

BOOTLEG RADIO NET OF NW ALASKA

PROOF MARKS
Red Dot errors
on line

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When I arrived at Candle from Nome, I had heard that there were several people that had spark sets and were communicating with each other. Several days after I took over the station I started to make a schedule with WXY Nome when I was qrm'd by a spark set that I knew had to be a local. By listening to their KVN, I found out it was the local trading post manager talking to another of their stores about 30 miles away, all belonging to the same outfit. So went down and asked him to lay off during my schedules.

He was very apologetic and didn't realize he had been doing so. He wanted me to see his rig. In their living quarters above the store, he had his BC rcvr by the window and an old sewing machine (foot treadle) sitting along side it. He lifted the lid and lo and behold, up popped a breadboard with a key, coils, condenser and a spark coil from an old model T flivver with an old Atwater Kent battery rcvr. That rcvr was one of the old ones that were spaced in sections apart from each other. Anyway I found out that there were a dozen different stations like his scattered all along the coast, clear up to Barrow and owned by different outfits that kept contact with each other. Most was operated by the wives of the traders and some of those Eskimo girls were pretty good oprs.

I had been at Candle a couple months when I received an "All Stations" message from HQS in Seattle to get those illegal stns off the air as they were disrupting BCL's clear down on the Yukon. But I knew that those stns had saved quite a few lives including a couple pilots that were stranded from busted up planes and needed help and parts. So I contacted the local opr and told him the story and also told him that I always turned on my rcvr at 7AM to start the day and turned off my BC rcvr after the KNX news from LA. So to use his own judgement. Between those hours I never did hear a spark, but at 6AM or 11PM they were busy. Never did hear any more about it. But they were doing a good service. Later on tho they began to get a limited license and went tube or became hams. You gotta know when to break the rules and when not to. HI.

Larry Burrow - 3383-P

TOTAL
PAGES _____
M/S.

No. Pix _____

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