

Rampart woman—

Anderson studies at Linfield College

Margorie Anderson has the credentials to prove her contention that "I'm a gypsy."

Born in Hawaii, she has lived and worked in 30 states. Her only "roots" are in a tiny Alaskan Indian village called Rampart, where it's been known to get cold—like 75 degrees below zero.

Last summer (Mrs.) Anderson journeyed south to Oregon, leaving her husband and son at work on the Alaskan pipeline. The 55-year old half-Pawnee Indian is now a full-time student at Linfield College.

Although her family thought her return to college four years after completing freshman courses at Pima Community College in Arizona was a "grand idea," Anderson said her friends were not so sure.

"Most women my age are preparing to settle down in their rocking chairs and I'm taking off on a new tangent. I hate rocking chairs. They make me seasick."

Anderson is working towards a degree in gerontology, the science of aging. "It's one field where being older is an advantage" she said. "Older people will work better with those their own age."

Work with younger people is also going well for the mother of seven grown children. She has "made a great many friends" among Linfield students, most of whom are 35 years her junior. "I haven't found an unpleasant one. They remind me of my kids."

The gray-haired sophomore realizes she brings a different perspective than her classmates into her sociology, beginning French and environmental science classes. But she is not afraid of being different.

"So long as I'm here I'll stick out like a sore thumb. I don't want to blend in, I've fought too hard to become what I am to lose my identity now."

Professors gladly accept Anderson's different point of view. "They treat me like any other student, except when they need a reinforcing opinion of how it used to be."

Anderson is vividly interested even in class lectures that find some students dozing. "I don't get bored. But then, I haven't been attending school regularly for the last 12 years. And I'm more aware than most of how much money it took to get here."

Although not residing on campus, Anderson is leading a complete college life. She attends all Linfield home football games and will fly to Honolulu in January with 21 other students to take a special sociology course studying minority groups.

Anderson lives in a travel trailer near Linfield and fully recognizes the differences between McMinnville, Oregon and Rampart, Alaska. "Here I have gas heat, paved roads, electricity, a store within a block and 13,000 people to choose from. There I live in an old log cabin with no plumbing, running water or sewage."

One other thing she has "here" but not "there" is a lot of homework. "It's all part of the game. I study at least three hours per day."

When her college days are over, Linfield's oldest full-time student will return to icy Rampart and the Indians. But Anderson will have to travel to nearby Fairbanks to put her degree to use because "work in Rampart consists of fishing in the summer and trapping in the winter."

Should she fail to find a job, Anderson will still be content in

Alaska. "The things I've learned will be a pleasure to me the rest of my life."