

Tundra Times founder was an artist, a writer, a poet

by Ralph Perdue
for the Tundra Times

I first met Howard Rock around 1950 or 1951 in Seattle. Howard was working as an artist. He was carving around 100 ivory seals per day and selling them to a wholesaler for 50 cents apiece.

He was also writing poetry. Prior to his arrival in Seattle, Howard worked for a sea captain in Medford, Ore. He was training then to be an artist.

On Howard's arrival to his village, I received a letter from him about 1960. He needed transportation from Point Hope to Fairbanks. Dorothy and I paid his ticket. We also held and financed Howard's first art show at the Travelers' Inn where more than 12 paintings were shown. The sale was successful.

Howard's needs were not extravagant, but many times he needed assistance, so Dorothy and I purchased paintings or gave him a gift.

In starting up the *Tundra Times*, I found Howard to be a determined and serious person. He was not swayed easily in his editorials. Many times he was stubborn.

I remember LaVerne Madigan and the introduction of Dr. Forbes, who came forth with the startup funding.

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Many hours were spent with Howard and the *Tundra Times* in doing all we could to pull the paper from month to month. This was not an easy task, but through the efforts of a lot of people, it all came about.

Today, Dorothy and I treasure the ivory pieces and paintings we own of Howard Weyahok's, and we share them with the public for they are on display in our business in Fairbanks.

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the *Tundra Times*.

Editor's note: As part of the celebration of our 25th anniversary, the Tundra Times is printing articles by friends, relatives and associates of our founder, Howard Rock. We welcome submittals from anyone. The address is: Tundra Times, Box 104480, Anchorage 99510-4480.

