

# Sally Demonstrates Tanning Process

For the past three weeks, Mrs. Sally Hudson has been demonstrating the Athabaskan tanning process on the University of Alaska's Fairbanks campus.

William Scarborough, of the Extension Service, has also been tanning a moosehide so that he might compare his chemical process with Mrs. Hudson's which the Indians have used for generations.

Mrs. Hudson's technique, says Scarborough, is seldom used anymore. Her process takes a longer amount of time than Scarborough's.

The first step in both processes obviously is obtaining a moose. Other steps involve soaking, stretching, staking, fleshing, smoking and drying the hide.

The end product is visually beautiful. The hide is soft and can be seen in the exquisite dresses, shirts, and slippers among other articles used for traditional Athabaskan apparel.

The Extension Service has several booklets and information available to the public on tanning hides, including moose, beaver and other animal pelts.

Mrs. Hudson was born in

Rampart. She is also a mother, a grandmother and recently a great-grandmother.



Sally and her tool

— Photo by MISSY ULLMAN



Sally demonstrates tool

— Photo by MISS ULLMAN