

Multi-Talented John Angaiak of UA Paints Colorful Wall Mural

COLLEGE—The colorful mural taking shape on an office wall in the University of Alaska's Bunnell Building is only another example of the many talents of John Angaiak of Tununak.

A Yupik Eskimo, the 28-year-old John is a junior majoring in sociology and art at the university.

His other talents include singing, playing the guitar and writing music.

The mural which depicts mountains, sky and water is going on a wall in the office of Special Orientation Services and, according to John, "It's just a representation of Alaskan scenery."

John has had an interest in art since he started tracing pictures at the age of 11. Now he works mostly in oils, selling a few paintings but giving most of them away. The painting, John says, "...is something I can't seem to stop. I MUST continue it."

Although he admits that he'd like to make some phase of sociology his profession, he'd also like to become a serious painter.

As if John's interests were already not divergent enough, there is his music. He has already composed the words and music for two songs which are written in Yupik Eskimo dialect. John wants to eventually translate them into English, but first he'd like to record them in Eskimo.

The first song he wrote is called Akkatammani (Once Upon a Time). It's a folksong with a rock beat," he explains, "and is all about the old days in the village."

John's second song is called Nazaurluma (My Girl), and is a love song. Friends tell him his singing-guitar playing style is as refreshingly unique as are his songs.

John's immediate ambition is to get both songs recorded. Actor and art-collector Vincent Price expressed an interest in John's songs when he appeared on the university campus in 1969, so



JOHN ANGAIK, University of Alaska junior, points out the colors used in the mural of Alaska's mountains he is completing on an office wall at the university. The versatile John is also a musician and composer.

John will attempt to pursue that interest.

An Army veteran, John has ten brothers and one sister. Seven of them are still at home in Tununak with his parents. John admits that he first came to college "because everyone was doing it." But he's changed his tune now. "I got interested in everything once I got here—sociology, art, music."

John doesn't see any reason why he can't combine his interests into a profession. "I'd like to be good enough in all of them

to make a living from them," he says.

He hopes to work in some field of sociology in a village some day just as he'd like to continue with his music and art professionally. He thinks people need music for the soul as much as they need social workers.

"I want to help other people no matter who they are or where they live," he says. "I'd like some day to make enough money, perhaps with my music or art, to start a scholarship program that would help others."