

Important Things , Like Weddings , Are Done In Both Ways

By GRACE SLWOOKO

GAMBELL, AK. — Some people were out camping, others even went to Punguuk Island, that is the little island some seven miles out from the coasts of East side of the St. Lawrence Island. And it is uninhabited now, people go there by boat in the summer time for ivory jigging. It used to be inhabited years and years ago, and what many many work they must have done on ivory from walrus tusks. Toys, weapons, and many other useful things were made of ivory and there we still find them when digging. We always dig for ivory in our ancestor's homes.

Rainy season is holding many from going picking leaves and

grains. As we don't have running water in our homes, we like to collect rain water. Some of us been filling barrels of rain water from under the church roof.

School teachers are here already.

There also have been classes going on in the school these three weeks. They are Bilingual classes, Yupik Eskimo language. Mrs. Linda Badten, from Fairbanks. Mr. Shinen Vera and other men are here for this. Savoonga people are here too for Bilingual classes, most of them are teacher's aids, some are just taking lessons, about ten people staying here for this.

Linda Badten is from here, we are enjoying having her here this summer. She went away to

school years ago, and has been teaching those years at Fairbanks. We like to read her books, she wrote in new learned writing, Eskimo.

Rose Mary Boosher is getting married to Denny Akeya of Savoonga.

Whole winter, the young man Denny has been coming over, as he is getting married soon.

When things are very important like this one, we like to do, them like our traditional ways and modern ways. So one cold and bright day, last winter Denny Akeya's uncles and aunts brought a whole valuable things, several snow machine loads, to the tribe where Rose Mary belongs to. And when they arrived that moon light evening

the tribe had a great time, dividing the things of fur, pretty materials, dishes and even dryers among themselves. Once in a while, some one would remind others, "Save some for

Aunt Lily." It was a wonderful time, as the custom.

So this summer Rose Mary's folks went to Savoonga for her wedding, like a modern way with ring and all.



SILVER HAND — Lynn Chambers, Coordinator of the Silver Hand Identification program shows promotional tags used to identify authentic Alaskan Native work.

ID Tags Tell Buyers "Made In Alaska"

ANCHORAGE, AK. The Alaska Division of Economic Enterprise's Native Arts and Crafts Identification Program began last year. Since then, use of the Silver Hand as a symbol of authentic Native Handicraft has exceeded the hopes of its coordinator.

"Our original order called for 76,000 tags, and the use of these tags by retail outlets and Native craftsmen has reached the 90,000 level," says Lynn Chambers, Coordinator of the program. "Naturally, we are very happy about the response and are projecting larger quantities for use during the 1974 tourist season."

In addition to producing the tags, the Division of Economic Enterprise seeks to have Silver Hand stickers placed on all Native craft, so that the tourist or other buyer will be assured a genuine, made in Alaska, piece of Native artwork. Too often, buyers are confused between

original handiwork and mass produced items. The Silver Hand is their assurance that the article purchased has been hand-crafted in Alaska, by Native artisans.

To supplement the tags and stickers, Silver Hand counter cards, brochures, and posters are distributed to participating dealers. "The program has been very widely accepted," says Chambers.

The counter cards let retailers announce to their customers that they have authentic products in their store. For the tourist and other buyers, the brochure explains what the label means, and tells what arts and crafts products are made in different parts of the state. Large posters produced by the Division advertise the Silver Hand in airports, hotels, tourist information centers, and other places tourists frequent.

Alaska Business Directory

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