

UA Museum to Solicit Alaska Children's Art Work for Shows

COLLEGE—Take a child, give him a paintbrush, drawing pencil or crayons, and don't forget the paper. The result will be a work of art.

This work of art may not achieve masterpiece status, but it may win itself a place in an exhibit being planned by the University of Alaska Museum.

The museum is soliciting children's pictures done in any art medium, for exhibits which will be circulated throughout Alaskan schools and in both Alaskan and out of state mu-

seums. "Eventually," says museum director L.J. Rowinski, "we want to bring the art work back here to the museum and keep it as historic record as we've kept those pictures from Nome."

The pictures from Nome to which he refers, are in the museum now and are the inspiration for the planned children's art show's. They were donated to the museum in 1967 by T.M. "Tim" Clowes of Spokane, who collected them when he lived in Nome in the early 1900's.

All of the pictures, some done in water color and others with pen, were made by native children in 1905 at Cape Prince of Wales School there.

They depict, in the honest fashion that is typical of children, the life they saw around them—a horse pulling a sled, natives in parkas, walrus, a bird in a trap, boys playing with bow and arrow.

"The pictures from Nome give us a picture of life as it was in that area in those years," says Rowinski, "and I thought that a contemporary collection of children's art would give us a picture of life as it is today in Alaska."

"We're not being specific as to what should go into the pictures. We want the children to use their own imaginations."

In order to form such a collection Rowinski is asking children in kindergarten through twelfth grade to submit pictures to the museum. Pictures will be accepted until the end of this school year. Rowinski hopes to have the exhibits organized by fall.

Although the pictures may be done in any medium, they must be no larger than 16 inches by 24 inches and they must be flat. All those submitted will become part of the University of Alaska museum collection.

The proposed collection is being funded by the Alaska State Council on the Arts, the co-sponsor with the University Museum.

Rowinski feels that the exhibits will be of particular interest to museums outside Alaska where interest is high in both children's art and in Alaska. Put the two together and it should be a winning combination.

All pictures may be submitted directly to Rowinski at the museum at the university, College, Alaska 99701.

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