

In Lower 48 Rural Areas—

Mobile Art Vans for Indians

Five mobile art vans will bring professional fine arts instruction to Indian children in Federal elementary and secondary schools in the Western United States.

The vans—basically camper home units—are presently undergoing the last phases of renovation as art facilities.

They will be fitted with special lighting, drawing boards, modeling wheels, silver-working equipment, textbooks and collec-

tions of paintings, sculpture, drawings and jewelry produced by Indian students at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Tape recordings and films will provide instruction in Indian music and dance.

Trained art instructors will travel in the vans, which include living and cooking quarters.

One unit is already on the road in Arizona and the rest will fan out December 1 for a six month tour, spending one to three weeks at each school visited.

Teacher workshops during the past summer have helped ready the school staff for the visits. Teachers will also provide introductory lessons to prepare the students for their formal art

instruction.

The mobile art van program was created by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in response to criticism from some Indian parents that cultural aspects of the American Indian heritage are often neglected in the curriculum.

The program is being financed under provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Title I) which provide for special aid to schools serving low income families.

Public schools with sizeable Indian student enrollments are also eligible for visitations from the BIA's mobile art studios, which will leave behind supplies of art supplies at each school.

Students will also be taught to create art forms from indigenous materials—pigments ground from stone, water colors blended from berries and other traditional materials.