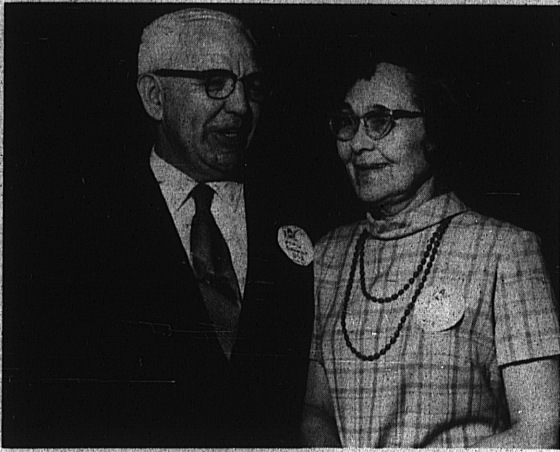


# UA HONORS TWO PROMINENT NATIVE PERSONS



**TWO NATIVES HONORED**—Two well known native persons were honored recently at the University of Alaska commencement exercises. Archie W. Demmert, left, was awarded a doctor of humanities degree for his exemplary teaching career in Alaska for 30 years. Emily I. Brown was selected by the Alumni Association as its Distinguished Alumnus of 1970.  
—JIMMY BEDFORD Photograph

Two native teachers were recently honored by the University of Alaska. Archie W. Demmert was awarded an honorary degree at commencement exercises May 18 and Emily Brown was selected by the Alumni Association of the University as its Distinguished Alumnus of 1970.

Demmert, a veteran Alaska educator for 30 years who was selected Alaska Teacher of the Year for 1968-69, was awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree.

An Alaskan Indian, he began his teaching career as a substitute in 1930 in Klawock at a time when there was a shortage of teachers. He was made a permanent teaching assistant two years later and taught until 1936 when he tried his hand at fishing, clerking, bookkeeping, and other odd jobs.

"None of the other jobs appealed to me like teaching did," he said. "I knew then I wanted to be a teacher."

After serving in World War II Demmert married and accepted a teaching assignment at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, where both he and his wife taught. In 1954 he received a bachelor of science degree from Wisconsin State Teachers College and in 1964 a master of education degree from the University of Alaska.

Mrs. Brown was born in Unalakleet and reared in Shaktoolik. At the age of 11, she left Alaska and attended school at Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Ore. She decided that she would become a teacher when she was a sophomore in high school because, she said, "I wanted to help my own people. I had had the chance to read and write and I wanted to teach others the same."

She first taught at Kotzebue in 1928. Later she became a nursing student and also married Robert Brown.

The couple spent the next few years in Shaktoolik, where Mrs. Brown's three sons were born. After her husband died in 1938, she returned to teaching and taught until 1968 when she re-