

Familiar Things and Events—

'Dick and Jane' Out, 'Alaskan Reader' In

By SUSAN TAYLOR
Staff Writer

After many years of reading from the Dick and Jane series designed for the urban middle class child in the lower 48, the native now has his own series—the Alaskan Reader.

Currently in 51 schools, the books use words and experiences with which Alaskan children are familiar.

With the Dick and Jane series, the children were struggling with the intricacies of decoding in order to read words for which they had no concept, according to Virginia Jones of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, author of the books.

They had never seen a dog-like Spot that never worked or strange animals called cows, or funny-looking birds known as chickens.

And they had difficulty understanding why father worked in a city and did not go hunting and bring home food for the family. The multi-land freeways, the large modern supermarkets and department stores—all of these were unfamiliar concepts to a small child living in rural Alaska.

The children were being taught in the first grade to read about a way of life foreign to their background, said Mrs. Winifred B. Lande curriculum director of the Alaska Rural School Project at the University of Alaska. The Rural School Project has been assisting the Northwest Region in writing the books.

Teachers want the child to know about different cultures but do not want to lose the concept they are trying to get across in the meantime.

Rather, build the vocabulary and word skills around what the child knows and then go to the unknown, Mrs. Lande suggested.

For instance, she continued, first read about a one-room school house and finally about one with many rooms.

In this way, the child sees pictures of familiarities and comes to feel that the books are his.

Thus, she added, he achieves a sense of security and belonging during the early years of learning—the most important time in terms of successful reading.

Written in 12 consecutive levels, the books do not vary for the different regions of Alaska, but rather are based on experiences that all native children understand, Mrs. Lande explained.

This approach gives the child not only the sense of identity that he needs, but also encourages the feeling that he is not a member of this or that village, but an Alaskan.

The goal of the program, she continued, is to retain the best of the native culture and also help the child successfully compete in the majority culture.

Parents want their children to be prepared to get good jobs, she added.

So, while the child starts out reading about life in an Alaskan village, he winds up the 12th level by reading a commercial reader from the outside.

In between, the concepts that will prepare him to read the outside text are introduced.

For instance, at level six, a Caucasian child and his father land in the village.

Then, at level seven, the child visits "the big city of Fairbanks" where he goes into the supermarket, rides the escalator, and in other ways, is introduced to the outside world.

The 12 levels carry the child through the third grade such that by the time he "graduates" from the reader program, he should be ready for any basic text, Mrs. Lande said.

He should have learned all the skills introduced in the Dick and Jane series, but without Dick and Jane.

At the present time, none of the children using the Alaskan Reader have completed the three year program which was first introduced in 17 native villages in the fall of 1968.

And, according to Mrs. Lande, any significant results from the program will probably not appear until the students reach the fifth or sixth grade, the time when most native children fall behind.

Now in 51 schools, the program is scheduled to reach additional villages next year.

Eventually the effort may expand, Mrs. Lande said, to include supplemental materials for junior and senior high school students on native history and culture.

According to Virginia Jones, the Alaskan Reader program will be discussed at a symposium to be held Wednesday, March 4 at the annual convention of the American Educational Research Association in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This presentation will be made by several staff members of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory in Portland, Oregon including Virginia Jones.

Celebration Plans on for All State Mothers

A gala celebration is being planned for all State Mothers at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, May 4-8.

The 1970 Awards Week Conference will be dedicated to Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Honorary President of American Mothers Committee, Inc. The evening of May 4th will be the president's reception and an opportunity for all Mothers to get acquainted.

On May 5th Mothers of all States will present their autobiographies. Mothers of Apollo 11 and 12 astronauts are to be special guests. Following luncheon there will be a session for State and Regional Chairmen, preceded by a Pray Group Session and presentation of a "Chapel in Every Home" project.

May 6th offers panel discussion by some of the nation's key leaders and memorial service.

Devoted to Young Mothers Council, some reknown speakers will take part and it is hoped that Mr. Art Linkletter will be on hand May 7th.

May 8th there will be Communion Service followed by luncheon in the grand ballroom; candlelight processions; music by the 100 Singing Mothers Chorus of the Mormon Church; Announcement of National 1970 Mother and citations to be presented to 35 outstanding American Women in 35 fields of endeavor.

General Chairman of the gala event is Mrs. J.C. Penney. Family and friends of each State Mother are urged to accompany her for the celebration. Application forms for Alaska's Mother of Year are available through Mrs. Paul B. Haggland, State Chairman, 502 Kellum St., Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Completed forms must be in her hands not later than March 15th.

\$7.5 Million Tlingit-Haida Award Passes U.S. House Unanimously

The passage of a bill to provide for the distribution of \$7.5 million awarded to the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Southeastern Alaska was unanimously recommended Feb. 26 by the House Indian Affairs Subcommittee.

The money was awarded to the Indians in January of 1968 by the U.S. Court of Claims as compensation for lands taken from them but has not yet been released.

Rep. Howard Pollock, R-Alaska, sponsored the measure and testified before the group of which he is a member.

Pollock had asked for an early consideration of the bill back in January stating that the prompt enactment of the legislation would contribute greatly to the economic and social life of the Tlingit and Haida communities involved.

The land was taken from the Indians for such federal reserves as the Tongass National Forest, Glacier Bay National Monument, and the Annette Indian Reservation.

The judgment funds will go to the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians which serves about 14,000 constituents in 18 member communities that extend from Oakland, California to Anchorage, Alaska.

The Council was organized

under an act of Congress and is granted congressional authority to develop plans for the use and disposition of the judgment funds.

Having recently moved its offices from Anchorage to Juneau,

To Help Rural Natives—

BIA Grants FNA

The Fairbanks Native Association is now offering financial assistance and additional counseling services to rural natives moving to Fairbanks as the result of a \$15,376 grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The grant, explained Sam Kito, president of FNA, runs for four months from March 1 to June 30 of this year.

About half of the grant, or \$8,000, will be used for general financial assistance to help incoming natives adapt to urban living.

Before, Kito said, the Fairbanks Native Community Center, through which the money will be channeled, had no funds for financial assistance and could only refer individuals to other agencies for such help.

Now, the center itself can give the native enough money directly for food, clothing, and housing to carry him along until

the council has actively participated in the Alaska Federation of Natives land claims effort.

It is now formally structuring its member communities so that it can operate as a regional native corporation.

he finds a job.

The remainder of the grant will be used primarily to hire two additional people enabling the community center to operate on a seven-day basis from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Previously the center was open only Monday through Friday.

These employees, along with others at the center, will offer counseling services to the incoming natives in areas of consumer buying, alcoholism, employment, housing, and education.

According to Kito, an average of 20 individuals come to the center each week seeking assistance.

The Fairbanks Native Association can apply for a renewal of the grant when it runs out in four months, Kito said.

The Native Community Center is located at 520 Fourth Avenue. Clara Carroll is director.

Ill-advised Land Use Planning Hit by Game Official

Harper said.

"Both camps must use archaic and unworkable land laws. To prevent overdevelopment, the public is countering with the establishment of inviolate sanctuaries-inviolate not only to industry but in many cases to sportsmen and general recreationists as well," he said.

"The Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not oppose the conservation concepts being presented," Harper said, "but the dogmatic adherence to the antiquated rules and regulations governing fish and game resource management within these areas is questionable."

Harper suggested long term land zoning as one means of preserving wildlife areas for the outdoorsman.

"Most recreational pursuits need not be eliminated from these areas," he said. "Statewide land and resource planning can be accomplished. Our quality environment can be protected. All true conservationists, and that includes preservationists, developers, guides and the general sportsman, must work together for the common good."

Harper urged all sportsmen to become aware of what is happening in the land use and conservation areas.

"Question ill-planned urban growth and economic development as well as irrational and ill-planned preservation. Demand statewide land use planning that considers all resources and their

Ill-advised land use planning could prohibit or restrict hunting and fishing on approximately 90 million acres of Alaska's prime wildlife habitat, a State Fish and Game Department official said.

James Harper, director of the Game Division, called the potential loss of hunting and fishing territory through development of parks "a serious crisis which in most cases is absolutely unnecessary."

Lands involved are largely those controlled by governmental agencies such as the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Defense, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, but some private property is included.

"Large parks, recreation areas, or wilderness areas need not mean the end of hunting and fishing on affected lands," he added. "By zoning areas for prime scenic quality, public safety and seasonal use, most recreational pursuits can and should be continued."

Harper termed the threat posed by restricted land use "the result of our society's inability to adequately provide long-term land control and to recognize the need for land use and resource planning which takes into account compatible uses."

"The decade of the Sixties witnessed the meteoric rise of conservation as a political and sociological issue and the present crisis is due to the seemingly irreconcilable philosophies of preservationists and developers."

U.S. Savings Stamps Discontinued

The sale of United States Savings Stamps will be discontinued by the Department of the Treasury, effective June 30, 1970.

In announcing the cessation of savings stamp sales, Secretary of the Treasury David M. Kennedy extended appreciation and commendation to the "thousands of dedicated Americans who over the years" have served loyally and steadfastly as volunteers in the stamp program.

The secretary also encouraged young people to continue to save through the purchase of U.S. Savings Bonds.

"There is no better way for young people to save," he said, "than buying and holding U.S. Savings Bonds."

Mrs. Helen Fischer, state director for Alaska urged parents and teachers to encourage school youngsters to complete their unfilled stamp albums and exchange them for U.S. Savings Bonds.

"While savings stamps will no longer be on sale after June 30th, fully or partially completed albums may be used to purchase savings bonds at banks or may be redeemed for cash at post offices," Mrs. Fischer said.

users and manages Alaska's lands accordingly," he urged.

Harper said the land lost to hunting and/or fishing now or which may be lost in the future includes:

National Parks Service—7.5 million acres closed to hunting, 6 million acres proposed for closure.

Department of Defense—296,000 acres closed to hunting, 1.4 million acres restricted.

State Parks and Recreation Areas—approximately 50,000 acres closed to discharge of firearms, approximately 2 million acres proposed for closure or severely restricted hunting.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—550,000 acres closed to hunting 7 million acres restricted. All refuges and ranges are scheduled for a wilderness study which could severely reduce access and use in all 20 million acres of this system in Alaska.

Board of Fish and Game—24,000 acres closed to hunting, 146,000 acres restricted, 860,000 acres closed to hunting species or groups of species.

Native lands—890,000 acres already closed to general public hunting, 2 million acres restricted. The Native Land Claims settlement could give local residents exclusive hunting and fishing rights to 40 million acres.

National Forests—Unknown amounts of land sought by local and national wilderness councils for wilderness areas could be restricted.

Private lands—18.3 million acres, or 5 per cent of the state, closed or restricted.

Harper noted that there is some overlap in these areas. Also fishing is permitted in most of the areas but access limitations often concentrate the activity.

"The 90 million acres which could be lost to hunting and fishing encompass some of the most accessible and most productive fish and wildlife habitat in the state. Closing or heavily restricting use within these areas will prevent good resource management. Surpluses of fish and wildlife cannot be stockpiled and these resources should be managed on a continuous, rather than a sporadic, basis," Harper said.