

Senungetuk Visits Bethel to Aline Exhibit

Ron Senungetuk, a member of the board of directors of the Tundra Times, traveled to Bethel recently to establish a method of communication between the Bethel area and the Tundra Times so that area will participate in the native arts exhibition in Anchorage next October.

The arts and the arts and crafts exhibition is planned by the newspaper in conjunction with its annual banquet which will be held in the Anchorage-Westward Hotel Ballroom on October 4.

The theme of the banquet is, "Cultural Contributions of the Native People of Alaska." The exhibition will be one of the cultural events. The board is also planning to have a fine Indian dance team and an equally fine Eskimo dance group to perform at the banquet.

"I came to Bethel at the proper time," said Ron Senungetuk. "The Association of the Village Council Presidents of the Yukon and Kuskokwim areas was holding its meeting under the auspices of the U.S. Public Health Service and coordination of the Rural Community Action Program.

"I was permitted by the chairman to make my announcements to the group of 31 presidents and the audience. I also talked to individuals during the meeting. The most receptive delegates were from Bethel and St. Mary's."

Senungetuk said that Bethel's RurALCAP office, directed by Phillip Guy, is a good central point from which area craftsmen may reach the Anchorage art exhibit.

He said that another interested and logical entity is the Moravian Book Store operated by Miss Karen Fluegal. The store buys, sells, and encourages native arts and crafts.

Notable objects at the store included Nunivak masks, David-sen sketches, some baskets, and a variety of wood carvings.

"I regret not to have met Mesdames Hohman and Swanson who apparently are encouraging some arts," said Senungetuk.

"The distinctive native art today," Senungetuk continued, "is rare and the Bethel area has some. More, along with encouragement of artistic talent, should be seen in the mainstream of Alaskan living. Tundra Times' native art show will offer excellent opportunities to show ethnic art and it is hoped that the Bethel area will respond.

Ron Senungetuk, an Eskimo from Cape Prince of Wales, is an Assistant Professor of Design in the art department of the University of Alaska.

Prof. Senungetuk during his trip to Bethel also publicized the existence of the University of Alaska's native arts program and to find potential talent grant recipients for the program.

He contacted Philip Guy, RurALCAP; Denis Sheldon, RurALCAP; Jene Stone, N.C. Co.; John Snodgrass, Bethel city administrator; and Karen Fluegal, Moravian Book Store, all of Bethel.

From St. Mary's, Senungetuk contacted Moses Paukan, RurALCAP, also a state legislator; William Tyson, RurALCAP and R. Astrue, St. Mary's High School.

All art items should be sent to: Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum, 121 West 7th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

All art items will be under professional care by the personnel of the museum.