

Players Praised at Dominion Drama Festival

The Penthouse Players, a little theatre group from the medium security institution, Stoney Mountain, 15 miles north of Winnipeg, entered the Dominion Festival in March and received high praise from packed audiences besides winning four of the awards. The reviews of the play, "Teahouse of the August Moon" were excellent. The adjudicator said that Charles Hill who had the central role of Sakini had good stage presence and carried through well in the role.

Mr. Hill taught school in the Prince Albert institution and the experiment was so successful that it was continued. He is also taking extra mural university courses which will lead to a degree, and also studying Mohawk. We believe he has been of great help and encouragement to the Indian boys in the pen, (and there are many) most of whom are there as a result of alcoholism. They write and publish "Native Brotherhood" - a very fine paper and it is a continual source of amazement, the fine attitudes and principles expressed by them. The topmost desire of all is to go back and help their people. We believe they will and become citizens of their reserves of whom all can be very proud. As soon as we can spare space in Tekawennake, some of their articles will be printed.

- Editors.

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NATIVE LANGUAGES - Indian Magazine - Feb. 1970

The young native people of Canada are concerned about retaining an Indian identity and one way in which they feel this could be accomplished is through the use of the Indian language. Many support the idea of having an Indian language introduced into the educational system in the early grades. Textbooks and dictionaries are already being used in a few schools and many are working towards this goal.

Delia Opekokew of Canoe Lake, Saskatchewan, recalls her school days when she was made to feel ashamed of speaking Cree. If Indian people wish to keep their language, Miss Opekokew says: "It is important that they develop a sense of pride in speaking their language. The pride has to be developed, with their sense of identity and once that takes place, they feel I am a man, I am an Indian, instead of feeling inferior to anyone else. Once that comes about then all these things about language, better education, whatever, will fall into place because that person will want to retain anything that's Indian. The Indian language happens to be one of the more important ones in this case." Edna Manitowabi from Manitoulin Island, who has been teaching Ojibway at the University of Toronto for the past two years finds a problem in getting a writing system. She frequently visits Indian reserves to study as well as learn from the older people. She encourages Indian parents to speak to their children in Indian. This summer Miss Manitowabi will visit Chief Smallboy's settlement in Alberta.

INDIAN LAND CLAIMS

The recent appointment by the Federal Government of an Indian Land Claims Commissioner to review land claims has already been attacked. Treaties were signed by native people who did not fully understand the contents of the treaties, and their interpretation of "land ownership" was not the same as that of the people who drew up the treaties. This will make it difficult to assess these treaties as valid documents to be reviewed by the Indian Land Claims Commissioner. Also aboriginal rights will not be recognized as previously announced by the Prime Minister, therefore Eskimos and B. C. Indians will be excluded in their land claims.

Frank Howard, MP, Skeena, says the Commissioner is simply part of another Royal Commission. He can only make recommendations to the government which does not necessarily mean they will be adopted.

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