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FIRST SUMMER PROGRAM AT UM  
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN  
OF ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM TRAINEES

MISSOULA--

This summer marks the first session of a program for school-age children of trainees in the Adult Education Program at the University of Montana.

The program, part of the Adult Education Program, began June 16 and will continue to Aug. 22. It is conducted by Mrs. Jeannine T. Helms, a June UM graduate in elementary education, at the Adult Education Center, 401 South Ave.

The Adult Education Program at UM is a program for the training of adult Indians. The University of Montana administers the funds provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the UM Program.

About 10 girls and eight boys, ages 7-12, from seven reservations in Montana, participate in the program six hours a day while their parents attend courses in basic education or in family life education in the Adult Education Program.

"The program provides valuable non-academic experiences for the children until school starts in the fall," said Mrs. Helms. "The children learn skills, such as cooking, sewing and weaving. Some of the skills learned here are passed on to the parents."

Art projects include leaf-collages and clay objects. Trips are made to places such as a local potato chip factory, fire department, bakery, the Smoke Jump Center west of Missoula and Lolo Hot Springs. Other activities include organized baseball at Franklin Park and daily swimming lessons.

Girls may take marching and twirling lessons and a course in babysitting.

Sonia A. Finley, a Kootenai tribal member, Flathead Reservation, Dixon, Mont., who is taking courses at the center this summer, said, "The mothers think the boys seem to know more since they started the program."

Said Mrs. Helms, "As in any job dealing with human beings, there are many frustrations. However, all it takes is someone really interested in these children."

Mrs. Helms, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Thibodeau, Route 4, Missoula, will teach 5th and 6th grades, combined, in Bonner this fall.

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