ESKIMO BOY TODAY. BY BYRON FISH. ILLUSTRATED BY BOB AND IRA SPRING: ANCHORAGE: ALASKA NORTHWEST PUBLISHING COMPANY, 1971. 8¾ x 11 inches, 63 pages. $4.20 softbound, $7.20 hardbound.

Eskimo Boy Today is a long-overdue book on the present-day life of Eskimo children in Alaska. It was worth waiting for! It is a superb description—in words and pictures—of the day-to-day life of an Eskimo boy. Most of us, young and old alike, are fascinated by Eskimos but have the notion that Eskimo children still live the way their ancestors did many generations ago. This misconception is dispelled in this book, but without losing any of the charm, simplicity and human warmth we have learned to associate with Eskimos. Indeed, the pleasure of Eskimo childhood shines through.

The photographs and text blend perfectly in describing Eskimo life. The text is forthright and easy to read, without “talking down” to children. The photographs, which take up most of the book, make the text come alive. Virtually every aspect of Eskimo life is shown, from school rooms to games to life at home. Most important, the book bridges the gap between the primitive way of life most of us associate with Eskimos and life as it really is in modern day Alaska.

Eskimo Boy Today is the sort of book children look for when they have to write essays about present-day Eskimo life, and it is as much fun for adults as it is for children.

The book is clearly a work of love. The photographs are superb in their portrayal of every aspect of life of an Eskimo boy. How delightful to see Eskimo children playing games, learning in the classroom, visiting the doctor, waiting for father to come home from work, or exploring the mysteries of the land around them! The text provides meaning and continuity to the photographs, and contains fascinating bits of information, such as the languages Eskimos speak, and even the concepts Eskimo children have of life in big cities in the United States and Canada. Every school and library should have this book. It will bring pleasure to everyone who reads it.

Ronald Melzack


Glacier Ice is a picture book containing a collection of 130 excellent photographs illustrating snow and glacier ice. Many of them are oblique air photographs taken by Austin Post who has an outstanding reputation for aerial photography of glaciers. LaChapelle supplied the majority of the photographs taken from ground level. The authors have used contributions from other glaciologists, for example some Himalayan photographs by Fritz Müller. Emphasis is on western North American glaciers where the authors have done most of their research, but Europe, Asia, Greenland, and Antarctica are also represented.

The illustrations are in thirteen sections organized to explain the origin and behaviour of glaciers and their effects on the landscape. The first section on glacier flow and mass balance shows snow and glacier ice crystals, then aerial views of accumulation and ablation zones, the snow line, and sedimentary layering. The second section deals with the major surface features of glaciers, especially crevasses and seracs. A brief section on glacier flow follows with a sequence of pictures showing changes in the ice fall of Blue Glacier and several photos of glaciersoles including Fritz Müller’s pictures taken under Pumori South Glacier. Glacier fluctuations are presented next with retreating, advancing, and surging glaciers, mostly from western North America. The next section illustrates moraines, both deposited moraines and medial and ablation moraines, some of the last bearing a cover of vegetation. Glacial surges are demonstrated by the distorted moraines of surging tributary glaciers, and chaotic surface features of surged glaciers, mainly in Alaska. Ogives are given an extended treatment. Meltwater features including streams, potholes, and snow swamps are followed by a section on surface details such as crevasses, glacier tables, and ablation forms including suncups, ice pillars, and ice ships. Glaciers terminating in tidewater, glaciers on volcanoes, and glaciers having jokulalaups follow. The next series of pictures illustrates mainly the erosional effects of glaciers in mountains with a few scenes of depositional forms. The final section shows polar and subpolar glaciers including ice shelves and ice sheets in the Arctic and Antarctic. The book ends with a glossary of 74 terms. A brief text accompanies each double page of illustrations. There are no references.

According to the dust jacket the text is “for both the general reader and the specialist”; comments below are made from both points of view.

The specialist will find this book an excellent source of illustrations for teaching especially as a reference for an elementary course