

Editor Wins Alaskan of the Year

Howard Rock, publisher editor of the Tundra Times, and U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens tied in the voting for the Alaskan of the Year award Friday night in Anchorage.

The two men were named from a field of five nominees, including Mrs. Mary Hale and Muktuk Marston of Anchorage, and Dr. William R. Wood of Fairbanks.

Rock, an Eskimo from Point

Hope, was the only nominee born in Alaska. He has directed the weekly newspaper since its beginning in 1962. The paper has been credited with influencing the Native Land Claims Settlement Act, encouraging Native culture in Alaska and helping to establish Natives as potent political, social and economic forces in the state.

Sen. Stevens' association with

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Alaskan . . .

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Alaska began when he was appointed U.S. Attorney in Fairbanks. He served as assistant secretary of the Interior during the fight for statehood, was elected to the state legislature and in 1968 was appointed as U.S. senator upon the death of Sen. E.L. (Bob) Bartlett.

Mrs. Hale's nomination marked the first time a woman has been among the top five nominees. Mrs. Hale directed the Anchorage Community Chorus for many years, and founded, then directed, the Alaska Festival of Music. She has long been in the forefront of fine arts in Alaska.

Marston has become a part of Alaskan history for his organization of the Eskimo Scouts during World War II, an Alaskan defensive combat-ready outfit.

Dr. William R. Wood served as president of the University of Alaska 13 years before recently retiring, guiding its growth from a small campus in Fairbanks to numerous campuses and community colleges in the cities and villages.

Six out of nine winners of the award have held public office, including Stevens, Bartlett, Walter J. Hickel, former Sen. Ernest Gruening, Gov. William A. Egan and the late Congressman Nick Begich. Two other winners were Robert Atwood, publisher of the Anchorage Times, and Robert Reeve, a glacier pilot.