

Agnes Slwooko Turner Sewing Her Way to Success in Anchorage Shop

ANCHORAGE—Agnes Slwooko Turner, a St. Lawrence Island Eskimo, is sewing her way to success. She's always been clever with furs and last year she got an order from a Colorado ski shop to sew dozens of pairs of mini-mukluks.

The little booties sold so well outside, Mrs. Turner began thinking about a shop of her own and finally opened the Bering Sea Fur Shop at 4107 Mt. View Drive.

She makes parkas and mukluks to order, does repairs and alterations and will take on special assignments. One California customer asked her to make a seal skin bikini and the item has been so popular she's had orders for five more.

Another visitor from outside ordered a parka on Friday and bet Mrs. Turner she couldn't get it done by the time he left on Monday. She bet him \$50 she could and set to it.

"He showed up just at 10 a.m. when I opened the door and I had it ready," she recalls with a smile. "His wife said,



FUR STITCHERY—Agnes Slwooko Turner demonstrates the style that has won her many customers and friends for her Bering Sea Fur Shop in Anchorage. Originally from St. Lawrence Island, she learned early how to sew furs and now has a fast growing custom shop.

"That will teach you."

Besides the usual fur items Mrs. Turner is noted for map making...also in fur. On one wall of her shop is a handsome map of Alaska covered with

the animals to be found in each section with a representative for most of the Native people.

"I had one woman come in and study it for a long time and she called me because I didn't include the Aleuts. She's right, too. I didn't put one on because I wasn't sure how the dress should be. I'm going to have to do that.

The map is very detailed, made up of dozens of different kinds of fur. Tourists, especially enjoy it. Some have stayed to study it as much as an hour while Mrs. Turner carries on business as usual around them. She's been offered \$1,500 for the work but she won't consider selling.

She has eight children, aged 7 to 18, who occasionally help with the business. Her husband a cement finisher, gives her a free hand to run the shop and is happy to have her happy.

And happy she is. She likes the shop and the people she meets through it. She likes to chat and joke and take on the "furry" challenges her tailor-made business brings.

Her latest, fur hot pants, should be on display there next week. Mrs. Turner, as you can see, is a very versatile seamstress.

Science Conference...

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"The Rural CAP success in using local people as staff members should be looked at more closely by the State Operated Schools and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We have proved that Native people can teach even though they may not have the traditionally accepted college background."

Shively recommended that local people be given control over their school system including hiring and firing, setting curriculum guidelines and the development of budgets.

He also suggested that one or two demonstration villages be chosen by the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the state for such a project.

Morris Thompson, area director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Alaska, reported his agency is dedicated to going out of the education business in favor of state control.

Currently, however, the BIA is operating 53 day schools in rural villages with 15,583 students and teachers. In addition The Bureau sends over 500 students out of state for lack of facilities. The number of out of states is decreasing steadily, he said.

To date 81 schools have been turned over to the state by the BIA. "I think this is healthy," he said.

Sam Kito, a member of the Fairbanks Native Association and the local school board, suggested regional school boards replace the conglomeration of state, local and BIA boards currently in operation throughout the state.

He felt the boards should be given full control as a regular school board is. The regions could be set up as suggested by the Alaska Federation of Natives, he suggested.

"The Arctic Slope Native Assn., AFN, and Tanana Chiefs were appointed as an ad hoc committee assigned to planning a better boarding facility," he told them.

The results were a building that is homey and comfortable instead of the "usual barracks."

The capability this group showed indicates, in Kito's thinking, an ability of Natives to handle their own educational problems and handle them well. Harry Carter, executive direc-

tor of the Alaska Federation of Natives, went contrary to Dr. Darnell's direction to review: "the unprecedented rape of the past and current landlords of this state."

He said until recent years Alaska's most valuable resource—her people—have been overlooked.

"Today we're not asking to participate, we're demanding it!" he said.

Dr. Judith Kleinfeld, researcher from the University of Alaska, spoke on the value of research noting with a smile every native family, according to the last census, contains a mother, a father, three children and one researcher.

She warned that common sense and "expert" judgement could not always be trusted. As an example she cited work her department had on the Alaska Boarding Home program.

It was assumed that middle income families who took children, not for the money but to help them, would be the best. But this was not so. Many poorer families who took the children for the money proved better foster parents, she said. And so she pleaded for more and better research.

A refreshing finale came from Dr. Marshall Lind, newly appointed Commissioner of Education who has been in office just five days. He didn't pretend to be an expert on state programs but he made it clear he favored local involvement.

"It's high time we addressed ourselves to assessing correctly what teachers can do rather than just their credits. Hell, they don't have to have a degree and all that other certification if they can definitely do good job!"

In conclusion, Dr. Darnell tried to pin panelists down on whether they would favor an experimental regional school board if the legislature would fund it.

There was hedging, the legality of such a move was questioned. There was a question of more research and whether the rural area would accept such an innovation.

"My answer is to do it," concluded Shively. "It's nice to plan but no matter how much you plan you are never going to get into it until you do it."

California—

Indians Acquitted

Thirteen Indians have been acquitted of most of the charges brought against them for occupying an unused Army radio receiving station in Lake County earlier this year.

There were acquittals on 27 of the 41 trespass charges brought against the group.

One woman was acquitted on all three counts, eleven defendants were acquitted on two of three charges against each of them and one defendant was

convicted on three of the five charges against him.

Fish Buyer...

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He can continue to buy from independent fishermen despite the court order, Rogers said.

Membership in the coop numbers about 60. Those who sell to Klein are also guilty under state statute but Rogers said no action was planned against them.

Housing Confusion...

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ASHA trouble shooter dispatched to the scene Friday.

"Your point is well taken," Roderick answered.

"If it's going to become white, middle class housing, ASHA is going to have to take the responsibility," Father James Poole, spokesman for the committee warned. "We're committed as an advocate of low income people!"

Roderick, who's been a consultant to ASHA only a month, was about the 12th government official the committee has heard in as many months. They grilled him, got no new answers but noted, at least, he was the first government official who had had courage to visit Nome alone.

"Usually they come in twos, promise to call us back with more information and we never hear from them again." Father Poole shrugged.

According to a HUD study, the low income families in Nome are desperately in need of adequate housing but can only afford to pay an average of \$40 a month.

HUD has also determined the actual average monthly tenant cost required to amortize the project, pay for administration and utilities, is \$157 a month. They have indicated they could provide an average subsidy of \$37 per month per unit but that still leaves \$80 per unit unpaid.

"ASHA can't put people into the homes if we're going to lose nearly \$50,000," Roderick said. "We cannot open the doors until there is some understanding of how the cost is going to be met."

But the housing committee is dead set against kicking out the people who need the homes but don't have \$6,000. Nor do they want them to sign a contract they can't meet on the hopes the subsidy may come through, only to end up in court for non-payment of rent.

Mrs. Gertrude Foster, a typical prospective tenant, does not understand the battle and is

calmly preparing to move to the development at the end of the month.

She has seven children to worry about and no husband. Her family lives in a one room shack on the edge of town and they've had about enough of it. They're on welfare.

"How come we live in such a cracky house?" asked Bobbie, her five-year-old, last winter when snow blew through their thin walls.

Next year, she told him then, it will be different.

The Fosters picked out their new house long ago and have been anticipating the move since the structure was completed in Oct. 1970. The Housing Committee decided no one should move in until sewer and water were completed and that will be within the week.

In a telegram sent Aug. 11 to the Governor, congressional delegation, ASHA and HUD, Alfred Nakak, director of the Nome Housing warned, "Nome Turnkey III housing project near completion within two weeks. Nome Housing Committee ready, at completion to move 50 families into same. Committee will find solution of its own if none is found by completion."

Friday they followed with another wire stating their reluctance to replace low income Eskimos with middle income whites." This time they added the names of George Romney Sen. Edmund Brooke and Sen. Edward Kennedy to the list.

Replies have been slow in coming, but Nakak notes he has the keys to the project in his office, ready for the occupants originally picked by his committee. And he may not wait for the red tape to be cleared to move them in, he hints.

"With Gov. Egan cutting the ribbon I think it's going to be a pretty dumb thing," Harry Koozaata observed.

Unless the problem is resolved.

Loitering...

(Continued from page 1)

The attorneys have agreed to serve if the committee will adopt a broad definition of "loitering" and if, indeed, it really is a problem.

"Really I think it's more fundamental. That there's no area in town where people can sit or stand. Just businesses and parking lots."

But Murphy expects no immediate action.

"Once snow occurs we have very few people loitering, anyway," he observed.

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Answer to Puzzle No. 9

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