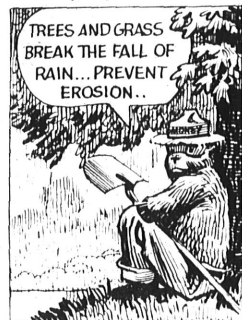


Sgt. Wilson to Work with Race Relations at Ft. Wainwright

From behind a neat desk, filled with schedules, books, memos and art pens, he spoke in his familiar manner-as though you were a very close friend-and leaned back in his modest chair while describing his interests

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and ambitions.

Staff Sergeant Thomas Wilson created a very relaxed atmosphere for talking and listening, a trait that makes him outstanding in his field of teaching and counseling soldiers for the Army's relatively new race relations program.

The candid sergeant recently became the NCOIC of the Post Race Relations/Equal Opportunity Office, succeeding Sergeant First Class Robert L. Stuart, who is retiring this month.

"One of my highest ambitions is to do well in following Sergeant Stuart's work," he said. "I have a lot of ideas to contribute to the (race relations) program."

"Race relations is the best field I could be in," continued the sergeant. "There just isn't enough I can do."

Sergeant Wilson completed schooling at the Department of

Defense Race Relations Institute at Patrick AFB, Florida, last month.

"I think that the program was long overdue," he said. "But I'm glad to be active in race relations and have found tremendous satisfaction since I attended my first session."

His first session was an NCO course, conducted by Lieutenant John H. Hannah III, post race relations officer. The lieutenant asked Sergeant Wilson to join his staff. "I jumped at the opportunity," he recalls.

Aside from race relations, Sergeant Wilson has many other interests. Art, sketched in an impressionistic style is his most pursued hobby.

In addition to the many freelance art jobs, he has also drawn front-page sketches and other illustrations for the Sentinel. This week's Sentinel front page is an example of his artistic ability.

"My favorite type art is speed drawing," he explained. "You can call SSG Wilson today and have your order tomorrow!"

He is currently designing two symbols for race relations, a patch and an insignia, both of which he will enter in a contest currently underway.

The talented sergeant includes wood work among his hobbies. He designs, builds and sculpts wood as art and furnishings.

With all of these interests, he still adds activities to his busy schedule. He is teaching himself to speed read, plans to enroll in summer classes at the University of Alaska and is an active family man.

The 29-year-old sergeant, a native of Lansing, Michigan, married his wife, Andrea, 11 years ago. The couple and their three children, Thomas, 4, Carrie, 1½ and Stephanie, three months, plan to travel and camp

this summer.

He has worked in the supply field until after he arrived here last March.

His future success both in race relations and his hobbies is sure to be promising, because he is, in his own words, "very aggressive."

Nick Begich Memorial Fund for Home

A memorial fund has been established in memory of the late Representative Nick Begich. This memorial is to be utilized in the construction of new residential facilities for Hillcrest Home for Boys of Fairbanks, Alaska. The new building will be a lasting memorial to Nick Begich and the concepts of service he held for Alaskan Youth.

Hillcrest is now the only licensed institutional setting for boys in Northern or Western Alaska. Over the past years, it has served boys from Juneau to Barrow - Tok to Bethel.

This too, is in harmony with the role Mr. Begich played for Alaska, as he was the "lone delegate" to the U.S. House of Representatives and served all of Alaska. It is the concept of this memorial fund to provide a facility that can and will serve youth from all over Alaska.

Lt. Governor H. A. "Red" Boucher has been asked by Mrs. Begich to serve as the Honorary Chairman of this fund. Mr. Boucher has been a long time supporter of the Home and has often given of his time and talents to assist Hillcrest.

The Begich Memorial has been in the planning stage for several months, but announcement was delayed until after the special election. The memorial honors an "Alaskan" not a member of a political party. It honors the concept of service to people rather than partisan politics.

Hillcrest Home is presently filled to capacity and expanded facilities are urgently needed. In the past two weeks, five (5) youths have been refused admission due to lack of space.

The new facilities must meet all fire safety, sanitation codes and building requirements, so new construction is essential. By building on property now held by Hillcrest, we hope to provide services to an additional twenty (20) youth in an out-of-town setting.

The 160 acres near the University of Alaska Musk Ox Farm will provide ample space for buildings as well as land for hiking, snow machining, a baseball field as well as woods to roam and gain an appreciation of the "Great Land".

Recognizing the need for such a facility, many have sent donations to the Home to achieve this new goal.

Your memorial gift in memory of Nick Begich may be sent to: The Hillcrest Home for Boys P.O. Box 915 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

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