

This week's top news stories:

- Fish and Game unity doesn't materialize . . . Page 3
- Andrus affirms state land rights Page 5



50¢

Tundra Times

Alaska's Oldest Statewide Newspaper

Mary Mathews
AK. State Lib., Northern
Region Lib.
U. of A. Box 2 9701



Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage — Den Nena Nenash Our Land Speaks — Unanguq Tunuktaug The Aleuts Speak — Ut Kah neek Informing and Reporting — Yupit Kanlautciat The Way Eskimos Talk

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

JANUARY 4, 1978

8 PAGES

"My kitchen was my courthouse"



By JEFFREY R. RICHARDSON

"They call on me when they get stuck. Actually, I'm not objecting to their calling me, because I know what it's like to be in that kind of a jam."

Sadie Neakok, from the looks of this writer's notes, has been in one jam or another since she decided to leave her hometown of Barrow to attend high school in California. That was in 1934.

Sadie is best known for her nearly 20 years as Barrow's magistrate, a position she never feared using to protect her Inupiat people from the injustices of a Western society that seemed to offer so much at such high prices.

Retired from the bench last fall, Sadie cares for seven growing sons, "all grease-monkeys," a task that required her attention even while she presided over cases. Before describing some of the high, and low points of her career, she commented on her current caseload:

"All I can say is: being a full-time mother is challenging to the job I had. I never know how I got the work done."

Born while the First World War raged far away, Sadie may have been destined for bigger and better things from the beginning. Her father was Charles D. Brower, a trader and whaler whose legend is told in "50 Years Below Zero," an Arctic classic.

Sadie's first jam came after her graduation from a San Francisco high school. Although accepted by Stanford, Sadie wanted to go home. A friend of her father's paid her steamer passage—but it only took her as far as Nome. It took the good will of the Coast Guard to get her home.

Young educated Native people were few and far between, and they were in de-

Sadie Neakok, legendary magistrate with jurisdiction over the North Slope for 17 years, enjoys retirement now in her Barrow home. For nearly 3 decades she has served the Inupiat, who are now enjoying unprecedented self-determination, unheard of when she entered public life.

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE EIGHT