irwin**, **Yuri Ryetkheu** (vice president of Soviet Writer's Union), **Walter Mondale**, **Ted Kennedy**, **Art Linkletter**, **Dr. Clyde Naramore**, and **Jack Wyrzen**. We can now add to this list **James Michener**, well-known author of *Hawaii*, who visited Nome in March, soaking up local color as he prepares to write a book about Alaska.

Over the years, KICY has depended heavily on some **216 volunteers** to help out with everything from building, to painting, to being disc jockeys. Not only is radio a 7 day-a-week service, but the maintenance of the studio building, transmitter building, antennas, and 5 staff homes is a big job in this cruel climate. Many volunteers have stayed on or returned for a second term. Some have given as many as 5 years.

Watch the *Covenant Companion* this April for an article, "**KICY Celebrates**," written by Paul Lindholm of Nome. The article recounts some of the miracles which were witnessed by the men who built KICY ... it is an exciting story!

**Anchorage radio project update ...** A station in British Columbia has filed against the Covenant's proposed AM station in the Anchorage area. The Arctic Broadcasting Association, upon advice of a consulting engineer, has refiled for the same frequency, but with the provision to protect the B.C. station with directional antennas. This will delay the issuance of the license by some months and will inflate the cost of the project because of the need for an additional antenna.

## 1984 Financial Statement

### INCOME:

Net Broadcast Sales.....	\$177,300.97
Non-Restricted Gifts.....	43,166.43
Non-Restricted Gifts-Other Missions.....	3,900.00
Non-Restricted Gifts-Memorials.....	437.00
Non-Restricted Gifts-Action Branch.....	23,048.52
Rental Income.....	4,300.31
Merchandise Sale Income.....	1,325.05
Other Non-Broadcast Income.....	8,632.69
	<u>\$262,110.97</u>

### EXPENSE:

Engineering.....	\$82,698.24
Programming.....	15,380.20
News.....	17,254.38
Public Relations & Development.....	20,979.90
Personnel.....	80,026.61
Administrative.....	17,180.80
Business.....	16,646.73
Buildings & Grounds.....	61,558.52
Vehicles.....	15,920.37
	<u>\$327,645.75</u>

Expense over Income.....	(\$65,534.78)
Appropriation from	
Evangelical Covenant Church.....	\$50,000.00
Cash Gain (Loss).....	(15,534.78)
Capital Expenditures - 1984.....	\$45,564.46



# HAPPY 25TH BIRTHDAY, KICY!

## MANAGER'S MIKE

*Station Manager, Jim Brewer*



In some ways, 25 years does not seem like a very long time ... until we look back at the many historical events that have been witnessed in our "short" time of broadcasting. So much has changed, yet so much remains the same. In our first newscast is a story about the first **monkey** ever shot into space. We also carried the first moonwalk and space shuttle launch. There is a story about U.S.—Soviet relations in our

first newscast that we could probably play on our 5 o'clock news tonight, and few people would notice any difference.

The "Pause for Prayer" in our first **Call Letter** mentions praise for the arrival of city power at our transmitter site. Now we are receiving network programming direct via satellite with a signal that travels from New York into space 23,000 miles and back to Nome in less than 1/4 of a second. 1960 prayer requests include a petition for wisdom and insight in making programming decisions and for God's guidance and provision in replacing expensive equipment ... these requests continue to be repeated today.

The people, events, and technology at KICY have all changed; the mission, and the need for ministry have not. The Alaska lifestyle, and KICY's methods of reaching listeners have also changed, but the purpose in reaching them is the same. That purpose is to glorify and honor God by reaching people with the good news of the Gospel in Jesus' name.

Thank you, Lord, for 25 years of blessing, guidance, and provision at KICY.



*KICY Studio Building, 1985*



# PAUSE FOR PRAYER

## PRAISE

... for freedom of worship and press, allowing us to broadcast for 25 years to the people of Western Alaska and Siberia.

... for the many, many staff members who have given of their time, talents, and of themselves.

... for our new satellite dish, providing better network signal quality than ever before, and saving us money, besides!

... for increased sales revenue in 1984.

... for the ECCAK (Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska) Conference which was recently held in Nome. Services each evening, including excellent messages by guest speaker Rev. LuVerne Sands, were broadcast over KICY.

... for the Evangelical Covenant Church ... celebrating a century of concern for missions.

## PETITION

... for Ralph Fondell and the Anchorage radio project.

... for positive relationships and cohesiveness among staff members — we all live and work literally “shoulder to shoulder.”

... for volunteers who will be lead to join our staff this coming summer and beyond.

... for the “Hartman Amendment” and its ramifications as it is considered in committee and presented to the annual meeting in Minneapolis.

... for staff and students of Covenant High School, Unalakleet, Alaska. CHS will close in June, after many years of providing high quality education for students of this area.

# Summer 1985 Staff Needs

- 1 office manager (secretary/receptionist) 1 year starting August
- 1 sales manager - 1 year starting August
- 1 news director - 1 year starting August
- 1 cook - summer (June 1 - August 31)
- 3 maintenance/announcers - summer (June 1 - August 31)

# STAFF TRAVEL

Reynolds - returned in early February from vacation in PA/OH.

Brewers - to Covenant Mid-winter Conference in Chicago, Minneapolis, and Mankato, Minnesota.

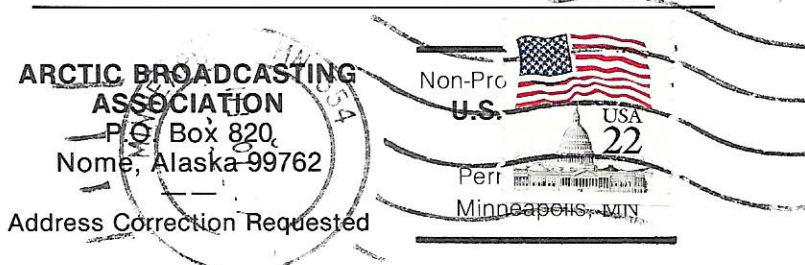
Doris Ahwinona - KICY's representative on the Alaska-Fly-In ... spoke in churches in Canada, Minnesota, Iowa, St. Louis, Florida, and Chicago, as well as attending the Mid-winter Conference.

Jay Lawton - to California for vacation in December; to Elim in February.

Dan Johnson - to Unalakleet to cover the Norton Sound 200 Sled Dog Race in February.

Geof Woodberry - to Chicago for vacation in December; to Anchorage to cover the Anchorage-Nome Gold Rush Classic Snow Machine Race in February, to Anchorage and down the trail to cover the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to Nome in March, and in late March to White Mountain to cover the Nome Sweepstakes Sled Dog Race.

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 and is operated under a subsidiary corporation, the Arctic Broadcasting Association, in cooperation with the American Lutheran Church. Correspondence may be addressed to: KICY, Box 820, Nome, Alaska 99762, or to Evangelical Covenant Church, Department of Church Growth and Evangelism, Dr. Robert C. Larson, Executive Secretary, 5101 North Francisco Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625.



**Postal Patron, Local**