

**HB**

**117**



# Alaska State Legislature

Official Business

State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

TO: Representative Richard Foster, Chair  
Transportation Committee

FROM: Representative Curt Menard

DATE: February 22, 1993

SUBJECT: Information on House Bill 117

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House Bill 117, naming the Manvil Olson Bridge, is scheduled to be heard on Thursday February 25 in House Transportation.

Attached, please find:

1. Sponsor Statement
2. History of Mr. Olson
3. Petition by residents of the Schrock area.
4. Letter of request, written by Mr. Olson's son.
5. Newspaper article; Anchorage Daily News, July 16, 1992.

HB117 would have no fiscal impact on the state.

Co-sponsored by: Representative Pat Carney

HB117  
Rep. Curt Menard  
2/20/93

HOUSE BILL NO. 117  
Representative Curt Menard

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT

I introduced HB117, naming bridge #1030, located at Schrock Rd. over the Little Su River, after Manvil Olson. Mr. Olson spent many years constructing bridges at this same area in order for people to gain access to the end of Schrock Rd.

When people in the Schrock area are giving others directions they always refer to this river crossing as, "the Manvil Olson bridge". Many of my constituents and others in the community have put together a petition requesting the bridge be named after Mr. Olson.

Enclosed is a brief history of Mr. Olson's accomplishments. After reading it, I'm sure you will agree with my constituents that it is only fitting that this new bridge be named after Manvil Olson. He has demonstrated and captures the true spirit of an Alaskan pioneer.

## HISTORY

### MANVIL H. OLSON

Manvil Olson was born January 19, 1908, in Bird Island, Minnesota. He was among the first civilian travelers on the Alcan Highway, moving to Alaska with his wife and daughter in 1947. The family first settled in Haines, where he operated a garage.

In 1949, the Olsons moved to Skagway, where he became a machinist on the White Pass and Yukon Railroad. The family moved to Anchorage in 1951, where Manvil became a machinist on the Alaska Railroad.

In 1953, he lived on a homestead near Wasilla, six miles off the end of the nearest road. He and his family developed the homestead over the next several years. He opened and operated a commercial dairy farm from 1959 until 1964. The farm still produces hay and beef. During the homesteading period, Mr. Olson also worked full time on the railroad and after leaving the railroad worked at the Fort Richardson Motor Pool. He continued to work on the homestead evenings and weekends. He also did custom machine and equipment work for his neighbors.

In 1978, he drew a tract of land in the Delta Barley Project. At the age of 70, he began developing the parcel with his sons, eventually clearing and planting 2,400 acres of land. The farm, known as Big G Ranch, which is now owned by the family is still in operation.

Mr. Olson was a strong advocate of agriculture development and its potential in Alaska. He founded one farm on the family homestead north of Wasilla, where he cleared the land. In order to develop the area and continue his operation, he built four vehicle bridges over the little Su River, using three different designs. At the time of his death he was involved in managing a purebred herd of Scottish Highland beef cattle in Wasilla.

Mr. Olson's drive for great projects did not end with statehood and he remained committed to agricultural development in Alaska all of his life.

Mr. Olson is survived by his wife of 48 years, Beulah Weedon Olson; his daughter, Karen Olson Lee of Anchorage; his sons, Harold and Arnold of Wasilla; and his four grandchildren.

11/13/92

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We the UnderSigned petitioners  
of Schrock Road and Surround  
Area Request the Appropriate  
naming of the New Bridge Be  
The  
Manvil Olson Bridge.

Betty Jean Bosch - 746-4007

Tim Reed - 373-5457

Ray Reed 373-5457

Dennis R. Caswell 376-2335

Greg Washburn 376-6431

E. A. W. M. Edward K. Wooley 373-7506

Theresa Burton 373-7506

Laketta Caswell 376-2335

Carl Witter 376-5623

Marcella Wilbur 376-5623

Ed E. Wooley 373-0527

Vally Wooley 373-0527

Wm. L. Pena 376-8635

Jerry Schaber 373-5794

Mrs. Schaber 832-7887

Cindy J. Schaber 373-5794

Jessie Zipp 373-2872

Bill Baldwin 376-2080

Glen Butts Mes. - 376-0549

Jeanne Rose 376-4676

Mathew M. Bush " "

FRANK BUSH 376-5772

J. Marguerite Calvin 373-6918

Roxanne Willard 376-2647

Tom Sawley

Richard Bank

..... 376-2647

Angela Busn

U/A

Kenneth Jenks

(Nancy Hester)  
(Randy Randall)

Debra Snelling

Barbara Crabbe

Joel Smith

Shelia D. Smith

Rogannat Smith

Shelia D. Hess

James S. Helminich

Jesslyn Helminich

Don Kumer

Marv Greud

Edof Gray

373-2991

Jim Gray

W. Fitzgerald

376-5837

William Smith

Joyce Sitzgibben

Jimmy L. Brown

746-4007

Timothy S. Thompson

" "

Arnold Olson

373-1794

Stanley Olson

373-11

Jason G. Brown

Dana L. Richards

Harold J. Olson

373-1092

Onaive Reich (Kusan)

John

OLSEN

Beverly W. Olson

376-5771

Craig Torney

376-1004

Dary Adreotis

786-2774

Jesse Spray	746-1090
Jim Spray	" " " "
Boey Weers	376-1004
Andy Hunter	376-7608
<del>Ernie</del>	<del>376-9898</del>
Ann Jobi	376-6979
Carolyn Bush	376-5722
Randa Sawley	376-2647
Callie Willard	376-2647
Fritz Stalter	376-5666
Ray Wier	376-7510
John A. Anton	376-5527
Maurice Anton	376-5527
Harry	376-5527
Christian D. Warrin	373-0597
Michael J. Willkit	373-1795
Timothy W. Willkit	373-1795

Bridge No. 1030

Location: on the little Susitna River  
off the end of the Schrock Rd.

I am requesting that the above bridge  
be dedicated in memory of my father  
Manvil N. Olson, recently deceased July 13, 1992.

He has a long history in this area, one that  
predates statehood. He homesteaded north of  
the little Su 1/4 mile north off the end of the  
Schrock Rd in 1953.

EGAL  
@18  
8021W

Our original access to the homestead  
was where the present day North Shushana Road is.

He built a bridge there in 1954, actually just  
down stream, where the current Shushana bridge  
is, was our ford.

In 1955 the Federal Road Commission  
extended the Schrock Rd. Three miles ~~down stream~~  
west, to where it ends to this day.

He worked on that road extension operating a  
dozer.

That same year he built a bridge over the  
little Su and a new road to the homestead  
from the end of Schrock Rd.

During the time from 1954 - 1958 he cleared  
land on the homestead and land for many other  
homesteaders within the area, a lot of this was  
later rented and used for the dairy that was  
started in 1957. For the first year of the  
dairy operation milk was hauled in ten gallon  
cans to a dairy owned and operated by Pat Barney,  
another individual who embraced the true definition of the

Bridge No. 1030

Location: on the little Susitna River  
at the end of the Schrock Rd.

I am requesting that the above bridge  
be dedicated in memory of my father  
Maurice N. Olson, recently deceased, July 13, 1992.

He has a long history in this area, one that  
predates statehood. He homesteaded north of  
the little Su 1/4 mile north of the end of the  
Schrock Rd in 1953.

CEAL  
@ 18  
182210

Our original access to the homestead  
was where the present day North Shushana Road is.

He built a bridge there in 1954, actually just  
down stream, where the current Shushana bridge  
is, was our ford.

In 1955 the Federal Road Commission  
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land on the homestead and land for many other  
homesteaders within the area, a lot of this was  
later rented and used for the dairy that was  
started in 1957. For the first year of the  
dairy operation milk was hauled in ten gallon  
cans to a dairy owned and operated by Pat (Kenny),  
another individual who embraced the true definition of the

## MANVIL H. OLSON

Wasilla resident Manvil Harold Olson, 84, died July 13 at his Little Susitna River home.

A funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at First Presbyterian Church of Wasilla, 1375 E. Bogard Road.



Mr. Olson was born Jan. 19, 1908, in Bird Island, Minn. He spent the first 18 years of his life on a farm in the Mille Lacs area of Minnesota. He left the farm after high school and moved to Chicago where he became a machinist and tool and dye maker. He was a member of the Machinists Union International.

Mr. Olson enlisted in the Navy during World War II, serving on a destroyer in the Pacific and Atlantic theaters. He married Beulah Weedon Nov. 13, 1944, in Virginia. He was among the first civilian travelers on the Alcan Highway, moving to Alaska with his wife and daughter in 1947. The family first settled in Haines, where he operated a garage.

In 1949, the Olsons moved to Skagway, where he became a machinist on the White Pass and Yukon Railroad. The family moved to Anchorage in 1951. Mr. Olson became a machinist on the Alaska Railroad.

In 1953, he lived on a homestead near Wasilla, six miles off the end of the nearest road. He and his family developed the homestead over the next several years. A commercial dairy farm was opened in 1959 and operated until 1964. The farm still produces hay and beef.

During the homesteading period, Mr. Olson also worked on the railroad and at the Fort Richardson Motor Pool. He did custom machine and equipment work for his neighbors.

In 1978, he drew a tract of land in the Delta Barley Project. At the age of 70, he began developing the parcel with his sons, eventually

earing and planting 2,400 acres of land. The farm, known as Big G Ranch, was successfully completed and still in operation.

According to his family, Mr. Olson was a strong advocate of agriculture development and its potential in Alaska. He founded one

farm on the family homestead north of Wasilla and another at Delta. At the time of his death, he was involved in managing a purebred herd of Scottish Highland beef cattle in Wasilla.

Mr. Olson is survived by his wife of 48 years, Beulah

Weedon Olson of the family farm; his daughter, Karen Olson Lee of Anchorage; his sons, Harold and Arnold of Wasilla; his grandchildren, Leighton and Conan Lee of Palmer and Anchorage, and John Olsen and Stanley Olson, both of Wasilla; his niece, Louise Augustsson of

Anchorage; his nephew, Wayne Lofgren of Anchorage; his brother, Otto of Missouri; and his sisters, Vicki MacClean and Florence Haglund, both of Minnesota, and Lorraine Veith of Dallas.

Arrangements were by Kehl's Palmer Mortuary.

FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date:  
Title: Name Mavil H. Olson Bridge  
(Schrock Road)  
Sponsor: Menard, Carney  
Requestor:

Department Affected: DOT&PF  
BRU: Central M&O  
Component: Central M&O  
Component Serial Number: 567

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING:	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE FUND SOURCE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 FEDERAL RECEIPTS	0	0	0	0	0	0
1003 GF MATCH	0	0	0	0	0	0
1004 GF	0	0	0	0	0	0
1005 GF/PROGRAM RECEIPTS	0	0	0	0	0	0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL FUNDING:	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year (FY93) impact: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Little Su Bridge (#1030) on Schrock Road will be under construction during the Summer of 1993. Signs can be included with the project.

Prepared by: Margaret Holland

Phone: 266-1440

Division: Central Region, Regional Director's Office

Date: February 8, 1993

Approved by Commissioner:   
Frank G. Turpin

Phone: 465-3900

Agency: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Date: February 8, 1993

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