

Native State Trooper L. Schuerch, Olympics Native Pageant Judge



LORENZ O. SCHUERCH



HEADS ARTS AND CRAFTS—Sylvester Ayek is now the head of the Neuvanavik-Hoonda Kahit, a cooperative of arts and crafts at 411 West 4th Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska.

Ayek Heads Arts Co-op

Sylvester Ayek has been named to manage the Neuvanavik-Hoonda Kahit Cooperative at 411 W. 4th Avenue (the A-frame arts and crafts sales unit). Ayek, a King Island Eskimo, was picked by NHK's board of directors during a recent meeting.

Ayek has been long involved in Native Alaska arts and crafts. In 1968 he helped organize NHK, a Native operated store which was created as a part of the Anchorage Native Welcome Center.

He managed the Native Village at the Alaskan exposition in Fairbanks, and acted as Native activities coordinator at the Alaska Centennial "Igloopuk" attraction in Anchorage.

Ayek was a public relations liaison at the Alaska contingent of the Los Angeles Trade Fair in April of 1969; he also demonstrated and lectured on Eskimo dances, games and culture.

Ayek is widely known as an Eskimo dancer, athlete and ivory carver, and is a popular Native emcee (Tundra Times banquet, Eskimo Olympics, etc.)

The board of directors for NHK is currently in the process of applying for funds from the Community Enterprise Development Corporation. They hope to obtain funds for a permanent building, personnel salaries, equipment, and other operating needs.

"One very important change we will make if we can get the

money," Ayek stated, "would be to make immediate payment to the villagers when they send in their products. Right now we don't have the ready cash and this hurts our business because other stores can make immediate payment. We do, however, pay higher prices to the craftsmen because our overhead and profit margin is low."

Ayek continued, "You can see how the economy of the villages would be stabilized if these people had an immediate, year-around source of income."

"Through an intensive advertising and promotion program we expect to attract and purchase only the best work, thereby perpetuating and maintaining standards of excellence in true Native art and contributing to the economic independence of our people."

"The board will also explore Stateside sales outlets in their efforts to expand."

"The possibilities are exciting," Ayek concluded. "We can do so many things. We have even discussed the idea of going into the sale of Native foods at some future date; teaching more Natives how to carve, do beadwork, etc.; providing space for artisans to work in our shop so the public can see the actual product develop."

"I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this venture."

A young Eskimo, originally from Kiana and now living in Fairbanks, recently distinguished himself as a judge of queen contestants and a champion muktuk-eater during the 1969 World Eskimo Olympics.

Lorenz O. Schuerch, 25, making his mark by downing his muktuk in 16 seconds, explained how he achieved such speed. "I never chew," he said.

Lorry is also receiving recognition as an Alaska State Trooper. His year of probation with the Troopers ended this month. He is a 1963 graduate of Mt. Edgumbe High School. Upon graduation, he went to work as a miner for the Kennecott Corporation at Bornite.

In 1965, Lorry returned to school at the University of Alaska for a year's training in mining technology. He then went back to Bornite.

In April of 1968, Lorry decided he did not want to remain a miner. "The working conditions were rough," he said. "Working at Bornite, and having my family at Kiana, was not working out too well," he added.

Lorry explained that he decided to become a Trooper after talking with State Trooper Bob Boatright, of Kotzebue. Boatright sent him his application for the Alaska State Trooper's Academy, at Sitka, and he was accepted.

Lorry, and his wife Lydia, have three children, ranging in age from two to four years. When asked how he met his wife, Lorry said, "I don't remember. She was from Norvik and I was in Kiana. The two villages are close and we grew up together."

Enjoying traveling on the job to the villages, Lorry says that he would like to learn how to fly. With a grand total of 8 hours and 35 minutes of flying time, Lorry said, "I would like to get my time in. It is the best way to get around."

In view of his successes to date, it can be expected that it won't be too long before Lorry will be cruising at 5,000 feet.

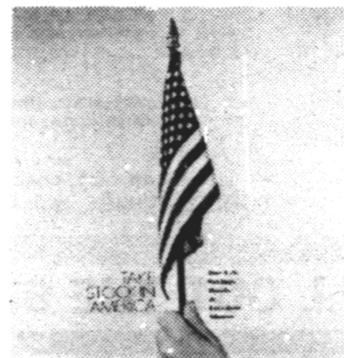
POSTMASTER NEW EXAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 19—New examining procedures to fill postmaster vacancies when qualified career postal employees are not available was announced today by Postmaster General Winston M. Blount and Civil Service Commission Chairman Robert E. Hampton, the office of Congressman Howard W. Pollock, R-Alaska, was informed today.

The new procedures will apply to first, second and third class postmaster vacancies.

An open competitive examination will be conducted to establish lists of eligible persons when selection boards are unable to recommend qualified postal employees for a position.

Competitive examinations are being planned in Alaska to fill postmaster vacancies at Gakona, Galena, Holy Cross, King Cove, Pelican, Platinum, Point Hope, and Yakutat.



Law Observance Committee

U.S. Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) this week accepted an appointment to the Law Observance Committee of the Federal Bar Association, according to Harry D. Shargel, committee

chairman.

As a member of the committee, Gravel will participate in promoting interest in law and law enforcement personnel, Shargel said.

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