



MARY R. HAWKINS

Home Economist Honored

A signal honor has been accorded Alaskan educator Mary R. Hawkins, home economist with the Alaska Department of Education.

Commissioner of Education Marshall Lind has announced that Hawkins has recently been selected from hundreds of nominees to serve on the federal Product Safety Advisory Council, a group of 15 Americans selected by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to represent government, consumer groups and private industry concerns.

Hawkins first came to Alaska in 1950 and homesteaded with her family near Clam Gulch on the Kenai Peninsula. According to Hawkins, she became particularly aware of rural consumer safety problems while homesteading.

She recounted, "My experiences most certainly impressed me with the need for personal safety through product

safety education as I learned firsthand the importance of the consumer's concern for safety. Practicing safety precautions and knowing the product and its capabilities can save one possible

grief."

Prior to joining the Department of Education in 1970, she taught in Dillingham, Ninilchik, Kenai and Juneau. She will serve on the council for the next two years.