

New Hospital Facility in Fairbanks—

New Structure Has Adjoining Native Health Clinic

Starting this spring Fairbanks area patients will have access to the town's new \$8.4 million hospital and an adjoining Native Health Service clinic.

The hospital, the result of four year's fund raising campaigns in Fairbanks, will be one of the most modern in the country and will serve Interior Alaska for years to come.

Of the \$8.4 million price tag on the mammoth project the Indian Health Service contributed \$1,774,700. This contribution allowed the hospital to build four floors, rather than its proposed three a patient capacity which will fulfill the anticipated needs of the Fairbanks area for years to come.

A special Congressional bill was necessary to provide the extra \$1 million used to build the neat, modern Indian Health clinic next to the hospital. This clinic will provide out-patient medical, dental, and social services to native people of northern Alaska.

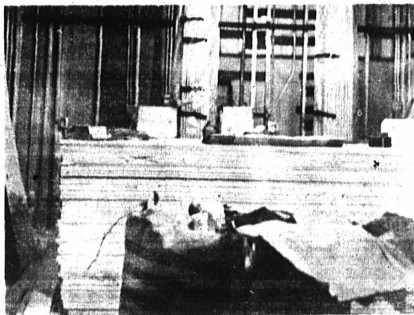
Last week, the hospital's Buildings Fund committee took the Fairbanks press on a tour of the new hospital. Amidst workmen and construction the five story building is more than 95 per cent complete.

Sometime in February, hospital administrators hope to open its doors - first to a community 'open house' and a week or so later to patients.

The Indian Health Clinic, located next door to the hospital and begun a year later, will be completed within two or three months, the contractors estimate.

This clinic, which will house two PHS doctors, and two dentists will handle the outpatient work now done by the clinic located at the Arctic Bowl Building and more.

Convenient hospital, lab and x-ray facilities will make the hos-



NEW CLINIC—This confusing mess is what will be, in a couple of months, the inside of the new Native Health Clinic. Attached to the new Fairbanks Community Hospital, the clinic was started a year later but is scheduled to be finished in a couple of months.

Photo by MADELYN SHULMAN

pital a 'one stop' health center and end having to send patients around town for various treatments.

Eighteen beds in the hospital have been funded for native patients through the Indian Health Service. The new four story hospital contains room for 116 patients. The modern building containing the latest in building and medical technology will be a far cry from the present Fairbanks Community Hospital facility.

As Harry 'Red' Porter, a member of the hospital's founding board put it, 'there's only been one hospital in Fairbanks up to now and we couldn't afford to experiment with plans. It had to be right the first time.'

Much of the hospital's funding was raised through donations from the Interior Alaska area. The hospital board, all volunteers of the community, are proud of their accomplishment after four

previous attempts to raise money for a hospital had failed. In 1967, their successful fund raising drive yielded \$2 million - after the Sisters of Charity of Providence announced they would have to close the present hospital due to insufficient funding.

According to Dr. William R. Wood, president of the University of Alaska and first hospital board chairman, the new hospital exemplifies sophistication in construction and 'certainly is one of the most modern plants anywhere.'