

THEATA '81

looks at

subsistence

By LINDA LORD-JENKINS

Tundra Times Editor

THEATA '81, the ninth magazine-book published by the students in cross-cultural communication at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, has taken a timely look at subsistence activities from the views of many of the people who participate in them.

As the larger issue of a statewide repeal of the subsistence laws is discussed in the halls of the legislature and in sportsman's clubs and Native associations, the 21 students who comprise the staff of THEATA, have gone to the Pribiloffs, the Bering Sea, Kodiak and the interior to report on a grass-roots level.

Their reports provide a variety of information on different subsistence activities including moose hunting and berry picking.

In some instances, the reports include first-person accounts of almost meeting a brown bear while salmonberry picking on the Gibralter River. In other reports, the facts were presented on the who, what, why and whens of subsistence activities in different areas of the state.

The stories on different activities were prefaced by comments from members of the staff on what subsistence means to them.

The young group of authors didn't forget the follow-up to the actual hunting, fishing and gathering either. Recipes for fish pie, moose stew, dried and smoked fish agutak and cranberry sauce were provided.

The group then provided instructions on making different articles which are traditionally made by subsistence users. Those directions included instructions for a martin hat, bear leggings, a moose skin vest, knee-high mutluks and a rabbit skin parka.

And while I am certain that the steps to putting together the beautiful garments made by skilled Native craftspersons are far more intricate than written, the glimpses into construction of such garments were interesting.

The magazine, whose name is an acronym of the words Tlingit, Haida, Eskimo, Athabaskan, Tsimshian and Aleuts, also provides profiles of several persons who are well known in the Native community.

Those profiles include UA Board of Regent member Sam Kito, Sealaska Regional Corp. chairman Byron Mallot, NANA Development Corp. vice president John Shively, and Georgiana Lincoln, director of Native Services for the Tanana

Chiefs Conference.

By far the most interesting report to me was a story done by Esther Donhauser on 80-year-old Gusty Michael, from Stony River.

Gusty Michael, whose mother was Indian and father was Eskimo, is the keeper of a small store in Stony River but his life is more than that simple description includes.

Esther Donhauser visited Michael for almost a day listening to his stories of the past, of his first occasion to meet a white man, and how he used to make "home brew."

She recounted his stories of how people coped with such handicaps as blindness and she described his lifestyle as easily as if she was talking to a friend.

If the book and its authors are to be criticized for their work product, it is only that more information on people and personal experiences should be included. The story of Gusty Michael is the type of thing that brings home the qualities that these students are trying to impart in their efforts.

THEATA '81 is a book that should be included in your list of reading. It is available for \$5 for individuals and \$4 for schools from the Wood Center, University of Alaska Museum, and at the Cross Cultural Communications office at UAF.

The student authors for THEATA '81 are Brenda Dale, Bethel; Vickie L. Demmert, Ketchikan; Anna Dick, McGrath; Esther Donhauser, Stony River; Glenda Ferguson, Kotzebue;

Gladys Commack, Shungnak; Helen Gray, Ambler; Rodanne Guthrie, Metlakatla; Gloria Haakanson, Port Lions; Gail Hootch, Emmonak; Joyce Kameroff, Chuathbaluk; Richard A. McCafferty, Kotzebue; Funa Melovidov, Pribiloff Islands; Evelyn Mike, Kokhanok; Phoebe Anna Omelak, Nome; Andrew Paniyak, Chevak; James Paul, Kipnuk; Kathleen Ann Peters, Tanana; Anecia Tugatuk, Aleknagik; and Pauline Tuluk, Chevak.

Pat Kwachka was the THEATA instructor for Cross Cultural communications and Rose Fosdick was the teaching assistant.



Founded in 1962 by HOWARD ROCK