

Governor's EMS Awards announced

A Palmer youth, a Labouchere Bay emergency medical care provider, and a pioneer administrator who helped develop Alaska's emergency medical services system were the recipients of the 1985 Annual Governor's Awards for Emergency Medical Services.

Governor Bill Sheffield presented the awards the evening of November 9, at the Eighth Annual Alaska EMS Awards Banquet held at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, sponsored by the Governor's Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services.

Seventeen year old Gordon Birdsall, of Palmer, received the Citizen Award for his quick thinking and aggressive action in helping to rescue a victim of a single vehicle collision at the intersection of the Palmer-Wasilla Highway and Trunk Road. Birdsall's training received in the Law Enforcement Explorer Post #55 was cited as contributing to his ability to take quick, appropriate action in this emergency situation to save a life.

Don Mercer, Emergency Medical Technician II, was recognized in the EMS Provider Category for the years he has devoted to providing emergency medical care to the residents of Labouchere Bay, a logging community, and to others in northern Prince of Wales Island including fishermen at Point Baker and Port Protection. Mercer was commended for providing high quality care to patients, improvising medical equipment, and teaching CPR and First Aid. "His dedicated provision of emergency medical care, when the nearest first line support group must be contacted by telephone, is in the finest tradition of Alaska volunteerism," Governor Sheffield noted.

Honored in the EMS Administrator/Researcher category was



Jeanne Ostnes Rinear, of Fairbanks, and former EMS Coordinator for the Interior Region EMS Council, accepts the 1985 EMS Administrator Award from Governor

Jeanne Ostnes Rinear, well-known throughout Alaska for her pioneering work in developing an emergency medical services system in Interior Alaska and throughout the state. Ostnes began her EMS work in Fairbanks in 1974, pioneering the development of the Interior Region EMS Council in Fairbanks, and subsequently, she worked tirelessly in both the local and state level. She was Executive Director of Interior Region EMS Council, Inc., from 1979 to 1984, and expanded the spectrum of EMS throughout the 52 communities in the 236,000 square mile area of Interior Alaska. In addition, Max Fonger, on behalf of Safety Inc., presented an award of \$500 to

the "Outstanding Ambulance Service". The Governor's Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services selected Sand Point EMS for this award, in recognition of outstanding success in providing year-round community service and in gaining community support and involvement in service and educational activities. Sand Point EMS is an all-volunteer, all-woman ambulance organization that uses small boats, planes, and helicopters to provide emergency medical services for community members and seamen from foreign vessels, as it serves the Shumagin Islands and surrounding area.