

Poster Not Sold Yet

Professional photographer Tim Kennedy wants Martha Camille to know that none of the posters "TAKE OUR LAND . . . TAKE OUR LIFE" have been sold to anybody yet.

Mrs. Camille is the Eskimo woman whose face appears on the poster, famous for its use in the Alaska Federation of Natives fight for settlement of the native land claims. Kennedy is the photographer who took her picture.

Kennedy called the Tundra Times Monday to say that the Tundra Times poster story of February 2, 1972, contained some errors.

"I paid—out of my own pocket—\$150 so AFN could use the poster," Kennedy said. "Rural CAP will sell a larger version of the poster, but it hasn't been sold yet."

Mrs. Camille does stand to make some money from the poster, Kennedy emphasized, but not yet.

The price of the poster, Kennedy said, will not be up to four dollars, as stated in the Times. That's too much, Kennedy said. The "maximum the poster will cost will be two dollars."

Kennedy said that he knew who Mrs. Camille was long before her picture was chosen for the cover of an AFN booklet.

"I took her picture on a mail plane between Emmonak and Sheldon Point," he said. "She is very old and blind and doesn't understand English."

In order to find out who she is, he said, he had to send her picture to friends in Bethel. Someone there recognized her, he said, and he was able to contact her through her daughter, both of whom live in Sheldon Point.

Her daughter made her understand that Kennedy wanted to publish her picture, he said, that he wanted her to sign a model release, and that he wanted to make sure that she receives royalties from the sale of the poster.

She thought it was "a good idea," Kennedy said.

Under law, Kennedy said, Eskimos and Indians are classified as primitives and professional photographers do not need to ask for their permission to print their pictures for publication.

The law should be changed, he said. He's going to write friends of his in the legislature, he said, to "see if we can get a bill through to change this."

But that's another story, he said.

Mostly, he wants to be sure that Martha Camille of Sheldon Point (her Eskimo name is Aagwaq, meaning a toy) knows that he is being fair to her. "The posters haven't been sold yet," he said.

There has been "an incredible reaction" to the picture he said, and the poster should sell.

He calls the photograph of the aging Eskimo woman, his "Mona Lisa, because you don't know if she's smiling or frowning," he said.