

Steve Agbaba, ANB and ANS Raise Funds for Shirley's Trip

"Hey!" I've got the money now! Wow!"

A pretty Tlingit Indian young lady who wouldn't give up gasped as she gave the good news to the editor of the Tundra Times.

Shirley McNiel is now competing at Sheridan, Wyoming's

All American Indian Days Miss (Indian) America Pageant, a nationwide and international Indian queen contest.

Ever since two weeks ago when she announced to the Tundra Times that she was entering the Miss (Indian)

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America contest, Shirley, up until last Tuesday morning, has had heart-breaking moments as she tried to raise money on her own so she could attend the pageant.

"I've been going from door to door," she said one day. "Some of the people were very nice but some—wow—they were mean."

She managed to raise ten dollars through her own efforts. In the meantime, time was fleeting. Someone told her about Steve Agbaba's popular "Problem Corner" radio program.

Shirley went to see Agbaba last Tuesday morning to see whether he might be able to help. He was able to help, and then some.

Steve Agbaba took the bull by the horns, took Shirley in tow and visited some of his many friends and presto—he raised \$240 in less than an hour!

To top it all, Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp No. 2 in Juneau, raised \$100 also last Tuesday. All this one day before the absolute deadline to enter the Miss (Indian) America Pageant.

Shirley winged her way to Sheridan Tuesday evening and arrived just hours before the absolute deadline.

John Borbridge called Tundra Times editor on Tuesday afternoon from Anchorage notifying him that the ANB and the Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp No. 2 had raised \$200 which would have enabled Shirley to go but Steve Agbaba was a happy winner in the short but exciting fund raising marathon.

Upon finding that the money for Shirley's transportation had been raised, John Borbridge said:

"I really feel that all those people are to be commended for their wonderful spirit and concern over the efforts that Shirley is making to represent Alaska in the Miss (Indian) America Pageant in Sheridan, Wyoming.

"I was extremely proud of Juneau Camp No. 2 for their prompt response when informed of Shirley's situation.

"This is a very heartwarming experience. It makes one very proud of our fellow Alaskans."

John Borbridge is the president of the Tlingit-Haida Indians Central Council.

Borbridge said he contacted Robert Willard of the ANB Camp No. 2 in Juneau and Willard worked along with ANS president Nellie Bennett to raise the \$200.

And Shirley McNeil, even before getting the money for her fare to Sheridan had been cleaning her Tlingit Indian costume. That was last Monday night.

"My costume is white moose hide. I was cleaning it last night

and it was real hard work. It's nice and clean now. I used corn starch. I rubbed it in and shook it off and then did it over and over again.

"My Mom has been worried about the costume and she said, 'Don't get it dirty.' Mom's kind of dazed. Me? Now I'll walk around in a stupor for the rest of the day. I wasn't sure about going so I didn't bother to pack.

"It all happened so fast. This was sort of just an impromptu thing. It was rush—rush—rush. Wow!"

And Steve Agbaba called, "Well, we did it. Shirley is a nice girl and we raised the money in less than an hour."

Those who contributed to Shirley's transportation costs are:

ANB-ANS Camp No. 2, Juneau, \$100.00; Tundra Times, \$20.00; Buzz Brazeau, \$20.00; Aurora Music, \$20.00; Midway Lunch, \$20.00; Steve Agbaba, \$10.00; Mukluk Shop, \$10.00; Al Miller family, \$10.00; Eugene Jones, \$5.00;

Curly Levi, \$20.00; Andy Kokrine, \$5.00; Harold Pilcher (Nome), \$5.00; Warren Oil & Gas Co., \$10.00; "Smoky" Hall, \$5.00; Charley Cohoe, \$2.00; Lillian Miller, \$1.00; Leprechaun Room, \$10.00;

Paul Woods, \$2.00; Tom Vigue, \$10.00; Juan Ainciburu, \$10.00; Ed Brown (Checker Cab), \$10.00; Dick F. Larson, \$5.00; J. Alves, \$20.00; Louie Krize, \$10.00.