

No More Dick and Jane

(From NATIVE PRESS)

A teacher in Fort McPherson is helping children read and write about their own world, where the opening of the local beer store or a picture of father cutting wood are part of the life they know.

Linda Brown has worked out a system where the grade 6 children write stories which the grade ones use as readers. The younger children also make up their own stories, and read the ones written by their friends.

One story by a girl in Grade 6 described the opening of the beer store and the way the ration system works out: "Some people only get one or two cases a week. Some people tell other people to get it for them."

Life for some native people was captured in a book called "My Father" by a grade one child.

Under a picture of a black R.C.M.P. van was written, "This is my father going to jail." The next picture was, "This is my

father coming home."

Every day Mrs. Brown tells the children to bring in a new word they want to learn. The child writes the word on a card, and learns to recognize and read them.

One small boy was reading words like "bombadier" and "Fort McPherson."

The next word all the children learned the day before the reporters visited the class was "North" and children eagerly scrambled finding blackboard space to show off how they could write it.

A teacher-aide is with the children every day to teach Loucheux.

Using every chance to make a lesson out of an experience, after the reporters took a sample reader written by Joanne, Mrs. Brown had several children run up to help her compose a letter to Joanne, asking her to write a new story for them. Her lesson began, "How do we start a letter?"