

# Roy Ewan is AFN Citizen of the Year

by Louise Sagmoen

Tundra Times

An Athabascan Indian, Roy Ewan of Copper Center was named Alaska Federation of Natives Citizen of the Year at the *Tundra Times* banquet.

Ewan was born February 25, 1935 in Copper Center where he grew up. Later he left to attend high school at Mt. Edgecumbe. After receiving his high school diploma he served in the Army from 1953-55. He continued his education and eventually received a diploma from the Anchorage Community College.

Ewan has a consistent track record of serving his people. In 1967 he began working for Rural Alaska Community Action Program as a field representative. Later he worked with the Alaska Native Foundation, then became executive director of his Native corporation, Ahtna, which has recorded a profit annually. Last year he replaced Herb Smelcer as Ahtna president.

Ahtna and the non-profit arm, Copper River Native Association, nominated him.

Days before being selected,



Roy Ewan Tundra Times photo

tragedy struck Ewan's family. His brother, Hector, died. Shortly after the convention Ewan attended his brother's funeral. In his acceptance speech Ewan paid tribute to his late brother.

Before approximately 1,200 people Ewan said he was honored to be named AFN Citizen of the Year. His co-workers also applauded the selection saying, "that's exciting. That's great."

Last year's AFN citizen was Southwest Alaska's Willie Kasayulie.