

Unique Collection of Indian, Eskimo Toys On Display at University of Alaska Museum

A unique collection of toys and games, used by Alaskan Indians and Eskimos, went on display for the first time last week in the University of Alaska Museum.

L. J. Rowinski, museum director, said the games are part of the Rhoda Thomas Collection, donated to the museum late last spring.

Mrs. Thomas was district principal for Bureau of Indian Affairs rural schools

and well-known in Alaskan education circles until her death in a plane crash near Fort Yukon in 1965.

Over a period of many years in rural areas of the state, she collected native Athabascan and Eskimo materials and handicraft articles that totaled 174 pieces at the time the collection was donated to the UA.

Rowinski noted:

"The exhibit materials, on

display here until December 15, are representative of nearly all types of games and toys used by Eskimo and Athabascan children." And he added:

"The collection includes tops of various types, dart games, an Athabascan game called 'Cup and Pin', Eskimo yoyos, rattles, 'falling sticks'—an old gambling game, an old form of hand-made ice-skates, balls, and, of course, dolls, plus a few older games many people are not familiar with."

Esther Billman, faculty member at Sheldon Jackson Junior College in Sitka and also curator of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, prepared the toy exhibit.

She is identifying and cataloging items in the

collection as part of a graduate study in anthropology, Rowinski said.

The donation of another collection of Alaska native artifacts to the UA Museum also was announced this week.

Agnes Schlosser of Elfin Cove, now retired after many years of teaching in rural Alaska, has given her collection gathering during the 1920s and 1930s in the southwestern and western parts of the state.

The collection includes a woman's caribou parka made in Akiak; a pair of high wolf-skin mukluks from Bethel; wolf mittens made at Holy Cross on the Yukon River; a miniature dog sled and fish-wheel from Nenana, and a small kayak from Kotzebue.

ACS Employees Assured of Future Jobs

Senator Gruening was assured recently by the deputy for Management and Manpower, Department of the Air Force, that Alaska Communication System is firmly committed to providing its employees the opportunity of accepting an offer of a continuing job in the federal service.

This assurance came in response to a letter to the Department from Senator Gruening urging that employees of the ACS whose positions may be abolished as a result of the sale of the system "be helped in every way possible to obtain re-employment."

Village Comes Back...

(Continued from page 1)

"At first, the villagers went upriver to White Mountain to shop for groceries, a trip of about 28 miles one way and 28 miles back. It was a costly way of shopping so they finally decided to move."

He said that three or four families stayed on and among them was the Sigfried Augongak family and the Ahmaktooliks. Sigfried Augongak is a reindeer herd owner of about 14,000 or 15,000 head.

SCHOOL CLOSES

Then in 1955, the exodus of the villagers caused the Bureau of Indian Affairs school to close down because of inadequate number of pupils.

"We stayed one winter without a school," said Olson.

Although the former residents of the village stayed away in winter, many of them kept coming back during the summer to camp and fish.

"I think they missed their old village," Martin said.

Noting this, Martin Olson one day told some of his people, "I'll try to get a store going if you would move back."

The simple but a cautiously hopeful statement proved to be the needed impetus and the villagers began to come back family by family.

"Now we're up to a hundred people in Golovin—about the same number who lived there before the people started moving away," said Olson, smiling. "BIA was also very helpful. They told us that if enough people came back to Golovin, they would reopen the school, and they did."

Martin said it was just like some people would say, "It was a hard struggle, and I started on a shoestring but we have a small general store going now."

BUSH PILOT

Prior to moving to Golovin himself, Martin Olson was a pilot for Munz Airways, an airline that services the bush out of its headquarters at Nome.

In 1960, he established his store at the village but he stayed on that year at Nome and worked. He hired John Olson to run the store the first year. He also bought vacant buildings owned by the Lomen Brothers of Nome.

He is now converting one of those buildings, a warehouse, into a store building. His enterprise is known as Olson and Sons, General Merchandise.

CONFERENCE DELEGATE

Two weeks ago, Martin Olson served as a delegate from his village at the Nome Employment Development Conference. He served well. His forceful testimony on his village's employment pro-

blems, along with that of Thomas Johnson of Nome, was responsible for the unanimous passage of a recommendation at the conference.

In a private interview, Olson was just as forceful.

The village of Golovin has an airstrip 2,700 feet in length which cannot be lengthened because it is built on a spit.

"We definitely need a larger airport. For one thing, it can be used for supplying fresh fish market. Competition promotes higher prices for resources."

"And reindeer—the product is there and all we need is a way to move it. Tommy Johnson predicts there will be 18,000 reindeer in the herd at Golovin soon—biggest and oldest herd on Seward Peninsula."

"The airstrip would have to be moved because the existing strip is on a spit and it can't be lengthened. It could probably be located on a hill behind the village."

"I believe it should be at the minimum of 4,000 feet—5,000 feet would be preferable. If we get that, four-engined aircraft can come in and out of there."

GLIMMER OF HOPE

A glimmer of hope for such an eventuality was realized when the Employment Development Conference members passed the following recommendations:

"That immediate action be taken by the State of Alaska in cooperation with the Reindeer Herders Association and the Arctic Native Brotherhood to facilitate the implementation of the reindeer industry including:

A. Obtaining federal inspection for meat processing, development of appropriate and proper facilities for such processing and upgrading, and improvement of airports to permit adequate transportation arrangements for the industry."

VETERAN, FAMILY MAN

Olson served in the Navy during World War II. When he was mustered out in 1945 he came to Alaska. Sometime later, and through a generosity of a friend who helped him financially, he went to Tulsa,

financially, he went to Tulsa, Oklahoma and took a course at the Spartan School of Aeronautics.

Olson is married to former Maggie Curran who was adopted by the Currans from the John Fagerstrom family. Martin and Maggie have four children. The oldest girl is going to Unalakleet High School.

"There is nothing like raising a family out in the country," Olson said, happily.



Suddenly winter has become the family fun time... thanks to the lively snowmobile called SKI-DOO!

SKI-DOO shows you a side of winter you've never seen before... because it goes where no other snowmobile would dare!

SKI-DOO has lively new power. It lets you roam anywhere, over anything... from slickest ice to deepest snow, as fast as you want to go.

SKI-DOO has lively new performance. Its greater power, unique suspension system, improved track and lightest weight lets you climb, race, jump like no other snowmobile can. It's simple to start, a dream to steer. And it's so light-footed it won't bog

down... even in waist-high snow!

SKI-DOO has lively new looks. From bumper to backrest, SKI-DOO '68 is the sleekest looking, most comfortable snowmobile on any snowfield.

See your SKI-DOO dealer today. He'll show you all the exciting models (including ones with electric-start). Each has the features and price tag you want—starting from the lowest in the industry.

And with his easy finance plan, you can buy your SKI-DOO now... and trailer it to your nearest snowfield this weekend!



Bombardier
ski-doo
the light-footed snowmobile

*Trade Mark.

Please contact your nearest SKI-DOO dealer in your area.

If you do not know who he is, please write to:

CRAIG TAYLOR EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Box 871, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701, and the name of the dealer will be supplied.