

Totem basketry seminar ends in Ketchikan

A month-long Alaska Native Basketry Seminar, bringing together weavers representative of the various Native groups of the state, completed its final week at the Totem Heritage Center.

Selina Peratrovich and Dolores Churchill taught Haida style and Flora Mather, Tsimshian style weaving of cedar bark Oct. 25 through Oct. 29.

Ernestine Glessing, Hoonah, instructed in weaving of spruce

root for Tlingit style baskets using grass for false embroidery.

Agnes Thompson, originally from Atka, now living in Anchorage, taught the intricate Aleut style basketry with

grasses or raffia, Nov. 1 through 5 and Belle Deacon, Grayling, taught the making of birch bark baskets decorated with willow root, Nov. 8 through 12. This innovative program is the first time all

these styles have been taught within one workshop.

Funds for this project were provided by a grant from the Alaska State Humanities Forum and City of Ketchikan.

The Center has also just been awarded a grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts to assist the City of Ketchikan in presenting a Native Storytelling Workshop the first week in January, 1983.

Jamake Highwater, Native American author of international renown; Eva Lou Russell, National Indian Educator of the Year (1980); and Dr. Barre Toelken, director of the Program in Folklore and Ethnic Studies, University of Oregon, joined with Native storytellers of Southeastern Alaska in this presentation.

Dr. Walter Soboleff, Esther Shea and Walter Williams, Natives of Southeastern who are involved in teaching and preservation of the culture, participated as consultants in planning and conducting of the workshop.