TELEVISION COMES TO PRINCE RUPERT

Big money in TV sets sold here

The advent of television in Prince Rupert through new facilities of CFTK-TV centred at Terrace, has been the biggest thing in years on the city's commercial row.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of television sets are being sold, principally by local businesses.

A dozen stores today are doing a boom business in the new entertainment devices. While most of them are long established appliance and radio dealers in the city, the new market has resulted in the opening of a few businesses.

With the surge in business in sets has come a corresponding increase in service. Radio and TV servicemen in Prince Rupert are reported working at capacity as sets go into homes throughout the city and district.

Effect of the new entertainment extends beyond the city's borders. TV claims interest in the entire northwest coastal area, and in several points off Prince Rupert where sets have been tested, reception is reported good. This has been the case on the Queen Charlotte Islands, for instance.

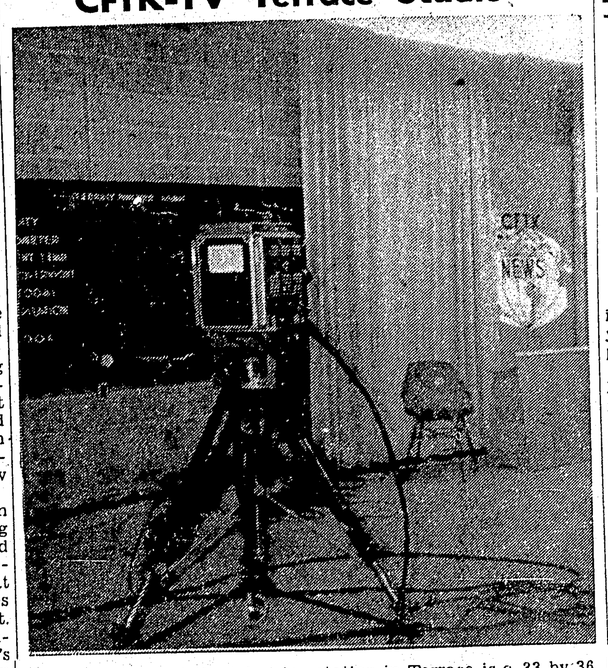
Hartley Bay, south of Prince Rupert, and Ketchikan, Alaska, have received the pictures exceptionally clear.

COUNTRY HOEDOWN

Folk music fans are regular viewers of Country Hoedown with Gordie Tapp as host and featuring Tommy Common, Tommy Hunter, the Hames Sisters, Al Cherney and the Singing, Swinging Eight. The show is seen Friday nights at 8.

The hectic and hilarious home life of entertainer Danny Williams provides a season of half-hour comedies on the "Danny Thomas Show," Mondays at 8 p.m. Danny Thomas and Marjorie Lord star as Danny and Kathy Williams, with their two children.

CFTK-TV Terrace Studio



MAIN STUDIO at the television station in Terrace is a 33 by 36 foot brick-lined cement-floored room with pull drapes lining the walls. There are two cameras to film the news, sports, and weather broadcasts besides live interviews and square dancing. As yet, the station has no facilities for filming events outside of the buildings. — Staff photos by Phylis Bowman

CONGRATULATIONS EXTENDED TO NEW TELEVISION STATION

Station CFTK-TV is to be congratulated for its history-making inauguration of television to the Prince Rupert, Terrace and Kitimat areas.

The Daily News joins residents of the three areas in extending special praise to those who strived under various mechanical complications and adverse weather conditions to make the new venture possible.

Prince Rupert and the other centres serviced by the Terrace station will indeed enjoy many hours of varied entertainment.

Many of the events and programs to be seen are illustrated in this special Daily News supplement.

A TOUR OF THE NEW TERRACE STATION

Many obstacles stood in way but TV crashed on through

By PHYLIS BOWMAN
Daily News Staff Writer

Television has become a reality in Prince Rupert almost four years to the day it was first planned and hoped for.

Ever since this possibility of having TV here was discussed in city council November 23, 1958, local residents have been waiting for it hopefully, but with some skepticism.

Last December, interest was revived with visits here of J. Fred Weber, managing director of Skeena Broadcasters Ltd., who made several trips to Ottawa to petition for a licence to operate TV in this area.

When the licence was granted May 28 of this year, construction of the studio was started shortly after, and hopes ran high.

And last Thursday television finally came to Prince Rupert.

On November 27, official word was received from the Department of Transport in Ottawa that Channel 6, Prince Rupert, had been added to the Dominion-wide network.

COMPLETE SCHEDULE

Full programming and local commercial spots started Tuesday, but a complete schedule cannot be announced as yet, as there may be some changes made.

Norman MacDonald, program director, said that many of the difficulties will be ironed out shortly and a stable program will be announced within two weeks.

At present, the studio has on hand stacks and stacks of films which are scheduled to be shown by Rupert sponsors, some of which are the Donna Reed show, Paladin, Car 54 and Ben Casey.

There are still many difficulties to be overcome in the operating department, it was learned in a visit to the Terrace studio.

Mr. Weber said there was still some equipment to be installed and adjusted. He showed where the films are piped out on a micro-wave to the main transmitter on Copper Mountain, where it is beamed to the Kwinitsa pickup point and then sent on another micro-wave to Prince Rupert.

The pickup point is a large reflector set on the river side of Highway 16 just east of Telegraph Point, and the transmitter is high up on a mountain on the other side of the river. The tower is set on top of a practically inaccessible rock cliff.

The films on which the programs are shown are not ordinary film. Called "kinascopes," they differ in the fact that they have taken pictures off of a TV monitor.

TECHNICIAN

One technician operates the films before they are sent out to the transmitter, through a large machine set in a cabinet on the wall. Another technician, called a "switcher," controls several buttons and switches on a panel to regulate the picture on the screen. Another technician remains at the transmitter on Copper Mountain during broadcast periods.

Two cameras are used for live broadcasts in the main studio. The large brick-walled building is lined with drapes all around its walls, and there are several blackboards mounted also.

For the news broadcasts, the drapes are simply pulled aside to reveal a blackboard with the world picture on it, and the announcer sits at a small table in front of it.

For the weather man and sports broadcast, their drapes are pulled in turn, in front of their blackboard, so that the one large room, which is about 33 by 36 feet is used for all the programs.

When the square dancers perform on the live program called "Totem Roundup" at 10 p.m. on Wednesday's, the drapes cover the blackboards around the room.

Lines and lines of brilliant fluorescent lights hang from the ceiling, and several large "scoop" lights focus on the subject being filmed and produce more light.

FRED WEBER
. . . manager

Mr. Weber said more scoop lights have yet to arrive and be installed.

He said also that plans were made so the camera could be lifted in order to take angle shots making the studio look somewhat large.

LIVE INTERVIEWS

As time goes on, the station hopes to have many live local interviews and programs, Mr. Weber said. For example, last week, Mr. MacDonald interviewed members of the Model Plane Club, and members of the Kitimat and Terrace Fire Departments.

A monthly program has been lined up for the Parent-Teachers Association. On January 9, the Terrace PTA has planned a panel consisting of a doctor, a welfare supervisor, a minister and a high school principal, with a magistrate as chairman, to discuss school children and some of their problems.

For the February program, it is hoped that the leaders of the Prince Rupert PTA's will arrange a program, and then Kitimat can take its turn.

LIVE DRAMA SHOW

Another program planned is a live drama show, which will be put on on a Sunday night. Terrace Little Theatre will present a one-act play first, and then the Prince Rupert Little Theatre Association has been invited to present a play of their choice the following month. Kitimat Little Theatre will also take their turn in the plan.

Another talented member of the staff is Art Bates, who is clever with his paintings and placards. It is he who has designed all of the pictures which are used during station breaks. For the commercials, Art draws pictures, or pastes them, on 10-inch by 12-inch cardboard.

The picture is photographed and made into a slide, so that it can be slipped easily into the camera to be filmed on cue.

Many of the staff double as announcers, and all of them are "most enthusiastic" over the new project and are willing to tell any visitor how it operates.

Mr. Weber said they would just "love to get on the live network."

"It would cut our work way down," he said, "but it would cost about $400,000 a year. We cannot expect live TV here for two or three years at the earliest."

Anyone who pays a visit to the studios would realize "that we are indeed lucky to be receiving TV as well as we are."

Insurmountable obstacles have been tackled and overcome, seemingly hopeless problems have been dealt with, the weather and timing changes have been solved, and the crew there is working against a heavy deadline with new equipment and as yet unorganized programming.

Canadian talent on 'Playdate'

Playdate will present 31 plays, most of them by Canadian playwrights and starring Canadian actors, will be presented this fall and winter on CFTK-TV. The one-hour drama series is in its second season on CBC-TV.

Lloyd Bochner and Barbara Chilcott will star in an early Playdate production entitled The Pinedus Affair. It tells the story of a music critic (in an unnamed European state), arrested for a minor traffic offence — and held by the authorities on a trumped-up murder charge. For political reasons, his case becomes a national cause celebre.

The noted British actress Gladys Cooper, stars with Frances Hyland and Paul Harding in Question of Fact.

A Bernard Slade drama, Men Don't Make Passes, is also scheduled for Playdate.

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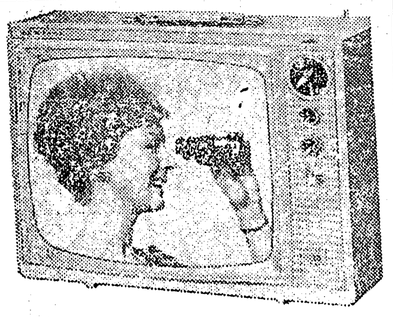

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