



Mike McCollum

UCSC student Amanda Gutierrez reads to the Morenos, Erica, 1, Rosa, 9, and Victor, 7.

Reading program provides books for kids

If kids of the San Andreas labor camp can't get to a bookstore this year, the bookstore will come to them.

A group of Pajaro Valley migrant education employees and volunteers visited the labor camp yesterday afternoon with a load of new books. About 150 eager kids at the camp got to select one book each.

The book giveaway, which targets elementary schoolchildren, is part of the federally funded Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)

program, administered by the Pajaro Valley migrant education office.

Rebecca Valdivia, a migrant education employee and co-organizer of the book giveaway, said the program annually selects one or two area labor camps for the giveaway, which takes place in the spring and fall. The program is in its fourth year in the Pajaro Valley.

Valdivia said the San Andreas camp children yesterday eagerly

awaited the arrival of the books. A small room at the camp called *La Escuelita* (Little Schoolhouse), was converted into a bookstore and the children were taken into the room in groups of 10 to select their book.

Several members of California Mini Corps, a migrant student-teacher program, acted as volunteers yesterday, helping with the giveaway and entertaining the children with a puppet show and reading some of the books to them.

The parents seemed to be just as appreciative of the book giveaway as their children, and presented the migrant office staff and volunteers with white carnations, Valdivia said.

The Pajaro Valley migrant education office received \$5,500 this year from the RIF program. Another \$500 was donated by the J.C. Penny Co. A group of Pajaro Valley migrant teachers select the books, Valdivia said.

— Emilio Alvarado