

Artist Jim Schrock of Tanana Attends UA

Jim Schrock of Tanana is one of the new Native artists attending the University of Alaska.

For the past year, Jim has carved a 350 pound wooden eagle figure, which stands five and one half feet tall. The cedar was brought up from Southeast Alaska by Professor Van Flein of the University of Alaska. After painting the eagle in bright colors, covered with dark hand rope stains, Jim plans on selling the eagle.

Jim and Jay Schrock were born in Tanana. He spent seven years in an orphanage and was adopted in 1953 by Mr. and Mrs. Schrock.

Upon leaving Alaska, the Schrocks made their home in Montclair, California. Jim's step-father Joseph Schrock is a carpenter and contractor.

Although Joseph wanted both his sons to eventually become architects, Jim knew at a young age that his only desire was to become an artist.

Jim's artistic talent developed from the third grade through Junior College. Jim had a one-man show in 1970 at Chaffey

Jr. College and the local library in Mount Clair, California. Both shows were of his sketches and paintings.



ARTIST AT WORK — Jim Schrock of Tanana is working on one of his wood carvings.

While stationed in Germany with the Army, Jim painted in oils, which he later sold in California. Jim commented, "The best part of the Army was the museums."

Because of his discontentment with living in California, and his desire to locate his family, Jim and Jay Schrock hitchhiked to Fairbanks, Alaska.

Since attending the University of Alaska, Jim has acquired the art of sculpturing and print-making. His prints are for sale at the Fairbanks Native Community Center.

In the future, Jim plans on working with Mr. David Henry, doing illustrations for children's books, in the Athapaskan language. They are working with the Bible Translators in Fairbanks.

The book will eventually be published and distributed in the Alaskan schools, with the bilingual program.

— Photo by DONNA C. JOHN