

Giaouque to Buy Alaska Vegetables

The Alaska Division of Agriculture announces that work has been received from the Defense Supply Agency that Jerry L. Giaouque (G-Oak) will again purchase fresh vegetables for Alaska's military establishments.

He will be located with the Division of Agriculture in the Sims Building, Box 800, Palmer, according to Bill Lewis, Director of Agriculture. His arrival date is tentatively set at June 18.

Any person interested in growing vegetables may contact the Division of Agriculture in the Palmer office for further information.

80 Changes in Alaska Hunting and Trapping Law

Eighty proposed changes in Alaska hunting and trapping law, twenty alone on the taking of wolves, will be aired at a public hearing to be held by the Fairbanks Advisory Committee to the Alaska Board of Fish and Game Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Alaskaland Civic Theater.

According to Chairman Dwane Sykes over two hundred proposals for change have been made and about eighty of these directly effect Fairbanks.

Sykes said: "There is going to be controversy over certain proposals."

Sykes labeled the proposals concerning brown and grizzly bear hunting seasons, antlerless moose, reintroduction of aerial

hunting of coyotes and wolves, a lower limit on sheep and goats, and a proposal to eliminate the use of aircraft as an aid in hunting, as sure to "create friction."

He went on to say there are several changes recommended on the Caribou limit and on black bear. He listed a proposal to introduce falconry to Alaska as another subject which would attract attention.

When questioned on laws regarding Off-the-road-vehicles Sykes said: "There are eight proposals alone effecting the use of ORVs in relation to hunting and trapping. One proposal", said Sykes, "would eliminate the use of ORVs in the 'tracking' of animals in addition to the present

relation to hunting and trapping. Pointing to Unit 20 which is around Fairbanks, Sykes said: "There are three proposals for restricting entry into portions of Unit 20(A) and two others concerning the Delta-Tok management areas."

According to publicity chairman, Jim Hunter, the committee has selected eighty proposals out of the two hundred for public hearing in an effort to air those which concern the interior.

Hunter went on to say the hearing would be held open to hear testimony on additional proposals if the public requested. An agenda will be available at the hearing.

The Alaska Board of Fish and Game will meet April 2 to

to April 9 in Anchorage at the Holiday Inn to make final decision on the various proposals.

Medicaid Annual Report Submitted

The Department of Health and Social Services has submitted to the Legislature an annual report on Alaska's Medicaid program, as required by the law which adopted Medicaid on July 5, 1972.

The Division of Medical Assistance was created within the Department to administer the Medicaid and residual General Relief Medical assistance programs. Medicaid was implemented September 1, 1972.

During the period from July 1, 1972 through January 31, 1973, the Division of Medical Assistance has disbursed \$3,658,746, of which \$1,942,907 was spent for Medicaid. More than 8,500 Medicaid recipients have received care, and 14,500 Medicaid claims from providers of medical service have been paid.

People eligible for Medicaid are those who are eligible for, or enrolled in, any of the categorical assistance programs: Old Age Assistance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Aid to the Blind, and Aid to the Disabled. There are currently 14,477 persons receiving categorical assistance in Alaska.

Persons who meet the financial eligibility requirements for categorical assistance but do not meet other qualifications and have no prior medical resource are eligible for General Relief Medical assistance.

During the first seven months of FY 72, the State of Alaska has saved nearly \$3 million by participating in Medicaid: \$1,341,057 in increased Federal matching funds for categorical assistance "money grants," \$1,403,600 in Federal 50 per cent financial participation in the Medicaid program, and almost \$200,000 State savings realized through establishment of the federally-mandated fee schedule for medical service.

Medical Insurance Premiums Can Be Deducted

ANCHORAGE — Some Alaska taxpayers last year failed to deduct medical insurance premiums and, as a result, overpaid their income taxes, Charles E. Roddy, District Director of Internal Revenue, said.

If taxpayers itemize deductions, they may deduct in full as a medical expense one-half the premium paid for medical insurance, up to a maximum of \$150, without regard to the three per cent limitation, Mr. Roddy said.

Taxpayers should add the remainder of the premium cost for medical insurance to other medical costs and reduce that total by three percent of adjusted gross income, he added.

Life insurance and accident and health insurance covering the loss of earnings are not medical expenses and the premiums paid are not deductible.

The Form 1040 instructions explain the handling of medical expenses. IRS Publication 502, "Deduction for Medical and Dental Expenses," also contains further information. It is available free by writing the IRS district office.

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