

Rampart woman—

Anderson studies at Linfield College

Margorie Anderson has the credentials to prove her contention that "I'm a gypsy."

Born in Hawaii, she has lived and worked in 30 states. Her only "roots" are in a tiny Alaskan Indian village called Rampart, where it's been known to get cold—like 75 degrees below zero.

Last summer (Mrs.) Anderson journeyed south to Oregon, leaving her husband and son at work on the Alaskan pipeline. The 55-year old half-Pawnee Indian is now a full-time student at Linfield College.

Although her family thought her return to college four years after completing freshman courses at Pima Community College in Arizona was a "grand idea," Anderson said her friends were not so sure.

"Most women my age are preparing to settle down in their rocking chairs and I'm taking off on a new tangent. I hate rocking chairs. They make me seasick."

Anderson is working towards a degree in gerontology, the science of aging. "It's one field where being older is an advantage," she said. "Older people will work better with those their own age."

Work with younger people is also going well for the mother of seven grown children. She has "made a great many friends" among Linfield students, most of whom are 35 years her junior. "I haven't found an unpleasant one. They remind me of my kids."

The gray-haired sophomore realizes she brings a different perspective than her classmates into her sociology, beginning French and environmental science classes. But she is not afraid of being different.

"So long as I'm here I'll stick out like a sore thumb. I don't want to blend in, I've fought too hard to become what I am to lose my identity now."

Professors gladly accept Anderson's different point of view. "They treat me like any other student, except when they need a reinforcing opinion of how it used to be."

Anderson is vividly interested even in class lectures that find some students dozing. "I don't get bored. But then, I haven't been attending school regularly for the last 12 years. And I'm more aware than most of how much money it took to get here."

Although not residing on campus, Anderson is leading a complete college life. She attends all Linfield home football games and will fly to Honolulu in January with 21 other students to take a special sociology course studying minority groups.

Anderson lives in a travel trailer near Linfield and fully recognizes the differences between McMinnville, Oregon and Rampart, Alaska. "Here I have gas heat, paved roads, electricity, a store within a block and 13,000 people to choose from. There I live in an old log cabin with no plumbing, running water or sewage."

One other thing she has "here" but not "there" is a lot of homework. "It's all part of the game. I study at least three hours per day."

When her college days are over, Linfield's oldest full-time student will return to icy Rampart and the Indians. But Anderson will have to travel to nearby Fairbanks to put her degree to use because "work in Rampart consists of fishing in the summer and trapping in the winter."

Should she fail to find a job, Anderson will still be content in

Alaska. "The things I've learned will be a pleasure to me the rest of my life."

North-south runway closer

Governor Jay Hammond has announced that he expects conveyance of land for the north-south runway at Anchorage International Airport on or shortly after December 20.

The Governor said, "The transfer from the Bureau of Land Management to the State will clear another important hurdle on the way to completing the new addition to the Anchorage Airport complex and should substantially improve the safety factor at the airport."

The State has worked closely with the Bureau of Land Management to effectuate this transfer, according to Hammond, and will continue to work with the Federal Aviation Administration and other interests to bring the new runway to the construction phase.

The Governor said, "Additional planning and environmental analysis remain to be accomplished

Delegation meets to discuss D-2 proposals

The Alaska congressional delegation and the Alaska governor began three days of informal meetings in Anchorage, Dec. 14 on the d-2 land issue.

Governor Jay Hammond, Senators Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel and Representative Don Young, jointly announced they did meet together, with the technical assistance of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska, to discuss how to pursue interests in Congress in seeking a legislative determination of the designation of millions of acres of federal land withdrawn for consideration for inclusion in the four national systems.

Under terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, enacted 1971, Congress was given until December of 1978 to act on lands to be included in the National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, National Forests and the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

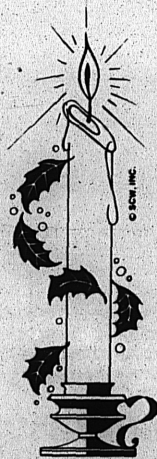
Section 17 (d) (2) of the Act provides for a determination of the status of these federal lands, thus they are referred to as the "d-2" lands."

The Congressional delegation and the governor feel this may be the most significant Alaska issue that will be considered by the 95th Congress. "We want to assure that Alaska's interests are well represented when Congress begins consideration of the d-2 question."

The elected officials said they were taking into consideration all the ideas and information they have received from Alaskans. "We are confident there will be full and complete public congressional hearings that will provide Alaskans an opportunity to be heard on this issue."

The executive working sessions did begin each day at 8:30 a.m. through Thursday. Staff members of the Land Use Planning Commission will provide technical assistance to the political leaders. The commission was established under terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act as an advisory agency to both the state and federal governments regarding land use planning and management for Alaska.

Season's Greetings



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Fairbanks Native Community Center