

# ***Saved by Air Force, Survivor Offers Money for Rescue***

HQ AAC—When nature strikes in Alaska and jeopardizes the inhabitants, men of the USAF Rescue Coordination Center and the 5017th Operations Squadron go to work. It is their job and they don't expect much thanks for it.

This story starts on an ice floe in Bristol Bay over a month ago. Migley Kelly, a

native fisherman, was pursuing his livelihood when the chunk of ice on which he was fishing broke loose. Kelly spent 15 hours on the drifting ice floe before an H-21 helicopter, piloted by 1st Lt. Hal Rhodes, rescued him.

A "thank you" letter was received recently by Lieutenant Rhodes signed by Migley Kelly. Enclosed was a five-dollar bill.

Lt. Rhodes, however, as an officer of the U.S. Air Force, was not permitted to keep the money for his personal use and he duly turned it over to the Alaskan Air Command Comptroller, Col. V.J. Weigle.

Civil assistance operations in Alaska last year cost the government over \$155,000. Migley Kelly, who could probably ill afford it, was one of the few people who tried to pay his share.

Kelly's gesture was sincerely appreciated.