

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION

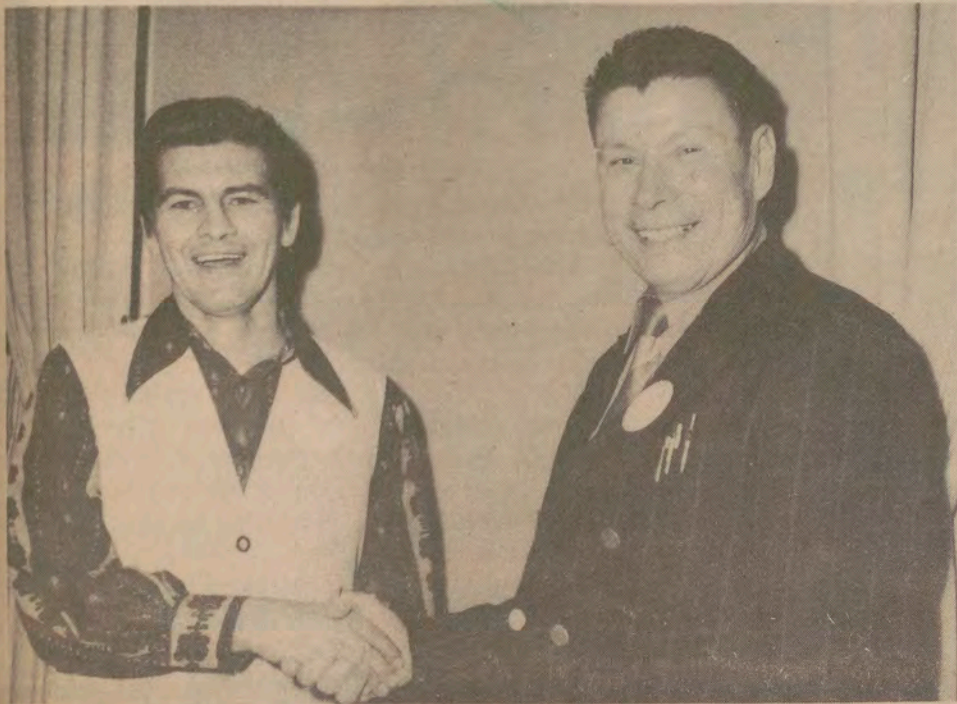
Published by
MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION
122 - 388 Donald Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
LIBRARY
WINNIPEG MAN R3T 2N2



South-West Elects New Officers



Vice-President George Fleury receives congratulations from President J. A. Spence.



John Desjarlais - George Fleury - 'Buck' Byers.

George Fleury was elected Vice-President and John Desjarlais and "Buck" Byers were elected Board Directors for the M.M.F. Southwest Region at a Regional meeting in Brandon on the 20th of January.

"It was like 'homecoming week'" said George who had been the first Vice-President of the Southwest, later lost the position, and now recaptured the office.

George is originally from Ste. Madeline Manitoba and has lived in Minnedosa during the past 12 years. He is married to the former Edith Leaming and has nine children: Georgina 17, George 16, Johnny 15, Mona 14, Noella 13, Keth 12, Iris 10, Darcy 9, and Kimberley 8.

"I believe in opening up the channels of communication with the Locals and to pass on their needs and their thinking to the Provincial Office for their action and support when this is needed."

"I believe that we must work together positively and cooperatively if we are to resolve the many problems, which the Metis people are facing today. This can only

be done in unity within the organization. Any matters that has to be brought to the attention of the Provincial and Federal governments shall be done through our Provincial Office!"

"There is a big job ahead," said George "not only to resolve the many problems which we Metis people are experiencing but to tell the white people about this and to make them understand in a positive way that it will also be in their interests to help us overcome the many economic and social problems that we have had for the past 100 years."

George Fleury also stated "that education will play an important part in our development." To support this approach he has recently completed his Level II in education and has taken leadership training at the Brandon University. His wife Edith is now a student at the University.

"Mr. Angus Spence is calling for nominations for the two Board of Directors positions reminded the delegates that their nominations to these important positions must be treated most seriously and res-

possibly. It is these two men who will sit on the Board of Directors and to whom I shall call for help and guidance to direct the affairs of the Federation."

John Desjarlais and "Buck" Byers, the new Directors have been actively engaged in the Southwest Region since it was established in 1971. "Buck" was born and raised at McAuley, Manitoba where he now operates a mixed farm. He is married to Elizabeth, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Swan of St. Lazare. The new Directors pledged their full cooperation and support to the Vice President.

Mr. Spence, President of the M.M.F. expressed his satisfaction by saying, "this has been one of the best Regional elections I have witnessed. The interest is high and the calibre of the candidates for executive positions is excellent."

Other candidates for the Vice-President and Directors position were Larry Spence of Portage la Prairie, Gordon Morrisseau of Rivers, Richard Venne of Minnedosa, Cecil Canada of Deloraine, and Cecilia Klassen of Deloraine.



Regional Conference debate voting procedures.



Nominations open for new officers.

Ted Chartrand

Protestor From The North



"The Tip of The Ice berg"

Ted Chartrand finished setting up a loudspeaker and tape recorder outside his tent.

With the flick of a switch the haunting calls of loons, wolves, moose, coyotes and the chatter of ducks and frogs flooded the grounds of the Legislative Building.

"Those are beautiful sounds to me," said Ted. "I'm protesting the flooding of South Indian Lake that these calls won't disappear from the north."

It was Dec. 22. Ted Chartrand, of The Pas, had flown to Winnipeg and quietly pitched his tent on the grounds of the Legislative Building.

About 100 feet away, Premier Ed Schreyer sat in his office waiting to tell reporters Manitoba Hydro had been given a



Ted in front of his "den".

permit to divert the Churchill River and to flood South Indian Lake.

A few reporters and curious onlookers gathered around while Ted was setting up his tent as quietly as if he were getting ready for another painting job at home.

"What are you doing, man?" asked one reporter.

"I'm here as a self-appointed spokesman for the wildlife of northern Manitoba, in protest against the flooding of South Indian Lake," the quiet protestor said.

He surrounded his tent with placards which read:

STOP THE FLOOD-SAVE OUR WILDLIFE.

SAVE OUR ECOLOGY.

STOP - FLOODING OF SOUTH INDIAN LAKE. SOUTH INDIAN LAKE - LAND OF THE SKY BLUE WATERS.

CONSIDER: Wildlife, Fishing, Trapping, Soil Erosion Recreation, "People".

Save Our Wildlife - Stop The Flood. Cameras whirred and reporters recorded



The demonstrators with Ted in the lead, move their protest downtown.

all the details before meeting Premier Schreyer.

After the premier announced the government's plan, one of the reporters told him



"There's a man outside pitching a tent in protest against the flooding of South Indian Lake."

Premier Schreyer was surprised and displeased. But he said he was quite prepared to meet Mr. Chartrand and discuss the flooding.

Commissionaires peered out the windows at the man from The Pas as he walked back in forth with his favorite placard which read:

SAVE US: Geese, Ducks, Moose, Wolves, Fox, Beaver, Caribou.

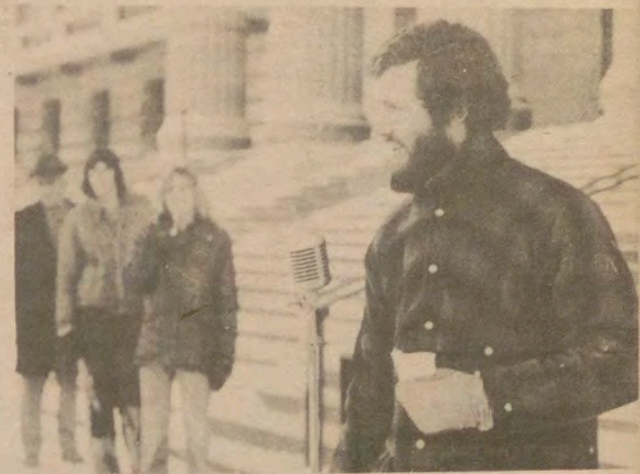
Protesting from a tent in the middle of winter is a challenge for the toughest.

"I've done this sort of thing in my younger days, and I think I can do it again," Ted said. Bundling up in a warm army parka, he admitted, however, that sleeping in a tent "is a bit rough."

Ted settled in to a routine of picketing, playing his tapes of wildlife calls, being



Ted's Supporters carry placards in front of the Legislative Building.



Martin Molsely "Support Ted"

interviewed by a number of reporters and talking to interested people.

One old lady gave him a dollar to "buy coffee." Teenagers seemed most interested, and wanted to know how they could help the cause.

Martin Molsely and Tom Walker of the Manitoba Naturalists' Society joined him Dec. 24 and pitched their tent in support.

Christmas saw more interested people at the Legislative Building talking to the man in the tent.

Several supporters offered him a Christmas meal. "It was a good Christmas," Ted said.

Several interested people responded to his call for supporters to come out on Boxing Day, and they also pitched their tents on the Legislative grounds.

About 40 people joined in picketing the Legislative Building with placards. In the middle of the afternoon, the demon-



J. Angus Spence and Ted Chartrand speak to the supporters.

strators, with Ted in the lead, marched down Memorial Boulevard to the Bay and then down Portage Avenue to Eatons, and returned to the tents.

In front of the Legislative Building, Ted Chartrand, J. Angus Spence, President of the Manitoba Metis Federation, and Mr. Molsely spoke briefly to the group, bringing to an end the one man protest.

"The government should not be deceived by this small group," Mr. Spence warned. "What you are witnessing here is but the tip of an iceberg of protest that will soon descend over the issue of the flooding of South Indian Lake."

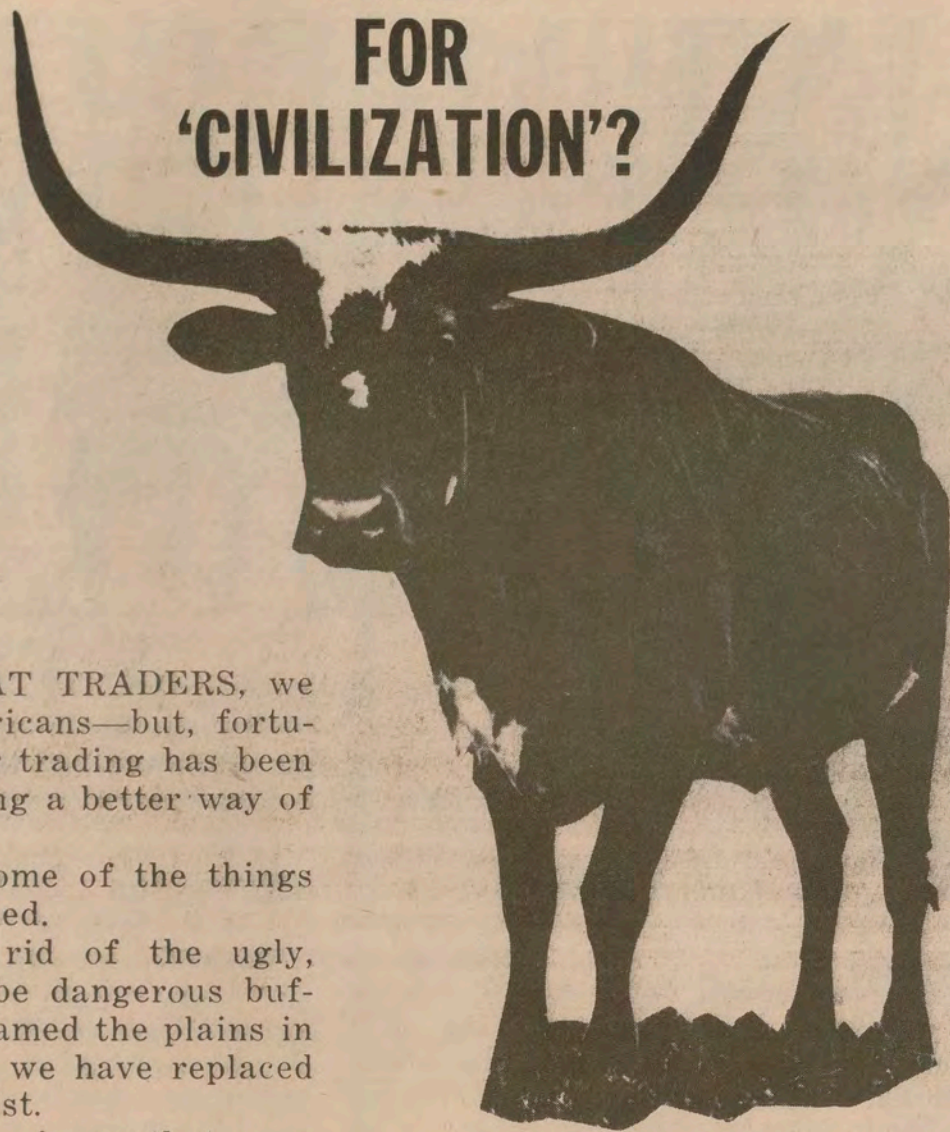
Ted Chartrand thanked those who had supported him. "I'm not disappointed," he said as he bid good bye to those hardy supporters.

"I'm satisfied that with the excellent support of the press, TV and radio, that my message has gotten across to the public."

"This is not the end. I shall be back."

Then the man who came down from the North to speak on behalf of the wildlife, packed up his tent and quietly walked away.

WHAT DID WE TRADE FOR 'CIVILIZATION'?



THE TEXAS LONGHORN — Symbolic of the great state of Texas, the Longhorn cattle has become a vanishing breed. After the Civil War, millions of these cattle were driven from Texas to Kansas in the drive made famous by movies and television. The Longhorn was the hero of that time and was the only breed that could be driven 1,000 miles and wind up fatter than when he started. Today, though, less than 20,000 head are scattered across the U. S.

WE'RE GREAT TRADERS, we North Americans—but, fortunately, all of our trading has been aimed at providing a better way of life.

Just look at some of the things we've accomplished.

We've gotten rid of the ugly, smelly, and maybe dangerous buffalo that once roamed the plains in great herds, and we have replaced it with the tourist.

The passenger pigeon that once flew in flocks large enough to blot out the Sun has been replaced by flights of jet airplanes.

We've traded our marshes and woodlands for housing developments and shopping center sites, and we've put our waterways to use as gigantic sewer systems.

Few people get up to watch sunrises anymore. We've traded them for the late, late show.

We've traded our feet for wheels, oxygen for gasoline, and leisurely walks in the woods for the Sunday afternoon drive. The list goes on.


Progress? I doubt it. I think we've somehow managed to get our values all fouled up.

Out of The Past

Listen to this description of the country as frontiersman Simon Kenton saw it in 1775. It's from a book called "The Frontiersman" by Allan W. Eckert, and the setting is Kentucky, but it could have been almost anywhere at that time.

"Buffalo by the many thousands roamed the land, their great herds following the 'roads' which, at some points, were as much as 50 yards wide. Twenty or 30 abreast, these bison herds often took two or three days to pass. The elk were more solitary, but even they would congregate in dozens by the great blue springs which fed a fine river. Hundreds of whitetail deer, dainty and relatively unafraid, also came here.

than oil smoke? Why does spring water taste better than chlorinated water?

Do you suppose we would make the same trades if we had a chance to do it over again? 

'It was a land of dreams...'

"There were otters there, and beaver, mink and raccoon, weasels and skunks and opossums. Great lumbering black bears were so common as to be frightening . . .

"The trees and fields were full of turkeys and squirrels, pigeons and quail and grouse. It was a land of dreams . . ."

We've come a long way in 200 years.

You say we can't turn back? Why not? Maybe not all the way and not all at once. But we can try. Many people obviously want to.

Whys And Wherefores

Why else do they flock to antique shops in the hope of finding and owning something old and well-made? Why do they say, "There just isn't such a thing as pride in craftsmanship anymore"?

Why does every fourth or fifth car you see have a canoe mounted on top of it?

Why is camping and back packing equipment selling like never before?

Why are people building cabins in the woods and cottages on lakes?

Why do they buy plastic fireplaces that they hang on their walls and that glow when you plug them in?

Why are our young people growing long hair and beards and wearing old clothes and riding bicycles and walking, and telling us they are questioning our values and asking where we are going and why?

Could it be that the tinsel and glamour of living color, the electric can opener, and the X-rated movie are wearing a bit thin?

Why does my Madison neighbor, a retired farmer, come up to my Vernon County cabin and help me saw up white oak chunks and then stand close to my wood stove and reminisce about the cold winters when he was a lad, when he had to dress in the morning huddled close to a stove pipe that ran through his upstairs bedroom?

Pride In The Past

Sometimes I think there are few people over 50 who don't proudly wear scars on their backsides from backing into kitchen ranges during ill-fated Saturday night baths.

Why does my father speak so fondly of collecting sap in the Richland County maple woods in the spring?

Why do I have two or three cords of fireplace wood neatly stacked in my back yard?

CREDIT: FAMILY HORIZONS

Fish Abound

"The streams — rills, creeks, and rivers — were alive with fish; great yellow catfish weighing a hundred pounds or more and with a white flaky flesh better than any eaten before, fine large bass, silver catfish and blue catfish and huge hump-backed white perch, mammoth turkeys, some with ridged mossy backs and tails, and others with greenish shells as soft and smooth to the touch as good leather.

Why do I have piles of black walnuts and butternuts drying on my picnic table and on the bottom of an overturned boat? Why do I have hickory nuts and homegrown potatoes stored away for winter use?

Why does my wife can meat and fruit and vegetables and make grape juice and have two crocks of elderberry wine working in the basement?

Why do men continue to hunt and fish, even though it's no longer necessary for survival?

Why does mountain air smell better than city air, wood smoke better

Editorial

For many years, while the Native people struggled in disorganization, a citizens group called the Indian-Eskimo Association and comprised mainly of non-natives, spoke out for all to hear on the problems of Indians and Eskimos. Although we the metis people were never mentioned, we assume that 'elitist' group also spoke on our behalf.

The rapid development of Native organizations in the last two years brought an end to this undemocratic process or, so we thought.

Our unofficial spokesmen were not to be outdone. Last year, they reorganized under a new front, now called the Canadian Association in Support of Native Peoples and they have declared themselves once again the official spokesmen for the Native people of Canada.

Professor T.H. Symons, President of C.A.S.N.P. in a recent Winnipeg interview has stated their position as follows:

"Our role is a supportive one for Native people." I don't think it would be responsible for us to turn into a "Yes Man" for Native organizations. Our responsibility is to exercise our good judgement and give support whenever we can and where we can be most helpful.

What kind of support and where?

Professor Symons said he had been consulted on Native questions by all political parties since his election last June.

What did he say? What recommendations did the good Professor make to the political leaders on our behalf?

Which group of Native people in Canada gave Professor Symons the authority to act as their official spokesman? Certainly not the Manitoba Metis Federation, nor the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood. The National Indian Brotherhood has refused to recognize Professor Symons and his Canadian Association in Support of Native Peoples.

A spokesman must be very knowledgeable on the issues on which he speaks. Where and when has the good professor made an in-depth study of the Metis problems in Western Canada?

The recent action of the Canadian Association in Support of Native Peoples in Winnipeg has displayed total ignorance of our problems.

Mr. Joe Dufour, Director of Community Development for the Department of Northern Affairs in Manitoba is a member of the

Manitoba Metis Federation News

Volume I January, 1973 Issues 5



Stan Fulham — Editor —



MANITOBA'S WINTER SCENE

Board of Directors of C.A.S.N.P. During C.A.S.N.P.'s conference last week, Mr. Dufour called a meeting of the Indian-Metis Brotherhood, an organization of native inmates in Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

"The Native organizations in Manitoba are not working together, and they are not doing anything for the native inmates. The Canadian Association in Support of Native Peoples is here to help you get a halfway house", declared Mr. Dufour.

Al Chartrand of the Manitoba Metis Federation, who has been actively involved with Native inmates in Manitoba spoke out against this 'big lie'.

The Manitoba Metis Federation and the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood have been actively involved during the past year with the Indian-Metis Brotherhood with the objective of establishing a "Half-Way House". After considerable meetings and discussions with Government and private agencies and soliciting funds, the M.M.F. and the M.I.B. jointly established the Native Clan Organization to deal with the problems of Native inmates. Funds have just recently been authorized by the Federal government for this organization to proceed.

Where was the C.A.S.N.P. during this time? What support, financial or otherwise, was ever provided by C.A.S.N.P.?

There is nothing to confirm that Professor Symons's knowledge of Native organizations and their activities is any greater than his Manitoba representative - and yet these gentlemen have established themselves as our spokesmen!

"But we support Native people - not Native organizations" says Professor Symons, and this statement illustrates some serious misunderstanding on Native affairs. Native organizations are people.

In Manitoba 92 Metis communities have organized into registered Locals and have elected a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer.

Six M.M.F. Regional Offices have been established within Manitoba to bring their Locals together at Regional Conferences on a regular basis to discuss their concerns

and needs. Each Region elects a Vice-President and two Board Directors. The Vice-Presidents as the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors meet regularly to discuss their Regional concerns and needs and to plan and promote Provincial programs and policies. A President is elected at a conference of delegates from every Local in Manitoba and speaks to government and the public on these matters.

The Manitoba Indian Brotherhood is represented by a President who is elected by a Council of Chiefs from 54 Reserves. The Reserves elect their chiefs.

The Native people have through the democratic process, delegated to their leaders the authority to speak on their behalf.

The Manitoba Metis Federation suggests to the Canadian Association in Support of Native Peoples that their self-appointed role as spokesmen for the Native people is a violation of the democratic process and a mockery of our organizations and its leaders.

There is a role that the Canadian Association in Support of Native Peoples can play. We do not intend to slap away a helping hand. We suggest that the C.A.S.N.P. can provide support for programs that are requested by the Native organizations. This support may be provided in a number of ways, perhaps financial or technical - but, as a spokesman - NEVER.

It was just a few months ago that the Canadian Association in Support of Native Peoples (then the I.E.A.) was broke, without staff and without future. "Help us" went the cry across Canada. Native peoples throughout this country wrote to the Secretary of State and supported C.A.S.N.P.'s appeal for funds. If your letter had not been addressed to:

President J. Angus Spence,
Manitoba Metis Federation,
122-388 Donald St.,
Winnipeg, Man.
and to other Native organizations,
you may never have existed.

Northern Affairs and Thirty Pieces of Silver \$

Basil Coulomb, Bob and Charlie Dysart Isabelle Moose and Drisula Dysart, members of the Flood Committee of South Indian Lake, appeared before the Manitoba Environmental Committee on Friday, 19th of January and pleaded for help to stop the flooding of South Indian Lake.

"Leave us where we are," Basil Coulomb pleaded with tears in his eyes. He went on to give a history of the community and said, "we built our own community, but we were a forgotten people. We built our homes our church and our own school. We make our living from the lake. We get three good meals a day out of that lake!!"

"There's about 700 people in our community of South Indian Lake. Most of them can't read or write--all they know is hunting and fishing. What are these people going to do if you move them to Thompson, The Pas, Brandon and Winnipeg?"

"We don't want compensation. Leave us where we are," Mr. Coulomb pleaded.

Bob Dysart got up and repeated, "We don't want your compensation-- our people want to live where they are - they don't want to move."

Their pleas did not fall on deaf ears. 'Stop the flooding of South Indian Lake', the Environmental Committee recommended to the Government.

At that very moment, John Morrisseau, a Metis in the employ of the Department of Northern Affairs, was in South Indian Lake trying to set up a committee of local people to discuss flood compensation. with the Manitoba Government.

At that very moment, Don McLeod, a Metis from Cross Lake, was listening to Mr. Coulomb and Mr. Dysart at the Environmental Council meeting. The tragedy of this situation is that he remained deaf and unmoved to the pleading of his own people. He was in Winnipeg under the auspices of the Department of Northern Affairs to discuss compensation.

This reporter had met with Mr. McLeod the previous day. The following is an exact account of our conversation:

Question: "What are you doing in town, Don?"

McLeod: "I'm here to discuss compensation for the North."

Question: "Oh, did the community of Cross Lake appoint you to come here and discuss compensation?"

McLeod: "No, the government appointed me to speak for all the North."

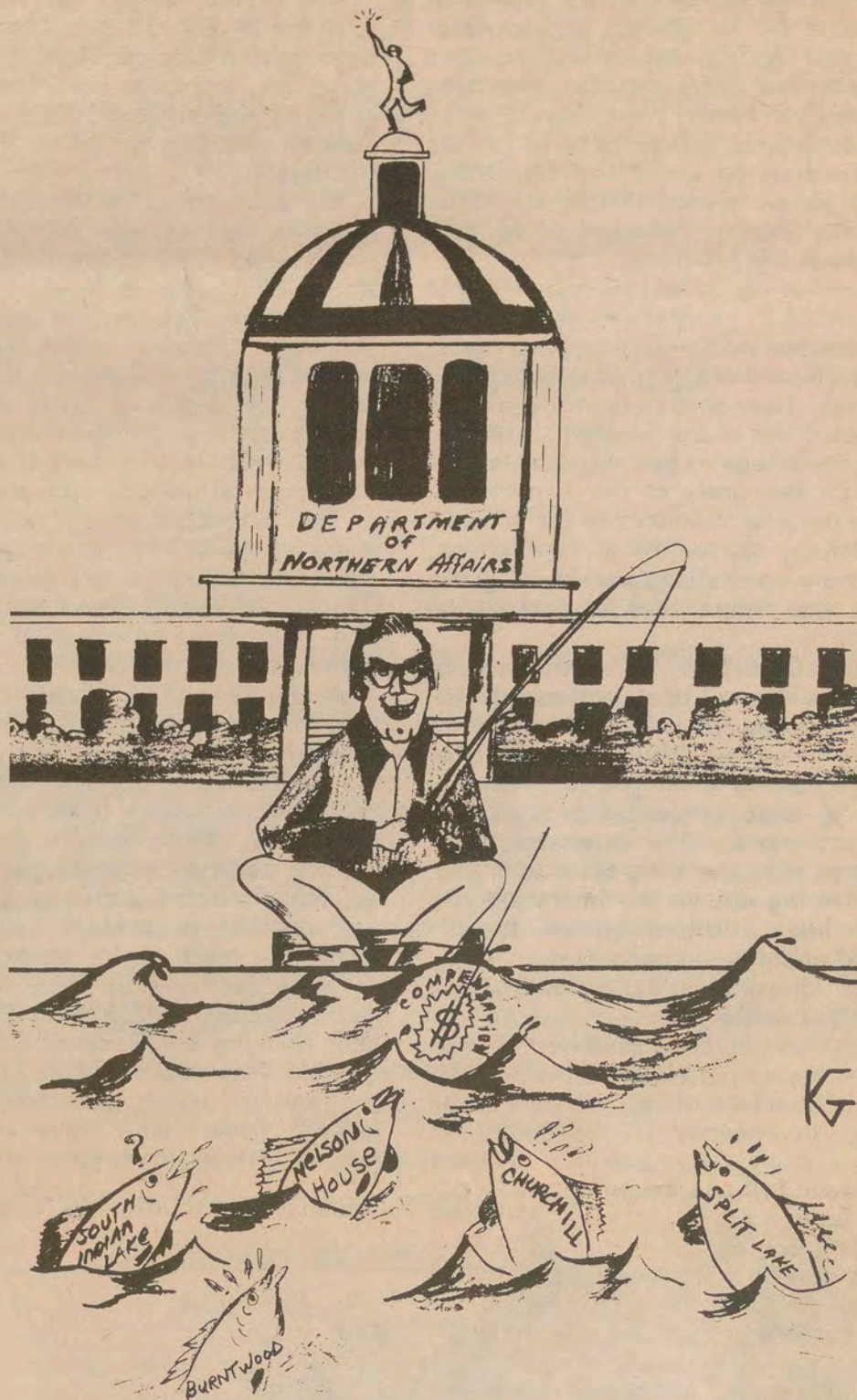
It is also known that Phil Thompson, Assistant Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs has been in the United States recently to study the techniques and results of community relocation which could be applied to Native communities in northern Manitoba.

In a recent article to the MMF News, the Hon. Ron McBryde, Minister of Northern Affairs stated:

Quote: I don't believe the people of South Indian Lake or other northern communities should be used as political pawns of any political party or by other political pressure groups including the Native organizations. Unquote.

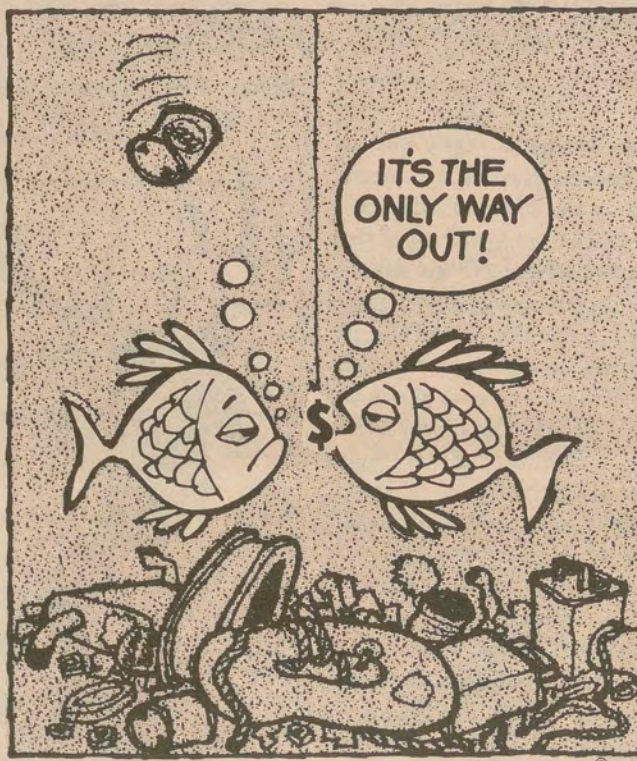
This statement rings hollow in the light of what is happening in the North today. This is a serious indictment of the Department of Northern Affairs and the use of its funds which are not in the interests of the Native people in Manitoba and undermines the democratic leadership in their communities.

'Fishing in Troubled Waters'



or

perhaps



South-East Regional Report

The following is part of the Southeast Region report for the month of December that was lost and therefore not included in the December issue of the Manitoba Metis Federation News.

Delegates from thirteen M.M.F. Locals met in Winnipeg on the 9th of December to discuss issues of concern to the Metis people in the Southeast Region of M.M.F. and throughout the province.

Chairman of the meeting was Connie Eyolfson, M.M.F. Vice-President. Ernie Guilbault and Norval Desjarlais, two members of the Board of Directors, addressed the meeting. They spoke about the trouble that emanated out of the Southwest Region. Several of the delegates had received letters damaging to the unity of the Federation. One of the original founders of the M.M.F. George McKay, Mayor of Berens River, spoke strongly against any person or group of persons who would seek to destroy the Federation.

Mr. Alfred Disbrowe, Vice-Chairman of the St. John's Bosco Local, and past president of the Berens River Metis Association spoke to the delegates about the importance of members having the right to criticize. That only a weak organization could not withstand criticism. The delegates, however, agreed that the kind of letters that had been coming out of the Southwest was destructive and had it been allowed to continue, there would be no organization. After considerable discussion, the following Resolution was put to the floor.

Be it resolved that the Southeast Region endorses the action taken by the M.M.F. Board of Directors at the second Brandon meeting, in regards to the Southwest Region.

The resolution was carried unanimously. In the absence of Ben Thompson who had been invited to speak, Connie Eyolfson spoke about the problems confronting the people of South Indian Lake and the communities downstream that would be affected by the flooding.

Mary Guilbault spoke about the tragedy that was Easterville. The people of Easterville were relocated due to the Hydro project at Grand Rapids a number of years ago.

S. Joseph Thomas, Traverse Bay Local secretary spoke about Easterville and agreed with Mrs. Guilbault that the disaster facing the people of South Indian Lake is only a part of the destruction facing the environment in that part of the province if flooding is allowed to take place.

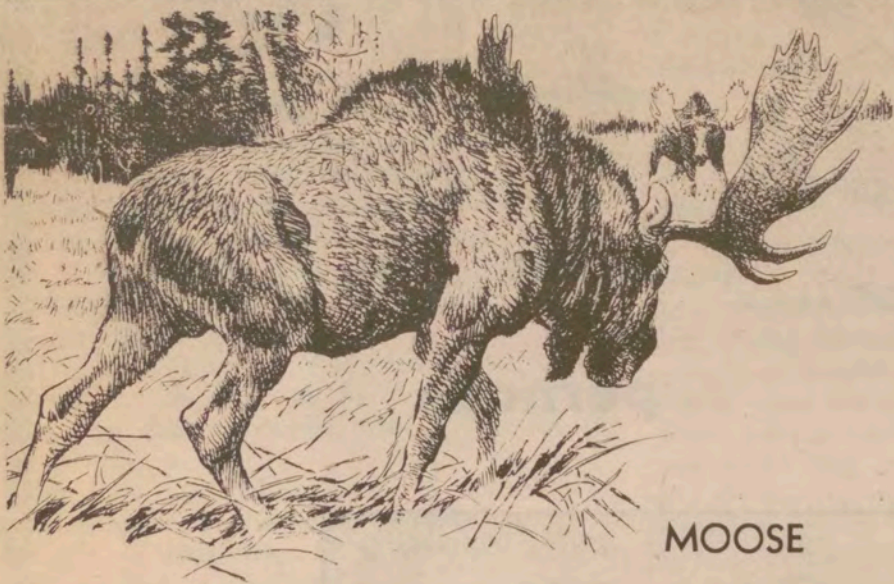
The delegates passed a resolution requesting the M.M.F. to organize a peaceful mass demonstration to protest the proposed flooding of South Indian Lake. The resolution must first be taken to the Executive Committee of the M.M.F. for approval.

Another resolution that the meeting dealt with was in regards to the Remote Housing program. Connie Eyolfson pointed out to the delegates that the Remote Housing rental scale differs from the Public Housing scale. While tenants in both types of housing pay rent according to their income, the tenants in the public housing units have a reduction in rent of two dollars per month for each child, up to six children. A large family may have their monthly rent reduced by \$12.00. Last winter, Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation requested that the same reduction apply to the families living in remote houses. The federal government have agreed to the request effective the first of January 1972.

The provincial government as yet have not seen fit to agree to this reduction. The resolution calls for the M.M.F. to apply pressure to the provincial government to bring the remote housing rental scale in line with the public housing rental scale.

The Vice-President visited three communities along the east side of Lake Winnipeg in the early part of December; Loon Straits, Princess Harbour and Bloodvein. Mrs. Eyolfson received a good response from the people of these primarily fishing communities. Without exception all the families visited were warm friendly people. Most expressed a wish to become a part of the M.M.F. From what they had heard earlier about the Federation, they felt the M.M.F. is doing a good job in trying to get a better deal for the Metis Nation in Manitoba.

An interesting highlight of the trip happened when Mrs. Eyolfson was travelling from Princess Harbour to Bloodvein by sno-cruiser. The sleigh in which she was riding broke loose from the sno-cruiser. The driver, a very hardy gentleman from Princess Harbour, was not aware that his sleigh and passenger were left out on Lake Winnipeg. With the temperature around 20 degrees below and a strong north wind blowing, Mrs. Eyolfson set out on foot and walked about a half mile before the driver returned to rescue his passenger. Upon arrival at Bloodvein, the driver and his passenger were warmly welcomed into the home of Isobelle and Charlie Young. Over steaming cups of coffee, Mrs. Eyolfson commented, "It was all very funny, but it was kind of hard to laugh when I was out there alone".



MOOSE

Words and Pictures
by Clarence Tillenius

CREDIT:
THE BEAVER

In the chill stillness of dawn when the pearly mist is lifting off the lake, the hunter bedded down by the embers of his campfire may be roused by the sound of splashing. Across the narrow bay a great black form looms out of the fog, water cascading from the twin shovels of his antlers as he brings to the surface a dripping mass of water lilies.

The moose is unique. There is something electrifying in a mere glimpse of this mighty hump-shouldered beast, a vague feeling that here is a relic from a bygone age. And so he is. Fossil bones differing not greatly from moose of the present day, found intermingled with those of the mammoth in both the eastern and western hemispheres, and a pre-historic carving on rock from China, show that he was known also to our ancestors in the dawn of time.

The Kenai peninsula harbors the most imposing modern specimens. Individuals with an antler spread of over six feet and reaching an estimated weight of 1600 pounds have been taken. Yet heads almost equally large have come from several provinces of Canada.

Moose calves, usually two, are born in May and are reddish brown, not dappled like the young elk. They stay with their mother through the first winter.

The moose, like the elk, must retreat as settlements advance: the wilderness is his home when the wilderness exists no longer, the moose will have departed with it.



WAPITI
OR ELK

BIG GAME OF CANADA

For the elk, the most polygamous of deer, the favours of the gentle sex go to the strongest in war, and one may see harems of thirty cows or more being rounded up and jealously guarded by one battle-scarred bull.

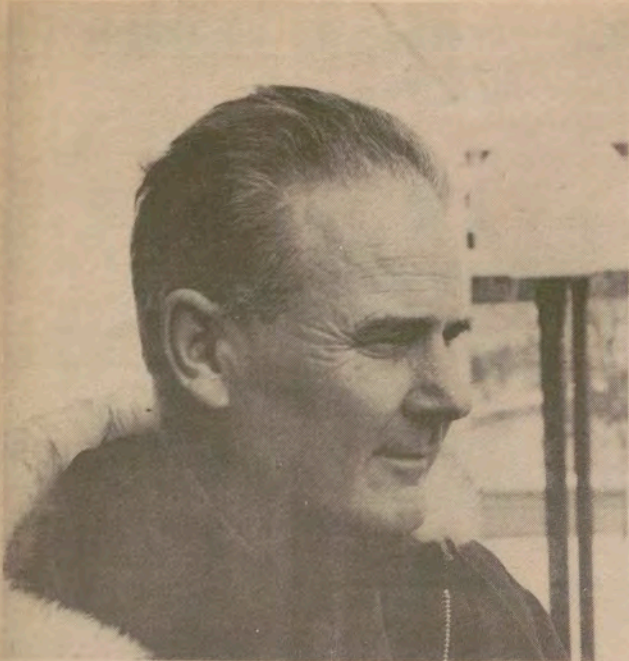
The rut takes place in October, the dappled twin calves are born in May or June and by their second year are preparing to raise families themselves.

Unlike the moose, the elk is a grazer, and so, when deep snows bury the grass on the high hills where he chooses to spend the summer, he comes down into the valleys. At this time the settler's haystacks pay heavy toll, for no fence restrains the elk, and a herd of forty animals will in a few days reduce a haystack of as many tons to a shambles.

The shrill whistling bugle of the bull elk, echoing and re-echoing from the aspen-covered hills, is one of the most stirring sounds that autumn in Canada has to offer. The gamboge yellow of the poplars, the crimson and scarlet of the pincherry and the ruddy brown and golden ochre of the bur-oaks which clothe the hillsides like a vari-coloured mosaic form a fitting background for this great deer. In the fall he is seen at his best. The lofty branching antlers, newly cleaned, their ivory tips gleaming, are tossed like twigs and the forest resounds with the crash of broken branches as the bulls charge the bushes in preparation for the furious battles that mark the mating season.

HISTORIAL NOTES

Missing Metis Millionaire



BRUCE SEALEY

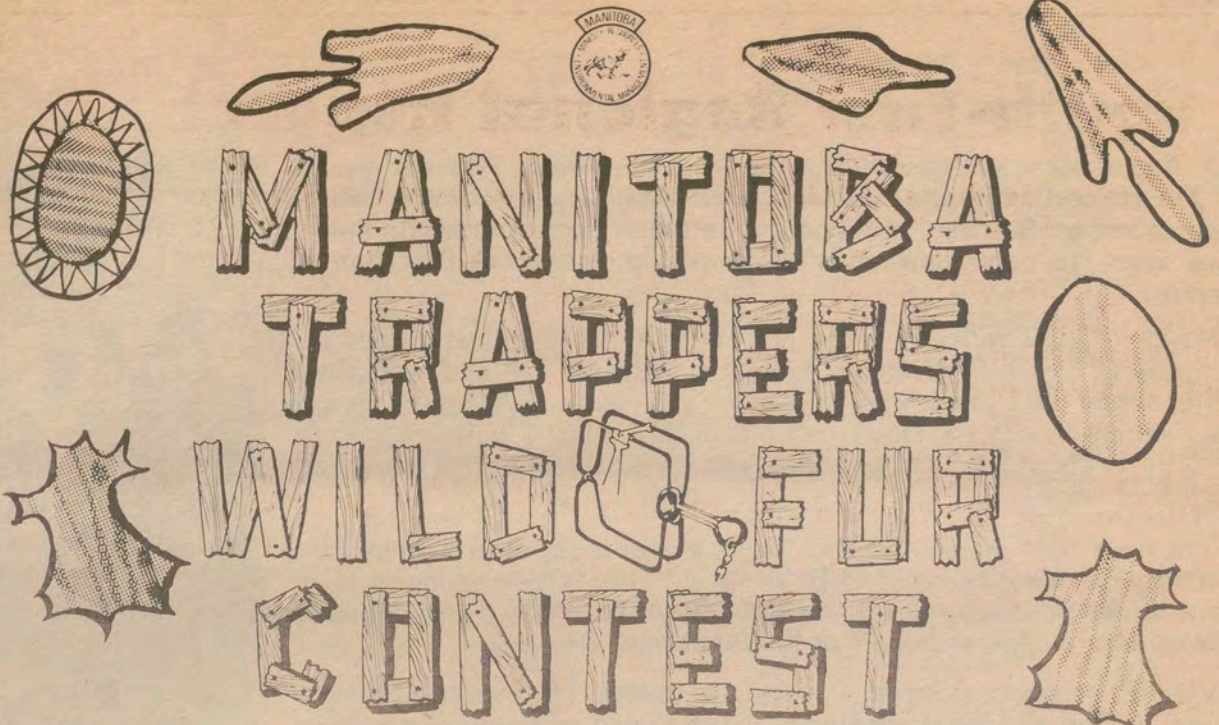
Somewhere in Manitoba there may be a Metis who is a millionaire.

It all started in 1769 when a boy named Peter Fidler was born in England. At age 18 he started to work for the Hudson's Bay Company and was sent to Western Canada. During the 35 years he worked for the Bay he travelled over Western Canada and built 5 fur trading posts; surveyed the Saskatchewan and Churchill rivers, parts of the Athabaska country as well as lakes in the Rocky Mountains.

Fidler was a very cautious man and though he lived with a woman, Mary, from 1794 until his death in 1822, he didn't marry her until 1821 just the year before he died. They had fourteen children and the youngest son was named Peter.

When Fidler died it was discovered that he had left a strange will. A house he owned

(Continued on Page 9)



With the Northern Manitoba Trappers Festival at The Pas, Manitoba, and The Manitoba Registered Trappers Association

February 14, 15, 16 & 17, 1973

OPEN TO ALL LICENSED MANITOBA TRAPPERS

	PRIZES 1 st .	2 nd .	3 rd .
Beaver	150.00	75.00	25.00
Lynx	50.00	25.00	10.00
Fox (any color)	50.00	25.00	10.00
RACCOON	25.00	15.00	10.00
Squirrel (3)	15.00	10.00	5.00

Bob Burns trophy and Manitoba Championship to the best dressed pelt. Judging will be done on Friday, February 16, 1973. No frost dried pelts.

All furs insured and deep freeze stored.

Trappers must give their name, address and trapping license number.

Deliver or ship by mail or express to the following address only.

Wild Fur Contest,
c/o Wilf Crossley,
Box 990 THE PAS.



Kieron's Komments

Kieron Guiboche is a 15 year old high school student from Camperville with a keen sense of humour, a quick eye and a 'witty' pen.

These qualities are readily seen in the cartoon which he has contributed to the M.M.F. News and we hope that Kieron's Komments will become a regular feature in our paper.

Kieron is the son of Ferdinand and Rita Guiboche. Our readers will remember Ferdinand as the former Vice President of the M.M.F. Dauphin Region and was, for many years very actively associated with the development of the M.M.F. Those of us who know Ferdinand will recognize that Kieron comes by his wit and humour honestly.

Kieron is a student at Winnipegosis Collegiate and has a keen eye for some of the finer things in life such as hot-rods, rock music and shapely girls. In his spare time he enjoys hockey. He is also interested in Metis culture and Kieron's Komments records his observations on the passing Metis life as he sees it.



Brandon Welcomes Southwest Regional Office

J. Angus Spence, President of the Manitoba Metis Federation cut the ribbon and officially opened the new Southwest Regional Office in Brandon on Sunday 21st January, in the presence of Metis delegates from 16 communities in the Region and Mayor Bill Wilton of Brandon.

Mayor Wilton welcomed the Manitoba Metis Federation and its Regional Office to Brandon. "Your organization can and must play an important part in working at the many economic and social problems which afflict the Native people in this city. I welcome you to the City of Brandon and I promise you my full support in resolving these problems".

Mayor Wilton presented Mr. Spence with a set of cuff links imprinted with the city crest of Brandon. "This is our badge of welcome to the Metis people from the City of Brandon." Mr. Spence thanked Mr. Wilton on behalf of the Southwest Region.

Vice-President, George Fleury, welcomed President Spence, Mayor Wilton and the delegates. "Glad to see so many of you here on this beautiful day. "Your participation shows that we are willing to work and accomplish something. One of my first jobs is to organize and work with the Metis people here in Brandon to beat the many problems they have. But, we musn't forget that most of these people left conditions in the small communities which were as bad, if not worse, than in Brandon."

"On behalf of the Region, I wish to express our appreciation to John Desjarlais, Margaret Wedgewood, Alec Venne, Raymond Ventnor, Faye Desjarlais and Charlie Sanderson for their voluntary work in making our Regional Office as nice as it is. Perhaps, this beautiful day is Nature's good omen for us in the future."

Cecilia Klassen, Chairman of the Turtle Mountain Local presented the Vice-President with a handsome wall-clock as a gift to the Regional Office.

The crowd then moved into the building, inspected their new offices, and nailed their clock to the wall with the snide remarks that usually accompany such gifts. Lunch was later served to the 60 people in attendance.



Mayor Wilton, Buck Byers, George Fleury, John Desjarlais, Angus Spence enjoy historic moment for South-West.



Vice-President George Fleury waves wall clock gift to South-West Regional office from Deloraine Local.



President J. Angus Spence speaks to delegates at the official opening of South-West Regional office.



George Fleury talks proudly of his new Regional Office and thanks all those who made it possible.



Mayor Bill Wilton welcomes M.M.F. to city of Brandon.



Pres. J. A. Spence cuts the ribbon.

**
If the going is easy, better check - you may be going down hill.

*
A little smile adds a great deal to your face value.

**

Crest Contest Winners



1st Prize



2nd Prize



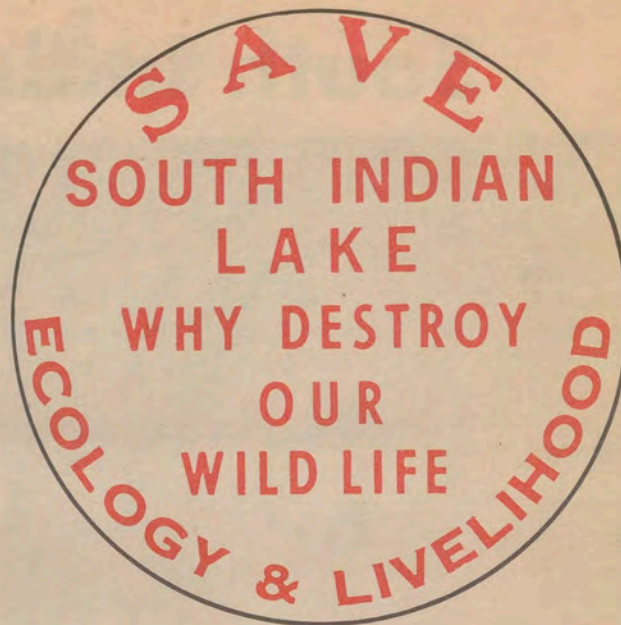
3rd Prize

The Executive Committee of the M.M.F. has selected the following winners for the M.M.F. crest.

- 1st Prize \$50: David Fulham
- 2nd Prize \$35: Sidney Kirkness
- 3rd Prize \$15: Wayne Hudson

Both David Fulham and Sid Kirkness have donated their prize money to the M.M.F. Distress Fund. This fund was recently established to provide financial assistance to people in distress to help them through an emergency situation.

The Executive Committee expressed disappointment at the small number and quality of submissions to the Crest Contest and suggested that the entry by David will form the crest for all M.M.F. membership cards in 1973, but also recommended that it be further refined for 1974. Readers' suggestions are welcomed.



Save South Indian Lake

The Manitoba Metis Federation has printed 1200 of the buttons illustrated above and is selling these at a dollar each. The button tells its own story.

The entire proceeds from this sale will go to the South Indian Lake Flood Committee, which they will use to continue their battle against the flooding of South Indian Lake.

We are particularly pleased at the enthusiasm with which the public has received and bought these buttons.

A special note of thanks to Linda Wiebe a Human Rights Commission Officer, who donated \$50 to this cause and to the anonymous person who contributed \$20 at the Environmental Committee meeting last week.

Pledge your support - NOW - and help save South Indian Lake.

Margaret Chaboyer Trapper Festival Fur Queen Candidate



MARGARET CHABOYER

Margaret Chaboyer, a 20-year old dark haired beauty who loves outdoor sports is one of the hopefuls for the Fur Queen title at The Pas Trappers' Festival.

Miss Chaboyer, entrant for The Pas Friendship Centre, as Miss Friendship Centre, stands five feet two inches tall and weighs 100 pounds.

This Metis miss, born and raised at The Pas, completed high school there, and now works in The Pas Camera and Music Centre.

Although she likes all outdoor activities Margaret's favorites are skating and snowmobiling in winter, and swimming in summer.

The Trappers' Festival will be held February 15 to 17.

Missing Metis Millionaire

(Continued from Page 7)

in England was left to his mother. He left all his money in care of the Hudson's Bay Company. His wife was to have an account with the Bay store until she died. The interest on all his money was to be divided among his children until the youngest child should be 21. At that time what was left of his money was to be invested and the interest added to the capital and continue so until August 16th, 1969. At that time, 200 years after he had been born, the money with interest, was to be given to the male child in direct descent from his son Peter Fidler or to the next of kin.

Fidler's will is still on file in England but in 1969 no trace of the remaining money was found in either the Hudson's Bay Company or the Bank of England. Perhaps somehow his children managed to get hold of the money and spend it. Perhaps it will turn up in 100 years or next month.

The Fidler's are a famous Metis family in Manitoba and one of them may well be a future millionaire.

If any Fidler or "next of kin" would like to figure out how much money he might inherit, try the following:

Assume money with compound interest

of 7% doubles every ten years. We know Fidler left about \$10,000.00
 1822--10,000; 1832--20,000; 1842--40,000
 1852--80,000; 1862--160,000; 1872--320,000;
 1882--640,000; 1892--1,280,000.

Carry on until 1972. At that time, you should try to do two things: 1) prove you are Peter Fidler's direct descendent; 2) try and find the money.

If you should collect the money, remember your good friend Bruce Sealey, who told you about it.



Millions of buffalo once roamed across the great plains. The vanishing buffalo has become a symbol of modern man's attack on nature.

By Al Chartrand

South Indian Lake Going, Going....?



Charlie Dysart

I have just returned from Southern Indian Lake where I met and spoke to many fine people.

Time seems to have stopped in this far northern village. People move about quietly and speak softly of their trapping and fishing.



Murdo Clee has contract with Frontier School to deliver children to school. He and his brother Bill own two bombardiers. He also hauls wood for local people and contracts to have freight from the airplane.

There was a day, not too long ago, when there were no pressures, no anxieties - but times have changed. People talk quietly among themselves and with strangers about the flooding of South Indian Lake and the destruction of their way of life.

They talk about the destruction of the ecology and of the wildlife as if these were personal things, "Our lake" "our moose" and "our fish".

There is a certain mystical feeling about wildlife and nature that we of the 'asphalt



Hilda Dysart, wife of William Dysart is presently acting Chairman of South Indian Lake M.M.F. Local and is always kept busy with meetings of one type or another. The reason for her acting chairman is because of Louis Baker working at Leaf Rapids. A new chairman will probably be elected soon. Hilda works for the Hudson Bay Store here on the settlement.

jungles' have either lost, or have never understood. But this way of life is disappearing, perhaps because there is no price tag on it. After all, does not everything that is worth anything, have a price tag for all to see and know. Dress - \$14.95, gas - 56.9 cents, hockey tickets - \$5.50, car - \$5,000.

One old timer suggested to me that perhaps we should form a 'price-fixing committee' to evaluate and price the beauties of Nature and of our wildlife.

'Times are a 'changing' and who knows said ole Charlie Dysart "we may get around to that yet - maybe even in my lifetime - after all "says Charlie with a chirp "I'm only 82".



Mrs. Isabelle Moose



Mrs. Isabelle Moose and Mrs. Drisula Dysart have traplines fairly close to the settlement. One Sunday morning, we visited the trapline (walking). Departed settlement about 12 p.m. and arrived back about 3:40; temperature this afternoon was 45 de. below. This fall, Mrs. Moose caught a FISHER which is indeed a very rare fur in this part of the country, but strangely, it was one of three caught in the area this year.

Isabelle is 43 years old and has had 14 children and is the daughter of Bob Dysart. She like to tan hides, fish and trap. She says her father and mother taught her how to do these things, and now she takes her children out so they will also learn fishing and trapping and how to live in the bush.

"I first passed through South Indian Lake in October 1918" Charlie was telling me "and I went down to Churchill River to North Indian Lake. At that time, and for about 20 years after, the swans, geese and ducks were so thick that their flights in the early morning would prevent a person from sleeping".

"I have seen the big flights down the west coast from Alaska and I will say that there used to be far more ducks and swans east of Missi Falls than there ever was on the west coast."

"At the present time their number is greatly reduced, and I would like to interest all people in preserving the feeding and nesting grounds of the geese. I think the



Murdo's Mother is Mrs. Matilda Clee, who was born at Nelson House, Manitoba and is about 92 years old.



A local resident coming to the store for groceries.

best way to do this is to prevent the flooding of South Indian Lake."

"If the Hydro go through with their plans of cutting off the Churchill River, there won't be enough water in the shallow bays along the river bed where the ducks and geese feed. When the water freezes, the weeds and grass will be frozen in and when the ice lifts in the spring time, the weeds and grass will be pulled out by the roots."



From left to right: Marietta Spence, Helen Linklater and Rosie Dumas preparing hot lunch for children attending the local Frontier School.

South Indian Lake



Larry Tail and Horace Linklater (just back from lifting their nets).

"Also when the wind blows strong, the drifting ice will scour out the shallow bays destroying the birds' feed and if this happens it will take a long time to re-establish the feeding grounds. The birds will have to go elsewhere, but it is very doubtful if they can find sufficient nesting grounds."

"Different spokesmen from the Hydro have come up here about every six months



Bob Dysart, age 71, has lived in northern Manitoba since 1921 (South Indian Lake area), married a Cree woman and is the father of fourteen children, and he estimates at least 40 grandchildren.

Bob talks about \$600,000 being allocated for the construction of the townsite. They wonder how are they going to pay their bills when their means of livelihood will be taken away from them. Welfare has been very limited, but once they lose their way of living, what then???



Mrs. Mary Dysart (wife of Bob) dealing herself a 'winning hand'.

and almost always one will contradict the statement of the man before him. So the community is really mixed up about what the Hydro is going to do and why."

"South-Indian Lake has been fished every



Mrs. Isabelle Moose

year for thirty years or more and does not show any sign of being depleted". Last season, we caught almost one million lbs. of fish from this lake alone. Our new fish packing plant at Leaf Rapids is capable of processing over two million lbs. per season."



Murdo Dysart going for a load of wood. You can always tell when Murdo is coming, he has no muffler for his ski-doo.

"The people of South Indian Lake are a proud people. They don't want to be forced to move elsewhere. They don't think very much of Mr. Schreyer's statement saying that they will be looked after."

Ole Charlie sat back in his chair, looked up at the ceiling and was silent for awhile. "Oh the changes I have seen in our North, but I never thought that it would come to this. People were happy up here - now they want to give our happiness to the people down south, perhaps they might even send it down there on Cass Beggs Hydro lines."

"Them poor people" old Charlie sighed. There was a gleam in his eye, but he did smile - a little.



Family picture is Mrs. Betledea Clee with a few of her children.



Murdo Dysart can remember when he was a young lad and chasing caribou around the school grounds. He plans on hauling fish this winter for the Co-op. Married with four children.

Murdo says "that the flooding will change our way of life completely; we do not believe they will only flood as high as they say; we don't believe them people; we think they will flood higher than they say."



Bob and Edward Moose on the lake.



Loon Narrow's fish camp, boat with last load before freeze-up. There are two of these boats on the lake, one is supposed to have freight and the other fish.

For three weeks this past summer, the fishing was so heavy that the one boat (carrying 15 tons of fish) could not freight all the fish to the packing plant. Some of the fishermen had to fish only part time when they could not get their fish to market. Eventually, they had to use the second boat to freight the fish, consequently, the fishermen ran out of fuel and supplies.

M.M.F. Letter To The Premier

January 18, 1973

Honourable Edward Schreyer,
Premier of Manitoba,
Room 204 Legislative Building,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
R3C 0V8

Dear Sir:

The Manitoba Metis Federation, after careful study, strongly opposes the flooding of South Indian Lake and the diversion of the Churchill River through the Rat and Burntwood River systems.

The decision by the Manitoba government to issue a permit to Manitoba Hydro so that it may proceed with this diversion and flooding is viewed with alarm in the absence of any comprehensive and precise information to indicate what may result from this scheme.

Admittedly, a joint Federal - Manitoba agreement has recently been signed to carry out a three-year study at a cost of \$2,000,000 on the effects of the diversion of the Churchill River and the flooding of South Indian Lake.

Our fears are increased, however, when we witness that the highly qualified members on this Group Study from the University of Manitoba have warned that we are heading towards an ecological disaster in the North.

The Manitoba Metis Federation submits that the flooding of South Indian Lake and the diversion of the Churchill River into the Rat and Burntwood systems will destroy the habitat of our wildlife;

- by destroying the dens of animals which normally exist on the shoreline,
- by destroying the spawning grounds of the fish; and
- by destroying the nesting grounds of the birds.

It will destroy the livelihood of several thousand Native people and plunge them into an ever-increasing dependency on government social assistance. Too often, this flooding program is assessed only in terms of its social upheaval to the community of South Indian Lake. The Manitoba Metis Federation recognizes that this community will suffer a major effect, but the lives of several thousand Indian and Metis from Notigi to Churchill will also be effected.

It will destroy one of the finest recreational and scenic areas in the world. Anyone who has visited this northern area will bear witness to its beauty. Unfortunately, its scenic beauty is not generally recognized by the Manitoba public because of its remoteness.

We submit, however, that this remoteness is only temporary. As recreational facilities and parks are becoming congested in the more southerly parts with the vast increase in population and transportation facilities, there will be a tourist overflow into the North. Real estate companies report an ever increasing number of inquiries from Americans who are seeking to buy land in northern Manitoba.

We submit that once the flooding has taken place, there is no retreat and there is no salvage for a thousand years.

Wildlife was millions of years in the making. The forces that shaped the earth moulded their form. They were sorted and discarded, modified and improved, until they reached the stage of adaptation that makes them fit for the age of the world in which they live.

Man's assault on nature cannot help but change the nature of the environment so that

creatures can no longer adapt. More species of wildlife have been lost in North America in the last 100 years than Europe has lost in a thousand years. The great auk, the Labrador duck, the wild turkey, the ivory-billed woodpecker, the passenger pigeon, and many others have disappeared from the surface of the earth. The Eskimo curlew, the whooping crane and many others have tottered on the brink of extinction for some years.

Some of these creatures were destroyed for no other reason than the lust of man to kill. But many others have been endangered because man has destroyed their habitat and environment.

To the Native people, wildlife has a special appeal with almost mystical properties. But all peoples have enjoyed the wonder and beauty of Nature. . . . it is imperative to our enjoyment of life.

Wildlife cannot continue to contribute to our enjoyment of life unless we set aside adequate living space for it. The alteration or destruction of habitat is more subtle than shooting but just as deadly.

One of the difficulties of promoting the conservation of wildlife is that one cannot put a dollar sign in front of a loon call, or a beautiful sunset. But all these are a vital part of a human being. It is all part of the 'quality of life' and we in the Manitoba Metis Federation believe that mankind, and especially Manitobans at this time, must determine just how much continued growth is part of their 'quality of life'.

Your government reports that the Nelson River dams will provide all the hydro needs of Manitoba for the next 19 years. Manitobans are not faced with a 'life and death' situation. Nature has amply endowed Manitoba with both power for our needs and the time to evaluate not only the technical problems which confront us in the massive flooding of the north, but also, whether in fact, this is necessary or desirable.

Manitoba Hydro urges the public daily to consume more hydro "heat your homes with electricity", "use more car warmers", and then it provides further incentive with reduced rates for increased consumption. At the same time, they caution of 'brown-outs' in Manitoba, as they have been doing for 30 years. The public is entitled to know whether we are facing a 'brown-out' because of wastage or because of the natural increase in normal and reasonable use.

We further submit that the almost total absence of any dialogue on this most vital issue has left the public of Manitoba totally uninformed and disinterested.

In reply to this need, your Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management has stated the following position in a recent article to the Manitoba Metis Federation NEWS. Quote:

"Despite the fact that the Nelson River Program was proceeded with and is proceeding as a matter of government policy, and despite the fact that it has been stressed on

many occasions that such policy is not in the process of being formulated, but is rather in the process of being implemented, certain quarters have continued to deal with this matter as if the decisions concerning some had not yet been made. The government has indicated on many occasions that it would not be involved in the holding of 'window-dressing hearings' concerning a

program which has already been decided upon and whose implementation is in progress." Unquote.

Your Minister now proclaims an urgency to proceed with the diversion of the Churchill River and the flooding of South Indian Lake because of the economies to be achieved despite the total absence of any comprehensive data to indicate to the public just what are the implications and the effects of this diversion and flooding and what alternatives exist, if any, to this program.

The Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management must carry the full responsibility for the public confusion that exists on this major issue. The investment of hundreds of millions of dollars of public funds without first establishing a comprehensive and factual cost analysis and feasibility study of this major program is a violation of good business management and the trust that has been provided to this government by the citizens of this Province. We submit, that the studies which prompted your decision to proceed with the diversion and flooding is neither comprehensive, nor factual because they fail to consider the destruction of northern ecology and wildlife.

This haste is justified on the rationale of urgency, but your government has been in power for four years and we submit that your Minister has failed in his major responsibility to the people of this Province by not having conducted an intensive study at the very beginning when your government had declared the diversion of the Churchill River as public policy. Surely, this should have been the first requirement.

Your government has stated that the diversion of the Churchill River will provide an extra 30,000 cubic feet of water per second to the Nelson hydro system. Hydro engineers estimate an average flow of 25,000 c.f.s. over the year could result in an extra \$25,000,000 of hydro at Kettle Rapids per year.

This presents an attractive target, but the public hears little of the costs involved in this operation.

Manitoba Hydro estimates that the costs of Missi Falls and Notigi dams plus timber clearing will cost \$109,000,000. This latest figure is a major increase over the earlier estimates. Our records also indicate that the cost of Kettle Rapids was a 100% increase over the original estimate. The same increases over estimates has occurred in practically every major government hydro project, not only in Manitoba but across this nation. Is there now any reason why the public should believe the government cost estimates for the Churchill River?

There may be some merit to the case for expansion of hydro energy in the water systems of the North, beyond the Nelson River, but the confusion and concern surrounding this issue confirms that your government has failed to convince the people of Manitoba that your decision on the most important issue ever to face the people of this Province is wise, practical, economical and desirable.

It may be expedient to cite the opposition as an 'elitist group' in ivory towers or political opportunists; but how would you describe the Manitoba Environmental Council which recently passed a resolution calling for a halt to the diversion of the Churchill River and the flooding of South Indian Lake?

(Continued on Page 15)

Letters



CONNIE EYOLFSON
Vice President
Southeast

Dear Editor:

It was with great interest that I read the news item in the Winnipeg Free Press, January 23, 1973, entitled "Tighter Housing Controls Sought". The news item outlines a speech by Municipal Affairs Minister Howard Pawley to the national housing conference in Ottawa. The provincial minister calls for tighter controls in the federal governments housing program.

Mr. Pawley takes a swipe at private developers and lays the blame for shoddy construction of public housing units squarely with private developers. This figures, coming from a minister of a socialist government.

In our great socialist state, the peoples republic of Manitoba, who can construct housing units that will compare favourably with the quality of workmanship found in the units constructed by "the peoples owned construction company"? Definitely not those nasty private developers!

Private developers, why that smacks of Free Enterprise. Place tighter controls on them at once! Without tighter controls (that may put them out of business), heavens, they may be in a position to compete with our peoples owned construction company!

The provincial department of Northern Affairs has acted as developers of the remote housing units that have been built in this province. The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation along with the department of Northern Affairs, jealously guard the construction of these units and will not consider contracting to private developers.

Not even to the Manitoba Metis Federation who were instrumental in initiating the Remote Housing Program in Manitoba.

So Mr. Pawley believes private developers produce shoddy construction. He hasn't seen shoddy construction until he sees the workmanship of our illustrious peoples owned construction company, the Provincial Department of Northern Affairs!

Yours truly,

Connie Eyolfson
M.M.F. Representative
Remote Housing Committee

Name Calling And The Churchill River Diversion

Dear Sir:

It is unfortunate that most public issues sooner or later degenerate into name calling.

This is generally started by the side with the weaker argument. When they find they cannot answer the questions of their opponents, they resort instead to discrediting their questioners.

Such is the case with many of those who favour the Churchill River diversion. A Winnipeg Tribune editorial supporting the project referred derisively to its opponents as "an elitist minority." While this particular barb was no doubt aimed at the professional ecologists opposing the ruination of the watershed, it must of necessity apply to many others as well.

This "elitist minority" must then include the 3,000 people whose living and way of life is bound to be undermined by the diversion. It must also include those members of the general public who are beginning to wonder how much more land must be flooded in order to provide a few extra dollars revenue to build more power plants.

If concern for human values in defiance of the "almighty dollar" is the yardstick then perhaps these people are an elite. By the same yardstick, the followers of Louis Riel would have been considered an elite as well. Perhaps the Winnipeg Tribune is right, a person's attitude towards this project is a good indication of his other qualities.

By contrast, Manitoba Hydro and the other supporters of the Churchill diversion keep repeating the word "cheap, cheap, cheap." This, they feel is the main justification for the project. Is it possible this reflects as well their attitude towards human and ecological considerations? If their viewpoint prevails, Manitoba will have more than slightly cheapened its power. The province will also have cheapened many other qualities which up to now has made it a special place in which to live.

T.P. WALKER

What About Family Planning?

The Executive Director of the Family Planning Association of Manitoba, Mrs. Elizabeth Speers, gave a presentation to the M.M.F. Executive Committee in June of last year. According to reports, Mrs. Speers was well received by the meeting.

Subsequently, the Family Planning Association of Manitoba asked the Manitoba Metis Federation for a representative to sit on their Conference Planning Committee. Connie Eyolfson, Vice-President, M.M.F. Southeast Region, was appointed.

Mrs. Eyolfson, the mother of eight children, reluctantly accepted the appointment.

"I'm not an advocate of women's Lib", Mrs. Eyolfson said, "But why was I appointed? Because it deals with family planning and because I'm the only woman on the executive committee I get the appointment".

Mrs. Eyolfson has since attended a number of meetings and is now deeply concerned about the question of family life education, V.D. control and family planning.

"It's true that native people have large families and I'd be the last one to come along to suggest we do otherwise". Mrs. Eyolfson remarked, in an interview with this reporter. "However, since society is concerned about our large families, some group or organization is bound to come along with a program preaching family planning. To see that such a program meets the needs of our people, and the content of such a program is what vitally concerns me".

(Continued on Page 15)

Dauphin Region Report



WALTER MENARD
Vice-President
Dauphin

"One of the best meetings we ever held" was the reaction of one delegate to our recent Regional Conference at which 19 out of the 20 organized Locals attended.

The Locals were represented by their Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Secretary-Treasurers in addition to a number of observers. Approximately, 100 people attended the two-day meeting.

Also, in attendance were the Mayors and some Councillors of the Metis communities in the Region. They were present to discuss Community Development Services and how it is affecting their communities. A half day was devoted to this subject.

The discussion brought out the following points:

- Community Development Service is now operating only in the area administered by Northern Affairs.

- Community Development Services operates in Manitoba for the under-developed communities. This, as the Barber Study revealed, is the Metis & Indian communities.

- Hundreds of thousands of tax-payers dollars are spent each year by Community Development Services in the name of development of Metis people.

- The larger majority of the Metis people of Manitoba live in the area south of the Northern Affairs line.

- Community Development Services does not service the Metis people south of the Northern Affairs line.

- It appears as though Community Development is being used as a political propaganda machine, & Metis people are pawns in the game!

- The Metis people of this region want community development to be responsible to them.

- Community councils & Metis Locals serve largely the same people.

The fact was also mentioned that the government choose not to believe the vice-president of the M.M.F. and the vice-president of N.A.C.C. of this region on Community Development matters, and currently have an assessment going within the region to see what the other elected people are saying.

The results of this afternoon of discussion on Community Development:

1. Community Development Service should be designed and responsible to the people it serves.

2. If Community Development is going to operate at all and succeed in this region, it will have to operate through the Metis people's organizations.

All Chairmen of Locals gave reports.

(Continued on Page 15)

Observer's Viewpoint....

At Christmas time I visited my ole friend Pierre Larocque. Ole batchelor Pierre as you know lives way up north in his cabin. He gets kind o' lonesome especially around christmas time and so I pack him a few pieces of christmas turkey and the cheapest bottle of red wine and I visit him for a couple days, if I'm lucky to stay that long.

It was a beautiful night and ole Pierre and I stook outside for a few minutes and looked up at the beautiful starry sky. It was as still as only a cold cracklin' night in the North can be. A pack of wolves howled in the distance and ole Pierre howled right back. Way up in the sky we could see the red and green flashing lights of an airplane as it flew past.

"There goes Nellie again" ole Pierre snorted. He thought for awhile and then he added "or it could be a community development worker -- there's lot of them around."

"Yah," I said, "if the Metis people had half the money them guys up there spend on community development - we'd all be rich. In fact, Pierre sometimes I think it would be kind of nice and cozy life if we could all join some Government Department like ah, - well - say the Department of Indian Affairs - now that's something big and they've got lots of money."

Ole Pierre turned on me like a lion, steam belching out of his nostrils like an ole steamer - his eyes like fire.

"Wat you saying, Norval" ole Pierre shouted at me.

He caught me by the shoulder and shoved me back into the shack.

"Who you think you are?" ole Pierre snarled at me - "you is ole Jean Baptiste's boy - dat's who."

Ole Pierre walked around the shack for awhile and took a couple swigs of wine. I could see he was mad. Finally, he took down his fiddle that was hanging on the wall and started to tune er up: zing, zing, zing, zum, zum, zum, zong, zong, zong, zong, zong. He played a few bars from his fiddlin favorite "The old man and the old woman."

It's lucky chance for you Norval, that your ole granfodder can't hear you now - you wanting to join the Department of Indian Affairs get a number and live on a reserve like Fisher River 1795."

"Ole Billy Fleury in Winnipeg he tell me now that George Munro, Archie Nabess, Joe Keeper and lots of udder good Metis guys now is saying "der is no such thing as a Metis - we is Indians."

"Yah, but not me Pierre - not me!"

"The newspapers say dat Mrs. Lavell from Ontario who married a white man is going to court and try to get her treaty number back again. Dat's ok with me, Norval, after 'all she is an Indian. But what about her kids/ I suppose the Department of Indian Affairs will give dem a number and that will make dem Indians. But what if dem kids should marry white people, eh?"

"By gosh Pierre, maybe we could set up an M.M.F. office on the Reserves and they could join the Federation", I said.

"Norval, you crazy," said ole Pierre angrily. "When your granfodder saw the last buffalo being killed on the prairies he cried, yes sir, ole Jean Baptiste he cried, - and now the Red man he's going too like the buffalo and you is laughing."

"They should leave the poor Indians alone. Why in hell do George and them guys work in a place dey call the Indian and Metis Friendship Centre, if der is no Metis? Why do dey call their news-



NORVAL DESJARLAIS

paper "The New Nation." It was the Metis who called themselves the "New Nation," not the Indians.

And look at Tony Belcourt, the President of the Native Council of Canada. He's wearing beads around hees neck and going 'round and maken' big speeches and calling all Native people Indians. Him and big Gene Rheaume and Yvonne Dunont the Vice President of the Native Council of Canada, them guys write dat newspaper called "The Forgotten People" and its all about the Indians, nothing about the Metis, but its the Metis people who are forgotten, not the Indians. Its the Metis people who got nothing, no free education, no houses, no economic programs, no nothing except a kick in de ass and community development - dat wat the Metis get."

Ole Pierre was mad as hell now and his voice was so loud he wake up the cat who was sleeping near the stove and Pierre kicked him in the ass and sent flying through the shack.

"Ole Jean Baptiste, you remember your ole granfodder, he use to say that de Metis were the 'blue bloods of the prairies.' I tink that ole' Baptiste was right. Our blood is not Red like the true Indians and not white like de whiteman's, but when mixed togedder de blood turn - blue. Now all the MIB is got to do is to test the blood of everybody on the Reserves and when dey find somebody with blue blood - den out, out of the reserve - dat's wat ole Pierre say."

I bust out laughing - "blue Blood" Ha, Ha, Ha.

Ole Pierre looked at me through squinty eyes and then stepped up and punched me right in the nose. I saw stars flying in all direction - white ones, red ones and blue ones. I picked myself off the floor and wiped my bloody nose. "By gosh Pierre, I said, you're right, it is blue".

"Dat's wat I said" said Pierre as he took another swig of wine and finished off with a few bars from the "Maple Sugar Reel".

"No Pierre, it won't work," I said quite firmly. "The Department of Indian Affairs said that blood testing was very dangerous thing. It was contagious and could spread all over the country and then the next thing there would be no more reserves left. No Pierre, that's definitely too dangerous."

Pierre thought about this for a long time while he fiddled out a lively jig and kept beat with his feet.

Suddenly he stopped and his eyes brightened up. "You know, Norval, your ole granfodder, ole Jean Baptiste used to tell me dat he could always tell de India from de Metis by de music. Sometimes at night, after a long days hunt, he would be walking across de prairies hungry and tired. He would see a campfire, - 'ah mon dieu, at las' and then he would leesin, if he heard fiddle music he would go and he would be received with open arms and he would eat, and laugh, and dance and teekle dem beautiful Metis girls and den he would go to sleep 'appy, appy.'

But if he heerd tom-toms, ole Jean Baptiste would keep right on walking."

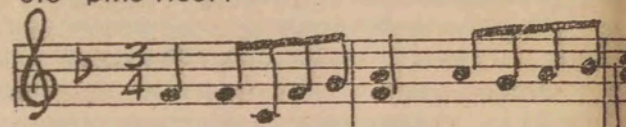
"So I say to you Norval, dat is how we should find de true Metis and de true Indian. Anybody who want to join the Indians den dey must first of all, do de war dance, snake dance, grass dance, and play de tom-toms."

And all dos guys who want to join the Metis Federation will have to do the jig and a square dance - dat's the first thing before dey join-like they have in dem secret outfits - you know what I mean!

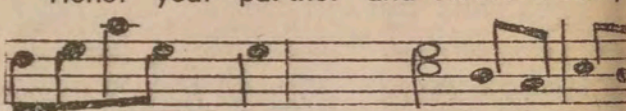
"You mean initiation ceremony!" I said.

Yah, yah, dat's right, ole Pierre laughed as he fired up Old John McNeil on his fiddle and beating the floor so hard with his feet I could see the dust rising to the ceiling.

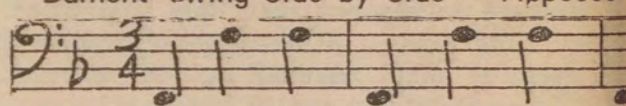
"C'mon you Metis guys ole Pierre was shouting above the sounds of his fiddle," step right up and tamarack 'er down on de ole' pine floor."



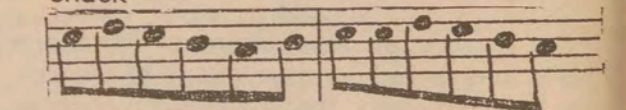
"C'mon George, Archie and Joe, Honor your partner and circle a half,



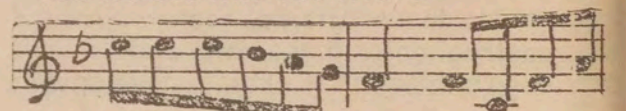
Belcourt on de right, Rheaume on de left Dumont swing side by side - Yippee



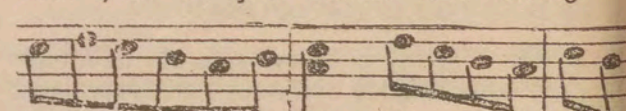
Do si do back to back Tamarack 'er down in the ole' Metis shack



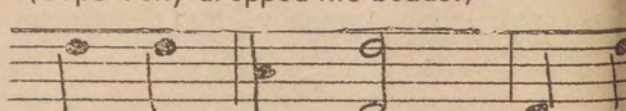
Attaboy George, get dem feet up You too Joe Yee Hoo".



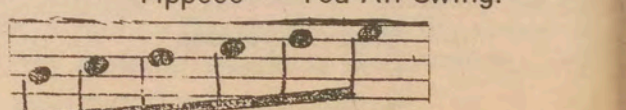
Right, forward and pardners address And you all join hands and swing"



(Oops Tony dropped his beads.)



"Yippee -- You All Swing."



Ben Thompson Resigns



BEN THOMPSON

Ben Thompson has resigned as vice-president of the Thompson region of the Manitoba Metis Federation, due to continuing health problems.

A regional committee meeting has been called for February 3 and February 4 in Thompson, Manitoba to elect a new vice-president for the region.

"The MMF owes a great deal to Ben Thompson, and we expect that he will

continue to play a very important part in our organization," J. Angus Spence, Federation president, said.

Mr. Spence said he "regrets" the resignation, "but I can certainly appreciate the reasons for it."

The Executive Committee, Mr. Spence said, has offered Mr. Thompson the position of director of the Native Migration Centre in Thompson, on a non-salaried basis.

"I am sure that he will continue to play an important role in this position, helping native people find and relocate to meaningful employment in the north," Mr. Spence said.

Originally from Duck Bay, Ben spent several years with the Black Watch Regiment "the finest damned regiment in the army." This he said, was one of the best periods of his life. In addition to seeing a lot of the world, including several years in Europe, Ben said he "learned about people, and about some of the better things in life that could and should be available to the Metis people."

During his 18 months as a regional vice-president, Mr. Thompson put his knowledge of people to work helping to relocate and find employment for Indian and Metis people in the north.

His efforts in this area--carried on while working as a miner for INCO--finally resulted in setting up the first Native Migration Centre in Canada.

Ben Thompson also represented the MMF in Norman Regional Development Corporation and the Communities Economic Development Fund Committee.

What About Family Planning?

(Continued from Page 13)

"The conference planning committee of the Family Planning Association are working out details of a Family Planning Conference to be held in Thompson, Manitoba in 1974. The conference is obviously aimed at the native population in the north," said Mrs. Eyolfson.

Elizabeth Bird, director of the Family Life Education Program for the M.I.B. expressed concern that native women would be brought in from outlying communities to a totally different environment and asked to participate in such a conference. "Would

it not make more sense to meet the women on their own ground?"

Connie Eyolfson agrees with Mrs. Bird. "We're only two native women," Mrs. Eyolfson commented. "I would like to hear the opinion of other native women, particularly in the north regarding a family life education program. What would native women like to see in such a program?"

Letters on this topic will be welcome at the M.M.F. Southeast Regional Office, 114-388 Donald street, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Project Director Liason Workers

Required for the Native Clan Organization, a new rehabilitative agency in the corrections field.

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Responsible to the Board of Directors for planning, implementing and directing programs.

LIAISON WORKERS: Responsible to the Project Director for direct and referral services for Native people who are residents in penal institutions or who have been released from same.

EMPLOYMENT LOCATION: Winnipeg.

If interested, write to: Mr. Al Chartrand,
Manitoba Metis Federation,
122- 388 Donald Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
R3B 2J4

Closing date for these positions is February 23, 1973.

Letter

(Continued from Page 12)

The Manitoba Metis Federation calls for a halt to the proposed diversion of the Churchill River and the flooding of South Indian Lake and proposes the following steps to resolve the issue of hydro energy in northern Manitoba:

a) Impose a one year moratorium on the diversion of the Churchill River and the flooding of South Indian Lake.

b) Study all alternatives in this issue.

c) Allocate \$250,000 to inform the public on all factors relating to this vital issue through the medium of press, radio and TV.

d) Set up one or more committees reflecting expert opinion both pro and con on this issue, and direct these committees to rural and urban centres in Manitoba for public debate and discussions. This should be done in the latter half of the moratorium.

e) Conduct a province wide referendum on the proposed diversion of the Churchill River and the flooding of South Indian Lake with an option in alternatives, if any.

In conclusion, we submit that the loss in revenue to Manitoba Hydro resulting from this postponement would be more than justified in the public awareness of, and support for the option most acceptable in the referendum.

Yours truly,

J. Angus Spence

Dauphin Regional Report

(Continued from Page 13)

Some locals are engaged in L.I.P. and P.E. P. projects. Kinosota-Reedy Creek Local are presently rebuilding the old Hudson's Bay House on the lake-shore. Perhaps, a future regional or provincial meeting may be held at this old historic site.

The Winnipegosis Local have started a minor hockey association and have raised \$120.00 to purchase equipment. They have also organized a drop-in centre for the kids.

The Camperville Local are working hard on a winter carnival which will feature a "Miss Metis of Camperville".

All of the locals are actively repairing Metis houses under the M.M.F. Winter Housing Repair Program. Local Housing Committees similar to local housing authorities make the decisions on whose home will be repaired. These decisions are based on the needs and circumstances of each family. The criteria for decisions is to make homes warmer and safer as a first priority.

The Chairmen expressed their approval of the program and reflected the positive feelings of the Metis people of their communities.

Seven speakers addressed this gathering of nearly 100 people. They spoke on vocational rehabilitation, job placement, Department of Agriculture, nursing homes for Metis people, Communities Economic Development Fund, changes in health and social development, community development, and the M.M.F.

We, in the Dauphin Region, believe in keeping our people informed. People who know exactly what is happening cannot easily be fooled by those who would attempt it.

Metis people have been manipulated for nearly 100 years; by people who have had selfish reasons; by civil servants in some cases; by politicians in other cases. However, we are now at the point where we, as Metis people, can shape and develop our own destiny.

"Let us be happy in our work."

- Walter Menard -

Report On Winter Workshop

The Winter Works house repair program is going ahead at full steam with all but one Region reporting progress ahead of expectations.

Some delay was experienced in the Thompson Region when Henry Cook resigned as the Regional Housing Co-ordinator. Leonard Spence has been hired as the new co-ordinator and Ben Thompson reports that Leonard has his "running shoes on" in order to catch up with his mates.

The Regional Housing Co-ordinators have held three meetings so far. The first meeting was held in Winnipeg in early December, the second in Brandon and third meeting was held in Dauphin on the 5th and 6th of January.

A lot of problems were ironed out at these meetings and now everybody is operating on the same wave length. We have also met and discussed with Cam McCallum of CMHC and Ken Ouellette from the LIP Program. Everybody has been most cooperative and we expect that the program will sail right along.



Very few locals have experienced any serious problems, except perhaps for St. Laurent. The Housing Committees in the Locals are working very well in spite of the fact that these are all volunteer people and there are a lot of headaches involved in this community work. These Committees have to review all the applications for house repair under the Winter Works Program, then they must look over each house, decide which houses will be repaired under the program and how much money will be spent on each house. I think that the Metis people throughout this Province owe these Community or Local Housing Committees a great big applause and a pat on the back. It sure does me a lot of good to travel around and see these guys in action. If this Winter Workshop Program accomplishes

nothing else but people and community involvement, then it would be worth every cent spent on it.

The community of St. Laurent did experience some problems and I personally believe that the problem developed because only three people were selected for the Housing Committee instead of the 6 or 7 that was recommended and secondly some people felt that their group was not represented at the meeting which set up the Housing Committee.

Several groups came to Winnipeg and and protested to the President and yet, there appeared to be no way of getting these groups to discuss and work together. Finally, as a last resort, Mr. Spence delegated a Committee made up of Ron Vaudry-Provincial Housing co-ordinator, Ted Govereau-Regional Housing Co-ordinator, Ernie Guilbault M.M.F. Board Director, Norval Desjarlais-M.M.F. Board Director to carry out the Housing Committee function.

This Committee travelled to St. Laurent inspected houses in the area and finally made recommendations on six houses for repair.



I have also inspected 10 houses that were recently repaired in the South-West Region. It was heart-warming to see the reaction and the appreciation shown by the owners of the houses.

I have asked these people and in fact everybody who is satisfied and happy with the home repairs to write a note expressing their opinions on the Winter Workshop Program. I would also like to hear from the unhappy people too.

Remember, the money available in the Winter Workshop Program is limited and not everybody in need of house repairs can be helped, but we are trying to help as many needy Metis families as possible.

Wishing you all a pleasant year.
- by Ron Vaudry.

Safety Tip Of The Month

A Wise Young Waterhen Gives

You don't go tearing around wide-open looking for a race. It might cause an accident. Never tail-gate. You don't know what the guy ahead of you is going to do. If he stops or slackens his speed suddenly, you might crash into him. Your snowmobile and even yourself might end up in a heap of tangled junk and a mess.

Never ride on lakes that froze over a couple of days ago. One inch of ice may carry a man but not a snowmobile. If you do, you and your snowmobile may be swimming with the fish.

Make sure your brakes work PROPERLY!

No. racing. Racing is dangerous even if it is fun. When you open it up, what if your throttle sticks. You may go crashing into the bush.

Good Advice On Ski-Dooing

Never chase animals. You might collide into something, fall off, flip it, or smash it.

You never know what is beneath the snow.

Never show off or jump. Your snowmobile is not an airplane, jet, or rocket. You might find that out sooner than you think, showing off may cause an accident.

Don't be a DODO, use snowmobiles safely. Snowmobiling is Canada's favourite winter sport. Don't let an accident spoil your fun.

By the way buy a Ski-doo

By Larry Chartrand,
Waterhen, Manitoba

Grade 7, age 12.

Report On Clothing Drive

In November, the Southeast Region, Manitoba Metis Federation contacted Mrs. King of the Unitarian Church congregation and discussed the need for good used clothing in smaller Metis communities.

Marian King and Doreen Hunter along with the other good ladies of the Unitarian Church conducted a clothing drive. About 30 or 40 boxes of clothing were collected, sorted and labelled.

On December 2, 1972, these were delivered to Seymourville with the exception of seven boxes that did not fit into the truck. The clothing from the seven boxes are being distributed free to whomever can make use of them, at Traverse Bay and Stoney Point.

Seymourville is a Metis community close to Hole River Reserve along the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The homeowners do not have garages. There was no garage in which the men could work on their cars in the community. Anyone who has ever attempted to repair a motor or change a faulty fuel pump in the dead of winter can appreciate the need for a garage.

Therefore the community built a two car garage during the summer of '72. The ladies of the community raised some money and borrowed the rest to buy tools and equipment for the garage. There is no mechanic on duty. However, they charge a small fee for use of the tools and equipment.

The clothing drive that was conducted by the ladies of the Unitarian Church has served two purposes:

1. Helped pay for tools and equipment for the community garage.
2. Brought good used clothing into the community that could be bought for a token sum.

The Southeast Region, Manitoba Metis Federation extends a heartfelt "Thank You" to all who donated or took part in the clothing drive. With Special Thanks going to Marian King and Doreen Hunter. To you tips me cap!

Respectfully submitted

Connie Eyolfson
Vice-President
Manitoba Metis Federation
Southeast Region

*

Patient: "Doctor, if there's anything wrong with me, don't frighten me half to death by giving it a long scientific name. Just tell me in plain English what it is."

Doctor: "Well, sir, to be frank, you're just plain lazy."

Patient: "Thank you. Now will you give me the scientific name for it so I can tell them at home?"

*

Nervous man (running into police station): "I need help. A man just stole my car!"
"Did you see him?" asked the desk officer.

"No, but I got the license number as he pulled away."

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION



v) #6

Published by
MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION
122 - 388 Donald Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF WPG
LIBRARY
WINNIPEG MAN ✓



Buffalo Hunter

Museum - Man and Nature

Good-Bye Special Arda

The Manitoba Metis Federation has resigned from the Special ARDA Program, which is jointly funded by the Federal and Provincial governments under the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

A number of letters had been sent to the Minister over the past 18 months expressing our frustrations with the Special ARDA Program and our recommendations for changes to the program. Nothing happened.

The M.M.F. supported assistance to bonafide fishermen and trappers but looked on in dismay as Special ARDA stumbled on without real direction and priorities. In the absence of these, it gravitated to a 'grab-box' of ski-doo's with all its political overtones.

Our letter dated 27th February 1973, bid farewell to another government program that is rapidly destined for failure. The contents of that letter is repeated here for our reader's information:

February 27, 1973

Honorable Don Jamieson
Minister of D.R.E.E.
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Sir:

Re: Special ARDA

The Board of Directors of the Manitoba Metis Federation with 19 members representative of all sections of this Province has thoroughly discussed and evaluated the Special ARDA Program.

The Board reviewed the early history and development of Special ARDA. It was then a program for the economic and social development of Native people - it was full of hope and promise. Every year, millions of dollars (or so we were told) in grants would be provided for Native projects of all types.

A Special Committee was established and held its first meeting in August 1971.

Guidelines for the approval of the grants were established by the civil service. Some of these guidelines were:

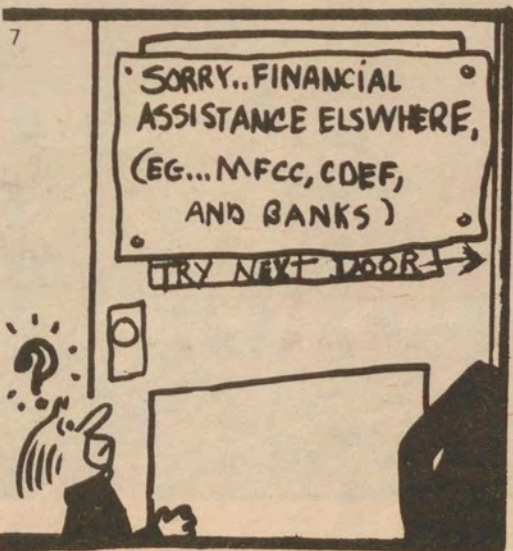
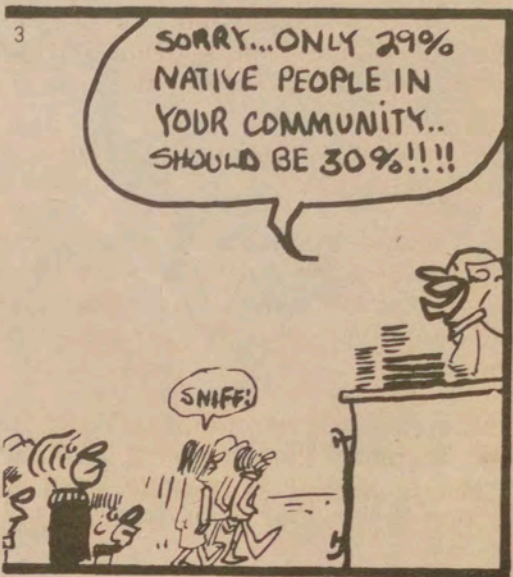
- a) Three heads of families - projects had to employ three heads of families, this was later changed to three persons.
- b) Geographical restrictions - applicants must reside in a community or area in which there were 30% of Native people.
- c) Equity - applicants had to provide 20% equity of the capital requirements for the project.
- d) Feasibility reports - applicants had to indicate training and managerial skills.
- e) 80% Initial Funding - Applicants had to establish 80% of the project for inspection and approval by the financial inspector before grants would be processed.
- f) Small Farms - Small farms could not be assisted under this program because Federal agricultural policy promoted consolidation of large farm holdings.
- g) Replacement Problems - If financial assistance is theoretically available from other regular federal program sources, program assistance to Native people under ARDA IIIB is not available.
- h) Social Development - Community recreation cannot be dealt with under the business efficiency guidelines set by DREE.
- i) Primary Industry - Assistance can be given to trappers and fishermen only. Agricultural projects have been deleted and primary forestry activities include only planting and cutting of trees.
- j) Transportation and Communication - Projects in these fields shall only be considered for the northern areas of the Province. Opportunities in this area are extremely limited.

These guidelines were obviously established to ensure the maximum protection of the public purse - a necessary and commendable role for our civil service. These guidelines may have been appropriate for the dominant society, but stifled a potentially effective program for the economic and social development of the Native people. In an eighteen month period of operation, less than \$100,000 has actually been paid out to project applicants.

Severe disenchantment has developed amongst the Metis people and the M.M.F. has made representation on numerous occasions to the Special Committee and to the Minister for major changes in program concept and delivery.

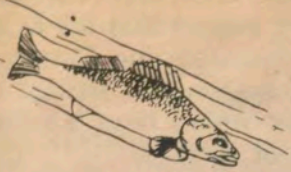
The guidelines may be admirable in the safeguard of the taxpayers' money as far as the non-native business society is concerned, but they indicate a total lack of understanding of the Native people and their economic and social problems.

The Sorry Program



South Indian Lake

Bribery? Outside Interference?



On the evening of 13th March 1973, the Community Council, the Flood Committee and the M.M.F. Local of the South Indian Lake community met together in a special meeting and issued an ultimatum to John Morrisseau, the government Community Worker "to get out of South Indian Lake or else". The following morning, Charlie Dysart conveyed this message to Mr. Morrisseau at the request of the meeting. John left on the first aircraft.

Two weeks previously, Morrisseau had arrived in the community and travelled extensively in the area with a snowmobile with which he was equipped.

The Minister of Northern Affairs had just appointed John in his new role as a Community Development Co-ordinator. Unfortunately, the community had not asked for this new position. There was already a Community Development worker in South Indian Lake who appeared acceptable to the people.

They watched apprehensively as Morrisseau travelled about the community and saw in this latest government activity a subtle but desperate attempt to break down the morale and unity of their community.

"The people are becoming very concerned and worried" reported Bob Dysart. "All this time the Manitoba Government has been telling us - don't worry - there will be no flooding of your homes and now they send a man out here to get the people to talk about compensation. If there's not going to be any flooding" asked Bob "then why are they talking about compensation all the time?"

After his expulsion, Morrisseau described his job as providing information to the community about government programs that would affect the community including the

flooding of South Indian Lake. Unfortunately, he forgot to tell the people this and tensions mounted which resulted in his removal.

Foul play cried the Minister of Northern Affairs, "We know" he said in a telephone interview "that John Morrisseau was expelled from the community of South Indian Lake on the orders of the Executive Director of the Manitoba Metis Federation".

How did the Minister know this. Well, according to Mr. McBryde and Mr. Morrisseau, Stan Fulham, the Executive-Director had a radio-telephone conversation with Bob Dysart of South Indian Lake several days after Morrisseau was expelled and during this telephone call Fulham asked Dysart the following questions:

"Have you had your meeting yet?" and "Was John Morrisseau there? From these questions, they concluded that Fulham not only knew of Morrisseau's expulsion but had directed and "engineered" it.

Charges of bribery were alleged against Mr. Morrisseau.

These charges against both Morrisseau and Fulham were thoroughly discussed at the The Pas M.M.F. Regional Conference at which delegates from 16 communities were in attendance.

John Morrisseau denied that he had ever attempted to bribe the residents of South Indian Lake to accept compensation in the event of the flooding of South Indian Lake. He reported that he had gone to South Indian Lake at his own request to fill a void in communications that seemed to exist in the community.

Stan Fulham emphatically denied that his telephone call to Bob Dysart had anything to do with the ouster of John Morrisseau

from South Indian. Those people who had listened in to the telephone conversation had drawn their conclusions from two very general questions.

About two weeks prior to this affair, Bob Dysart while in Winnipeg had called Stan Fulham. During this conversation Dysart stated that he was not aware of an M.M.F. Regional Conference in The Pas on the 24th and 25th of March to elect a Vice-President and to discuss the South Indian Lake issue. The reason for this, Dysart reported, "is that we have no Chairman of our Local - he left us several months ago and he has not been replaced."

"It is very important that the M.M.F. has a strong and effective Local in South Indian Lake" Fulham replied.

"I suggest that you hold a meeting as soon as possible, elect your Local executives and advise Alfred Head the Regional Vice-President as soon as possible so that he may make arrangements for you to get down to The Pas for the Conference."

"This was the meeting I was asking about when I called Bob Dysart on the radio-telephone" said Stan Fulham.

The Regional Conference asked for an investigation into the issue and charges surrounding the South Indian Lake affair. It was recommended that this be done by the Ombudsman. A message was sent to Premier Schreyer requesting this investigation.

"We ain't foolin" said ole Charlie. "We are a peaceful people -- we don't look for trouble -- but when the people get aroused then they can strike back hard as this government will see".

South Indian Lake is alive and kickin'

The South Indian Lake Regatta

