



DOROTHY HULTBERG STONE, a Tanana schoolteacher, received a Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Alaska's 52nd Commencement on Sunday, May 19. She obtained her degree by attending summer school for 19 years; previously she had only a fifth grade education. She is shown above with Robert W. Sarnoff (left) who received an honorary doctor of laws degree, and Howard Rock, editor of the weekly Native newspaper, "Tundra Times," who received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree. — UA Photo

## 19-yr. Effort to Get Degree Pays Off for Dorothy H. Stone

FAIRBANKS — Twenty years ago Dorothy H. Stone of Tanana began teaching school in the Alaskan village of Nicolai. She had only a fifth grade education herself, but no certified teacher was available to go to the isolated village, located in Southcentral Alaska east of McGrath.

Last week, after 20 years of teaching in Alaskan villages, Mrs. Stone finally earned her bachelor's degree in education, a feat she achieved by attending the University of Alaska's summer session in Fairbanks every summer for 19 summers.

"I don't know anyone else who would have been dedicated enough to attend summer school for 19 years to get a degree," said Dr. John Turner, Mrs. Stone's advisor.

"She worked very hard," he said. "There were times when we weren't sure she would be able to make it, but she kept working. I'm proud of her, and I'm very happy that she has her degree and will now receive benefits in her salary and in her retirement pay."

Mrs. Turner has one more year of teaching at the grammar school in Tanana before she is due to retire. When she began teaching, she was given a provi-

sional teaching certificate, and it was renewed each year when she continued to work on her degree.

She was born near Bethel in an Eskimo village on the Kuskokwim River in southcentral Alaska. When she started teaching, she was living in Nicolai where a

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school had been started by missionaries.

When the women from the mission had to leave, Mrs. Stone took over when no certified teacher could be found to teach in the village of less than 400 residents. With only a fifth grade education, she found she was having to study right along with some of her older pupils in the one-room schoolhouse.

Several years ago Mrs. Stone was widowed, and her married son now lives in McGrath.

During most of her teaching career, however, she had the responsibilities of a wife and mother in addition to her teaching duties and her studies. She also has been active as a miner, doing assessment work on a mine near Medford each year between summer school at the university and the start of her classes each fall.

"When she started teaching in Nicolai, no one else wanted to go out there," said Ida Mae Merrill of Fairbanks, a long-time friend. "But she enjoyed teaching, and kept up her studies each year so she could continue. Her husband was a big help; he was an avid reader, and he encouraged her."

"But she had to work very hard in college," said Mrs. Merrill, "because she never had the advantages of a grammar school or high school education. Dorothy Stone deserves a lot of credit."