

Book Review— **Indian, White Man: Friends**

"A STORY ABOUT AN INDIAN, A WHITEMAN, AND A LONG STRETCH OF RIVER."

That's the sub-title of Alan Fry's new book **COME A LONG JOURNEY**. It's set in the Yukon Territory today—and it's about an Indian and a Whiteman slowly becoming friends. As their canoe travels down the wild Yukon River, along the deserted Klondike Gold Rush trail, the white narrator gets along well with Dave, his Indian guide—but always on a white-Indian basis. Despite their jokes about it, the racial barrier is always there.

Then slowly the barrier begins to crumble. After many days of shooting rapids, camping, stalking grizzlies and fishing together, Dave begins to open up. By a flickering campfire he tells stories of his people. The stories, like the deserted Indian villages they drift by in the canoe, show what it is to be an Indian in a whiteman's world. The whiteman understands—and with that understanding comes a deep friendship that is soon to be tested.

While the main story deals with Dave and the narrator slowly becoming friends, more than half of the book is taken up by Dave's stories about Indian life. The first—the story of K'Anta, paints a striking picture of an Indian boy growing up in the days before the whiteman arrived in force, when K'Anta's people traded with the Tlingit who in turn took furs to the coast to sell to the whitemen.

The second story describes how Dave kept two cheechako whitemen alive in the bush through a bitter winter only to become "a goddamned Indian" when they returned to whiteman's civilization.

Last year, British Columbia's Alan Fry hit the Canadian best-seller lists with his tough angry portrayal of Indian misery on reservations in **HOW A PEOPLE DIE**.