

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

# Tundra Times



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# The Identification Program—

## Authentic Arts and Crafts Label on All Native Art Objects

(Editors Note: This will be a monthly feature, written by Lynn Chambers, Coordinator of Arts and Crafts Development Lynn was raised in Nome and graduated from the University of Alaska. She moved to her present position from CEDC on May 1, 1971.)

By LYNN CHAMBERS

In coming months I will be writing about events of importance in the arts and crafts field. Occasionally I may find something else to throw in; but for the most part it will be informative — talking about a specific



organization and what it is doing or about an individual or village that has met with success in this area and how they did it. If any of you would like to hear about specific subjects, let me know.

This month I want to tell you about a program that my office has undertaken. I've given it the title of: "The Identification Program."

In 1961 it came to the attention of the State Legislature that Native craftsmen were beginning to have to compete with machine made products from outside the state.

The legislature wrote a law into the books of the state which said that labels would be made available to craftsmen and registered dealers, which could be put on authentic Native products, identifying them as such.

This program, until recently, was carried out by the State Department of Commerce, where due to lack of funds and personnel, it was unable to do justice to the program.

When the Department of Economic Development hired an arts and crafts specialist, we had a person with the time and energy to revitalize the program and agreed with the Department of Commerce to do that.

New labels and tags were created to identify Alaska Native crafts and to assist the buying public in knowing the difference between Alaska Native work and imitations.

There are two sizes of gummed labels and a string tag for Native made products.

For the stores we have a sticker that they can put in their window and a card that can be put on their counter to let customers know they have

authentic Native made products in the store. For the tourists and other buyers we have a brochure which explains what the label means, plus information about what arts and crafts products are made in different parts of the state. There is a large poster which advertises the labels in airports, hotels, tourists information centers, and other places tourists go.

Many stores are using the labels now, but there are many which are not. Some store owners say that it is too much trouble to put the labels on; or it is too much trouble to explain why some items have labels and others do not. The most effective solution to this problem is to have all Native craftsmen put the labels on their products before they sell them, no matter to whom they are sold.

Another, which I am encouraging the state to support financially, is by advertising in the places and things that tourists see and read, so that they begin to ask the stores for the labels. We hope soon all visitors will be looking for items that have the labels on them.

If you are an artist, craftsman or store owner and need any of the labels, tags, store promotional material, poster, or brochures, please write to me at: 338 Denali Street, Room 740 MacKay Building, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501. I will mail them right out to you. Everything is free of charge to you.

## Letters from Here and There

### Tsvent-Kiul, Tsvent-Kiul, Lett-Pool Store

Merced Hall  
802 Font Blvd.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94132

Dear Editor:

The Indian name for Klondike Valley "Thron-diuk," brings to mind of a made-up dialect of the song, "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" in the satirical novel "Cat's Cradle" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. It goes:

Tsvent-Kiul, tsvent-Kiul, lett-pool store,  
Ko jy tsvantoor bat voo yore,  
Put-shinik on lo shee zo brath,  
Kam oon teetron on lo nath,  
Tsvent-Kiul, tsvent-Kiul, lett-pool store,  
Ko jy tsvantoor bat voo yore.

Merry Christmas to the Tundra Times staff, and keep up the good work.

Gilbert Hendrickson

### Device Causes Woman to Become Sterile

Fairbanks, Alaska  
November 25, 1972

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this to warn Native women not to let the ANHS clinic in Fairbanks put birth control devices in them. My wife had them put in one of these devices. It caused an infection. ANHS "treated" the infection but didn't cure it.

When we went to a private doctor finally, it was too late, and my wife had to have major surgery. The private doctor told me that ANHS had installed the device wrong and hadn't treated the infection properly.

My wife is recovering from the surgery, thank God, but we won't be able to have children.

I complained to ANHS in Anchorage about their doctors in Fairbanks but they dismissed my complaint. So I feel that I have to do everything I can to warn Natives.

I know this story sounds fantastic but every word is true. In fact, I know of another woman who had trouble the same way from ANHS in Fairbanks.

Name on file

### Stickman Enrolls But No Money Yet

Nulato, Alaska  
November 30, 1972

Dear Friend:

I see according to your paper, that is on the back, you're still advertising for enrollment. What the hell is the use? I didn't want to enroll last winter at

Eielson but my boss took me down to the personnel office and made me do it. Now I have no job and I don't get a damn one cent yet, and that is for our land and I know there is some more like me that think the same way.

They're a lot of meeting going on. The councilmen that got no wood and no water, but they still go to the meeting. When I went to the meeting all I did was drink, drink, drink, and no wood at home. This is winter and wood is hard to get here. I can't even buy wood so I had to burn oil and that's hard to get here.

If I don't get a pension check pretty soon, I have to gamble or so, so I can make the headlines like my buddies that got picked up the other day.

Well, here is another ten dollar bill for Tundra Times. It makes me sick in the stomach everytime I open your paper, the enrollment in the back, and no money.

October 7, 1962, that's the day I went to work at Murphy Dome. That's when I first bought your paper. The first one that came out given to me by C. Purvis. He read it to me and explain every line was in your paper. I bought it ever since. In fact sometimes I bought three a week and try to get people to buy it, even here, and all over Alaska when I worked.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

## John Fischer Gives Editor Early Christmas Gift—

### Harper's Editor of "The Easy Chair" Writes About Times, Subscriptions Follow

Christmas came early this year for Howard Rock, Tundra Times editor. And it came from a rather unusual source.

John Fischer writes a regular column for Harper's Magazine called "The Easy Chair." And every December issue carries his Christmas list column of people who have made outstanding achievements in a variety of fields. Rock was one of those picked for this year's list, "for his unlikely success in publishing the country's only newspaper for Indians and Eskimos."

Rock, who at one time had started a career as a painter and jewelry designer, decided after attending a meeting that a need existed for a newspaper to make other people aware of Native problems. The specific prob-

lem at the time was the Atomic Energy Commission's plan to blast out a northwest boat harbor with nuclear devices. And Rock, through the paper, was successful in helping get it stopped.

But that was only the beginning, says Fischer. He has continued to fight for fair treatment of Eskimos and Indians in numerous areas. The recent land claims settlement giving 40 million acres to the Natives was another of the special projects which was helped tremendously by the Tundra Times.

All the odds, says Fischer, were against Rock making the paper a success. He had no training and very little money to begin such a venture. But he got by as the song says "with

a little help from his friends."

Tom Snapp, now editor of the All-Alaska Weekly but then just a University of Missouri journalism student, provided the technical assistance. And the late Dr. Harry Forbes, who was long active with the Association on American Indian Affairs, donated \$35,000. The paper was on its way.

Since then, Fischer continues, the paper has gotten along much better than he had expected at its birth (he had advised Dr. Forbes on the risks and practicalities of the initial investment) and says about his thought that it would probably be short-lived "Never have I been so glad to see a prediction go wrong." But it hasn't all been sunshine and roses.

Problems with money after the first year, a large turnover of staff and quarters with all the airy spaciousness of a shoe box all added to Rock's burdens. There have, indeed, been times when nobody was sure whether there was going to be another issue of the paper or not. Things are somewhat more settled now. Although there are still occasional rough spots.

"Rock, at the age of sixty-one, still does most of the editorial work, including layout, paste-up, and the setting of headlines," Fischer says. And he concludes that for anyone interested in Native life, a Tundra Times gift subscription would make an excellent Christmas present.

Subscriptions are coming in.

## Book Review— Book on Hunting And Fishing

Hunting and fishing adventures of 50 years ago and yesterday are combined in "Selected Alaska Hunting and Fishing Tales," just published by Alaska Northwest Publishing Company.

Edited by Jim Rearden, ALASKA magazine's Outdoors Editor, the new 108-page book contains original works and selected reprints that emphasize the adventure and thrills of hunting and fishing rather than killing. It includes 128 illustrations.

Covering the entire state, the collection includes stories by the late Heime Snider of Wasilla and an account of a Kenai Peninsula hunting trip guided by the late Andy Simons nearly 50 years ago. Fishing yarns cover an area from the North Slope to Clover Pass near Ketchikan.

In his introduction to the new book, Editor Jim Rearden comments:

"You'll find no accounts here of hunters harassing bewildered animals with small airplanes. There are no unfeeling stories of snagging salmon.

"The men and women of these pages are sportsmen who regret the deaths of their trophies, at the same time exulting in the pride of accomplishment when they do manage to finally take the wary creatures they have sought."

"Selected Hunting and Fishing Tales" is available for \$2 at bookstores or from Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, Box 4-EEE, Anchorage.

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