

NORTH STAR AWARD

(In each issue, the Tundra Times will single out for a North Star award one who has made an outstanding accomplishment or done a meritorious act.)

If one had to pick out the one person who probably knows the most about arctic conditions, at or near the top of his list no doubt would be an Alaskan of Barrow, Alaska—Max Brewer.

The 41-year-old director of the Arctic Research Laboratory has spent more time continuously in the Arctic involved in research than any other person.

A permafrost (perennially frozen ground) expert, he has made a tremendous contribution to the national defense by his knowledge. His advice was important in the construction of the DEW line.

A competent oceanographer himself, he has also been a pioneer in the use of light aircraft to make landings on sea ice for the purpose of conducting oceanographic and other research. He planned, selected the ice, and established the camp on the U.S.'s first Ice Land and since then has been in charge of an expanding Ice Island scientific program.

In practically every search of missing persons or downed aircraft in the Barrow area, he has been involved.

Since 1956, he has been in charge of the Arctic Research Laboratory and its far reaching program which includes trail parties and camps stretching over a vast area from the Brooks range to 150 miles into the polar ice cap.

Time after time he has received awards in many areas for his contributions to basic science. At one time he was given the highest civilian honor the Navy can award.

But Max Brewer not only is a brilliant scientist; he has also demonstrated a genuine concern for people. This is demonstrated in the large number of Barrow citizens that he employs at the laboratory and field stations in a variety of capacities. This is demonstrated in his extensive private collection of Eskimo art particularly soapstone and ivory carvings. This is demonstrated by his civic work in Barrow where he and his family live. At one time he was president of the Chamber of Commerce and recently he warmly welcomed visiting members of the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce to the top-of-the-world city.

Max Brewer has been a prime mover in the Barrow's recent survey and the laying-out of the city in an orderly fashion.

Brewer was born in Black Falde, Alberta, Canada, and graduated from Washington University at St. Louis. He has also attended Washington State University, Reed College and the University of California.

This weekend Max Brewer is in Iceland supervising the evacuation of Arlis II, Ice Island. Brewer established a camp on the island which is expected shortly to break-up. During its use, much valuable basic research has been done on the island—research that will benefit the whole world.

Max Brewer was born on May 3, 1924 and is 41 today. Evacuation of the island today would be a fitting birthday present.

And so to Max Brewer, who has done so much for the Arctic both in personal concern and scientific exploration, we would like to extend to him the Tundra Times fifty-eighth North Star Award along with our congratulations and happy birthday wishes.