



kitchen and bath. The local public power company has sent homemaking demonstrators to the Miccosukees to show women how to use the modern stoves, refrigerators and other appliances that will change the way of family life on this stretch of the Tamiami Trail.

There are 140 enrolled members of the Miccosukee Tribe, but the Bureau employees who have been working with them estimate that there are probably 200 or more other Miccosukees who are living in the Everglades area and it is expected that they will eventually take part in the tribal activities. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is providing job training so that tribal members may be employed in the tribal ventures.

The Miccosukees are no strangers to residents of southern Florida. Jimmy Tiger's Indian Village--the homestead of his family and relatives about 30 miles west of Miami on the Tamiami Trail--is open to the public; and a crafts shop markets jackets, blouses, skirts and similar clothing of Miccosukee creation and design, as well as moccasins and other handicrafts from the Cherokee Reservation in North Carolina.

While crafts work is not as prevalent among the Miccosukees as among some of the tribes of the Southwest, visitors to the new restaurant and other buildings being planned will be able to feast their eyes upon a variety of Indian-made artifacts created by Indian art students as part of the interior decor. (The students attend the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico, operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.) For example, the windows in the restaurant, an A-frame structure, will be decorated with fenestrations by a youthful Seneca weaver. Paintings, sculpture, lamps, murals, and even the stone carvings on the concrete buttresses are products of the Institute's students, all Indians, who represent several tribes from all parts of the United States. The motif is in keeping with the tropical environment and faithful to Miccosukee tradition.

Why, after centuries of isolation in the Everglades, have the Miccosukees decided to change their way of life? Philleo Nash, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, suggests a reason:

"The Miccosukees," Nash says, "recognize the root of the Indian's problem today--he is often so far removed from the mainstream of American society that he gets only the backwash. The Miccosukees are learning to choose, in this time of change, the things they should keep and the things they must discard."

X X X