

Emily Ivanoff Brown Finalist for Woman of Achievement Award

FAIRBANKS — Mrs. Emily Ivanoff Brown, prominent Eskimo writer, is one of 20 finalists for the Woman of Achievement Award conferred annually by the National Federation of Press Women, Inc.

Mrs. Brown and the other finalists will attend the federation's Woman of Achievement banquet June 27 in Bismarck, N.D. and the national winner will be announced at that time.

Mrs. Brown was nominated for the award by the Alaska Press Women, an affiliate of the National Federation of Press Women.

The daughter of a half-Russian father and full Eskimo mother, Mrs. Brown was born at Unalakleet and raised at Shaktoolik. She decided early on a teaching career and taught briefly at Kotzebue following her graduation from Chemawa Indian School at Salem, Oregon

in 1928. But she subsequently gave up her career plans to



EMILY IVANOFF BROWN

marry Robert Brown.

After his death, and with three sons to support, she

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Emily Brown . .

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returned to the classroom in 1938 and taught throughout northern Alaska for 30 years. Beginning in 1951, she went to school every summer to work for the college degree she had always wanted, and in 1964 it was finally hers, awarded by the University of Alaska.

Last year, a master's degree in communications arts was conferred on her by the university.

Concerned that the history and ways of her people would one day be forgotten, Mrs. Brown turned to writing in the 1960's. Her subject was, and is, "everything to do with Eskimo life" — legends, music, songs, food, customs.

Honors have come her way in recent years. For her long-time effort to preserve the cultural heritage of her people, Mrs. Brown in 1970 was presented a Presidential Commendation honoring her for "exceptional service to others, in the finest American tradition."

The same year, the university's Alumni Association honored her as its Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, and the Journalism Department at Fairbanks named a new writing scholarship for her.