



Irvin "Irv" L. Tailleir **1924–2004**

Irv Tailleir was a colorful character and an institution of northern Alaska geology. Following service in the Marine Corps, his impactful career began in 1949 with the U.S. Geological Survey Navy Oil Unit, where he conducted pioneering work on the geology of the Killik-Itkillik region. Irv was the first to sample and report on Red Dog Creek in the Brooks Range, which led to the discovery of one of the world's premier lead-zinc deposits at the Red Dog Mine. He creatively integrated early plate tectonic ideas, leveraging his careful geologic map observations to argue that thrust sheets in the Brooks Range recorded large magnitude shortening. Irv was among the first to suggest that northern Alaska rotated away from the Canadian Arctic, forming the Canada Basin.

Photo credit: Gil Mull.