

# HeadStart-Daycare Trailer . . .

In what is a loving, warm and home-like atmosphere, 28 three to five year old children attend HeadStart-Day Care in the fairly new, double-wide trailer behind the Day Care Center.

Children begin arriving at 7:30. Their day begins with free activity time prior to breakfast every day. This free time can be used to color, draw, use scissors and do puzzles. At 8:30, breakfast is served.

All meals and snacks are prepared in conjunction with District Nutritionist Ching Ye Lee at the PHS Clinic. All are well balanced and appetizing. Many new foods that are not often served at home are introduced to the children.

There are two lead teachers, two teacher's aides and one cook-housekeeper working at the trailer. Because of lack of space

the children are separated into two groups. One group consists of three and four year olds and their head teacher is Marie Tom, the aide is Leann Yallup. Nancy Holliday and Geraldine Frank head up the other class of four and five year olds. Rose Mary Smith, a veteran cook, prepares the meals and tidies up after each meal and snack, sometimes getting assistance from the children.

The teachers are all very patient with the children, allowing them to express their feelings constructively, observing actions quietly and stepping in only when children begin to fight and get unduly physical. Spanking is not used as a means of discipline.

The HeadStart-Day Care daily schedule is exactly like HeadStart except the activities

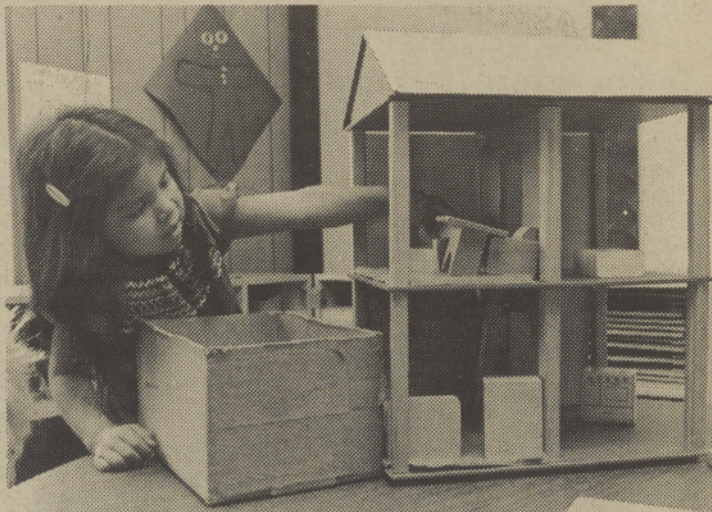
## A Full-Day Learning Center For Young People

are more detailed because their day is eight hours long. Unlike HeadStart, a rest-time is provided every afternoon followed by a snack and more free time.

In late 1975 and early 1976, State regulations and requirements changed. Small children could no longer be allowed to spend any length of time on the second floor of the Day Care building. And because there was no space available for the three to five year olds, a real need was perceived for extra facilities to house the children.

Indian Migrant Program used to fund Warm Springs HeadStart and Day Care programs through Migrant Indian Coalition, but IMP decided two contracts were unnecessary and thus combined contracts that formerly went to the MIC with the regular HeadStart contract in Warm Springs, to provide day care services to children in the three to five year old range. Since HeadStart-Day Care is funded like a HeadStart program, and is not allowed to charge for services, there is no charge for the care of children in that age bracket.

Again because of lack of space, one class spends time inside doing art work, using

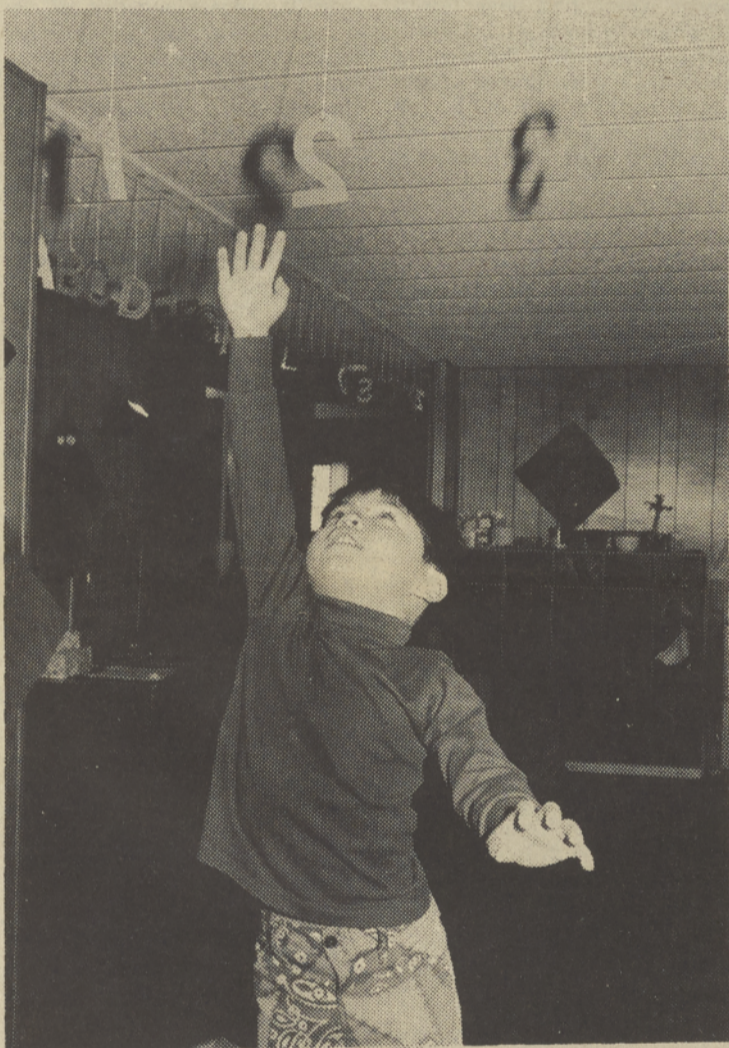


Ollie Smith furnished the Head Start-Day Care doll house during her free time while the other class played outside. The two classes alternate their indoor and outdoor activities because of limited space. CDS Photo

blocks and doing other activities planned for the time that the other class is outside using the playground. If weather is bad, the basement of the Day Care building is set up with climbing bars, horses, trikes and hopity hops. What are hopity hops, you ask? They are big balls with handles on them and when sat and jumped on, they bounce,

allowing the children to better coordinate the leg muscles.

Children really enjoy their HeadStart-Day Care experiences. There are very few tearful goodbyes when parents leave them in their class rooms. The kids like and respect the teachers and the teachers return that same feeling through careful supervision and individual attention given each child daily.



Learning numbers and letters is fun at the Head Start-Day Care trailer as Joelden Surface demonstrated. CDS Photo

## In Memoriam: Blanche And Alec Tohet

by David and Kathrine French

Last year, the community lost one of its leaders, Blanche Tohet, as it had lost her husband, Alec, in 1966. Her memorial service was held on March 25; this is thus a time to write about the two of them, who worked together for so many years.

Mrs. Tohet was born in 1899 and was raised in a traditional manner. In turn, she raised a family that has taken its place in new activities as the reservation has changed. Still, her family — and all of us who knew her — benefited from her knowledge of traditional Indian ways.

She was one of those who made the Root Feast and the Berry Feast successful year after year. Her activities involved much hard work, and they extended from the digging of the first roots and the picking of the berries to the end of the ceremonial period.

Keeping things going was not always easy. One year, the drummers at the Root Feast did not come into the longhouse when the food was ready. She decided not to wait any longer, took a drum, and began a song by herself. Soon, the drummers came in and continued the singing.

Blanche was a woman of great personal dignity. In addition, she was especially friendly and cheerful. She had a good sense of humor and told stories about her childhood that showed this. She told serious stories as well and willingly shared her knowledge of language and customs.

With Alec and Blanche gone, it might seem that this is the end of a historical period. Yet, their children learned respect for Indian ways and, together with others, having been continuing them.

Alec Tohet was born in 1901; he was the son of a well-known

"Indian doctor." Although he knew Washington figures like Congressman Al Ullman and was sometimes a leader in tribal matters, he was also a major religious leader. He was quiet as a person unless the circumstances called for activity. He could be an orator, but he could also be just quietly helpful.

When the two of us first visited a Berry Feast in 1950, it was not clear to us how things were planned and financed. We talked with Alec, who was then a

major organizer of such ceremonies. He mentioned the help and support of others and then said, "Well, we get along somehow. You know, if a White man tried to run this, he'd go broke."

Alec understood those things one does simply because they are worth doing. He would explain the meaning of Indian ways, and he put them into practice throughout his life. He lived like those of a century ago who have been called Indian prophets.

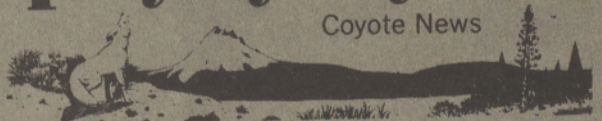


BLANCHE AND ALEC TOHET

(Photo Courtesy of Prunie Williams)

## Spilyay Tymoo

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