

## Shoolook Emma Blacks, 91

Shoolook Emma Black, a well known Eskimo dollmaker, died April 2 in her Anchorage home. She was 91. Funeral services took place at the Evergreen Memorial Chapel. Burial was later at the Angelus Memorial Park.

Mrs. Black made dolls for friends upon request. Often these were asked to be made for gifts. She sewed mukluks and clothing for her family and turned her talents into arts and crafts. Mrs. Black called this her independence and business continued as she was making about one doll per month.

Mrs. Black was born September 29, 1894 at Cape Krusenstern, near Point Hope she was not expected to live weighing only two pounds. A puffin skin turned inside out kept her warm during those delicate months.

She grew up in Point Hope, Kotzebue and Deering later marrying James Black around 1920. James taught school and both operated a gold mine on the Ipnachak River near Deering until 1950. About a year later James died.

They also operated the roadhouse in Deering. After James' death Shoolook moved back to Kotzebue, then Nome and later at Anchorage.

Her knowledge as a midwife was recognized. She attended many births and participated in deliveries for over 45 years. Many sought her knowledge and she taught many her skills in Nome and throughout the Northwest into the 1960's.

She leaves her daughter, Elsie Sanders of Anchorage; three sons, James W. Jr., Samuel and Clifford, all of Anchorage; two daughters in law, Linda and Janet of Anchorage; stepdaughter, Cora Porter of Oregon; two brothers, Levi and Kenneth Mills of Kotzebue, 23 grandchildren and many great and great-great grandchildren.



*Shoolook Emma Black*