

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

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Honoring Bob Wescott.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

Alaska has lost a pioneer.

Bob Wescott, a 31-year resident of Fairbanks, has died. Mr. Wescott was born in West Plains, Missouri in 1907. A graduate of the University of Missouri in Columbia, he served two years as night editor of the campus newspaper. He went on to operate two weekly newspapers of his own in Emmence and Mountain View, Missouri, becoming the youngest newspaper editor in the state.

Bob Wescott married Olyvia "Libby" Woodard, his childhood sweetheart, in 1933. In the depths of the depression, they sold a ranch they had bought and moved to Longview, Washington, where Mr. Wescott edited the magazine of the Long Bell Lumber Company.

The Wescotts came to Alaska in 1941, residing in several localities before moving to Fairbanks in 1946. In Fairbanks Bob Wescott began to pursue one of his main interests -- raising dogs. He devoted 20 years to breeding Alaskan Huskies that today can be recognized as the "Wescott breed" in many dog racing teams throughout Alaska and the Lower 48. He founded the Alaska Dog Musers Association and, in 1947, began a radio program called "Mostly About Dogs." Bush residents supplied him with information about early-day dog team mail carriers and participants in the Nome Serum Run. The broadcast scripts he composed over two years make more than 1,000 pages of Alaskan sled dog history.

In 1948 the Wescotts opened the first one-day service photo finishing plant in Fairbanks, which they owned until 1960. In 1950 they bought a 160-acre homestead and cleared much of the

land for farming, an activity Mr. Wescott pursued until his death.

Bob Wescott was greatly concerned about alcoholism in Alaska. He stressed village participation in finding solutions for the problem, believing that village garden projects could help decrease alcohol abuse in rural areas.

The Alaska State Legislature salutes the memory of Bob Wescott, a man of creativity and vision. Sincerest condolences are extended to the members of his family on the occasion of their loss.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Olyvia "Libby" Wescott and Rynniva Wescott.