

Village Women Learn Crafts At University Extes Extension Course

SHORT COURSE:

By GLADYS M. MUSGROVE

Three women, all members of village Mothers Clubs, recently attended the Extension Service Homemakers Short Course at the University of Alaska. Bertha Adsuna of Nome, Gladys Downey of Ambler, and Helga Takok of Shaktoolik spent a week attending classes and lectures and in seeing something of the area around Fairbanks.

Bertha attended a class in lampmaking, Gladys and Helga enrolled in a class in glove making. Besides these classes, the women attended daily lectures about Alaska, all of them given with illustrative material.

Lectures included such things as Art of Alaska, Books of Alaska, Geography Economics of Alaska, and Landscaping with Native Alaskan plants.

All homemakers attending the Short Course had prepared in advance to put on some section of a pageant depicting University Extension Service work in Alaska.

The three women from this area took part in this pageant, presented at the Alaska Centennial grounds. They pantomined the story of change from the old to the new ways in Eskimo family living, while the story was read by a narrator.

Gladys Downey, depicting the Eskimo mother sewing mukluks for her family by a whale oil lamp was the object of much picture taking by people in the audience.

Besides learning to make gloves and lamps and learning about Alaska, the women displayed Eskimo crafts, enjoyed a boat trip down the Chena and Tanana River on the Sternwheeler "Discovery" and attended the Annual Homemakers Banquet.

They also met homemakers from all over Alaska, establishing lasting friendships while living in a dormitory, just as regular university students do.