

NORDALE HOTEL BURNS...

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find bodies of victims and remove property found in the building.

Three bodies have been found—two as late as last Monday—but only one, that of Earl Simpson, a railroad worker out of Anchorage, has been positively identified.

One of the bodies, said Sundberg, "appears to be a female body."

Fairbanks residents generally concede that at least one woman, Mrs. Eva McGown, 88, official hostess for the city of Fairbanks, was probably killed in the fire. She was known to have been in her room at the hotel at the time the fire started.

Sunday afternoon, in memory of her and others who have lost their lives in the blaze, the university and Fairbanks symphony orchestra opened their concert with a Bach chorale.

For some time, officials have had difficulty establishing the identity of those registered in the hotel at the time of the fire because they could not locate the hotel register. Now it has been found.

"It was carbonized," Sundberg said, it "had been charred quite badly, but it has been very, very useful to us."

Everyone in the hotel has now been accounted for, he said, except for four persons who, presumably, are dead.

Even so, Fire Chief Coben is asking "anyone that has not contacted us and was in the hotel that night" to call the police desk, giving their name and phone number where they can be reached so that "we can interview them."

He has also asked anyone taking pictures before the fire department arrived and during the first five minutes of the fire contact the Fire Marshall's office here.

Some possessions, known to belong to the deceased, have been turned over to the police, the police chief said, but he will soon turn them over to the coroner, Col. Lincoln Ost.

People who had property

stored in the building will be able to contact the Fire Marshall next week, the fire chief said, and will be allowed to search through the stacks of property being put together in the city dump area, to find their possessions.

Also destroyed in the blaze were the Alaska Insurance Agency, the Nordale Barbershop and Martin Victor Furs.

Rep. State Senator John Butrovich, who owns Alaska Insurance Agency, said that his records were not harmed in the fire because they were stored in a vault.

But Martin Victor does not yet know the full extent of the damage to his furs.

"We were able to save at least 98 per cent of the customers' articles," he said, "things that come in and out of the store" for repairs. That is our first concern always. But we don't know about the other things yet, because our records were burned up."

Right now "we're going through the pain of checking it out," he said, "comparing recovered items with past inventories."

His firm is now relocated temporarily in the Lathrop Building, he said, until "we have built our new building on Second Avenue next to the Lathrop Building."

But this is not the first time he has had to face such a disaster.

"We feel like when we lost everything in the earthquake in Anchorage in '64, and the same thing in the flood of '67, and now we got a fire. But we're still going," he said.

With his son in Martin Victor Furs, he said, this makes the fourth generation in his family to be in this business. The company has been in operation in Alaska since 1929.

"We are so appreciative of everybody calling us from all over, offering help and well wishes," he added. "It makes it all worthwhile."

Arctic Slope Borough Approved...

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the borough concept" into state law.

Very few people in Alaska understand the borough concept, Updickson said, but he thinks the people in his area see the idea of borough government as a means of bringing the government closer to home.

Approval of the proposed borough by the Local Boundary Commission came after nearly a year of study and some opposition.

According to Mallott, his agency received the petition for incorporation on April 6, 1971.

"We spent approximately four and one-half months studying the proposition," he said. "We made two separate trips to the slope, visited every community, visited the oil companies at Prudhoe Bay, and commissioned Peat, Marwick and Mitchell, a national accounting firm, to do an independent study as to the financial resources available to the proposed borough."

His agency's "whole study," he said, was "exhaustive."

Prior to the Local Boundary Commission's hearing in Barrow on Dec. 2—a hearing attended by 350 people—the Local Affairs Agency issued a report to the commission informing them that "in our considered opinion the proposed borough met the standards for incorporation" spelled out in the Alaska statutes, "although the physical size" of this borough "was not found anywhere in the United States," said Mallott.

Some oil companies were in opposition to the petition for incorporation, Mallott said, because they felt that "the Prudhoe Bay oil field was a self-sufficient kind of entity and didn't require local government." Oil companies, he said, advocated a state tax too, rather than having a local government "pre-empt the tax base."

But, he said, under the new borough, the some 3,500 residents of the North Slope area will have "the capability to de-

termine how the land is utilized" and will be "able to tax taxable property at Prudhoe Bay areas as well as throughout the rest of the borough."

During the past few weeks some Alaskans feared that Governor Egan's proposed legislation for dividing the unorganized borough of the state into smaller units and providing for a uniform taxation on them would adversely affect the petition for incorporation of the North Slope Borough.

State Senator Willie Hensley of Kotzebue expressed this fear when he took the floor of the Senate on January 21 to ask the Alaska State Legislature to "defer any consideration of a tax bill for the unorganized borough..." until after the State Local Boundary Commission meeting on the subject in Anchorage on February 24, 25 and 26.

His fears were unfounded.

Such legislation described in the Governor's State of the State message has now been introduced in the Alaska State Legislature and referred to committee for consideration, but the Local Boundary Commission made the decision to approve the petition for the borough on the third day of their meeting in Anchorage, following what Mallott describes as a "thorough review of the record and the file developed over the course of the past year."

"Friday morning," he said, commission members took each of the standards for incorporation of a borough "one by one to determine whether or not the proposal met them."

In the afternoon, he said, they "voted to approve the petition for the first class borough, but not as submitted by ASNA."

According to Mallott, the commission approved only the three mandatory powers which first class boroughs are required to assume—education, planning and zoning and property taxation—but left other powers such as police, fire protection and sewer and water for the local area to determine because commission members "felt they did not have sufficient information as to get a firm fix on all kinds of local powers borough residents would wish to assume in a short time."

Will the size of the borough present problems?

"Communities on the North Slope, in many respects are much more closely knit in social and cultural ties... and (residents) are able to get about more than many others," Mallott replied.

In fact, he said, "in our study we found... it to be a provable fact... that when people on the North Slope have to get around, they have always been able to get there."

During the course of his agency's study of the petition, Mallott said, he tried to keep an open mind as to whether or not the North Slope Borough should

be approved.

But, he said, he became "a proponent of it" after his agency work was done.

"I applauded" the decision of the Local Boundary Commission, he said. "I think it's a really bold step and a real challenge."

Residents of the proposed borough live, for the most part, in five villages—Point Hope, Barrow, Wainwright, Anaktuvuk Pass and Kaktovik.

The next step in their plan for incorporation will be for Lieutenant Governor H.A. "Red" Boucher—once he has received the official report from the Local Boundary Commission—to set a date for a public election for residents of the proposed borough to have their say in the matter.

Boucher said today that although his office has not yet received formal notification of the Local Boundary Commission's decision, he has "set up meetings with his Director of Elections, Dorothy MacKenzie, for this afternoon to discuss the procedures "for carrying out the work involved in completing the election "at the earliest possible date."

In the next few days, he said, Mrs. MacKenzie, as overseer of the election will be meeting with Lil Angerman and Joann Harhut, since they are responsible for overseeing elections in the Interior and in the Nome area, to "get on with" the election.

He foresees no difficulty, Boucher says, and can make a rough guess that the entire process can be completed within 60 days, even though Alaska Statutes allow a total time period of 120 days.

"We intend to proceed immediately," he said.

Why Nordale Fire?

Why did the fire which destroyed the Nordale Hotel last week spread so fast? Why was the building destroyed in such a short time?

Fire Chief Coben attributes this to the type of materials used in buildings that were built during the 1920's, when man did not have the building materials used today, and to the layers of paint that have been added to the structure during the years.

Uniform building codes and the fire prevention code do exist, he said, and officials have attempted to enforce them, but in some cases, he said, owners of old buildings have found it to be "uneconomical to make their buildings conform."

Legal action has been taken in the past by the City of Fairbanks, he said, against owners whose buildings violate safety codes, and the city will continue to take such action.

At the present time, he said, in answer to a question, there are "at least twenty buildings in this area" that are similar in construction to the Nordale Hotel.

Unalakleet Visitors...

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eat dinner.

My daughter-in-law, the owner, is the cook there.

Sergeant Shriver ordered king salmon steaks.

"Sorry, mister," said the cook, "you have to order ahead of time if you are in a hurry."

He changed his order to three deluxe hamburgers—one for himself, one for his seven-year-old son and one for his aide. Then he stood there watching the cook prepare his food.

She ordered him to sit down. "I am not in the habit of having people watch me when I am cooking," she said.

In the meantime, I was cutting an 80 pound king salmon into steaks for the cook. I did not know that Sergeant Shriver was in our restaurant, and the cook forgot that she had ordered me to slice steaks for her.

While I was cutting the steaks, using my Eskimo knife (ulu), my guest, Louise Ober of the University of Alaska, came and said, "Emily, Sergeant Shriver is eating his lunch in the restaurant."

"What!" I replied, slashing my finger. Trudy ran back into the restaurant and asked the cook for a bandage for my finger.

Then, of course, in her excitement, she forgot to tell the cook that one of her guests was Sergeant Shriver. Trudy came back to bandage my finger and we discussed how to approach him.

Trudy watched for him to come out from the house, and when he didn't appear, we went to look for him at the waterfront.

There we saw him talking to the fishermen who had hauled their catch to be salted in the saltern.

All of this time people thought he was one of the tourists. After we met him, Sergeant Shriver mentioned that the men were too busy to even take him up the river for fishing. He had asked several men to take him, but they had refused to leave their work.

Had he taken the time to introduce himself, some would have been willing to take him fishing.

During the evening, people listened to Sergeant Shriver's speech from Nome, and he had the opportunity to narrate his experience at Unalakleet.

He said, "Unalakleet is a beautiful village. Everyone there was busy and my son enjoyed watching the children fishing from the beach of the Unalakleet River."

But many of our famous visitors set their feet in Unalakleet before I was born. They included the first United States surveyors, the telegraph line builders in the 19th century, and the first anthropologists and explorers.

All of these people met my parents and brothers and some older Eskimos.

Land Claims...

(Continued from page 1)

from the state of Alaska, and from the federal government, according to Senator Gravel.

He noted that he was "extremely optimistic" that the appropriation of 12.5 million dollars in the current fiscal year would result from the hearings.

"Alaskans should understand that I will do all that I can as chairman of these hearings to assure that these funds are made available at the earliest possible moment."

The decision to hold hearings was made this morning at the Appropriations Subcommittee, at which Senator Gravel testified in favor of the 12.5 million dollar appropriation. The Chairman of the Subcommittee, Senator Alan Bible, decided that the matter warranted fuller discussion and asked Senator Gravel to hold hearings on this and related matters. Gravel agreed and set the date of March 2, tomorrow.

Stevens, CAB...

(Continued from page 2)

flying public should not be made to pay the cost of these policies in the form of monopoly service by one airline.

I know you are familiar with the special transportation problems of my State and I urge the Board to accommodate Alaskans with competitive air service.

Cordially,
/s/ Ted Stevens
TED STEVENS
United States Senator

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