

Jimmy Huntington Writes Book About Life on Yukon

A book written by a native-born Alaskan, "On the Edge of Nowhere," is now on the bookstands throughout Alaska and the United States.

Authored by James (Jimmy)

Huntington, of Huslia, on the Koyukuk River, believed to be Alaska's first native born writer, the book deals with Jimmy's early life along the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers and is a reflection of native village life and hardships.

The first printing of the book has already been sold out and a second printing will have to be published.

Huntington said he was particularly pleased with the response of Indian and Eskimo people all across Alaska who have shown a tremendous interest in the book.

He said one told him recently that he felt the book would be good for city people and outsiders to read and maybe come to understand something about village life in Alaska.

Asked how he got the idea of writing a book Jimmy responded: "A lot of guys asked me to write a book. But I first got the idea," he said, "when I read 'Ice Palace.' I figured if someone could write a book like that I could write a book."



The book was five years from inception to publication, but Huntington said he is already working on a second book.

Huntington said he received a tremendous response in Anchorage.

"We ran out of books before the morning was half over," he said, "and there were people lined up waiting for a copy."

Huntington said he would have an autograph party in Fairbanks this week and would appear on local radio and TV stations.

Huntington has lived most of his life along the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers working as a riverboat pilot, hunter and trapper. He was the first of the "Huslia Hustlers," launching Huslia on its pathway to fame as the producer of the best racing teams and dogs in Alaska.

Huntington won the North American Championship in 1956.

Jimmy also claimed to the Tundra Times that he was a "partial bureaucrat," explaining that he has been working as an advisor to the VISTA volunteer training program at the University of Alaska for the past year.

Huntington said his new book would be about superstitions in the North Country.