

# RALPH KOWCHEE PRODUCES ART ON DEER SKIN

McGrath artist Ralph Kowchee has completed another series of skin drawings—this time on deer skin—which he is offering for sale through the Tundra Times.

Recently, Kowchee sold a caribou skin painting of an Atlantic Richfield oil rig on the North Slope with a herd of caribou in the foreground. This painting was commissioned by Joe FitzGerald of Atlantic Richfield and presently hangs in ARCO's New York offices.

His present series of deerskin drawings are framed with rustic willow stretchers. The drawings range in price from \$20 to \$55 and are on display in the Tundra Times office. Most are done in black on the white skins. Two drawings have blue highlights.

"I am working on several experiments on different skins, and my ultimate goal of drawing on the fur side of a seal skin looks like it will be a success," writes Mr. Kowchee. "I am trying to achieve the fine quality lines, same as on the smooth

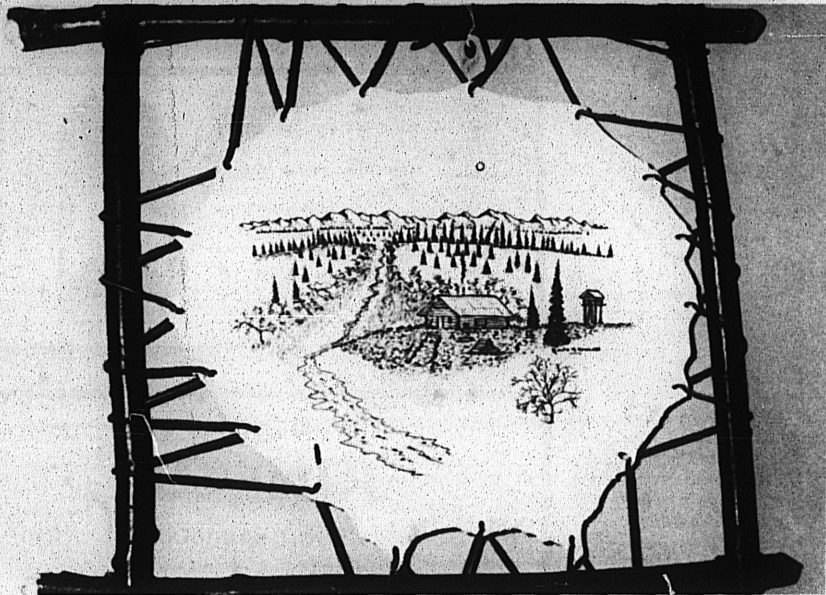
side. People have been telling me it is an impossible feat, but so far I have made one step in finding out for sure. And I hope to show you the first quality pictures on the fur side of a seal skin."

Mr. Kowchee, an Eskimo from White Mountain, who works for the Federal Aviation Administration at McGrath, has been sketching since childhood. He started working on skins within the last couple of years.

At the present time, Mr. Kowchee is looking for some BABISH, for which he will pay up to \$8 per pound. He can be contacted about this at Box 92, McGrath, Alaska.

Within the near future, Kowchee expects to send the Tundra Times some more examples of his seal skin paintings, for sale to our readers.

The artist has donated a 30 per cent commission on all his work sold through the paper for the support of the Tundra Times and its work.



**CABIN IN THE TREES**—This is one of eight deer skin drawings by Ralph Kowchee of McGrath presently available for sale through the Tundra

Times. The deer skin is stretched on a willow frame. This particular drawing is done in black on a white background and sells for \$55.

## Betty Wescott Chosen Head Start Director

A young Alaska Native from the Kuskokwim River area was named last week as project director for the Fairbanks Head Start Association.

Betty Wescott, 30, started last week as director of Head Start in Fairbanks—the early childhood education program which tries to give underprivileged youngsters a "head start" before they reach school age.

"We try to develop socialization skills in the children," explains Ingrid Eaton, the outgoing Head Start project director. Mrs. Eaton, who is leaving for Pennsylvania at the end of the month, started in Head Start three years ago as a teacher. She has headed the program for the past two years.

"The children have difficulty in relating to other children and adults. Here, they are exposed to all types of pre-school activities," she explained.

At present, Fairbanks Head Start provides early childhood experiences for 80 low income youngsters from the community. Space limitations in their quarters at the First Methodist Church prevent expansion.

Mrs. Wescott, who is a Tundra Times board member and member of the Fairbanks Native Association, worked in Head Start teacher training of village teachers in 1966. At that time, she trained 10 Head Start teachers with varied levels of education. She has been involved in early childhood education for several years. While in Maryland, in 1968-69, she started and taught in a cooperative nursery school in her community.

At present, Fairbanks Head Start includes two classes for three-year-olds, two for four and five-year-olds. They draw their children from low income "target areas" in the community—recruiting through agencies and door to door campaigns. Under Federal Head Start Guidelines, 90 per cent of the children must meet low income requirements.

"It's a well thought of program and well run," explained Mrs. Wescott. "Ingrid is a very good project director and has started several good innovations during the past years."

Alaska's Head Start program, Mrs. Wescott explained, is thought of as one of, if not the best, among early childhood educators in the lower 48. Isolated from agency politics, the program has earned a reputation

for important innovations. In Fairbanks, Head Start is a parent participation program, including parents and volunteers in its activities.

Fairbanks Head Start has started an "infant in the home program," visiting Head Start families with new babies to give nutrition and health care information.

Last year, Mrs. Eaton started a follow up program in the elementary schools—to try and spot reading problems among Head



BETTY WESCOTT

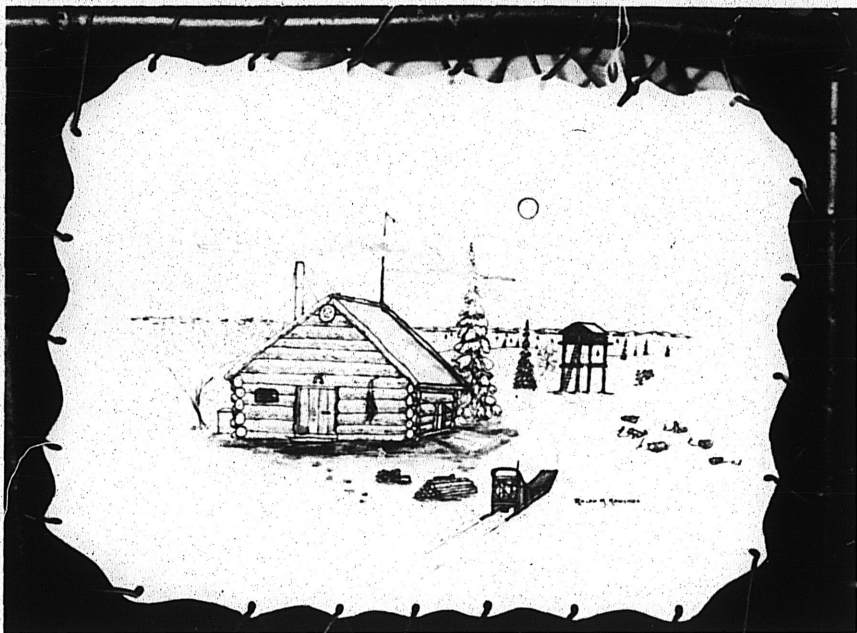
Start youngsters before they become serious.

"Last year, Ingrid also ran a model classroom," explained Mrs. Wescott. "The model classroom situation is a training situation for staff, parents and volunteers."

In her classroom, Mrs. Eaton could set up situations for staff members to observe, demonstrating methods without criticism in their own classrooms.

At present, Head Start employs four teachers, four teacher aides and several neighborhood youth corps workers. Two teachers started as teacher aides. One is a pediatric nurse and another has an M.A. degree in child development.

Mrs. Wescott, who is a 1963 graduate of the University of Alaska is a member of the Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children, a group primarily composed of people interested in early childhood education. She began her work at Head Start last week.



**NATIVE HOME**—Artist Ralph Kowchee has drawn pictures of remarkable detail on deer skin, seal skin, and caribou hides. This picture

is one of a group available for sale at the Tundra Times and sells for \$55. Other deerskin drawings start at \$20 and can be seen at the newspaper office.

## Flood Prone Area Insurance

**JUNEAU**—Governor William A. Egan announced that Federally assisted flood insurance has been made available to certain residential property owners and small businesses in specified flood areas in Alaska.

Areas that are designated eligible for flood insurance include sections of Fairbanks, North Pole, Anchorage, Juneau, the Kenai Peninsula, and Skagway.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has stipulated which areas are eligible for flood insurance, based upon Official Flood Insurance maps of the Federal Insurance Administration, an agency in HUD.

New construction in the various areas built after the effective

date shown with the mpa numbers is not eligible for coverage under this program, and residents in these locations must obtain coverage through local insurance agents.

Rates for the subsidized portions of coverage are determined by the value of the structure insured.

The program has a deductible of two per cent or two hundred dollars, whichever is greater.

Potential purchasers are advised that the eighty per cent coinsurance clause, formerly a part of the program, has been removed due to successful efforts by the State Division of Insurance.

**Jump  
on the  
Bond  
Wagon.**



Take stock in America.  
With higher paying U.S. Savings Bonds.

**JOHN B. COGHILL**

**UNION OIL DISTRIBUTOR**

for Tanana and Yukon River Villages  
also in the Nenana, Clear, Healy areas

P.O. BOX 268, NENANA, ALASKA



For the present, Mrs. Wescott will concentrate on administrative work for the program, writing the project grant, evaluating children going into kindergarten, etc.

Mrs. Wescott's husband, Dr. Eugene Wescott, is a professor at the UA Geophysical Institute. She is the mother of Brian, 8; Liam, 5; and Siobhan, 3.