

Kotzebue Voters Go Dry Again

Kotzebue voted itself dry again in Tuesday's general election by a vote of 209 against 172 for the sale of liquor. Thus Kotzebue joins with other northern communities in an on-again, off-again pattern of prohibition. The community voted wet in a special election Jan 9, 1962; dry again a year and a half later. This time it has been wet since 1965.

During the wet periods, liquor has been sold only in one store, operated by "Kotzebue Community Services, Inc.," a corporation of local businessmen which was chartered as a "non-profit" enterprise. Profits from the liquor store have gone for such community service and development projects as playground equipment, sanitation and water service.

Most recent enterprise was the Kotzebue Community Services Bar, built at a cost of \$14,000 and officially opened only last Monday. It will close again on or before January 1, the effective date of the latest prohibition.

Operation of the community liquor store has always been controversial, according to KCS manager Leslie E. Bone.

He said the position of the corporation was simply that since it was impossible to keep liquor from coming into Kotzebue, it was best to keep liquor in town, and working for the town. Opposition stemmed from religious groups largely, who felt it was best to prohibit all legal sale of liquor entirely. Campaigning, which was hot and heavy, took the form of a series of letters to Kotzebue boxholders from the corporation and door to door campaigning by the opposition.