

Stevens Asks \$1 Million—

Bethel Hospital

U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, is requesting that \$1.5 million be included in the Interior Department appropriations bill for construction of the Bethel Hospital.

Stevens, in a joint letter with three other senators requesting a total addition of \$12.4 million to the appropriations bill for the construction budget of the Indian Health Service, recommended that six hospital projects throughout the country be funded partially this year so that each could begin right away.

The schedule the four senators

Group Wants Denali Over Mt. McKinley

MC KINLEY PARK, AK. — The Denali Citizens' Council has urged that the highest mountain in North America, 20,320-foot Mt. McKinley, be renamed "Denali."

In a letter to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names the council stated that "Denali," which means "the Great One," not only predates the existing name but it better encompasses the spirit of this great mountain. Mt. McKinley was named for a presidential candidate who had no relevant association with this area."

In a March 1975 resolution the Alaska State Legislature also endorsed the Denali name change.

The National Park Service favors that the name of the park be changed from Mt. McKinley National Park to McKinley National Park, reflecting the change in the name of the mountain.

A 150-member Alaskan citizens' organization, the Denali Citizens' Council is concerned with the protection and wise development of McKinley and its environs.

Gov. Hammond Favors Kleppe For Interior

"I appreciate the fact that President Ford has selected a Westerner to head the Department of Interior. Coming from North Dakota, Thomas Kleppe has experience in dealing with rural problems.

"Twice in the recent past since he has been director of the Small Business Administration, Mr. Kleppe has responded promptly to emergencies in Alaska. The SBA helped many Alaskans suffering from the Bering Sea storm and from earlier Yukon River floods.

"In addition, he has just sent his deputy director to Alaska to see how the SBA could help Alaskan businesses. I think through these actions the newly nominated Interior Secretary has demonstrated an awareness of Alaskan problems.

"Following his confirmation, he will, of course, head the federal agency most closely associated with the major Alaskan issues. I look forward to working with him to help solve them."

proposed includes a projected \$16 million for the Bethel Hospital in Fiscal Year 1977, \$19.2 million in Fiscal Year 1978, and \$3.6 million in Fiscal Year 1979.

To date the Bethel facility has received \$600,000 in IHS appropriations for the planning stage of the project.

"Over a period of years, a backlog has developed in the need to replace or rehabilitate so many of the IHS hospitals and health centers that it is not appropriate to continue to eliminate such a backlog by fully funding a facility for one year that will require several years to complete.

"We are recommending that the committee partially fund a number of facilities each year for the necessary period of time to complete the facilities," the senators said in the letter to U.S. Sen. Robert Byrd, Interior Appropriations Subcommittee chairman.

The letter was signed by U.S. Sen. Mike Mansfield, Senate Majority Leader and member of the Appropriations Committee; U.S. Sen. Joseph Monto, a committee member; U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici; and Stevens, the ranking member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

Ahtna Dividends . . .

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the corporation's annual stockholders' meeting in Gulkana, which about 300 regional natives attended. Earnings before taxes and distribution for the fiscal year which ended June 30 were \$298,000, said Olsen. "These are earnings on our commercial operations, not interested on capital invested. We're real proud of that."

Broken down, the figure works out to earnings of \$1.85 per share and "dividends to our stockholders will be just over \$12 per person," Olsen explained. "This is after we covered our overhead since 1972."

The enterprises Ahtna profited from are "chiefly construction contracts with Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., for trans-Alaska pipeline related work.

More than 1,900 stockholders'

Native Bandleader . . .

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"Well," continued Wasillie still smiling, "there will be bop, rock, and more along that line, and some along the lines of the "Missouri Waltz."

"When we get there, we would also like to have some able musicians to join us," he added. "Bu, of course, they must bring their instruments and then we can go on from there. I think that would be fun. I can sing a little, too, and those two other guys can also."

The ball will be held as soon as possible after the banquet which should be sometime around 10:00 p.m. The Hotel Captain Cook personnel will clear a dancing area as soon as the feast is over.

Word has been received at the Tundra Times that there has been quite a flurry of dressmaking by the women who will attend the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. annual conference (October

Healy Receiving Public TV Service from KUAC

FAIRBANKS — Residents of the Healy area just south of Fairbanks on the George Parks Highway are now receiving public television service from a newly-installed television translator atop a mountain in the Healy area.

Programs broadcast by KUAC-TV (Channel 9) at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks,

can be picked up on channel seven. A special antenna directs the signal to Healy, Usibelli and Sunrana.

Led by KUAC's Chief Engineer Henry "Hank" Hove, a crew completed the installation Sept.

30 after several tries to reach the site had been unsuccessful.

Cost of the facility was paid by grants from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission.

Health Services . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Corporation assuming a direct service contract with the Indian Health Service of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS).

"It represents within the state and probably within the United States the first direct service contract (in health care) with Native people," Dann said.

"In the past, we got money quite apart from the Indian Health Service, supplementary to what services Indian Health Service provided.

"We never had a contract this comprehensive, that a Native corporation assumes responsibilities in full for Indian Health Service within a Native region," he said.

Most Indian Health Service contracts in other areas are for developmental services. Norton Sound got a mixture of developmental and direct services.

In the past, Norton Sound had contracts with Indian Health Service to provide (1) physical services, (2) eye aid services, and (3) with the state aid for partial funding for dental services in four villages.

Added to that now, Norton Sound has full responsibility for services to village health aides, including training, care and record keeping.

Also responsibility for all patient travel, specialty clinics, ambulance service (which Norton Sound contracts) and mental health services at Nome and associated villages.

"These services will be audited by the government and ourselves, to see what they (the people) are getting for their money," Dann said.

DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY
For Norton Sound Health Corporation and its employees, it means a very direct responsibility for patient care.

"The extent to which we mismanage patient care—or they don't understand what we are doing—well, it will be our direct responsibility," Dann said. "We can't say 'we'll call Anchorage.' We'll be a lot closer to the patients," he said.

"It's more rewarding, but it's more demanding too, because it is a 24-hour-a-day job," Dann said.

In agreeing to the present contract arrangement, the Indian Health Service was saying to a consumer controlled regional health corporation 'you provide care for yourselves,'" Dann said.

It means if someone is NOT pleased with the way they receive

health care, Norton Sound should be hopefully more responsive to them because NSHC is (1) controlled within their region and (2) managed by a village board.

"If people or incidents are NOT satisfactory, they have a vehicle right here to correct the problem without waiting for someone to answer a letter from Washington," Dann said.

HOW IT HAPPENED

Dann believes this is the first area of Alaska where a consumer board of directors had the willingness to work together to resolve problems of not only medical, but alcohol and drug abuse and mental health.

"The corporation has changed from a demonstration effort or a political activist effort..." Dann said.

"We are beginning to have a handle on enough of the system that we can start altering it.

"One of the biggest problems with health care generally has been that people have not understood the system they are dependent on. Hopefully, we will be hearing enough from the people so that it can start serving them better than they have been served in the past," he said.

"The problem with health care is it is very technical. It is easier to feel control say... over education... because you kind of have a feeling of what your children need. It is hard to control a system when the system has a monopoly on knowledge.

"So it is important in delivering health care to people that we increase their understanding of the health care system and their knowledge of their own bodies," Dann said.

Dann has an extensive background in health care. He holds a master's degree in medical care administration from Cornell University in New York and first came to Alaska in July, 1968.

His position with Norton Sound involves overall administration of its programs, including medical care, mental health, health aides and even the boarding home patient program.

Above all, he wants Norton Sound residents to know this is their health service. "Consumer control is important," he said.

"Now we've got control, but we're still not over the hurdle."

"My hope is that people will beat down the door of this place, so people will find out why they did get something... or why not."

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