

Sharing their heritage



Daisy Jack of Nome demonstrates her skill in making mukluks

Natives bring their culture to Anchorage

By BOB KOWELUK
Tundra Times Reporter

If you can't take the children back to the old days, bring the old days to the children.

That's exactly what happened this week as some 2,600 Anchorage school children watched, touched, listened, and generally absorbed a variety of Native cultures during Native Emphasis Week in Anchorage.

Seventeen crafts-people came from as far away as Nome, Grayling and Ketchikan, along with Native dance groups from Tooksook Bay, Holy Cross and

Juneau as they stitched, wove and exposed the children to Native cultures they otherwise might never have had the chance to see.

The Native emphasis concept was developed by the staff of Alaska Methodist University before the school closed its doors in 1977. Since then, the Indian Education Act has picked up funding for the program, now in its fifth year.

"Though the dancers and artisans are the most visible part of the program, it's only the tip of the iceberg.

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A student peers inquisitively at the work of Native craftspeople.

Bob Koweluk/Tundra Times