

**BORN:**

November 30, 1934

BIRTHPLACE:

Aklavik

PARENTS:

Sarah Justine and John Joseph Stewart

GRANDPARENTS:

(Maternal) Sarah was adopted by Christopher and Enna Colin; (Paternal) Alex and Catherine Stewart

GWICH'IN:

Metis

MARRIED:

Donald (Buster) McLeod, April 26, 1954, in Aklavik

CHILDREN:

Margaret (adopted), Wanda (adopted), Christopher (adopted)

community. For many years they were foster parents and provided a home for young offenders. They have a fish camp just outside Inuvik and they have taken dozens of children there over the years to teach them how to make dryfish and provide an opportunity for them to be out on the land, to have fun and learn to work. Ruby has taught many girls to sew and Buster has taught several boys how to trap.

It was at their fish camp when Ruby first started to teach young people to dance for fun. They enjoyed it so much that she started teaching them and the East Three Reelers dance group was born in 1986. Over the years Ruby has taught dozens of children traditional dances such as the Double Jig, Brandy, Handkerchief Dance and Duck Dance. Ruby also teaches the children the history behind the dances. The boys and girls who have joined the East Three Reelers are her pride and joy.

She has spent countless hours making all their dance costumes and slippers. About dancing and the dancers Ruby says, "My happiest times is when I see them dancing. They have so much fun and I am so proud of them that I want to cry. Dancing is important for the youth.

They always say keep your culture going. Well, dancing is one thing that you got to keep going. You can't let that die off." Be sure to watch for Ruby and the East Three Reelers at Midway Lake and other Gwich'in social functions this coming year.

Ruby McLeod Ruby Anne (Stewart) McLeod

Ruby remembers that as a child, although she attended school in Aklavik, her parents would take all their children out on the land every summer to the family's fish camp. There Ruby learned the traditional skills of making dryfish, drymeat, cooking, making bannock, bread and donuts and sewing. Her mother would make her do things over and over again until they were done right. "Now I'm happy that we listened to her. I'm really proud that they showed

us how to do everything because today I can do all that," Ruby says. Ruby is well known today for her excellent sewing and cooking, especially her bannock and stew.

Although Ruby has suffered poor health and undergone several operations over the years, she has accomplished many things in her life that she is proud of. She and Buster have opened their home to everyone and given much of their time and love to the youth of the