Shop for Edna Ketzler

Mrs. Richard Ketzler (Edna) of Nenana is determined to open an arts and crafts shop in Nenana.

With the help of her family of five sons and three daughters and the guidance from Alaskan artist Ron Senungetuk, she hopes to have her shop open by May.

Then, she said, in addition to selling Alaskan art and crafts, she will be able to train others in the art of making beadwork and mukluks.

She has ordered logs for a small building, twenty feet by twenty-four, she said, which she will build on skids.

"I've already talked to the principal (of the school in Nenana)," she said, and "he's hoping to get a grant for the high school there so that the students can learn arts and crafts. If he does, I will teach, or one of the teachers will teach, arts and crafts to the students."

Mrs. Ketzler, whose children also have exhibited a talent in art, studied art at the native school in Nome.

Last year, for her birthday, her sons gave her nine soapstone hearts which they had carved in different shapes and sizes, and one other prized family possession, she said, is a wooden totem pole whose wings display pictures of her children.

Her children will help her "a great deal" with her shop, she said. One of her daughters is studying to be an accountant. She hopes to keep the work of running the shop "all in the family."

Her mother plans to come up from her home in California, she said, to allow Mrs. Ketzler to "go out to the villages to get items" for her store and make arrangements for people, such as those in hospitals, to make money "to help them along. I can cut out materials," she said, "and they can sew them."