

Pictorial history of Native women sought

Do you have any photos showing Alaska Native women involved in just about any type of activity during the years 1945-1965? If so, the Alaska Women's History Exhibit may be able to use them. Elaine Hultengren, project manager, explains that the pictures are being gathered to show the history of Alaska women during that time period.

At least 50 and possibly more photos will be blown up into large, black and white prints. The \$60,000 project, funded by the Alaska Humanities Forum and the municipality of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau, but Hultengren says all the regional centers in the state will be invited to host the exhibit.

The exhibit will be part of Alaska's Silver Anniversary celebration in 1984.

To date, many photographs of non-Native women have been submitted, but few of Natives. "The Native women are very important to this project," says Hultengren. "First of all, their history in Alaska is so much longer than the

history of white women."

Susan Schomburg, researcher for the project, suspects that one reason few photographs of Native women have surfaced so far is that most cameras being used professionally during the time were in the hands of white men. Yet, both Hultengren and Schomburg are convinced that many Alaska Natives were taking photographs for their scrapbooks, and these are what they want to see.

They are particularly interested in shots of women in government; whether it be on a city council, tribal council, state or whatever level. They also desire shots of women at work and at play, and in traditional activities. They stress, however, that no photograph a person may have showing women of the time is so insignificant that they would not care to look at and consider it.

They also are seeking input from Native women on how they should be represented in the show. "It's easy for us to define the role of white women," says Hultengren. "But we need the Native women to



Processing Beluga Whale, 1950's.

tell us what was important during that time period for them."

Hultengren prefers that good xerox copies be submitted. When a photo is chosen, either the print, slide, or negative

will be used to make a blowup. Hultengren requests that as much information on where the picture was taken and what is happening be included.

Interested persons may contact Hultengren or Schomburg

Photo taken by Edith Bullock

at Western Media Concepts, P.O. Box 215, Anchorage, Alaska, 99510, telephone (907) 279-2045. Hultengren would like all submissions by Dec. 31, 1983.