

# Kodiak Mirror

Reflecting the News of Alaska's Most Historic Island

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Since the community was first advised that the Griffin Memorial Hospital was in serious financial difficulties, I have heard many comments and had many inquiries. The most common inquiry seems to be: How can this be true? Why has there been this change in only a short time? Coupled with this inquiry is often a remark that there should be a general financial statement made available to the public.

I believe that the major reason for the present financial difficulty is a decreased use of local hospital facilities. A hospital is a peculiar business. Expenses, other than for food and drugs, are not directly proportionate to the number of patients on a given day. Whether there is currently one patient or twenty, there must be a basic staff on duty; not only the floor nurse, but a nurse on call for surgery, a technician on call for X-ray or laboratory work, kitchen and laundry and housekeeping employees. A large hospital with a drop in patients can close off a floor and dispense with some employees, a small hospital cannot. Basic costs for heat and light go on.

The bookkeeping at the Griffin Memorial Hospital is done in accordance with the standards of the American Hospital Association. Further, it must be done in such a way as to meet the standards of the Alaska Department of Health and the Alaska Native Service, to each of whom annual reports must be made. Following are some figures from the hospital's annual balance sheets which I think will bear out my point:

Total patient days: 1956, 3,253; 1957, 3,491; 1958, 3,657; 1959, 2,791. Per cent of occupancy: 1956: 47.04; 1957, 50.48; 1958, 52.7; 1959, 38.23. Income from patients: 1956, \$57,274.35; 1957, \$70,740.99; 1958, \$74,426.39; 1959, \$62,764.97. Total expense & deficit: 1956: \$69,451.90/\$12,177.65; 1957, 74,734.01/\$3,993.02; 1958, \$80,474.31/\$3,047.92; 1959, \$89,996.86/\$27,231.89. Non-operating income: 1956, \$14,424.40; 1957, \$15,822.66; 1958, \$11,456.55; 1959 \$10,899.65.

Note the dramatic drop in patient days, and in percentage of occupancy, between 1958 and 1959. This is due in some part to decreased population, in some part to medical progress: drugs and treatments which shorten hospital stays or make hospitalization unnecessary (a progress which we all applaud). It is possible that this decrease represents an increased use of hospital facilities in other places by our population. A general hospital can't run on 100% occupancy; if it did, there would be no bed for the maternity case or accident victim. 70% is about ideal as far as efficiency and economical operation go.

Non-operating income represents donations from various sources and also includes the reimbursement to the hospital for the Sisters' board (this letter was \$9,000 in 1958, \$9,375 in 1959).

In 1956 and 1957, the grant from

the Ford Foundation was a substantial part of this. Where the non-operating income more than offsets the operating deficit, the "capital gain" resulting is serving the community in the form of new and improved equipment.

Every hospital which admits all patients referred by doctors as needing hospital care will have unpaid hospital bills. These unpaid bills, or "free care" or "charity cases" are represented in the total expenses listed above. Every effort is made to collect from those who can pay, or from the appropriate government agency if the patient is eligible. The total cost of free care has been fairly constant from year to year.

All of us know from our own experience that we have been living in an era of increasing expenses and rising prices. With the hospital, the biggest factor has been that of wages and salaries.

I hope for the support of the community in this hospital emergency. I know that I speak for all the other Board members when I say that we will welcome suggestions for correcting our present unhappy situation.

Very truly yours,  
 Marion Lynch, Secretary  
 Kodiak Hospital  
 Advisory Board

## Letter to the Editor

Seems our City Council has struck their collective foot into it again—this time with the Russian Church batch plant—and doesn't quite know what to do about it.

So running true to form, they are making threats and other noises in hopes of shaking free of what they have stepped in. But don't give up fellas. If you run out of tax money fighting this thing maybe we can float a bond that will keep us in the hole for another 50 years. It doesn't make any difference if the batch plant is a legitimate source of income for about the only legitimate tourist attraction we have. You have committed us to fight for its destruction—if it takes every last penny we have. Now, it wouldn't make sense to use the money it is going to cost in court to buy the batch plant, would it? This would then make it city property and available for destruction. But this is the logical approach—so the batch plant, would it? This now?

A FRIENDLY ENEMY  
 (Name withheld)

## Local Couple Attend State Medical Meeting

Dr. and Mrs. R. Holmes Johnson left last Wednesday for Anchorage where Dr. Johnson attended the Alaska State Medical Association convention. While there Mrs. Johnson attended several meetings of the ASMA Auxiliary. They returned to Kodiak Monday afternoon.

## Fred Solberg Celebrates His 70th Birthday

Friends of Fred Solberg honored him with a surprise birthday party on his 70th birthday, February 19. The party was held at the Island Lake Snack Shack and was, according to the guest of honor, the first birthday party he ever had.

Others present were Mr. and Mrs. Paul (Smokey) Stover; Miss Ann Twitchell, sister of Mrs. Stover; Mrs. Ragnar Harsen; Harold Pratt and daughter Evelyn; Herman Gillilan and Mr. and Mrs. Karl Brunstad.

## Griffin Memorial Hospital Notes

### ADMISSIONS

Patients admitted to Griffin Memorial Hospital the past week were Zach Chichenoff; Mrs. Paula Christoffersen; James Grilli; Mrs. Annie Johnson, Uyak; Harold Eaton; Laura Tunohun and Matrona Larionoff.

### DISCHARGED

Patients discharged were Paula Christoffersen; James Grilli; Ersie Johnstone; Mike Farsovitch and Mrs. Annie Johnson.

### BIRTHS

A son, Larry Thomas, weighing 7 lbs. 10 ozs., was born on February 23 to Marie and Gerald Reddick.

## Alaska Methodist "U" In Fund Drive

The "All-State" fund drive for \$1,000,000 was launched by the Alaska Methodist University to provide an "all-Alaska dormitory" and eight faculty houses, at the site of the new school in Anchorage.

(Continued from page 1)

round the mouth is exposed. It takes awhile for the exposed part of the face to grow accustomed to the cold water although at times in the winter the water is often warmer than the air.

(Continued next week)

## LAND HEARINGS

(Continued from page 1)  
 uncertain status during long periods.

"In response to questions, as to homesteading by the traditional methods," Director Bell, of the Division of Lands, has stated, "experience has thoroughly demonstrated that the cultivation and residence requirements on homestead lands have proved very costly to both the homesteader and to the local government in providing schools and roads and other facilities. The object of the Land Act and the administration under the Act is to facilitate the acquisition of good title to land and the encouragement of land development."

The tidelands regulations, which will be reviewed at the same time, provide for the sale of lands to preference right users as well as leasing by competitive bidding.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF YOUR COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOC.

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Kodiak Electric Association will be held at 8 PM on Monday, March 7, 1960 at the Kodiak Elk's Hall, Kodiak, Alaska.

The purpose of this meeting is for the election of nine (9) directors to serve until others are chosen and qualified in their stead; and for the transacting of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Dated the 20th day of January, 1960, Kodiak, Alaska

A. M. GIVEN  
 Secretary

Publish Feb. 27 & Mar. 5, 1960

## A New Engine

Boats of the future may be driven by a revolutionary new lightweight motor which will offer boatmen high economy and extra power.

The engine, a rotary combustion power plant developed by Curtiss-Wright and NSU Werke of Germany, has only two moving parts. Prototype models now being produced weigh about 100 pounds and are able to produce 100 horsepower, reports the current (February) issue of the Ziff-Davis magazine Popular Boating.

In addition to its remarkable high power-to-weight ratio, the magazine states, the new engine has the following advantages:

1. It saves boatmen money, since a small, lightweight unit does the work of a much larger and heavier engine.
2. It provides smoother cruising, since the new design is almost completely free of vibration.
3. It provides a smooth flow of power at high operating speeds—about 15,000 rpm—as well as an

idling speed of about 400 rpm. The NSU engine in operation is said to be so smooth that a glass of water placed on top of the running unit will not show a ripple on its surface.

The development of a rotary combustion engine marks a "new concept in internal combustion engines of great potential interest to boatmen," reports Popular Boating.

Here's how the revolutionary new motor works:

Within a single combustion chamber, a triangular rotor spins like a hula hoop on a centrally-located fixed gear. As it spins, the rotor's nearly-flat sides form pockets with the chamber wall. In these pockets are carried out the basic combustion functions—air fuel intake, firing and exhaust (one function for each of the three rotor sides, all happening simultaneously).

The driveshaft is carried around so that each complete rotor cycle, or turn, causes the driveshaft to turn three times.

## Life's Darkest Moment



**Citizen X with time to spy  
 On cars and trucks passing by  
 If the violations you want to stop  
 Join the force and be a cop.  
 C41-443  
 FH-1-341  
 FH 605**

Paid Adv.

**Make Kraft's your  
 SEWING HEADQUARTERS**

**Prepare now for those Spring days ahead**

**YARDAGE IN LOVELY COLORS**  
 In new cottons and nylon  
**Thread Bindings**  
**Buttons Zippers**

**LATEST SIMPLICITY PATTERNS**  
**KRAFT'S DRY GOODS DEPT.**

Open every Friday until 8 pm