

PORT CHILKOOT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

—Photographs by LAEL MORGAN

Southeastern Vocational School Has Good Success

By LAEL MORGAN

Alaska Indian Arts, Inc. of Port Chilkoot near Haines has had considerable success with a recent vocational training program combined with adult education courses.

The school is the long time dream of Director Carl Heimiller who went to work with the natives in this area in the late 1940s and established the now famed Chilkat Dancers.

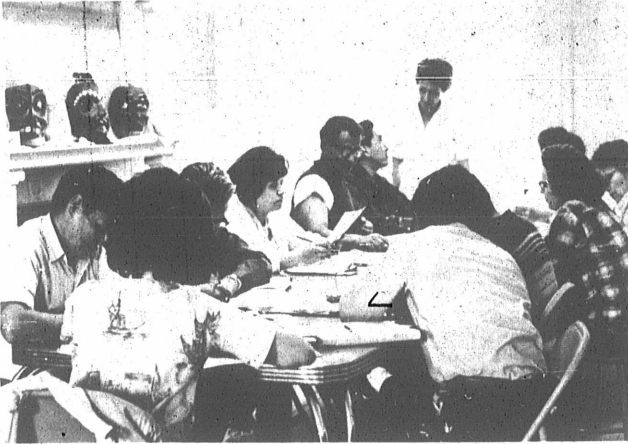
Established in its present form under the Manpower Development and Training Project, the school has 30 full time students.

Courses in wood, silver

and ivory carving, ceramics, soapstone, and silkscreening are offered as well as academic courses. Four high school diplomas were earned by students last year and about a dozen will graduate this term.

Applicants for the school are screened by the State Department of Labor and funds for instructors come from the Department of Education.

Students are from all parts of the state and are both native and white. Qualified local artists have been chosen as instructors when possible and some are successful graduates from earlier manpower training projects.



BOOK WORK—Mrs. Dorothy Fossman, adult education and guidance instructor, oversees the academic side of the program. Two high school "drop-outs" of over 20 years grad-

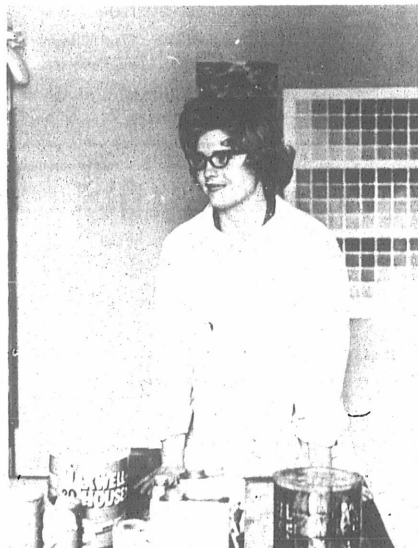
uated last year under this program. Mrs. Fossman's husband is the Bureau of Indian Affairs teacher at Klukwan.



STEADY HANDS—Johnie Willard, who is an assistant silver instructor at the school, shows how the job is done. He is a graduate of the first MDTA program at Klukwan.



PATIENCE—Welch Mathlaw, Eskimo of Nunivak Island, carefully polishes an ivory slab for engraving. Welch came to the school through the office of Vocational Rehabilitation and has become a design craftsman. He's also joined the Chilkat Dancers.



NEW PROGRAM—A course in silk screening has just been set up at the school. Mrs. Ruth Young helped establish the program this semester.



WOOD CARVING—Ted Lawrence, Tlingit of Haines, works out a complicated totem design on a piece of birch. The school pro-

duced copies of the state seal in birch which now hang in the new Legislative chambers at the state capitol.