

Tom Richards Honored

Tom Richards, Jr., was for years the editor of the Tundra Times, was given the coveted Howard Rock Award, the Tundra Times' highest honor, at Saturday's AFN/Tundra Times Banquet. The award was in recognition of his many years of holding together the paper founded by Rock.

Also given certificates of recognition were two departing board members who had served the Tundra Times many years: Chris Anderson and Barry Jackson.

Appropriately the banquet was held in the Howard Rock Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel on Calista Square in Anchorage. A packed house, with tickets sold out weeks in advance, was the story of the gala affair, the largest sit-down dinner in the State of Alaska. About fifteen hundred persons enjoyed a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings, an auction to benefit the Howard Rock Scholarship fund, and the jovial M.C.ing of Roger Lang and Al Grang.

The evening was topped off with dancing to rollicking rhythms of the Koyukuk River Band, led by Herbie Vent, an Athabaskan from Huslia.

Mr. Vent in the past two years has been trying to get several grants to form a Native band comprised of talented young native musicians. Mr. Vent feels that there are a lot of young native youths in the villages that are very talented but are never given the chance. If he had the funds he would work with them and help them to develop their talents, eventually touring the state. Mr. Vent was accompanied by Carlson Koyukuk from Hughes on the Rhythm guitar, Louie Commack from Anchorage on the Drums, and Jake Wells on the Bass Guitar.