

Governor Offers Sympathy To Parents of Chas. Ned

Governor William A. Egan has received word that the Lakes Region Sled Dog Club of New Hampshire has voted unanimously to create a perpetual trophy named for Charles Ned, 21-year-old Allakaket sled dog musher and handler who drowned on October 27 of this year when his dog team broke through the ice of the Alana River.

Mrs. Cynthia J. Molburg, the club's secretary, wrote the Governor the Charles Ned trophy would be awarded annually to the best dog handler in the Laconia World Championship Sled Dog Derby.

Ned and musher Jerry Riley of Nenana became known to New England dog sled racing groups last year when they became the first native Alaskan mushers to compete in that area of the Nation.

"While Jerry was garnering racing laurels for the State of Alaska, Charlie was quietly performing his duties as handler, and I might add that in this capacity no one was his equal," Mrs. Molburg wrote

"While acting in this subordinate position, he made more friends for the State of Alaska than the people of that State will ever realize. Charlie was in the truest sense of the word a one-man embassy . . . His wonderful smile and outgoing personality had its lasting effect on the very young and very old alike.

. . . "It was with great sadness that we learned of Charlie's tragic death. . . . This club does not bestow honors on whims, but in the brief time that Charlie had been among us he had added something to the very thing that has brought this group together, the training and racing of sled dogs.

"He had made us more consciously aware of the beauty of working with dogs in an era when machines threaten to deny man the dignity of being master of his destiny. . . . Alaska had a most wonderful goodwill ambassador in that humble youth from Allakaket."

Ned is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Ned; a brother, Freddie; and a sister, Francis. All are of Allakaket.

In a letter to Ned's parents, Governor Egan wrote:

" . . . In your grief, you have my deepest sympathy. Your fine son was a truly outstanding citizen in whom all Alaskans can take great pride. . . ."