

Newspaper Article Brings Aid From Alaskans to 17-Year-Old Art Student Audrey Ambrose



'Indian Child' by Audrey Ambrose

—Courtesy of Daily News-Miner

Seventeen-year-old Audrey Ambrose, of the Yukon River village of Nulato, is going to be able to develop her talent for art thanks to the generosity of a number of Alaskans and a Jesuit priest.

The priest, the Rev. John B. Baud, a teacher at the Copper Valley School, discovered Audrey's talent. He's also responsible for article on May 27 in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner which included a sample of her work, described her ambition, and told how lack of funds was preventing her taking a three-week art course at the University of Alaska.

The newspaper had scarcely hit the streets when donations started to roll in. The Fairbanks Native Association agreed to pay \$250 for her tuition to take the course. The Soroptimist Club donated \$150 and paid her fare to come to Fairbanks.

More than \$1,200 has been received by Father Baud and the newspaper and deposited in a trust fund for her education.

Rev. Francis Ready, a priest from Boston, Mass., now working in the Nome area, sent a \$250 check. Lillian Webb, owner of Lillian's Beauty Parlor, doned \$250. Susan Carter and Mrs. Dan Peger of the University each gave \$100. The civilian and military staff of the Army Communications System took up collection amounting to \$95.

R. L. Markstrom of Markstrom's Chrysler Corner was so moved he established a \$1,000 annual scholarship for needy students at Copper Valley School. The Teamsters' Union promised to set up a \$250 scholarship.

And numerous other donations are coming in from \$1 to \$50.

The silver-haired French Jesuit taught Audrey at Nulato and later at Copper Valley. She liked to draw and water color and experiment in oils. Before being transferred to

Fairbanks, Father Baud gave her a book on pastels and left her alone. Her first work was a Madonna and child and her second work angelic looking Indian child.

A reproduction of the beautiful painting of the child appearing in the newspaper and an account of her plight moved the persons and groups to come to her assistance.

Arriving in Fairbanks last week to begin the course at the University, said Audrey, "I'm overwhelmed."