

Dr. Gunther on Ethnobotanical Expedition

Dr. Erna Gunther, University of Alaska anthropologist, left Tuesday for a two week "ethnobotanical" expedition up the Yukon River to Old Crow.

Translated, "ethnobotany" means the study of how people use plants, Dr. Gunther explained.

Native people use plants to help cure many illnesses, she said. Women are particularly concerned with plant medicines.

"While the medicine man jumped around with his rattles, making a lot of noise, the humble little woman was stirring up some plant remedy that might really do some good," Dr. Gunther said. She plans to interview as many women as she can find.