

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.)

There are many great men and women in the world who gained fame through deeds of many kinds. They have been, and will be, eulogized and extolled in print and in other media. They will be remembered in the years to come. So be it.

And then there are some, little people in comparison to the great, but who, nevertheless, made their mark in the comparatively small circle of friends but who will never be forgotten by those who knew them.

Such a person was Grover Cleveland Dowell. Who was he? Many people do not know him but those who do will never forget him. Grover died about a couple of months ago in the Veteran's Hospital in Seattle.

The "Growler," or the "Grouch," as he was affectionately known by his friends, seemed to personify his nicknames to a tee as he demonstrated his mocked temperament to those who knew him slightly or none at all. He could look formidable indeed but as one got to know him well, he soon found out that his bark was worse than his bite.

One of the most pleasant things about the "Growler" was the fact that he could replace the growl with a most sincere and beautiful smile that truly reflected his true nature.

At just skin deep beneath his growl, one found a kindly, sympathetic man who truly cared for his fellowman. He was ready to help this unfortunate by saying kindly words. If he knew a person well, he was ready to help by giving him a good scolding employing at the same time his growliest countenance. Grover will be unforgettable to those who knew him. The writer of this column knew him well and considered him a true friend.

And so to Grover Cleveland Dowell, for his unique contribution to a better life, for his great kindness and willingness to help the unfortunate, posthumously goes the Tundra Times fifty-seventh North Star Award along with our sincere sympathies to his widow, Sally Dowell and the surviving step-children, who loved him.