

## *Sitting in Howard's Chair*

Alaska has known a number of interesting, colorful and dedicated newspaper editors. For instance, there was "Stroller" White, who covered the Klondike Gold Rush and captured its flavor. There was "Wrong Font" Thompson, whose backing of Eielson helped bring "the Aviation" to Alaska. In our own time we have Albro Gregory, whose fight against parking meters in Nome was a classic of resistance to the more foolish fripperies of modern society; besides, it evoked a few chuckles.

But as I sit here as Acting Editor in the office of the Tundra Times, I am very much aware that I follow a really great act — that of Howard Rock. In my book he was the best of them all. He has a knack of treating the toughest, touchiest subjects with a gently irony that tended to break down barriers and at the same time help achieve a better break for his people.

Everyone has a hero, and Howard Rock is mine. His old battered typewriter sits on a shelf nearby, looking as beat-up and shabby as some that I have owned and worn out. I know that I will never be the editor that Howard Rock was, but just sitting here, figuratively in his chair, is honor enough for me.

—Lone Janson