## Eskimo art, customs recorded in paint by artist

by Shirley Whittington came from London to use her paints to recordd Eskimo Point on the west folk arts and customs that shore of Hudson Bay in have largely disappeared 1933, there were no over the past decade. with water colours and

last Wednesday night. Reverend Donald Marsh, the work of the set- sketching and fighting the an Anglican missionary tlement. to the Padlimiut Tribe of the Caribou Eskimo, some of her on the spot her parka. "In the middle Winnifred Marsh taught sketches to the library of the night," she said, "a art at a girl's school in with her, and talked about group of people came

Eskimo Point, an ar- Arctic. When Winnifred Marsh cheologist inspired her to

coloured slides of those a coloured record of the Midland's Public Library that she taught in the It was just too cold." Mission school, and of Before her marriage to their elders, engaged in

London England. At her decade in the Western running over to our house,

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'The autumn is a particularly cruel time up there," she said. "There was not enough snow to build an igloo, and the coloured polaroid Fascinated by the people used to pull their cameras. She recorded delicate beadwork em- caribou tents tighter and what she saw around her broidery on deerskin tighter in order to keep parkas, Mrs. Marsh made out some of the cold. They couldn't use ice for panitings were shown to a designs. She also painted building, although large audience at the faces of the children Hudson Bay was frozen.

She remembered a day she spent inside an igloo melting drips of water Mrs. Marsh brought that ran down the neck of

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shrieking with laughter. an irregularly shaped What was the joke? The porthole of snow. "That joke was that the igloo in was the day our whole which I'd been painting house was covered with all day had collapsed during the night."

mythology. They look the addition of beams for was born. roof support. They were never heated, and access was through a long are all gone now and Mrs.

One of the most striking pictures was of a young Eskimo woman, in

snow," said Mrs. Marsh.

"When we opened the The igloos in Mrs. back door, it looked like a Marsh' paintings are not solid sheet of styrofoam." the symetrical doomed Her husband dug his way affairs of popular out of the house, and created an opening in the more like enormous snow outside the kitchen snowdrifts, which was in window, and this is how fact what they were, with that particular picture

The folk crafts and ancient arts of survival Marsh feels that the influence of the white man has not been altogether good. "When we had the beaded parka, framed in mission school," she said,



#### Author and friends

Author-artist Winnifred Marsh discussed her paintings with two admirers during last week's guest lecture

at the Midland Public Library. Mrs. Marsh presented slides and talked of her experiences in Canada's far north.

"we taught the children to read and write in their own language first. Then we taught them to write in English, and a little bit of arithmetic so that they could deal with white

Later, government schools separated the children from their families. "This caused a terrible gap between children and parents," she said. "The children were educated in English and there was a language barrier as well."

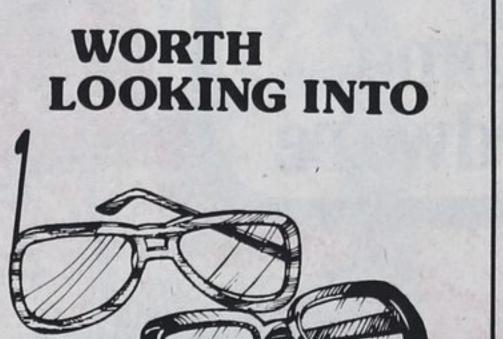
Winnifred Marsh's paintings have been collected into "The People of the Willow" a beautiful book which tells a little about what it was like to be one of the first white women ever to live in the Arctic circle.

It tells a great deal more about the folkways and arts of the Eskimo. which have disappeared the onrush of civilization.

Reverend Donald Marsh became the Anglican Bishop of the Arctic. He died in 1976, and Mrs. Marsh is dedicated to the task of producing a second book from her husband's notes

The Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire bought 37 of Marsh's drawings and paintings which will be presented to Canada's new Museum of the North in Yellowknife.

The IODE connection was alive at Wednesday night's book night. After Mrs. Marsh showed her pictures, and spoke about her life among the Padlimiut, local mem-



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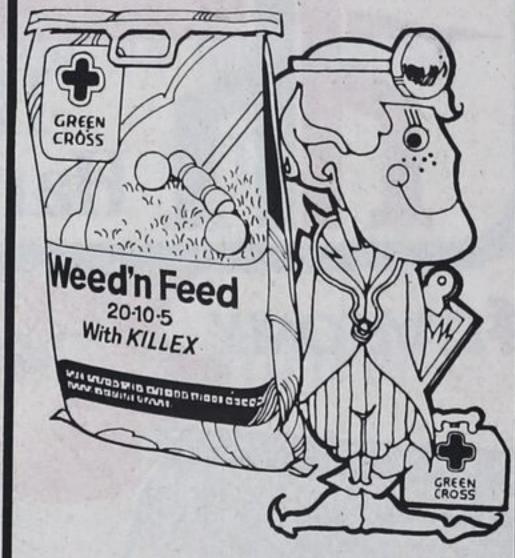
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