

# *Tyonek gets special recognition*

The Village of Tyonek received special recognition for its assistance in starting the Alaska Federation of Natives during the AFN convention and in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the founding of AFN.

Tyonek representatives Frederick Bismark Sr. and Bonnie McCord were presented with a plaque, and a proclamation signed by AFN President Janie Leask was read, noting the significant contribution the village made in loans to AFN.

It stated: "We are grateful to the leaders of the Village of Tyonek who provided the encouragement for such an organization: Albert Kaloa Jr. (in memorium), Seraphim Stephan, Emil McCord Sr., Frederick Bismark Sr., Adam Kroto, Eddie Kroto (in memorium), Harry Trenton (in memorium), Robert Standifer Sr. and Terry Stephan (in memorium).

"The Village of Tyonek contributed a grant of over \$100,000 to the AFN for its first statewide meeting held on

Oct. 18-20, 1966, in the Tyonek Building, located in Anchorage.

"This meeting was important to the development of a united stand on Native aboriginal land claims issues. Later the Village of Tyonek made a loan of \$100,000 to the AFN, later repaid, for administrative start-up costs and services during the important land claims advocacy years of the late 1960s.

"Finally, the Village of Tyonek provided encouragement for unity on

behalf of Alaska Natives through the statewide organization which resulted in recognition of Natives as a political force in the state."

The proclamation states that the village's "exemplary sharing" reminds Alaska Natives of Native heritage and the importance of sharing — "A tradition which we value and take pride, continually mindful of our responsibility to pass that heritage to our future generations."