

# Ticasuk Library dedicated in Unalakleet

A "happy and joyous occasion," marked the Dec. 16 dedication of the Ticasuk Library in Unalakleet.

The library was named in honor of the last Emily Ivanoff

Brown whose Eskimo name was Ticasuk.

The library was built with money provided by the Kawerak non-profit Native corporation, with local workers from the Northwest Community College.

The Ticasuk Library will provide space for the adult basic education program of Kawerak, Unalakleet's library programs, and the distant learning programs of Northwest Community College.

Representatives of the Unalakleet Native Corporation, the Bering Straits School District, Kawerak and the Northwest Community college attended the ceremony which included refreshments for more than 50 people.

Arlys Loew, the distant learning coordinator for the NWCC said, "It was a happy and joyous occasion and you could almost feel the spirit of Emily Ivanoff Brown in the room, with all her friends from Unalakleet there."

Ticasuk, which means "hollow in the grounds" was born in 1904. She wrote a book entitled the "Roots of Ticasuk" about her life's experiences living in Alaska.

She spent much of her life educating herself and others, a goal passed on to her by her father, Stephan Ivanoff, a lay minister, trader, and teacher of Russian-Yupik descent.

She attended Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Ore. from 1919 to 1928 when she graduated from teacher's training.

Through her lifetime she taught school in Shaktoolik, and in Unalakleet where she started the Eskimo Mothers' Club, along with White Mountain, Noatak, Meade River, and Kotzebue, before returning to the University of Alaska to upgrade her teaching credentials.

She had received three university degrees and citations, many awards from the Alaska Legislature, and from numerous professional organizations.