

Dedicated to

A L E X S A L U S K I N

"Father" of the Yakima Indian Language



"THLUPT MEANS JUMP, but thlupt thlupt means jumping." Mrs. Amelia Sampson, Wapato; Mrs. Lena Owens, Toppenish; and Mrs. Catherine Arquette, White Swan, work with Alex Saluskin of Toppenish on the course material for teaching the Yakima language.

## Yakimas learn to teach Indian language course

Under the direction of Alex Saluskin, Catherine Arquette, Lena Owens, and Amelia Schappy worked on teaching methods for a course in the Yakima Sahaptin Language. They developed a dictionary, methods of teaching the 39-character alphabet, and principles of grammar.

The language teaching materials were developed with the help of Dr. Bruce Rigsby, an Anthropologist at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Rigsby worked with Mr. Saluskin as early as 1966.

Mr. Saluskin attended a Linguistic Workshop in Spokane to prepare for this task. "The alphabet was an important step in preparing to teach Yakima," he said, "for with it, anyone can learn to read and write the previously unwritten language."

A goal of the teachers was to develop a history in the Yakima language. "The story of the Whitman Massacre should be told from the Indian viewpoint and in the Indian language," he said. He had written an account of the Yakima wars, and Dr. Rigsby had recorded legends and stories of Indian history.

The following is a historical account of the Yakima war as told by Alex Saluskin. This account has been in the possession of Catherine Arquette since that time, so long ago, that she worked with Mr. Saluskin, and it has always been her greatest dream to see this used as a teaching tool for the younger generation. It is a legacy she cherishes. Catherine strongly believes in the "Gift of Giving"--when something is given to you, you give in return. This historical account was a gift given to her by Alex Saluskin, and she, in turn, would like to pass it on to the future generations attending the Yakima Indian Language Class at the Yakima Tribal School.