

Don Sheldon Amphitheater—

Glacier Basin Named for Pilot

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names has approved the recommendation to change the name of Ruth Amphitheater to Don Sheldon Amphitheater.

Governor Jay Hammond, the Alaska State Geographic Board, and other had recommended the change for the well-know Alaska bush pilot who died in January.

The glacier filled basin is southeast of the summit of Mt. McKinley at the head of Ruth Glacier. The official federal statement says the amphitheater named for "Donald E. Sheldon (1921-1975), Alaska bush pilot who flew over 27 years in support of mapping, patrol, mountaineering, search and rescue, and wildlife air-census operations on or in the area of Mt.

McKinley."

In related development, the State has been presented with a painting of the Sheldon Amphitheater area by internationally know muralist James Perry Wilson. Wilson, 82, of Pelham, New York, was in Alaska in 1971 and flew with Sheldon in the McKinley area taking photos and making field sketches for the Museum of Science in Boston, Massachusetts.

Fourteen of Wilson's Mt. McKinley paintings were displayed at the State Museum in January.

Because of his friendship with Sheldon, Wilson had planned to give him the painting of what is now Sheldon Amphitheater. Upon learning of the bush pilot's

death, Wilson presented the picture to the State of Alaska in Sheldon's honor.

Museum curator Alan Munro said the painting would go into the growing collection of Alaska fine arts.