

Novel S.L. Radio Station, KRCL-FM, Debuts Monday

By Nancy Funk
Tribune Staff Writer

Find an FM radio Monday afternoon at 3 p.m. and turn the dial to 90.9.

Where once there was nothing, now there will be a station, a Listener's Radio Station, KRCL to be exact, a new kind of station, at least for Utah.

Oh there will be news and music and announcements and disc jockeys, yet with one important difference: Those usual things that go into making up programs for radio will be geared a slightly different way at KRCL.

Volunteer Director

"We like to refer to it as a 'community radio station,'" said Steven Holbrook, currently serving as volunteer director.

"This station will serve the counter-culture, those areas of the community not usually reached by the other stations.

"Bi-lingual programs will be a major part of our offerings as will 90-minute programs Mondays through Thursdays devoted strictly to senior citizens."

Holbrook, a Democrat state legislator who has served as project coordinator for the station for several years, said the reality of KRCL grew from an idea seeded in the early 1970s.

Westminster College had been interested in an outlet that would enable the school to be more in touch with the community. "At that time I was serving as a member of the Central City Neighborhood Council," said Holbrook. "Jim (James L.) Barker, who was then a city commissioner, asked me if I would be interested in trying to get a radio station to serve the people of Central City.

Many Lend Aid

"For the last five years we have worked out of Westminster, doing joint programming with that school and receiving much support from them as well as from the Utah Endowment for the Humanities and KUER."

During that time \$98,000 has been raised in cash from private individuals and foundations, public grants, equipment donations and in kind services.

"Bonneville International Corp. donated two studios of used equipment," said Holbrook "and KSL-Radio gave us three years of free tower lease and a full year of free service charges. And actually it was a \$2,800 donation from the Kearns-Tribune Corp. that put us over the top and made it possible for us to begin broadcasting Monday."

Other Support

Other support has come from the ABC Foundation, Skaggs American Television of Utah, Golden West Broadcasters, the United Steel Workers, KUTV, KALL, KSFI-FM, Northwest Energy and Lola and Robert Redford.

The station will carry no commercials. It will be independent and listener-supported.

"We will be much more dependent on our listeners than, say KUER," said Holbrook, "because we will not receive backing from the state legislature or university. We will get some public broadcast such things as

council meetings but by and large we'll be heavily dependent on volunteers."

29-Member Board

The station is currently served by a 29-member board and 100 volunteers.

The 16.5 kilowatt station will reach listeners as far as Payson to the South, Tremonton on the North and Wendover to the West.

"Though we have permission to be on the air for 24 hours, our initial programming will be weekdays from 3 p.m. to 2

a.m., Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m."

Holbrook said subjects regularly covered will include low income and environmental issues, community affairs, labor and economic concerns, community development, minority issues — programs for and about children, city and county stories and a weekly segment on Fridays devoted to the handicapped.

Music, to be heard nightly, will range from salsa to raggaie to new wave.

Marti Niman, a communication

graduate from the University of Utah who also served as a radio broadcaster in Banqui, Africa, is program director with Bob Flores as assistant program director for community affairs. The station is located at 262 E. 1st South, upstairs, room 222.

"We want people to know that we are interested in training volunteers to go into areas of communication," said Holbrook. "We are also interested in receiving scripts for radio dramas and encourage people who want to donate time or money to please do so.

"Our station will be a subject oriented station and geared to listener feedback. We'll be bringing new services into this area by airing special national programs. The National Federation of Community Broadcasters has a tape-sharing plan that will allow us to order programs dealing with concerns of the black and Spanish communities as well as others. We eventually hope to tie into the university's satellite station to get programming currently not available in this area," Holbrook said.