

Fairbanks Hillcrest Home for Boys

Directors Confer with Legislators

How best to present the financial needs of Hillcrest Home for Boys to the legislature was discussed by Hillcrest directors with representatives of the state legislature.

Attending the Hillcrest meeting Thursday were State Senator Ed Merdes and Mrs. Barry Jackson, representing her husband, a state representative. Also attending the meeting was Tom Fenton, a member of the operating committee of the Alcoholic Rehabilitation center.

At present Fairbanks citizens are providing a large share of the support of Hillcrest whose boys are from all over the state and are placed there by state agencies, Jules Cohen, board president, said.

The community could finance a building for boys needing care for then Fairbanks would have that asset, Cohen said, but the question arose whether it was right for Fairbanksans to pay for support of state care.

Under private management, Hillcrest care cost the state, at present, \$184 a month per boy compared with \$400 to \$600 a month per child that the state has to pay if the child is sent to the lower '48 for care.

Many of the Hillcrest boys whose families can not care for them need special counseling and guidance that can not be provided adequately under foster home care, Malcolm Potts, resident director, explained.

Boys without proper homes do not belong in state jails, but can be helped by the special services provided by a private institution such as Hillcrest.

Directors agreed to meet with other welfare institutions in Fairbanks to see what needs and resources they have in common. Hillcrest directors plan to ask the Fairbanks Native Association for assistance with a legislative presentation, Cohen said. Mrs. William Carlo, a member of the FNA, is also a board member of Hillcrest.

Names to a capital fund raising committee were Robert Bondurant, Mrs. Theodore Oldre, Dave Wood and Potts. A fund drive is tentatively set for next September.

Wood, an Alaskan state trooper, was elected to the board of directors Thursday. He formerly was a counselor with the Lutheran Youth Center in Wasilla, and was graduated recently from the state trooper academy at Sitka. He has been an active volunteer worker at Hillcrest.

Potts introduced Mr. and Mrs. William Holtry, new houseparents for Hillcrest. The Holtrys

came from Roxbury, Pa., to provide fulltime assistance as houseparents for Hillcrest. They succeed part-time workers Mrs. Olivia Crosslin and Mrs. Jo Porter.

The regular meeting date of the board of directors was changed from the second Thursday to the third Thursday of the month, Cohen said.