

New Telephone System Ready Jan. 1 Eliminates Switchboard Operators

"As of 1 January 1961 the Kodiak area will be served by the most modern telephone equipment available, according to an announcement by Colonel George F. Rogers, commanding officer of the U. S. Army Alaska Communication System in Seattle. At that time work will have been completed to integrate the two telephone exchanges in the Kodiak area into the Alaska operator toll dialing network.

"This far-reaching change did not take place overnight, and resulted from a team effort. The ACS began negotiations with the Kodiak telephone company and the Kodiak Naval Base early in the spring of 1958. In order for the Kodiak area to be included in the toll dialing network, it was necessary for these exchanges to be modernized. Plans to effect necessary modifications were concluded in the summer of 1959. The succeeding one and one-half years have been spent in procuring and installing the necessary equipment, and in making the technical changes required.

"When the modernization on the two exchanges is completed in January, they will trunk directly through the Kodiak telephone company facilities to the ACS toll switchboard at Anchorage, and the ACS Kodiak toll switchboard will be deactivated. This action will eliminate the requirement for approximately seven long distance telephone operators presently operating the ACS switchboard. The employees affected by the change have been offered the opportunity to transfer to other ACS stations.

"Commenting on the change-over in Kodiak, ACS station commander, Master Sergeant Archie L. Zehe said, "This by no means signifies the end of the ACS Kodiak station. Ever since the Army Signal Corps opened the station on 1 March 1931, ACS has endeavored to give the people of this area the finest possible communication service. The New facilities are but another step in the continuing program of the ACS for faster and better telephone service to Alaskan communities."

"The Kodiak public business office will continue to be operated for the convenience of customers in filing telegrams, and sending telegraphic money orders to all points in the United States, its possessions, and to most foreign nations.

"The ACS will also continue to operate its Kodiak connecting line radiotelephone facilities, providing service to approximately 26 isolated communities, canneries and fishing villages in the area.

"Another service to be continued by the ACS Kodiak station is the provision of Marine radiotelephone service to vessels in adjacent waters."

LEAVES FOR MISSOURI

George Horner, chef at the Mecca 49 Room, left Tuesday for Kansas City, Mo., where he will visit relatives in a nearby town. He expects to be gone about three weeks.

Chief, Father Go To Anchorage

Chief of Police Roland Vickery and his father, Ed E. Vickery left Tuesday for Anchorage.

The elder Vickery, who is 81, Mirror Classified Ads get results

will be operated on in the mainland city. Chief Vickery will attend the annual meeting of Alaska police chiefs being held in Anchorage, returning here Sunday.

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