

pondence credit courses at the University of Alberta. The Yukon government pays the fees of students attending university in other parts of Canada and also pays part of the transportation costs.

An effort is being made to increase the participation of the native peoples in their own education. In many areas, native teaching assistants are being used, and land-living skills and native languages are being taught. In predominantly Indian communities, textbooks are gradually replacing "Dick and Jane" with more appropriate references to polar bear and moose.

#### *Social services*

Health services are staffed by personnel of the Northern Health Services of the federal Department of National Health and Welfare. Expenses are shared by the federal and territorial governments.

The Yukon has had both hospital insurance and medicare for several years. It also operates a "travel-for-medical-treatment" plan to reimburse patients for costs over \$100 toward transportation to the nearest point where treatment is available.

In 1962, the Yukon established a free dental care system in public schools, the first of its kind in Canada. The program will eventually cover all students up to Grade 12.

The main hospital is in Whitehorse, with 120 beds, two surgeons, a gynaecologist and a psychiatrist. Specialists

are often flown in to Whitehorse for clinics, and emergency cases are frequently flown for treatment to Vancouver or Edmonton.

Five other Yukon communities have their own hospital or nursing station.

The Yukon's Department of Social Welfare is responsible for an extensive program of services, including government-owned nursing homes, senior citizens' homes and child-care facilities. The Department offers a whole range of social welfare services to Yukon residents.

Social assistance to Indians is administered by the Yukon Regional Office of the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Social welfare payments remain one of the largest sources of income for Yukoners.

#### *The spirit of the Yukon*

Yukoners enjoy two major celebrations during the year: "Discovery Day", held in Dawson on the weekend nearest August 17, honours the day gold was found in the Klondike; and "Sourdough\* Rendez-vous" in Whitehorse, held for a week in late February. Festivities at both include fun-filled contests and a variety of events. To the delight of the tourists, the Yukon brings vaudeville back to life, with Dawson's *Gaslight Follies* and Whitehorse's *Frantic*

\*Sourdough is a term made popular by the poems of Robert W. Service in *Songs of a Sourdough* (1907). It is still used in Canada to mean a person with long experience in the North. The word comes from the prospectors' old custom of carrying dough from camp to camp, for use as leaven in making bread.