



## Bethel region opens new hospital

Ribbon-cutting dedication ceremonies of the new 32.5 million dollar Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Hospital at Bethel, Alaska took place today.

The 95-thousand square-foot, 50-bed hospital will open its doors in early September. It is a complete, self-contained regional medical facility. Services include general medical patient care covering both adult and pediatric services and dental care. Full services will be available for obstetrical patients and care of their new-born infants. Complete ambulatory care services will be provided along with full support laboratory and radiology services for both inpatient and ambulatory patients.

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Service Unit of Alaska Area

Native Health Service provides health care and services for approximately 20,000 residents, most of whom are Native, in over 50 villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region, Bering Sea Coast and adjoining Tundra Region.

It's health care delivery system is supplemented by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation through its training of Community Health Aides and Community Health Representatives, mental health program, hospital-related programs and various programs of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

Hoffman Construction Company was responsible for construction management of the new complex. Local contracts

were negotiated with the Aleut Corporation, Walsh and Co., to perform all of the site work, pile-driving, erecting the structural steel and precast floor system. The new hospital is built on pilings because of environmental conditions. The climate is sub-arctic with the average temperature below freezing for seven months of the year. Constructed on permafrost, cold air will circulate underneath the hospital to keep temperatures constant and to prevent deterioration of the permafrost. Other new systems installed are electronic monitors for temperature changes, refrigeration for maintaining the permafrost and heavy insulation with sandwich panels on the structural framework.