

# Mildred Sparks, Tlingit leader, dies

Southeast Alaskan residents will miss one spark of life --- Mildred Sparks, at the age of 83 died in Haines Alaska on May 9, 1984.

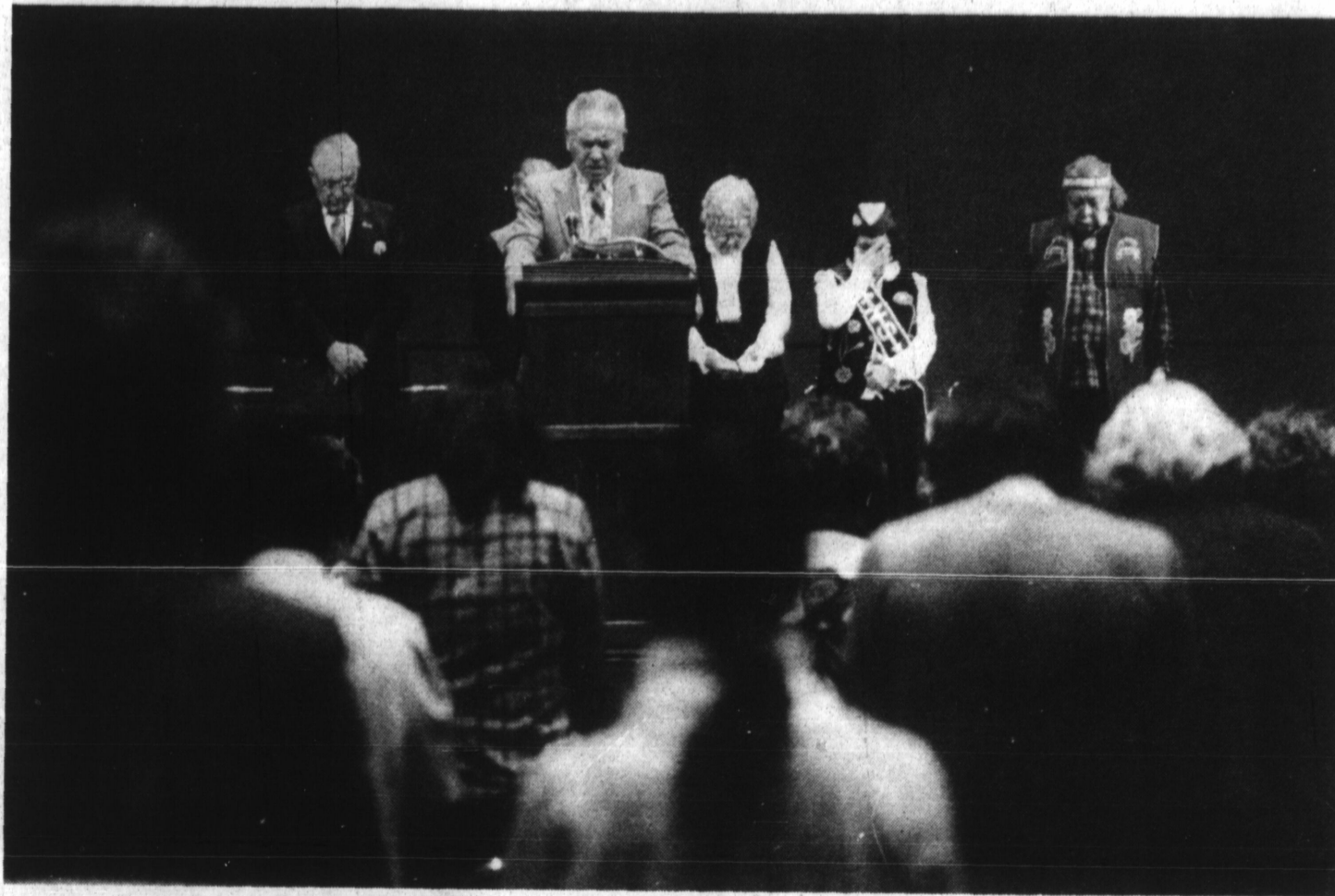
Sparks served as Alaska Native Sisterhood president twice. Today's president, Ethel Lund remembered Sparks fondly.

"She was a very remarkable lady. . . outstanding. She would be an inspiration to all. She was a very strong women and a strong model who provided leadership." Lund said age didn't prevent Sparks from working and continuing to give a leadership role to projects.

In 1981 the University of Alaska, Juneau awarded Sparks an honorary doctorate degree in Humanities. The Alaska State Legislature issued a citation on her behalf.

According to the citation, "Seenteen," (her Tlingit name) was active in her Tlingit ways and was devoted to her clan. she knew how to weave the famous Chilkat blankets and was a strong supporter of her family.

In 1968 she was named Alaska's Mother of the Year. In addition to being dedicated to her family, she was dedicated to her people. In 1954 she was elected to serve on the



Celebration 84 included a memorial service for Mildred Sparks.

Klukwan Traditional Council and later from 1955-61 she served on the National Congress of American Indian board.

She was the oldest member of the Haines Presbyterian Church. She also was a key person in the development of the

Chilkat State Park.

Her surviving children are Margaret Thomas, Wes and Evan Willard, Ron Sparks, Irene Sparks Rowan and David Light.

She's also survived by 24 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was born at Klukwan in 1900. She was buried in Haines.