

UA publication THEATA now available to public

Fairbanks—The fourth volume of "THEATA," a collection of articles on Alaskan Native life and culture, is now available to the public.

The publication was written, illustrated and assembled by native students at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The title "THEATA" is an acronym of the major native groups in Alaska: Tlingit, Haida, Eskimo, Aleut, Tsimshian and Athabaskan.

The theme of this year's edition is "Alaska: Yesterday and Today." The articles discuss changing Alaska from many diverse viewpoints. Subjects covered range from traditional activities such as subsistence hunting and fishing, native arts

and crafts, and potlatch celebrations, to such developments as improved educational and communication systems, the use of snow-machines, and the impact of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

In one article, "King of the Reindeer Herders," Emily Aukongak from Golovin recounts the words of her grandfather. "We tried to scare the wolves away from the deer. One time I tied my parka on to a willow tree just like a scarecrow . . . like a man who was standing there. It didn't work though. The wolves knew it wasn't real." "THEATA" was first conceived in 1973 when English instructors working with Student Orientation Services,

an organization designed to ease the rural student's transition into college life, saw an opportunity for their classes to write for an audience beyond the classroom. The articles in "THEATA" were written not simply as a class exercise but by

way of contributing to our knowledge of Alaska and its people.

Since the first edition of "THEATA," the magazine has been well received in Alaska and the rest of the nation. The publication is self-supporting

and owes its continued existence to its growing readership.

The 70-page volume, fully illustrated with photographs and drawings, may be ordered for \$2 a copy from Student Orientation Services, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

BIA, IHS early retirement

Nonpreference employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service would be able to retire early under a bill approved recently by the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

The bill, introduced by Sen. Ted Stevens, is designed to facilitate the transition to native control of these agencies. It would allow early retirement for a nonpreference employee who had been in one of the agencies 20 years by June 1974, who is at least 50 years old and who can demonstrate that he was denied career advancement twice.

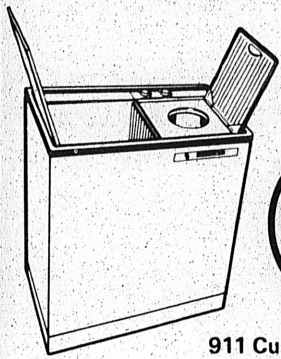
A Supreme Court decision in June 1974 upheld Indian preference in hiring and promotion in the BIA and IHS. The bill approved by the committee would create job openings for natives in the agencies and free non-natives from jobs, which, for them, provide no chance for advancement.

"While I agree with the intent of the Indian-preference hiring policy, it has temporarily created an unfair situation for people who joined the agencies expecting to be able to advance but who now find they can't," Stevens said.

"This bill will rectify that problem and also open up jobs for natives to speed up transfer

to native control."

The measure must be approved by the full Senate and then will go to conference with the House.




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