

# Tlingit woman honored

Mildred Sparks of Klukwan and Lew Williams, Jr. of Ketchikan will receive honorary doctorate degrees in humanities at commencement exercises April 30 at the University of Alaska, Juneau.

Mildred Sparks is a widely recognized artist and community leader. Known as a "mother to many Tlingits over the years" by

her friends, she was chosen Alaska Mother of the Year in 1968. Mildred and her husband, William, are the parents of eight children.

She was invited to participate in the World Wide Arts and Crafts show in Toronto, Canada, a few years ago. According to Emma Widmark of Juneau, "Mildred is one of the most highly

respected Tlingits and has an outstanding knowledge of the native heritage."

She has been elected twice as president of the Grand Camp of the Alaska Native Sisterhood and is presently Grand President Emeritus. She is a church elder of the Presbyterian Church at Haines, a member of the Self-Development Board of the Presbyterian Synod, a member of both local and state historical societies, a member of the Women's Club of Haines, and is active in a number of other community, civic and service organizations.

Lew Williams has owned and edited newspapers in Wrangell, Petersburg and in Ketchikan. Lew and his wife, Dorothy, became sole owners of the Ketchikan Daily News in 1976, and since that time the newspaper has earned more than two dozen professional journalism awards, including awards for editorials written by Lew.

He has been an active voice and a leader in a variety of civic and public service organizations, both at the local and statewide levels. Three of Alaska's four governors since statehood have appointed him to state boards, including the Alaska Judicial

(Continued on Page Twenty)

# ● Honored

(Continued from Page Sixteen)

Council, the Jones Relief Task Force, and the Governor's Commission on the Administration of Justice on which he still serves.

Williams was an organizer of the Alaska Publishers' Association in 1963 and the Alaska Newspaper Association in 1980.

He has served with the Chambers of Commerce in Wrangell, Petersburg and Ketchikan, and with the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, which named him Man of the Year in 1980. Lew has been a volunteer fireman, active with the Boy Scouts of America, the Elks Lodge, the American Legion, the Rotary and other organizations.