

Theata Stories Reflect Aspects of Native Life

By MARC OLSON

Theata stands for Tlingit, Haida, Eskimo, Aleut, Tsimishian, and Athabascan. The first letters of names of the major native groups spell the effort of some of them to share parts of their life and heritage with others.

Theata is unique, as a collection of articles written and put together completely by Alaskan Native students about themselves and their people.

The section titles reflect important aspects of Native life past, present, and in the future; Alaskans and their ways, Resources from River and Sea, Resources from the Land, People and Cultural Change, Alaskan Art, and Alaskan Scenes.

There are more than 40 articles included in Theata. They include: "Setting a net under the Ice," "Lost on a Moose Hunt," "Tlingit Wood Carving," "First time in a big City," and others on Alaskan history, Native personalities, crafts, dances and ceremonies, hunting and preparing food, and other aspects of Native life.

The authors originally wrote their articles for their English 106 class, a part of Student Orientation Services (SOS) at the



SOME OF THE THEATA AUTHORS — Front row, left to right: Karlene John of Juneau, Ben Hopson of Wainwright, Charles Nicholai of Kwethluk, Ray Beans of Mountain Village, Phillip Kugzruk of Nome, Joseph Helmich of Anchorage, and Willy Templeton of Anchorage. Back row, left to right: Ann Nicholai of Atmautluak, Sophie Evan of Tununak, Anna Luke of St. Marys, Shirley Madros of Kaltag, Emily Wilson of Barrow, Gloria Demientieff of Galena, Frances Wright of Fairbanks, Sylvia Adams of Metlakatla, Ray Alstrom of Andreafski Townsite, and Katie Moses of Toksook Bay.

— (SOS-Photo)

University of Alaska, which has produced Theata for three years.

The students voted on articles to be included, did most of the photography and art work, organized the sections, and after the articles had been set in type,

did the layout.

The magazine, 100 pages long, sells for \$2.95, and is available at bookstores and gift shops, or through Student Orientation Services, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, 99701.

Student Orientation Services at the University of Alaska provides counselling as well as an academic program for Native students. SOS is mainly concerned with helping rural students make the transition

(Continued on Page 6)

Theata Stories ..

(Continued from Page 1)

into University life.

Theata was originally started by SOS instructors to give the students an audience outside of the classroom for which to write. Theata is completely self-supporting.