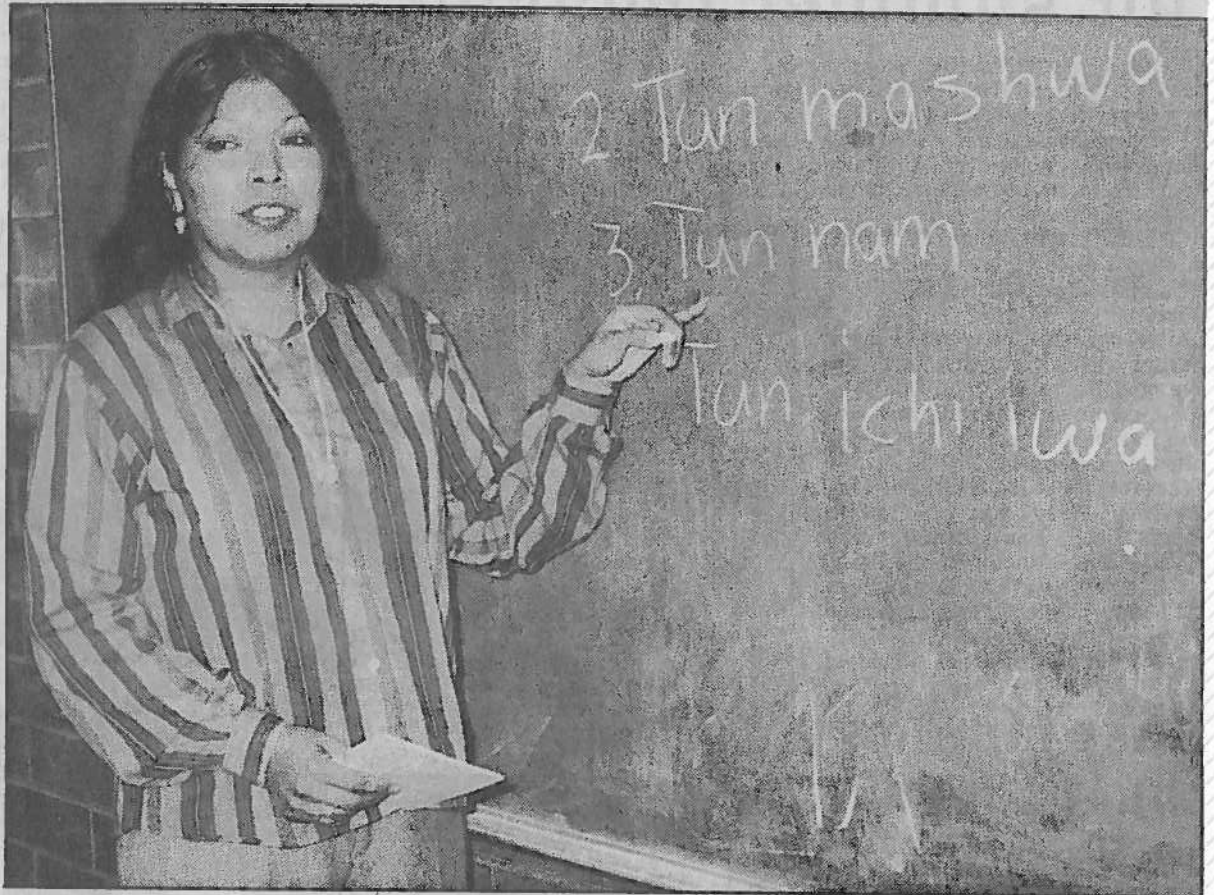


# pendulum swings



(Photo by Charles Lamb)

Mary Ann Washines prints Indian words on the blackboard as she teaches local dialects to students in the White Swan middle and high schools.

published in 1975 and reprinted in 1985, is a valuable aid in teaching and learning local dialects which at one time were only spoken.

The first-of-its-kind dictionary was written by a group headed by Dr. Bruce Rigsby with Federal Johnson-O'Malley Act funding and approval of Yakima Tribal Council. The dictionary uses English lettering, although the teacher said the sounds of several English letters are not stated in Yakima dialects.

A book, "Drummers and Dreamers," was written by Click Relander, Yakima Herald-Republic city editor, who died in 1969. It reportedly gave the Wanapums of Priest Rapids their first written history.

"Our language is coming back strong. It is taught here and in Yakima Tribal School. And, good news, Wapato schools are considering it."

Mary Ann's family background gives her a wide experience in Indian dialects. Her mother was Nez Perce-Yakima, her father, Wapt Bassett, is a Wanapum and her husband, Yakima Tribal Police Chief Davis Washines' family are Rock Creek Indians coming from the Goldendale area.

Mary Ann's and Davis' children are Winonah, Wapato sixth-grader, and two boys, Asa, in Toppenish kindergarten, and Andrew, 2.

"They learn our dialect at home, as well as good English," the teacher said.