

relive in his story. Being of a different culture, Herbert Schwarz can only faithfully relate the various events and record the legends for posterity.

The second part of the book is a series of biographical notes, with photographs, about the Mackenzie region storytellers Herbert Schwarz has met. The author tries to make the sketches sound conversational and personal but instead they sound self-conscious. Although these are all people whom he considers to be his friends, he seems uncomfortable when writing about them.

It is unfortunate that Dr. Schwarz does not explain more fully in his notes how he came to collect these stories, nor acknowledge more fully who told him a particular story. In the biographical notes he does mention that Susie Tiktalik of Sachs Harbour told him about "The Raven and the Whale" and that "Elik, the Far Seeing One" was pieced together from fragments told to him by Kenneth Peelookook. One wonders who told him the other stories or whether he heard several versions of each from different people, and then pieced them together to form the version in the book. When reading such a collection of tales, made in order to preserve them or present them to another culture, it would be of value for the reader to know whether or not it is a verbatim translation [or a piece that is composed of several versions of the same story].

The stories collected in *Elik and other stories of the MacKenzie Eskimos* are both enjoyable and indicative of the traditional Eskimo way of life. Simple line drawings by Mona Ohoveluk illustrate most vividly the principal subject of each story. For those who wish to acquaint themselves with Eskimo legends and customs this book is a valuable record and one which is well worth reading.

Elizabeth Bell

THE GREAT ALASKA EARTHQUAKE OF 1964: HUMAN ECOLOGY. COMMITTEE ON THE ALASKA EARTHQUAKE OF THE DIVISION OF EARTH SCIENCES, NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL. Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Sciences, 1970. 9 x 11¼ inches, 510 pages, illustrated, tables and maps. \$29.50.

Soon after the Alaska earthquake of 27 March 1964, President Johnson wrote Special Assistant for Science and Technology, Donald F. Hornig, requesting that his office

"undertake to assemble a comprehensive scientific and technical account of the Alaskan earthquake and its effects . . ." Assistance from the National Academy of Sciences was solicited and a Committee on the Alaska Earthquake was formed. The resulting reports, prepared by the Committee and its seven specialized panels, constitute one of the most comprehensive accounts of a national disaster ever compiled. Seven separate documents dealing with geology, seismology and geodesy, hydrology, biology, oceanography and coastal engineering, engineering, and human ecology have been prepared. An eighth volume will include a summary and recommendations prepared by the entire Committee.

The report on human ecology was prepared by the Panel on Geography which included social scientists from several fields. Its papers describe the effects of the earthquake on people and the varied ways in which they attempted to cope with and modify these effects. Although human response to the Alaska earthquake was found not to differ markedly from that of peoples elsewhere to sudden disasters, this volume is unique in being the first detailed study of human behaviour during and after an earthquake.

Following a general introduction, the volume contains 20 papers by 17 authors, 12 appendixes and an extensive annotated bibliography. The papers are grouped into four sections: 1) Implications of the Earthquake Experience; 2) Selected Studies of Impacts and Behavior; 3) Public Administration Aspects; 4) The Human Response in Selected Communities.

Papers in the first section reflect the fact that in spite of the almost total lack of preparation for an anticipated earthquake, the damage and loss of life in Alaska was remarkably small. Also, contrary to what some expected at the time, the earthquake appears to have had no lasting effects, either beneficial or detrimental, on Alaska's long range economic future. Nevertheless, because of its scope and recency, the disaster revealed many problems likely to confront a community after a large-scale natural catastrophe, emphasizing the need for advance planning.

Perhaps the most interesting paper in the second section was prepared by an economist, George Rogers. He considers the economic effects of the earthquake in some detail noting that although recovery was rapid and the impact of recovery spending beneficial, some communities benefited at the expense of others. Anchorage, as the largest centre of government and construction in the State

and the only port of entry open immediately following the disaster, benefited at the expense of the rival ports of Seward, Whittier and Valdez. These communities suffered great damage and have not recovered lost business ground. Other papers in this section deal with the impact of the earthquake on health, functional priorities and organizational change in Anchorage, Tsunami warning procedures in areas of California and Hawaii affected by the Alaska earthquake, and earthquake-related activities of the Russian Orthodox Church in five Pacific Eskimo communities.

Papers in the third section describe the work of the Federal Reconstruction and Development Planning Commission for Alaska. They deal with the federal government and its methods for establishing the general machinery to provide fiscal and other resources for coping with the earthquake. Perhaps the most significant paper in this group concerns the manner in which urban planning and reconstruction were initiated.

It is the fourth section that is likely to be of greatest interest to social scientists. Here the human responses to the catastrophe in Anchorage and other seriously affected communities in south central Alaska are examined. This information was obtained through formal and informal interviews with those directly involved by a team of five sociologists from the Disaster Research Center at Ohio State University who arrived in Anchorage less than 30 hours after the earthquake. Their work was expanded during the summer of 1964 and continued into 1965. The material is presented in the form of community studies of cities and towns including Anchorage, Kodiak, Whittier, Seward, Seldovia, Cordova and Valdez in the former category, and five native villages on Kodiak and Afognak islands along with one on Prince William Sound. These are fascinating and dramatic accounts of sudden disaster in remote settlements, of the hardships suffered and difficult decisions necessary before village and city residents were able to return to a normal life.

The 12 appendixes include an exhaustive hour by hour chronology of the events in Anchorage following the earthquake along with various economic, population and employment statistics. There are also radio and congressional speeches by Alaskan politicians, and copies of federal and state laws dealing with such disasters.

Those who read the entire contents of this bulky volume may feel that they have been told more about the Alaska earthquake than they care to know. The various reports

are intensely descriptive and generally lack a theoretical base. Nevertheless, many of the papers, including the general introduction, offer recommendations for well-informed responses to future disasters based on lessons learned through intensive study of the Alaska earthquake. In an era when large-scale man-made disasters are even more likely than their natural counterparts, such recommendations must not be ignored.

James W. VanStone

LIFE WITH THE ESQUIMAUX. BY CHARLES FRANCIS HALL. *Edmonton: M. G. Hurtig Ltd., 1970. 7½ x 5 inches. 547 pages, illustrated. \$8.95.*

Another in the series of books and narratives on early arctic voyagings being republished by M. G. Hurtig Ltd., Edmonton, Alberta.

George Swinton of the University of Manitoba has written a very revealing introduction to this new edition which does much to place Hall's writing in its proper frame. Swinton says "Charles Francis Hall — high school dropout, blacksmith, engraver, stationer, incipient publisher, explorer and indefatigable enthusiast — conducted three strange and adventurous arctic expeditions. Though these resulted in three books, probably none were actually written by him; they were, however, to a very large extent, based on his extensive notes, diaries and letters."

To give proper weight to this book, we must understand something of the man who wrote it, or at least supplied the material for its writing. Something of his time, his prejudices and his qualities, not least of which were his enthusiasm and his perseverance. Hall, like Stefansson, Freuchen, Rasmussen and many others, possessed that great scientific and reporting instrument, "the mark one eyeball". He reported what he saw and what he experienced. While he spoke the Eskimo tongue he was unable to understand their logic — his fanaticism, his sanctimoniousness got in the way.

If we, who read Hall's book, can disregard the discoloration of that "mark one eyeball" we can learn much of what and who the Eskimo was before we put him on welfare. Our governments are now much concerned with the plight of these people as are the anthropological and sociological communities of our universities. Much honest thought and much research is now being done in an effort to alleviate the conditions which now exist.

Solutions to problems are seldom arrived