

New Teachers Are Learning the Ropes

Ms. Billie Brown - Grade 5

When school got underway in the first week of September, Ms. Brown was teaching both fourth and fifth grades at the Warm Springs Grade School.

The reason for this, explains Ms. Brown, is because more fifth and sixth graders were expected. But because the students anticipated failed to appear for some reason or another, the other grades were divided and Brown has only the fifth graders now.

"It's just like the first week of school all over again," said Brown of the change. "But everything will be great eventually," she predicted.

This is Billie's first time she had only one grade in a classroom and she says, "I don't know if it's nice, but it's different."

Before Brown came to Indian country she taught for four years in Harney County where she also had a mixture of grades.

"I like teaching," Billie proudly admits. "I have enjoyed every room I had. I like the kids and I like what I'm doing. Only thing I don't like is the field burning," commented the teacher.

Billie doesn't have any goals set yet, but she said she would like her classroom to work together. "I think we could do a lot more if we get together as a group," is her thinking. Instead of seeing the same ones answer questions she would like to see the entire classroom participat-



ing, such as in discussions, reading, etc.

Brown hasn't had any real problems yet except her students are a little shy to answer. "But that's normal because they don't know me," answered Brown.

Because she was raised in a teaching family, Ms. Brown didn't think she was going to be a

teacher. Since she wasn't happy with what she was doing, she decided she needed a change.

For nine years Billie was working in an automotive parts company in inventory control. The job wasn't satisfactory with her so now she is teaching and she thinks this is where she'll stay.



Laura Fuentes - Grade 4

Laura Fuentes didn't know she was going to be a teacher until she went to college. But she seems to be happy with her work. "It gets better every day," she says.

Getting all of her students up to grade level is one of Laura's goals. Her feelings are too many students are in the sixth grade and Junior High that really shouldn't be there. She would like to prepare them so when they're in Junior High, they'll be up with the other students, and not still at the grade school level.

Another goal set by Laura is to develop a positive self-image within the students.

The only problem Laura will confess she's faced so far is classroom control or discipline

among the students. "I started out too nice," admitted the first-year teacher, "I'm not a disciplinary person."

Mrs. Fuentes is glad to be teaching at Warm Springs Grade School because she wanted to be here. "I was happy when I got my job here."

When asked how does she like teaching, Laura replied, "It's a lot more work than I thought." The "work" Mrs. Fuentes talks about is correcting papers in the evening and on weekends. But to Laura, "things have been pretty good."

The twenty-three year old teacher received her teaching degree at the University of Oregon. Fuentes is from Madras where she was formerly a grocery clerk.

Denver Sensibaugh - Grade 4

"I've always liked this area because it offers recreation," said Denver Sensibaugh, fourth grade teacher at Warm Springs. "We (different certified teachers) were interviewed for different schools. I wanted to be placed

somewhere in Central Oregon."

To be a teacher was Denver's goal for the last three years. "My aim was towards teaching," stated the youthful 22-year old teacher.

Now that he completed his

first goal, Denver has set goals for himself and his students.

Denver would like to have his students up to fourth grade level so they'll be ready for Junior High. "If that goal isn't reached I hope they get the basics. I think they need more of the basic education. I want them to be confident in math and reading. I'd like to encourage them to read on their own. I'd like them to learn to like to learn. It seems that self-motivation is low. It's hard to get them to go. I like my students to enjoy learning," said the fourth grade teacher of his goals.

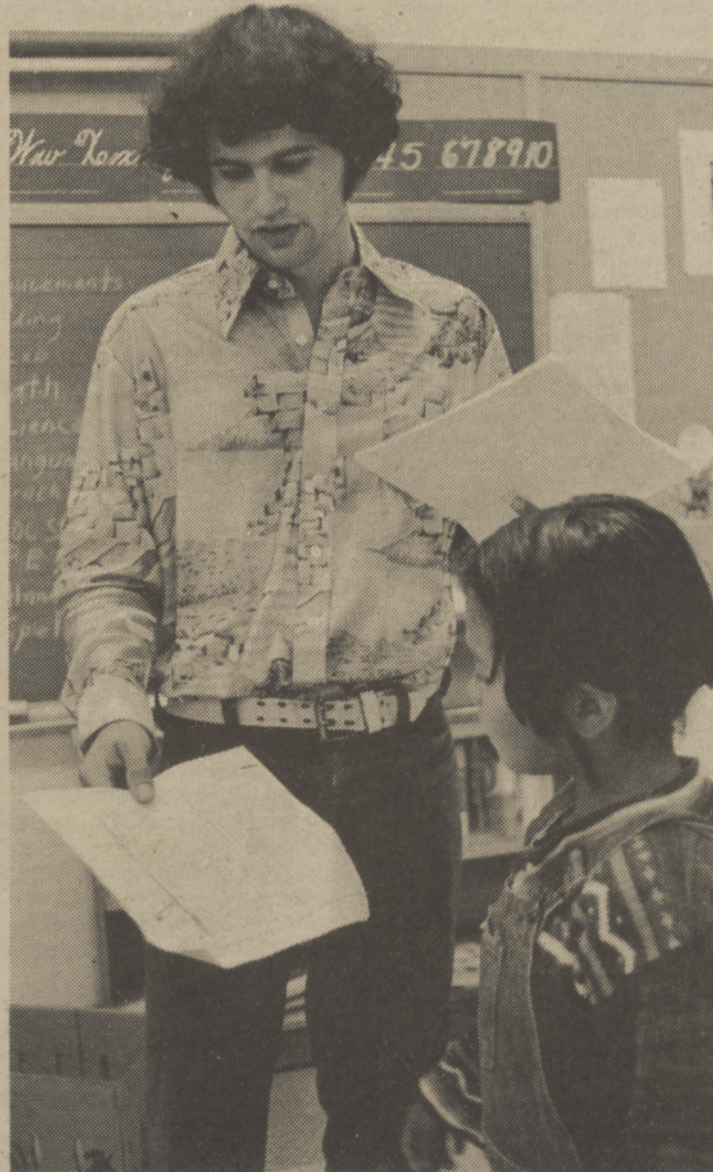
"I feel I can really accomplish something," beamed Sensibaugh.

"Discipline hasn't been too much of a problem. I consider myself strict," said Denver in a half-stern voice. "I'm proud of my students already," he said about his well disciplined students.

Denver says he will stay at Warm Springs Grade School if he feels that he's making a contribution. But he also considered taking a year off to vacation and travel, since he's "fresh out of school."

The University of Oregon graduate said he would like to take some time out and go in the wilderness and just hike around. In the winter time he would like to go to ski resorts. During the summer he would like to hike along the Skyline trail. In the fall, he would like to go to Oklahoma and visit his grandparents. He said he'd also like to tour the Mideastern United States with his brother.

Denver's hobbies are skiing and hiking, most outdoor activities, most sports, some micro-filming (which he would like to use in his classroom), and studying the Bible.



Community Calendar

October

- 21-22 St. Patrick's Cowdeo in Madras
- 28-29 All Indian Rodeo in Nixon, Nevada
- 31 Halloween (trick or treat and carnival at CC)

November

- 4 All Indian Rodeo in Warm Springs (OICA)
- 7 District meeting Simnasho longhouse
General Election - Vote at Teen Club
- 10 Veterans Day (observed) No school (509-J)
- 9-10 National American Indian Cattleman's Association Convention at Kah-Nee-Ta
- 11 MHS District Volleyball tournament in Burns, Oregon
- 4 & 18 Patchworkshop at Adult Learning Center
- 23-25 Indian National Finals rodeo in Salt Lake City, Utah

NAIWA NEWS

Marie Calica, President of the Oregon chapter of the North American Indian Womens Association (NAIWA) recently was appointed by Hildreth Venegas NAIWA National president, to serve on the committee for the "International Year of the Child 1979", which is the coming years theme for NAIWA.

Marie is returning today (October 20) from Aberdeen, South Dakota, where she attended a planning meeting, to develop projects, and to backup the 1979 NAIWA theme. The committee also discussed the 1979 NAIWA National conference to be held in Yakima, Washington, June 18-20, 1979.