



*Helen Carius, a member of Taheta, has a full-time job, but finds time to create crafts to market through the organization.*

*Photo by Barbara Crane*

## *Taheta offers beadwork, ivory, carvings and jewelry*

**by Barbara Crane**

*for the Tundra Times*

Beadwork, ivory and soapstone carvings, dolls and silver jewelry were among the crafts offered for sale by members of the Taheta Arts and Cultural Group at a special show at Anchorage's Northway Mall Nov. 14 and 15.

"We are a group of about 60 Alaska Natives," said Taheta's director, Mabel Pike. "I want to stress that it's all Native people. Everything here was actually made by the people selling it."

"They can tell you what something is made out of and how it was made."

Pike explained that the handmade crafts were created by Natives from throughout Alaska.

The group's name — Taheta — was made up to reflect this diversity. It comes from the first letters of Tlingit,

Aleut, Haida, Eskimo, Tsimshian and Athabaskan.

Some members, such as Iva and Ken Lisbourne, are able to spend most of their time working on their crafts.

Iva, originally from Wainwright, makes fur dolls and knits. Her husband Ken, from Point Hope, carves soapstone, paints with water colors and carves the cottonwood faces for Iva's dolls.

Other Taheta members, such as Helen Carius, have other full-time jobs and must stretch each day to find time to work on their crafts.

Carius is a Native culture teacher for the Anchorage School District. She spends evenings and weekends making dolls, slippers, hats, scrimshaw and pen and ink drawings.

Taheta's next big sale will be at Anchorage's Dimond Mall during the Fur Rendezvous in February.