

Ad Brings Natives to Alaskaland

FAIRBANKS, (May 6, 1969)

—As a result of an ad in the Nome Nugget Alaskaland will have an Eskimo couple from Teller this summer to operate the native craft store in Native Village at the Exposition.

Thomas Menadalook, Manager of Inupiat Arts & Crafts, Inc. of Teller came to Fairbanks this week to finalize arrangements with Alaskaland Director Martin Elkort.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Soolook will arrive within the next few weeks and will provide visitors to the park with a general representation of Eskimo craft work.

Soolook was born on Little Diomed Island and is a noted carver. His wife is known in the arctic area as a sewer and she will demonstrate this craft at Alaskaland.

Soolook hunts and fishes in Teller, a community of about 200 people, and like many Eskimos he supplements his livelihood by the sale of his craft

work. He and his wife are foster parents to four children in Teller.

Inupiat Arts and Crafts was formed by the Eskimos and dedicated to the purpose of keeping alive the arts and crafts of the Eskimo people and enabling them to find outlets for their handicrafts.

They are particularly concerned about the quality of their work and will not allow an item to be released unless it meets agreed standards of artistic excellence.

Thomas Menadalook is a quietly dedicated man who speaks with a tough and fierce pride about the organization. He himself is a world famous Eskimo guide for seal and walrus hunting and has clients all over

Inupiat Arts and Crafts carvers have been featured in international publications and their work is displayed throughout Alaska, Canada, Texas and in Washington, D.C. The organization has 19 members.

Like many other summer visitors to Fairbanks Mr. and Mrs. Soolook are having a tough time

finding a place to live. Information about accommodations for them would be most welcome.

Please call Alaskaland Director Martin Elkort at 452-4244.