

H78-48-04

Pioneers of Alaska banquet, 1974

58<sup>th</sup> Session

Sitka, Alaska

Unidentified speaker introduced the people at the head table: Ted Stevens, John Deksovich, Hans Waldenhog, Lillian Bart, Axel Edmund, and Patrick Lloyd. Axel Edmund is introduced and invited to the podium. He thanks Igloo no. 22 and Auxiliary no. 12 for the wonderful convention. Also introduced were Pat Lloyd, Bob Dyer, Grant Nelson, Bill Hopkins, Vera Syers, Bob Hansen, Vida Rich, Howard Bradshaw and Bob Clinton. Unidentified speaker talked about the Matanuska Valley project and how he met his wife, Estella Erwin.

Senator Ted Stevens is introduced. Senator Stevens talked about the continuing work of the Pioneers of Alaska and the different origins of the Pioneers. He talked about the continuing pioneering of the arctic region of Alaska, Bill Foran, John Reeve, and the men and women working in isolated pipeline camps. He talked about the aviation pioneers such as John Cross and Vern Bookwalter and others that have opened the way for Alaska development and George Parks who served Alaska as a territorial governor. Ted Stevens talked about working with Bob Bartlett and Bob's struggle to make Alaska a state. He talked about a proposed series of parks that were being planned for Seattle, Juneau and Skagway. He spoke of protecting the remaining relics of Alaska's early days. He has proposed to have the Alaska territorial records from 1884-1958 to returned to the state archives. He talked about the fiftieth anniversary of the serum run to Nome and his request to have a stamp created by the U.S. Postal Service. He spoke of the problem of finding adequate housing for older people, the increase of monies to the mortgage trust fund for financing housing for senior citizens and the handicapped, the impact of inflation on retired persons, the longevity bonus in Alaska, legislation for social security laws, the Older Americans Act, transportation for the elderly, and programs for the elderly.