

Sioux Indians Learn to Make Arrows Again

An industrialist from the East Coast of the United States has turned the tables on the Sioux Indians of South Dakota. Tom Loomis is teaching Indians of the Great Plains how to make arrows. But in this instance, Loomis is also teaching them

how to market and distribute the products when they are finished.

Aug. 26, 1977, will mark the official opening of this new and unique 100 per cent Indian owned manufacturing company on the Pine Ridge Reservation

in South Dakota. Using a combination of loans and grants from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the state of South Dakota and the tribe itself, plus a wide range of technical government agencies, the Wambli Archery Co. was established last March

and has grown from a fledgling company producing a variety of target, hunting and field arrows to a full participant in the economic community in a matter of months.

Ironically, the idea behind the archery company came from an Easterner and non-Indian, Thomas H. Loomis, who is now director of operations. Loomis went into the Eagle Nest District, a remote area of the Pine Ridge Reservation with high unemployment and actually taught the members of the tribe the art of making arrows.