

Tyonek Honors Bartlett

TYONEK—Tyonek has been blessed in many ways. Some of the rewards have been the result of our own efforts, but some of the blessings have been due to persons who have or had no direct responsibility to our people or for our welfare. There have been persons who have played a great role in helping secure our blessings for us and who have by their concern and guidance given us much.

November 28, 1969 was to have been a day of special significance to Tyonek. It was to have been the day we paid tribute to a great friend. It was to have been the occasion where many of our friends were to have gathered to pay tribute to a distinguished Alaskan. It was BARTLETT DAY at Tyonek. Many special plans had been made. Many of Senator Bartlett's friends had accepted invitations to be present to honor him. A surprise had been planned. The dedication of the new Tyonek Elementary School had been delayed to this date. The Kenai Borough and the State Department of Education had been notified of the surprise dedication and had kept in confidence the plan. Tyonek wanted a friend to be able to know of their affection and respect for him and November 28th was to see the dedication of the new school and naming of the E.L. Bob Bartlett Elementary School of Tyonek.

It was a disappointment to postpone the event, however we all knew that the Senator was not satisfied with the limitations placed on him by his health and respected his wish to do what he felt necessary to improve his physical well being. We were confident that in a matter of months we could again plan our day of honor to a friend and enjoy his pleasure when he learned of our surprise for him.

We have not had a formal dedication of the E.L. Bob Bartlett Elementary School. We will at some later date. Our hearts are too heavy now to attempt such a program. Our wish was to let a friend know how much he meant to us. We were not in time. Our sense of loss is double because we were not in time. We grieve with his wife and daughters at his leaving us. We are proud to have known him. We shall miss his kind and sympathetic ear. We will miss his sound and careful counsel. We will miss his spirit and judgement. We will however have his memory. We are proud to have known him. We hope that the E.L. Bob Bartlett School will do him honor.