

Memorial Fund

We have found out that the late Rhoda Thomas, education specialist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fairbanks District, and who died in a tragic plane crash not long ago, often expressed a wish that needy high school students should have extra funds for incidental expenses while attending boarding schools and State high schools in our state.

Knowing that a little extra money is very important to a young student who, by necessity, has to attend school away from home, and knowing that having it is important to the student's morale, the Tundra Times has offered to sponsor the Rhoda Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund. We are entering this project with a definite idea that it will be of great benefit to the needy students and it will no doubt ease the minds of their parents who cannot afford to furnish their children with funds for small but needed expenses. We also feel that full realization of the program will be a fitting memorial to Rhoda Thomas whose genuine concern for the welfare of the students warmed our hearts.

It has been suggested that the Memorial Fund be restricted to those students who are worthy of the assistance and who are in need of supplemental funds for incidentals such as clothing, books and for recreational expenses at the school where they attend.

The formal program to administer the Memorial Fund is in the process of preparation. We are told that arrangements can be made to set up a selection committee. Upon completion of the formal program, the Bureau of Indian Affairs will pool its resources and will assist in any way possible in developing the program including technical help in administering the fund to worthy students. It is expected the money received will be set up as a trust fund in one of the banks in Fairbanks.

The Rhoda Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund, to our opinion, is humanitarian and a forward looking program. It is worthy of support by all of us. The benefit it would give the young people, especially those from very low income families, would help immeasurably to maintain their morale and it would help them to stay in school instead of dropping out. And above all, it will be a fitting memorial to Rhoda Thomas who, in her quiet way, did so much in encouraging our children to stay in school. Let us, therefore, honor her memory and support the Memorial Fund as generously as we can and thus help to perpetuate her fine idea of encouraging students to stay in school.