The Hospital Week

This week is National Hospital Week, an appropriate time to take a close look at our local hospital.

Most of us think of our local hospital, if we think much about it at all, as a place to go if we need care. It is a familiar building, one which many of us pass every day. It's reassuring to know that it is there if and when we need it.

Stop for a moment and consider what it takes for that hospital to be ready to care for us. Consider what it takes in terms of manpower, material and money. Most of what it takes, you as a patient or visitor never see.

Persons in over 200 job classifications are employed in a hospital. It takes over 270 persons to serve 100 patients. It requires more than 10,000 items to equip a hospital. These items range from abrasives to x-ray film, from ammeters to wringers. All of this, of course, requires money.

THE HOSPITAL WEEK . . .

Hospital costs have skyrocketed along with all other costs, but it is reassuring to know that the hospital is able to provide us with the best possible care at a moment's notice.

Gary L. Speas, administrator of the Fairbanks Community Hospital said that the hospital's year end statistics and operations for 1969 revealed the following:

4,302 patients admitted for a total of 20,169 hospital days or average stay per patient of 4.7 days. A total of 582 babies were delivered and the out-patient and emergency room treated 6,520 cases or about 18 per day. For the total of 67 beds the hospital is equipped for, an average of 55.3 patients were in our hospital daily for an occupancy rate 82.5%. The total operating revenue for 1969 was $1,914,864.51 and total operating expenses of $1,883,516.24 or a net gain of $31,348.27. This gain Speas said went back into increase of personnel salaries and much needed equipment and facility repairs. Total salaries paid to employees was $1,094,908.14. Speas further mentioned that close to $100,000.00 was written off to bad debts from the accounts receivables due to unpaid patient accounts.