

Agnes Slwooko Turner Sewing Her Way to Success in Anchorage Shop

ANCHORAGE—Agnes Slwooko Turner, a St. Lawrence Island Eskimo, is sewing her way to success. She's always been clever with furs and last year she got an order from a Colorado ski shop to sew dozens of pairs of mini-mukluks.

The little booties sold so well outside, Mrs. Turner began thinking about a shop of her own and finally opened the Bering Sea Fur Shop at 4107 Mt. View Drive.

She makes parkas and mukluks to order, does repairs and alterations and will take on special assignments. One California customer asked her to make a seal skin bikini and the item has been so popular she's had orders for five more.

Another visitor from outside ordered a parka on Friday and bet Mrs. Turner she couldn't get it done by the time he left on Monday. She bet him \$50 she could and set to it.

"He showed up just at 10 a.m. when I opened the door and I had it ready," she recalls with a smile. "His wife said,



FUR STITCHERY—Agnes Slwooko Turner demonstrates the style that has won her many customers and friends for her Bering Sea Fur Shop in Anchorage. Originally from St. Lawrence Island, she learned early how to sew furs and now has a fast growing custom shop.

"That will teach you," "

Besides the usual fur items Mrs. Turner is noted for map making...also in fur. On one wall of her shop is a handsome map of Alaska covered with

the animals to be found in each section with a representative for most of the Native people.

"I had one woman come in and study it for a long time and she called me because I didn't include the Aleuts. She's right, too. I didn't put one on because I wasn't sure how the dress should be. I'm going to have to do that.

The map is very detailed, made up of dozens of different kinds of fur. Tourists, especially enjoy it. Some have stayed to study it as much as an hour while Mrs. Turner carries on business as usual around them. She's been offered \$1,500 for the work but she won't consider selling.

She has eight children, aged 7 to 18, who occasionally help with the business. Her husband a cement finisher, gives her a free hand to run the shop and is happy to have her happy.

And happy she is. She likes the shop and the people she meets through it. She likes to chat and joke and take on the "furry" challenges her tailor-made business brings.

Her latest, fur hot pants, should be on display there next week. Mrs. Turner, as you can see, is a very versatile seamstress.