

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION NEWS

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Berard

Season's Greetings



President's Christmas Message



Another Holiday Season with Christmas and the New Year is rapidly approaching. The whole world will be looking forward to the coming New Year with anticipation for what it may bring. This is well and good, but it is also a good time for some deep soul-searching and looking over the passing year to determine how well did we, as individuals or as an organization, utilize the time and resources entrusted to us. What have we achieved? I would like to look back, not over one year but over four years. As I see it, the two main basic problems which confront our people at this time are Social and Economic. Both cover a wide field. In order to tackle these problems we have organized and this, in my opinion, and as I have always said, is the only way. 'Organization'.

In order to develop a meaningful organization, two basic ingredients are required. These are Identity and Unity. We have established Identity. We have established the fact that we are not Indian and we are not white. We have established this fact in over one hundred communities in Manitoba. We have established the fact that our people cannot be counted by mark or by number but that they have to stand up to be counted. And they are standing up to be counted. This can only be achieved by an organization with a proud record of credibility and a positive approach.

Unity

Trying to achieve unity is another thing. It is a constant struggle of groups of people with different interests and objectives. I note that four years ago, when the Federation was in the red, there was much peace and tranquillity. Seldom did anyone ring our phone or knock on our door. As our organization expanded, and became financially stable it has also brought more and more political activity and friction. This is a part of democracy and there is nothing wrong with this, providing this activity is responsible and reasonable. I am confident that our organization will survive the attention which has come upon it by achieving some measure of affluence, importance and power.

Success cannot be measured by the amount of money we get and spend. Too often, some people think of success in those terms.

Success can only be measured by our record of achievement and ability to reach and organize our people at the community level, so that they may establish their own community and individual priorities and needs, and then, to bring their concerns forward for action.

Success is also the degree in which we can tap in to government services and programs for all our people.

All of this of course means more people involvement and communications. This must be done with a minimum amount of expenditure of funds. This is a real measure of success.

Another measure of success is the quality of our proposals and programs which we submit to government. These programs and services must not only provide jobs for a handful of people, but they must be geared so that we can make maximum use of the human resources of our Metis people and not just another extension of the civil service. Again people involvement.

The Manitoba Metis Federation has submitted a number of proposals with these objectives in mind.

For example:

'In Search of a Future'. A proposal to establish a series of Migration Centres across Manitoba, staffed and operated by Native people for Native people.



❦ J.A. Spence ❦

- Economic Development. (Special ARDA). This program came about due to pressure from the MMF and the MIB. It has not worked too well, but a newer General Economic Development Program is now being proposed, which, hopefully, will provide a positive economic development program for Metis people.
- Community Development. The MMF submitted a brief to the Provincial government on the subject of community development. We have proposed that the MMF take over and administer this program all over Manitoba at a cost of \$312,000 and thereby save the taxpayer a lot of money.
- Sports and Recreation. The MMF has submitted a brief calling for a sports and recreation program for Metis people in Manitoba.
- Increased Core funding at both the Provincial and Federal level to expand our organization and activities.
- Land Grants Research Program. \$150,000 has been granted to the MMF for a two year program to research and report on the 1,400,000 acres of land granted to the Metis people in 1871 under the Manitoba Act.
- Communications Program. The MMF has requested \$295,000 for a province-wide communications program.
- Native Clan Organization. This organization has been set up with a half-way house in Winnipeg to help Native inmates during their incarceration and upon their release from the penal institutions.
- Education Grants and Bursaries. \$48,000 has been obtained by the MMF to provide financial assistance to Metis students right across the province. Much more is needed here.
- Manitoba Metis Development Corporation. The M.M.D.C. was incorporated in January 1972. The M.M.F. is incorporated as a charitable organization and therefore cannot operate programs on a profit-making basis. The Manitoba Metis Development Corporation was set up to meet this need, and hopefully it shall be expanded to include a number of major economic development projects. \$50,000 was borrowed by the M.M.D.C. to establish the Thompson Migration Centre.
- Comprehensive Housing Program. The M.M.F. submitted a brief to the Federal and Provincial governments in which we proposed a \$35,000,000 housing program for the Metis people in Manitoba over the next five years. It included:
 - a.) New housing
1285 unites - cost \$17,990,000
 - b.) Loans for Home Improvement and Home Extension
1025 units - cost \$3,075,000
 - c.) Relocation Grant for Migrating Metis families.
1200 grant at \$9,000 average cost \$10,800,000.
 - d.) Hostels for transient families & youth - cost \$540,000
 - e.) Management & administration of MMF Housing - \$2,836,620

TOTAL - \$35,241,620
- Winter Warmth Housing Repair Program Total for 1971/72/73 \$1,417,000
- Manitoba Pathfinders Program - \$150,000 program to help Native people with employment. Job Placement coordinators are now located in Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Dauphin and Selkirk

These have been our major proposals. A great deal of correspondence and meetings have gone in support of our proposals. The MMF is no stranger to our respective governments. I have met and discussed with many Cabinet Ministers both Federal and Provincial, and the Premier and Prime Minister.

Our briefs have been well prepared and our requests and our positions have been presented in a responsible and reasonable manner. This work is being done with Head office staff; no outside consultants are hired for this purpose.

Let me emphasize that I, as your President, have always approached the Government people with the assurance that we in the M.M.F. are united with over 100 Locals, and that our organization is responsible and accountable for any public funds entrusted to its administration. Any future response we may get from Government sources will be contingent on our wise administration of such funds. Our image from coast to coast has been excellent and it is up to us to keep it that way. More and more the M.M.F. is being approached by various agencies to appoint or name our people to sit on boards or committees. This is recognition and involvement. The record of progress of our organization both in achievement and credibility over the past four years is something of which I have always been proud.

I want to emphasize again our attempts to develop a decentralized system by which we can hear and serve you, the people, better. A system which would involve you people at the community level at all times and hear your views and concerns so the M.M.F. can continue to develop policies in keeping with the needs of you, the people, to whom this organization belongs. I would like to hear of more Social and Economic development ideas from the community level, as a return for M.M.F. investment in the Regional Offices. This is why they were set up in the first place. As you know, the bulk of our Core funds goes into the Regional Offices to do the service role I have outlined. Whether this role is being done, or not, you, the people, are in the best position to determine. Personally, I like the decentralized or regional concept if it can be made workable. I do not believe that the Metis people in Manitoba are interested in petty politics and criticisms. We must work united if we are to achieve our goals.

As a minority group, we are off to a good start. As a Nation, we have an Identity.

Much has been achieved, but much remains to be done. This will require cooperation and unity. It will require positive people working in a positive way.

It is my pleasure to wish all the Metis people of Manitoba a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year brought about in a spirit of trust and cooperation.

J. Angus Spence



Manitoba Metis Federation News

John P. Burrelle - Editor

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The MMF News is distributed to all MMF Members and subscriptions from non-members are invited at the yearly rate of \$3.00 and are available at the following address:

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Regional Christmas Messages



Dauphin

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO ALL MANITOBA'S METIS

Christmas and New Years are about to prevail upon us. Metis merriment with an ending of the old year, and a beginning of the New Year will result.

This is symbolic of the M.M.F. of today. There are tides and seasons in the affairs of Metis men and women.

The Metis People are about to travel from near and far, gather together, make merry and talk. An ending of an old season and the beginning of a new, vibrant era will result. An opportunity for each Metis to give new life to our organization. Each in our own way and according to our many skills and abilities.

May we all be ready to clean-house, decorate, celebrate, and welcome this new era in the spirit in which it has come --- openly and sincerely.

Let us be somewhat like the tide: let's come in together, and go out together, and if we can't do that together, let's stay out of it -- altogether!

Walter Menard
Vice-President



Southwest



Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to express to you a Christmas wish on behalf of the staff of the Southwest Region and yours truly.

It has been great for fulfillment of life's little pleasures. It seems like such a short time ago that the Christmas carols were sung, the lights were sparkling and the world was filled with glee, and hearts were enlightened and life took a new meaning for many people.

I wish to say that this past year something else took on a different meaning. The M.M.F. has achieved a great start in reaching one of its objectives.

Yes, my friends, unity is not just another word to people anymore. It has in my mind become a working force. My experience this past year has been one filled with many different concerns. There has been hardships, frustrations, and days, bad days, and good days, but I wouldn't trade any of it for anything else. I have enjoyed every minute of it.

Don't be discouraged friends. Life is full of many wonderful things, and together in unity we will find them. In disunity, we will despair.

I wish to thank you all for sharing this message with me on Christmas day. (United we are Strong).

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

-George Fleury
Vice-President



Southeast

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and Locals of the Southeast Region, I would like to extend best wishes to all our readers for the upcoming Festive Season.

We hope that everyone will enjoy a safe and Merry Christmas and that the New Year will bring happiness to all.

-Connie Eyolfson
Vice-President

Regional Report: Once again, the Emergency Repair Program is being conducted in the Southeast Region. Applications have been sent out to all the Locals and we hope that those people with homes that are in need of repair will seek the assistance provided by this program. Mr. Roy Thomas, the Regional Housing Co-ordinator, has or will be visiting all Locals to process the completed applications. Each Local should create an Advisory Committee to help the Co-ordinator decide which houses are to be repaired. We hope that this program will help to improve the living conditions of the Metis people in this Region.

The Southeast Region has applied to the Local Initiatives Program (L.I.P.) for funds to set up a project aimed at helping people from remote areas arriving in the city. The project would provide an escort-interpreter service for Native people unaccustomed to the life and language of a large city. The idea for this came from Mrs. Mary Guilbault and Mr. Oliver Monkman who have

Continued on page 6



The Pas



On behalf of the executive of The Pas Region of the Manitoba Metis Federation and my wife Margaret, I wish all the members of the Federation and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This is a happy time of the year when people can put aside some of their problems and differences for a little while and enjoy with their friends and families, the happy Christmas season.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the organizations and people who cooperated and assisted our Region throughout the past year and I wish to extend our Season's Greetings to them.

-Alfred Head
Vice-President



Interlake

Early in 1973, the Interlake Region organized a new structure which was as yet untried in the Federation. Two Junior Board members were elected and would have power only within the Region. The Board of Directors, now consisting of the Vice-President, two Senior Board members and two Junior members, meet regularly and handle administrative and other problems which need not be decided on a Regional level, leaving time free for more important topics at the Regional meetings. This year also saw two elections held within the region. In March, Murry Sinclair was re-elected as Vice-President, with Howard Asham and Ken Desjarlais elected as Junior members. In early September, Murray Sinclair resigned from the Vice-Presidency and occasioned another election in October. Howard Asham was elected Vice-President at this time; Yvon Dumont and Ted Govereau were elected Senior Board Members and Lloyd Pelletier and Ron Penny were elected as Junior Board Members.

The Emergency Housing Repair is off to a much earlier start than last year, under the experienced hand of the Regional Housing Co-ordinator, Theodore Govereau, who also acted as Housing Co-ordinator last year.

Human nature, such as it is, will no doubt find some faults with the operation of this project; however, we have the advantage of three years' experience to our credit and should be able to produce a program satisfactorily to the majority of the Metis people in this area.

With the approaching of the festive season, the Board of Directors, office staff and myself wish to take this opportunity to wish you, one and all, a very joyous Christmas and a happy and fruitful 1974.

-Howard Asham
Vice-President



Thompson



With deep sincerity, I wish all the Metis people a joyous Christmas season; a season characterized by friendship and goodwill amongst our people; a time when the children will not be forgotten amidst the festivities, and a time when we will all remember what Christmas is all about - and the birth of Jesus Christ.

In the coming year, I am hopeful that the Metis people will grow stronger in strength and unity. To gain these ends, I personally request the leaders of the Federation to cast aside their personal differences and fight for the common causes of our people.

In closing, I extend special Christmas Greetings to the people of the Thompson Region.

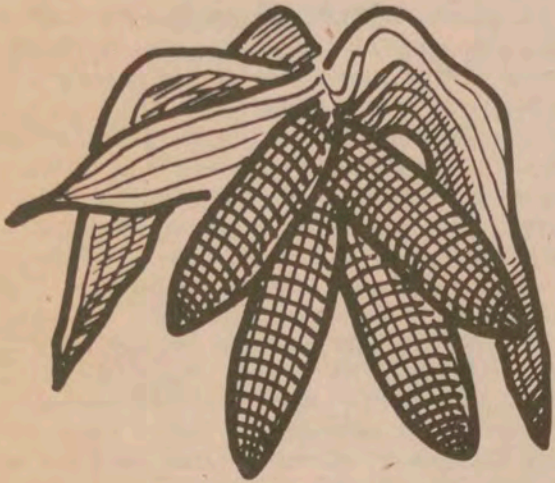
-Garry Nabess
Vice-President

A N U L E T T E

Most stories start with the words: "Once upon a time -----My story is about real people and real events; about Metis families and their customs. The names and years given will not correspond, but let not the historians complain.

Napoleon Houle had taken part in the successful buffalo hunt of the summer of 1845. His stock of pemmican was satisfactory to last for years, but pemmican was not a regular diet in his house; it was there only as a supplement during the bad hunting seasons.

Together with his neighbors, Joseph Wentzel, Antoine Larocque and Pierre Morin, all from Pointe Coupee, Napoleon had spent some time in the fall collecting Indian corn, onions and potatoes from the gardens which they had planted in the spring.



Then they had gone with their families to their winter camps on the Rat River some twenty miles southeast of Pointe Coupee, where pine and tamarac replace oak and elm trees.

Winter camps were comfortable, because the houses were built of logs. They were set along the river with the door facing south. These houses had windows with parchment skins replacing normal panes of glass. Fireplaces and chimneys supplied the heat and the light. Some had wooden floors, others dirt floors.



The Rat River district was good for small game hunting and for trapping. There was abundant firewood close by, as well as hay for the horses and livestock.

Snow fell early in November; rivers froze along the banks but remained clear of ice in the centre for many weeks.

Mrs. Wentzel, the former Angelique Lariviere took the opportunity of some mild weather to make a batch of soap. This was always done outside because of the smell. This was done by melting the fat collected over the last while and placed in a large cast iron cauldron, over an open fire. WHEN THE FAT HAD GONE FREE OF IMPURITIES, Mrs. Wentzel added some ashes, and pine resin, stirred it for a while, then she let the fire die and the soap came to the surface of the cauldron and hardened. Next morning she called on her husband to help cut the soap into cakes and the children used their little sleigh to take it to the utility shed and put them on shelves.

Time goes by fast at the winter camp; soon it will be Christmas and the children had heard the elders say that this year, Christmas midnight mass was to be said in St. Norbert. So on December the 22nd, each family hitched a team of hor-

ses to their sleigh (two runners of birch joined by a platform and on which a box-like frame had been set), took some provisions, and buffalo robes to keep the children warm and headed for St. Norbert by following a path along the Rat River up to Laferte's place. By turning north for a distance of five miles to bypass a number of poplar bluffs, they came to a trail that took them to the main road used by travellers between Winnipeg and Pembina.

The small caravan would have made very good time if it weren't for Antoine Larocque's wife (the former Elise Savoyard) who insisted on hitching a cow "Caillette" behind the sleigh, a necessary milk supply for her twins Lucie and Pierre.

As they approached St. Norbert from the east side of the Red River, they met some of their relatives, the Versailles and were invited in for a meal of fish which was enjoyed by all. The children were so happy to see their friends of last summer's hunt.

Sitting by the fireplace was an old man with long white whiskers who was telling stories of his youth when he was a voyageur for the North West Company. How he used to travel by canoe up the Saskatchewan River. Nicholas Montour was his name and his comrades used to be Jos Charou, Simon Allen, Andre Bellefleur, and an Iroquois named Tisato. All have gone now.

Thanking the Versailles for their hospitality and inviting them to spend the New Year's Holiday at the Rat River, Napoleon Houle called on his wife to get the children ready to continue their trip, as they intended to go over to Francois Charette's place on the west side of the river where their oldest daughter, Josette, was working.

The Charette's house was the most beautiful building around St. Norbert. It was used as a half-way house for travellers and fur traders. Some people say that it was built in 1802 by two voyageurs who used to build churches in Lower Canada around Trois-Rivieres. Their names were Quesnel and Lussier. They had built this house in the hope of opening a trading post of their own. The house was made of oak logs, dovetailed at the corner joints. It was forty feet long and twenty two feet wide with an attic which was used as storage and sleeping quarters. The main floor was divided into three rooms; a large room, consisting of a good half of the building was the general hall where people met, while in the east corner was the master's bedroom and the other room was the kitchen. By the kitchen door was a lean-to building of some ten square feet where the firewood was kept. The house had two fireplaces, one at each end, and the chimneys were made of mortar and whitewashed with lime.

For many years, whenever a missionary would visit the St. Norbert district, the Charette's house was used to say mass; but this year, midnight mass will be in the unfinished new chapel at the point where the Sale River joins the Red. There will be singing by Goulet, the Hudson Bay clerk and by Miss Nolin, the school teacher from Pembina. William Bird will play the fiddle, this year because Gabriel Lafournaise is away to Red Lake and is not expected back until spring thaw.

So, for two days, people prepared themselves for Christmas. It was a time of joy, to welcome the Prince of Peace.

December 24th ----- Father Lestang arrives from St. Boniface ----- the chapel has become very active -----

Women and children are there first to go to confession ----- men will follow ----- just before midnight -----

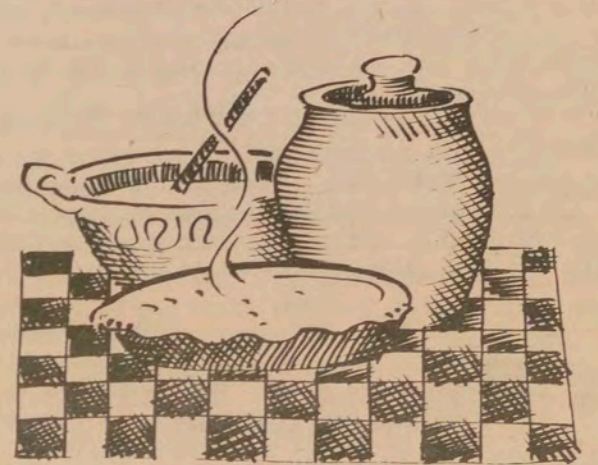
The chapel is lit by many candles; the altar is decorated with pine branches and red paper flowers. Father Lestang, draped in white garments and accompanied by four altar boys walk to the altar singing, Il est ne le divin Enfant (Christ is Born) and Goulet with his powerful voice follows with the Sequence, while William Bird scratches his fiddle slightly out of tune.

Christ is born, Alleluia, Alleluia. The children are anxious to see from close the infant Jesus in the manger. Who had made those papier mache animals and statues surrounding the new born child? No one knew for sure.



So the men started to file out of the chapel followed by their families. Napoleon was to spend the night in a cottage by the Charette's house. This little cottage was equipped with a Carron stove imported from Scotland. It had no fireplace so candles were used to light the room.

As soon as the whole family gathered around the table in the centre of the cottage, where plates had been set before going to the chapel, Mrs. Houle served the "reveillon". It consisted of a substantial meal of meat balls, bannock and tea, followed by a pie a la pitouche, that is, chopped hazel nuts in a local maple sugar sauce.

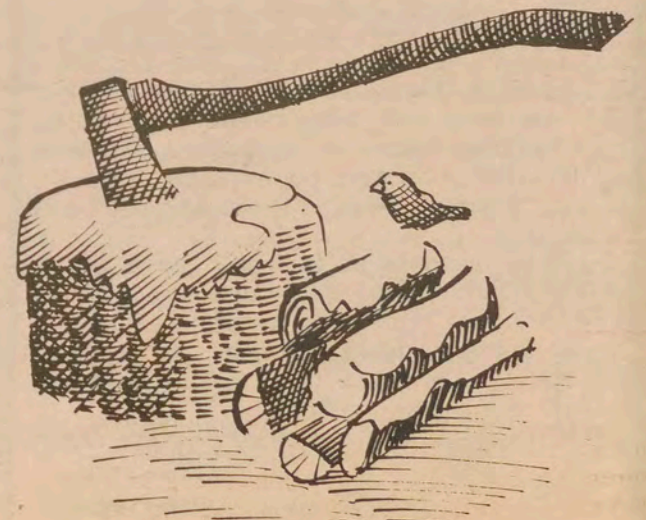


Their daughter, Josette, was allowed to leave her duties at the Charettes to take the "reveillon" with her family. She had another reason to be there as she told her pa and ma that she was receiving special courtship from a young man from Baie St. Paul by the name of Patrice Paquin. "My, my" said Napoleon; "this is good news; I like young Patrice very much; he is one of the best young riders that I have seen in action, and their family had at least ten carts in last summer's buffalo hunt."

After a good night sleep, Napoleon was up to feed his horses and prepared the journey back to the Rat River winter camps, inviting many for New Year's Day.

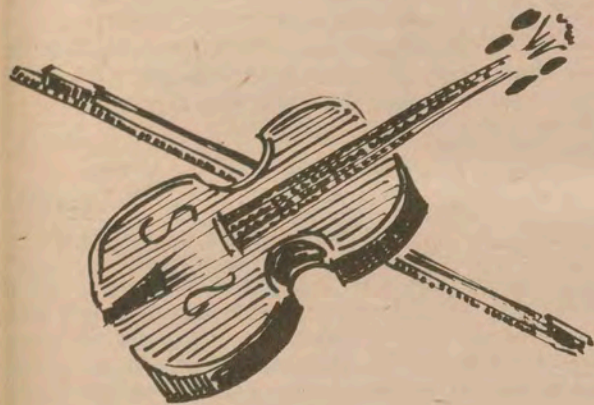
The way home going was slow since snow had been falling all morning, but their dog guided the party by following the beaten path. No problems were encountered until they reached Laferte's place.

Napoleon stopped to rest his horses and the family had a meal, but it was time to move again when the wind started blowing from the west. Wentzel and Houle discussed the danger of



STORY

proceeding through the open prairie in the danger of the "poudrerie" (blowing snow). Finally, it was agreed to go ahead, that each item of horses would follow one another closely, and stay on the south side of the trees banking the Rat River. Wentzel's team was the first because of his harness bells, followed by the sleighs without bells and Larocque closed the caravan. All were safely in camp by eight o'clock that evening.



Christmas was over; Christmas had always been strictly a religious feast, but New Year's Day coming was another matter. Hospitality was a way of life at the Rat River, and New Year was the time of the joyous reunions. Hospitality was best marked by greeting your relatives and friends and inviting them to share your meal.

Among your relatives, there was your regular parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins, but also people such as those with whom your grandfather may have traded horses or dogs.

During the meal, everyone did a song - Metis were natural singers. The songs were those of the old voyageurs songs of a pretty shepherdess mending her sheep, songs of French princes hunting white ducks songs of "le rossignol"

when there are no nightingale birds in this country.

With the meal finished, dancing would follow. The music was supplied by the fiddlers and sometimes by others who played the drums, accordions, or mouth organs.

It was a contest as to who would sing best, played best and danced best.

Many moccasins gave up before the dance was over. Whenever the house had a wooden floor, the boards would squeak under the rhythm of the dancers' feet; but if the house had a dirt floor, many a spectator who sat along the walls breathed the dust raised by the moccasins and was often forced to go outside for fresh air.

The dances were a mixture of the "rigodons" from France, the Irish Jig and some ceremonial Indian dances, probably the scalp dance. It is from such dances that the Red River jig must have started.

New Years Day was the once a year time when the men were allowed to kiss the girls, wishing them "bonne annee". Women kissed each other and the children on the cheeks. Many little boys and girls hated the custom, not because they didn't like to be kissed, but because some gave them wet kisses.

The New Year festivities lasted for many days. White whisky was scarce, but the good food was plentiful. People were happy, and the New Year meant forgiveness for one and all, a tradition of many generations. There were twenty families at the Rat River; a chance to rejoice twenty times, always under the watchful eye of the elder. A HAPPY New Year, bonne annee!

Emile Pelletier

IMESA



(L-R) Bruce Montour, Norbert Mercredi, Judy Courchene, Larry Dysart.

On October 25, the Indian-Metis-Eskimo Students' Association (IMESA) held its first meeting of the term at the Youth Opportunities Unlimited office at 355 Langside Street in Winnipeg. The purpose of the meeting was to elect a new executive, and the following students were selected: Bruce Montour (President); Norbert Mercredi (Vice-President); Judy Courchene (Secretary-Treasurer); and Larry Dysart (Programme Co-ordinator).

IMESA has been in existence since 1971 when a group of Native students organized themselves as a result of a growing number of Native students at the post-secondary level. Its members include students from the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg and from Red River Community College. In 1972, IMESA requested and was provided with an office and lounge at the University of Manitoba and it also receives the services of a student advisor, Mrs. Ahab Spence, whose office is within that of IMESA.

Since it has become organized, IMESA has been actively involved in attempting to implement the establishment of a Native Studies Department at the University of Manitoba and undoubtedly, the newly-elected executive will continue to strive for such a justifiable goal.

Small Business Management Course

Keewatin Community College in The Pas will be offering a six-week course in small business management beginning January 7, 1974. This course is open to everyone, but it is especially designed for Native people.

The Regional Offices are urgently requested to recommend persons who would be interested in this course. Normally, these are:

- people who are in business and who wish to improve their management capacity.
- persons who are planning to go into business, or perhaps planning to apply to Special ARDA for a project.

Manpower rates apply as follows:

Single persons	\$55/week
Married - 1 dependent	\$68/week
2 dependents	\$79/week
3 dependents	\$88/week
4 dependents	\$95/week

The living allowances are \$27/week.

The co-ordinator for the course is the Canada Manpower Office in The Pas, but interested persons may contact their nearest Canada Manpower Office and these offices will telex The Pas with the information.

The course content will be as follows:

- Management Process** - Includes basic business concepts, importance of good management, economic importance of small business, roles of management, success and failure in business, business and the community, and business ethics.
- Finance, Accounting and Bookkeeping I** - teaches students how to carry out and record the various types of business transactions, start a bookkeeping system, and perform simple accounting tasks such as preparing financial statements.
- Finance, Accounting, and Bookkeeping II** - continues the development of bookkeeping and accounting skills; also includes the study of financial statements, planning, budgeting, and controlling.
- Marketing** - Consists of a variety of topics including defining a market, sizing up opportunities, selecting the correct product, pur-

chasing, stockkeeping, price setting and means of promoting one's business.

- (a) **Business Law** - covers the following legal topics which vitally concern small businessmen: the legal forms of business organization, the process of setting up a business, contracts, insurance, leases, mortgages, transfer of real estate, insolvency and bankruptcy.
- (b) **Office Procedure** - stresses the need for systematic procedures in respect of filing, handling mail and controlling office supplies and providing the necessary skills to fulfill these needs.
- Personal Finance** - Emphasizes the importance of separating family and business money matters. Topics are designed to facilitate orderly family finance to minimize the chances of

family money problems affecting the success of the business. Content includes paying oneself, family budgeting, importance of personal savings, consumer credit, calculating interest, personal insurance and wills.

A five-month course on business management is also proposed and may begin in the spring. The Vice-Presidents of the Manitoba Metis Federation are requested to recommend top calibre people for this course. A meeting has been held on this subject with Canada Manpower and it was suggested then that the best people from the six-week course starting on January 7 should be selected and recommended for the five-month course. But others may also qualify.

If anyone is interested or requires further information, please contact your Regional Vice-President as soon as possible.

Native Club Elects New Board

On Saturday, October 27, the Winnipeg Native Club held its annual meeting on its premises at 150 River Avenue. Some 41 native people turned out to elect a new Board of Directors. Prior to the elections, executives of the old Board presented their Annual Report, outlining the serious financial situation which the Club presently faces. It was also stated that the newly-elected Board would be responsible for devising ways and means by which the Native Club could "get back on its feet". For example, the facilities of the Club should be used and supported to a greater extent, particularly by the various native organizations and programs throughout the city.

The following Directors were elected to the eleven-member Board:

George Munore - President
 Mary Richard - Vice-President
 Julie Courchene - Secretary
 Dorothy Betz - Treasurer
 Alex Caldwell
 Gary Robson
 Ernie Guilbault
 Vic Pierre

Lloyd Henderson
 Dorothy Settee
 Louise Chippeway

On the same evening, a dance was held at the Club and among the activities being planned by the newly-elected Board is a fund-raising dinner scheduled for December 14 at the Native Club.

Native Students Awarded Bursaries

On Thursday, December 6, a reception was held in the Staff Lounge of the Education Building at the University of Manitoba in honour of five Native students who were awarded bursaries from the Faculty of Education Alumni Fund. These bursaries were awarded to successful applicants who are enrolled in the teacher-training course at the University.

The M.M.F. News wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate the recipients, which are: Frances Rose Campbell, Kathleen Leary, Linda Ann McKay, Grace Ross, and Debra Lee Simard.

Shannon and Maria

During the month of November, the Manitoba Metis Federation sponsored a concert tour featuring RCA Victor Recording Artist Shannon Two Feathers (originally from Sandy Bay, Manitoba) and his wife, Maria Campbell, author of the bestseller *Halfbreed*. Beginning in Winnipeg, the tour included shows in 17 Manitoba communities, as well as appearances at the Stony Mountain Farm Annex and the Portage Women's jail.

Unfortunately, because of illness, Shannon was forced to cancel his final three appearances, which were scheduled for Stony Mountain (Main Institution), Headingley Correctional Institute, and the Winnipeg Native Club.

Attendance at the concerts varied greatly - from standing-room-only audiences at Camperville, Eddystone and Amaranth to disappointingly small crowds at Brandon, Swan River and Thompson.

The Manitoba Metis Federation wishes to express its appreciation to all those who turned out to support these two fine examples of Canadian Native talent and to those who provided such warm hospitality during the tour.

The following three articles will indicate to our readers the general response to the quality of entertainment that was provided by the concert tour:

Shannon Two Feathers Concert A Success

The Shannon Two Feathers concert, held at M.B.C.I. on November 20th, was very enjoyable. All the songs he sang were written by him, but the hour and a half program was only time enough for a small part of the many songs he has written.

His hit song at this time is "The Prisoner", recorded on RCA Victor, with "Sweet Gypsy Hair" on the flip side.

After being introduced by John Burelle of the Manitoba Metis Federation, Shannon Two Feathers sang several songs, followed by an explanation of how he came to write these songs through real life incidents happening to him or his friends. He sang another song or two, then introduced his beautiful wife, Maria Campbell.

She is a very soft spoken person, who told the audience a little about herself and how she came to write her famous best seller *HALFBREED*. She then read several passages from her book, starting with her childhood as she remembers it. She told of going out into the bush in Northern Saskatchewan, picking berries and seneca root and living off the land, travelling with her parents and grandparents with brothers and sisters, with most of their belongings on the wagon. Each day other teams of horse and wagon would join their group, and at journey's end there would be an eight or ten wagon caravan. There they

would live as long as there were berries and seneca root to pick.

Most of the crowd that attended the concert knew well her childhood story of living out of the grub box, of tea and bannock, snaring rabbits and taking the 22 rifle and hunting partridges that was the way of life of all the people of native ancestry. The reading of her book brought back many memories of the crowd's childhood days.

Shannon Two Feathers again sang his songs, telling the audience in which part of the world some particular



song was a favourite. He has travelled extensively through Ireland and continental Europe, to cities too numerous to mention. As well, he has travelled throughout the U.S.A. He has sung in company with Johnny Cash, Merle Haggart and many other famous people.

Shannon Two Feathers told the crowd that he was once called an apple Indian, red on the outside and white on the inside. This name calling was done by Indians in the U.S.A., so he later wrote a song about Apple Indians.

After the program Maria Campbell and Shannon Two Feathers came down off the stage, talked with the people and signed autographs. A small token of appreciation for the very enjoyable evening was presented to Maria Campbell by Mrs. Margaret Head, on behalf of The Pas Local of the Metis Federation.

- The Pas Herald
Thursday, November 29, 1973

Maria Campbell & Shannon Two-Feathers

The concert was held last Friday night at the community Hall in Wabowden and was a most enjoyable two hours. The hall was packed with a good mixture of people.

Maria and Shannon more than were worth the admission fee. For a man with a powerful voice, his songs about life as it is, especially for native people, were good to listen to. The protest songs such as "Muskrats & Welfare" and "Revenue Man" were originals that will be worth waiting for when Shannon releases his L.P. album. His stories were very humorous and at the same time carried a message that could be understood.

Maria read from her book, and the passages were more memorable than actually reading her book. The life she lead and supported by her wise family is one that can be identified.

Maria appeared nervous at first but it did not take her long for her to feel comfortable with the crowd.

They talked easily with the crowd during intermission. They both are No. 1 and having attended the concert it is easy to know why.

- Bayline Weekly
December 3, 1973

Advice from Maria Campbell

At her concert with Shannon Two Feathers in Eddystone Maria Campbell spoke to the young people in the audience. She said that Native people would not save their culture merely by the wearing of long hair and beads. She went on to say that Native people must preserve their culture (one of the best ways is to learn their native language) as well as be able to live in the mainstream of society. This would mean becoming doctors, lawyers, plumbers, in other words accepting the fact that change can only come about if people are taking an active role in society. This means staying in school, something Maria admitted she found was difficult to do herself; but, if native people are going to improve their future, then they must be prepared to work for it. She added that the greatest part of the struggle is yet to come.

- Manipogo News
December 10, 1973

Woodsmoke and Sweetgrass



Hostesses - Gisele & Sheryl.

For those Winnipeg television viewers who are fortunate enough to have cable vision in their homes, they may tune into Channel 9 at 10:30 p.m. every Tuesday to watch a new series entitled "Woodsmoke and Sweetgrass". This is an informative half-hour program primarily devoted to interviewing various native people in the community.

Having received initial support from the Winnipeg Local of the Manitoba Metis Federation, the program began on November 6. Its hostesses are Sheryl Theobald and Gisele de Montigny, who have donated their time, along with cameraman Cliff Thomas, to make such a program possible. Both hostesses have been kept very busy since the month of October, gathering material and recruiting guests for their show.

Although the programs are presently confined to interviewing within the television studio, Gisele has informed us that they are hoping to do some taping outside the studio as soon as possible, thereby adding even more variety and content to their program.

Although they have not had any previous experience in television production, both Sheryl and Gisele are to be commended for a very fine start and the reaction of many viewers to their program has been largely positive.

Our readers may recall that Sheryl participated in the Metis Pride summer project in 1972 and many of her writings appear in "Stories of the Metis". She is presently employed as a music teacher by the St. James-Assiniboia School Division in Winnipeg. Gisele, a University student, has worked on programs with the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood and is currently involved in voluntary work with the Native Clan Organization.

Dauphin Region Elects Art Dame

Delegates from the Dauphin Region attended a Regional Meeting at the King's Hotel in Dauphin on November 9 and 10. Included on the agenda was the election of a new Board of Director. Art Dame of the Ste. Rose Local was successful in obtaining a victory over two other candidates - Thelma Houle (Bacon Ridge) and Raymond "Boxer" Guiboche (Dauphin).



Art's past experience with the Manitoba Metis Federation includes membership of the Ste. Rose Local for four years, Housing Co-ordinator for the Dauphin Region for one year, and Board of Director for one year (having been forced to resign due to illness.).

Art, who is 47 years old, was born in Ste. Rose du Lac and joined the Army at the end of the Second World War. Later, he married the former Jean Wahlund of Edmonton. They have a family of fourteen children (seven boys and seven girls), the oldest four of which are employed at the West Coast. Before settling in Ste. Rose, the Dame family lived in Winnipeg for ten years where Art was employed by local breweries, and then in Meadow Portage, where he operated a mink

ranch. More recently, Art had the misfortune of suffering from a lengthy illness, having spent a year and a half in hospital, where he underwent surgery seven times. Fortunately, however, he has recuperated since then and has stated that he is prepared to serve the Manitoba Metis Federation for as long as possible. He has also expressed the belief that one of the major roles of a Board of Director is to maintain a strong working relationship with the Locals of his Region.



Southeast

Continued from page 3

seen, first hand, the need for such a program. We hope that the Department of Manpower will accept our proposal and that it will be started as soon as possible.

The Locals in this Region have numerous activities planned for the New Year. Such activities as dances, raffles, bazaars and bingos are providing social events much appreciated by the people. In Richer, for example, the Craft Club meets every Tuesday afternoon and hopes to set up a Crafts' Shop sometime next spring.

A Regional Meeting will be held at the Balmoral Hotel in Winnipeg on December 16. Included on the agenda is the election of a new member to the Board of Directors. We hope to have everyone represented at that time.

Congratulations are in order for Mrs. Connie Eyolfson, our Vice-President, who gave birth to a girl (Brigitte) on November 24th.

Richer Local News

Our Sadie Hawkins dance on November 17 was a fun affair to most of the 146 people in attendance. Music was ably supplied by The Minstrels. The \$10.00 prize offered for the best corsage was won by Claude Faucher. Our three judges, Mr. Adrien Bruce, Mrs. Celina Johnson and Mr. Alex Willman had a tough job picking a winner out of the many outstanding corsages. The net profits of the dance came to \$113.79. The Local Committee, Phil and Dora May Gauthier, and Rosaire Curtaz would like to thank all those who helped them during the evening: Adelaide Garand, Ann Curtaz, Yvette Sansregret, Lucienne Blair, Celina Johnson, Rita Claeys, Adrien Bruce, Raymond Claeys, Alex Willman, Roger and Pauline Semko and Emma Dutiaume.

The Richer Local Craft Club is meeting every Tuesday afternoon. We now have eight members and hold these sessions from one member's home to another. This allows each member to be hostess and is proving to be a pleasurable way to spend an afternoon each week, while getting to know each other better. We work on our projects for an hour and a half, then play a couple of games of bingo. Ideas and plans for possible fund-raising activities are discussed over a lunch provided by the hostess of the week. We have attracted two new members to our Local since we started four weeks ago.

There are two bursaries for high school students awarded to children of our members. Fernand Garand and Marilyn Curtaz received \$25.00 each. Our thanks to Al Chartrand for his efforts on our behalf. Our thanks is also extended to him for sending out a few more copies of "Stories of the Metis". They were appreciated by members who received them.

We are selling tickets on a prize draw to be held on December 23, 1973, just in time for Christ-

mas. Our prizes will be a 9 in. Portable T.V., a Clock-radio, and an Electric Frypan. Tickets are 50 cents each or 3 for \$1.00.

Our Local collected used clothing for a rummage sale, but since this would be too popular in our area, we have decided to send these clothes to needy people at Princess Harbour. We hope they will help to keep folks up there warm this winter.

Our Secretary and all the people of our community are co-operating with John Coutu in his effort to make a Population Survey of the Metis in Manitoba. This seems to be an impossible task without adequate help.

We have begun distributing applications for the Housing Repair Program. Since all members know that our Local Committee members work on a voluntary basis, you cannot expect them to deliver every application that comes out to your door. Attend meetings or drop in at your chairman's home anytime and pick up an application, if you need one.

Ernie Guilbault and Stan Sommerville came to our Local Meeting on September 4 and have returned a couple of times since, offering help to anyone seeking a job. They are working out of Manpower on the Pathfinders Program. We have received three applications so far. Two of the applicants found jobs for themselves, so Ernie is working to help the remaining applicant. If anyone in our area would like further information on this program, please contact your Local Chairman.

We had a couple of people interested in applying for the Local Initiatives Program, however, on further inquiry, we found that the money available was for wages only; no allowance was made for materials. So we weren't able to apply this year. We must prepare for next year, beginning right now.

-Dora May Gauthier
Secretary-Treasurer
Richer Local



Portage Local Activities



(L-R) Peter Richard, Larry Spence, and Joyce Popeil.

The Portage Local of the Southwest Region is very much alive. If one were to attend one of its regular meetings, which are usually held on the third Sunday of every month, he would soon notice the progress and unity which this Local has established.

The centre of its activity is the Prosvita Hall in Portage la Prairie. The executive of the Portage Local is comprised of the following dedicated leaders: Larry Spence (Chairman), Peter Richard (Vice-Chairman), Joyce Popeil (Secretary-Treasurer) and Alice Bousquet (Program Committee Chairman). The ever-increasing membership is presently above 80. Most of its activities are social and fund-raising in nature. Its basic economic source is its bingos which are held every second Sunday evening. From the funds raised at these bingos, the Local is able to hold Halloween parties for youngsters in the community, provide Christmas hampers for the underprivileged, supply television rentals for people in distress, etc. Volunteers from the Local also visit children at the Manitoba School, which is located in Portage.

The Portage Local is determined that a Migration Centre will become a reality in Portage la Prairie by April 1, 1974. Recently, it has also become more directly and actually involved in the operation of the Indian-Metis Friendship Centre in Portage; some of the Local members have been elected to its Board of Directors. Also included among its future plans is the purchase of its own hall. At present, the members of the Portage Local are busy preparing for a Christmas Social.

The Native Canadian

Editor's Note: The following article was submitted to the MMF News by Martha Jerome, a 17-year-old twelfth-grade Metis student attending Roblin Collegiate. Articles of this nature are always welcome for publication, especially from such talented writers like Martha.

We are the remains of a rare breed. We are a cross between the French-Canadian from the East and the Plains Indian from the West. But where did we come from? How did we live and how do we continue to live in a country of so many different races? What is our future in Canada where we are neither French, Indian, nor English?

We never came from some far off land but were born in Canada. When the first ships landed on the Canadian shores only the Indians were here to greet them. This is where we began. The immigrants came to depend on the Indians, for without them they would have had no furs. If they had had no furs, they would have had no trade or money. They soon began to intermarry and to produce families.

Our people were the backbone of the fur trade. They were good voyageurs, healthy, strong, and eager to work. They could speak both French and Indian so they provided communication between the two races. They never became wealthy because this occupation didn't provide them with much income.

We are still not a wealthy race. We are not caged on reservations, but we're not free from Canadian prejudice. We will never be equal to the French or English Canadians; yet we are more Canadian than they. We talk English and hide our true identities behind English and French names. We are farmers, lawyers, teachers, and anything. We are Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, and Baptist. We have few poets or scientists to credit our race. But we are a proud race, living in the minds and hearts of our people.

We must tell our children of their ancestry. We realize there is no future for us, but we must try to maintain our pride. Our race will slowly dwindle and die. We must be brave.

- Martha Jerome
San Clara, Manitoba



Curtis Fontaine and Award.



Profiles

The M.M.F. News wishes to congratulate Curtis Fontaine who was the 1973 recipient of the Department of Health and Social Development's Gold Medal for Outstanding Performance. This award is presented to the top student enrolled in the Social Welfare Services Course at Red River Community College. This is the first time that such an award has been received by a Native student enrolled in the course.

If any high school student contemplating on dropping out were to seek Curtis's advice today, his reaction would be: "DON'T! It was really hard going back. If I'd have known how hard it was, I wouldn't have quit". In saying so, Curtis speaks as a man of experience. Having dropped out of school in grade eleven, he took on a series of jobs before finding what he really wanted. This included cutting and installing carpets for Genser's, Appliance Parts Supervisor for Simpson Sears Warehouse, and Parts Supervisor for Motor Coach Industries. Upon the advice of Canada Manpower, he enrolled in an Appliance Repair Course at Red River Community College. Since this reawakened his desire to learn, he decided to complete his high school education at the Adult Education Centre in Winnipeg.

By this time, Curtis developed an interest in the Social Sciences so he decided to enroll in the Social Welfare Services course at Red River Community College. He feels that his decision to do so was influenced largely by his mother, who graduated from the course in 1972. Since he was married with a family of 3, Curtis found it necessary to finance his way through school and was employed as a Shift Co-ordinator by the Main Street Project in Winnipeg. It was during this time that he learned how to deal with people, gained an insight into the problems they have, and how to cope with them. In looking back, he believes that he also learned mostly about himself.

Since graduating, Curtis has been employed by the Native Clan Organization as House Supervisor of its Halfway House at 808 Wolseley Avenue in Winnipeg (see M.M.F. News, October 1973). His duties include overseeing the total operation of the Halfway House; providing counselling for its residents and supervision of the House staff. When asked to comment about his job, Curtis replied: "The most challenging thing about my job right now is trying to do all I want to do in a 24-hour day. It's definitely not a 9-to-5 job!" Through his job, he is hoping to gain enough experience to become a Parole Officer and his future plans include a degree in Social Work.



Maria Campbell Recalls Christmas



Excerpt from **Halfbreed** (McClelland and Stewart Ltd., Toronto.)

"On Christmas Eve, Grannie, Mom, Jamie and I always went into the bush for a tree. We decorated it with red and green crepe paper, some ornaments Mom had from her mother, and strings of pop corn coloured with crepe paper. There was an angel for the top branch, but no one put it there for that was Daddy's job. Then Mom laid out our best clothes while we all bathed in a washtub, and then put us to bed. At ten-thirty we got up and dressed for midnight Mass. It was a thrilling time - outside we could hear sleigh bells ringing and people laughing and calling back and forth as they drove to church.

Right in the middle of all this Daddy would always walk in, with a full-grown beard and a sack full of fur on his back. First he swung Mom off her feet and kissed her, and then we climbed all over him. I remember that he always smelled like wild mink. He washed himself while Mom and Grannie put his packs away, then we all dressed warmly and walked to church with Grannie Campbell. Cheechum stayed home and kept the fire going.

After Mass we talked around the big heater in the church, and friends and relatives all kissed each other. Then we'd all go home, for that was the one night families spent together at home. Daddy would tell us all the things that had happened to him while he was on the trapline. While Mom tidied up and my grannies smoked their pipes, he put the angel on the tree, and we would say our prayers and go to bed.

Jamie and I always woke everyone up at five o'clock. In the living room our stockings were plumb full and overflowing with nuts and candy canes, oranges and apples - the only ones we ate all year. Under the tree there were gifts for everyone. Mom got a comb and mirror from Daddy; he got shaving lotion; and our grannies got cloth for new dresses. We were given blocks made and painted by Dad and Mom, home-made dolls which looked like the modern day "Raggedy Anns," and shoes from our grannies. Then Daddy made pancakes. That was the only meal he ever

cooked while Mom was still alive. He made huge pancakes, and while we all stood around, wide-eyed and breathless, he would toss them in the air and catch them right back in the pan.

Christmas dinner was the highlight of the day. It consisted of meat balls rolled in flour, stewed moose meat, all covered with moose fat, mashed potatoes, gravy, baked squash and pemmican made of dried meat ground to a powder and mixed with raisins, smashed chokecherries and sugar. After that we filled ourselves with the pudding and cakes until we could hardly move.

All the families visited back and forth during the holidays. After supper, furniture was moved against the wall or put outside while the fiddlers tuned their fiddles. Soon they were sawing out a mean hoedown or a Red River jig, and everyone was dancing. Each family held a dance each evening and we never missed any of them. The hostess baked a nickel inside her cake and whoever got it in his piece held the dance the next night. We stuffed ourselves during those holidays until we hurt, because it would be a year before we would eat like that again. One thing about our people is that they never hoard. If they have something they share alloo it with each other, regardless of good or bad fortune. Maybe that's why we're so damn poor.

Old Yes-Sant Arcand put on a dance at his house once a year and invited everyone. He lived on top of a very steep hill with a lake at the bottom. His grandchildren used the hill for a slide in winter and poured water down it so that it was really icy, and with a sled you could go almost to the middle of the lake. I remember one party he had in particular. We all came - Campbells and Vandals together from our area, as well as Arcands from the other area and the Sandy Lake Indians too. As we arrived Mom said, "There's going to be a fight for sure with those Sandy Lake people here," but I paid little attention because there was never a good dance unless there was a good fight. Yes-Sant's cabin was a very long one-room log house with a big stove and heater, and

four beds on one side. He had dragged all the furniture outside so there was plenty of room to dance. Hé was also the proud owner of the largest cellar in the country with a huge trap-door on the floor.

Everybody was enjoying themselves, dancing and eating, when suddenly a fight broke out. The mothers chased all the little kids under the beds and we big ones climbed up to the beams to watch. Soon everyone was fighting and no one knew who was hitting who - Dad even punched out his brother. The heater pipes were knocked over and there was smoke everywhere; then the kitchen stove pipes went down. Dad finally made it to the door and threw it open. Whenever someone came near the door Daddy would slug him and he would go sliding head first or backwards down the slippery hill to the lake. The lights went out and it was pitch black inside, mothers were yelling, kids screaming - a total mass of confusion! Cheechum got Mom and another lady to help her open the trap-door and some of the men fell in. Finally, everyone was either down hill or in the cellar. (When they tried to climb out Cheechum would hit them on the head with her cane). When everything had settled down, the women lit the lamps and laughed as they set the place to order and got us kids back to bed. Cheechum shut the trap-door and said, "Let them all stay in the cellar and by the time the others climb the hill they'll all be sober." So furniture was hauled back in while some women made tea and everyone sat down to laugh and eat. The men outside weren't able to climb the hill, so they went into the barn with the horses to keep warm. When daylight came they found the path leading up to the house. Cheechum scolded them well and then she opened the trap-door and let the others out. What a sight they were with black eyes and smashed noses, nearly frozen and feeling foolish! She scolded them too, and hit a few. We never had a dance without a good fight and we enjoyed and looked forward to it as much as the dancing.



SOCIAL

The Winnipeg Native Club at 150 River Avenue was the scene of a successful "Social Evening",

Local and Social Notes



sponsored by the Winnipeg Local (formerly known as St. John Bosco) on November 24. Approximately 300 people were in attendance. The

music was capably supplied by Sterling Ranville and the Ranville Trio, which brought many people to the dance floor en masse with their rock, polkas and waltzes. During their intermissions, recorded tapes were played, leaving the dance floor somewhat bare. Many thanks to all who volunteered their services, such as collecting at the door, preparing food, attending the bar and cleaning up.

HOT LINE

A welcome resource to any community is a telephone. Now, the communities of Waterhen, Skownan and Mallard, in the Dauphin Region, are the proud owners of dial telephones, with the seven digit number. The total number of telephones is 81, as listed in the new Provincial Telephone Directory. This new service went into effect on November 28. The three communities were formally serviced by a centrally-located switch board, located in the North Star Camp, with only about ten 'phones in existence. I understand that the switchboard formerly used for the three communities will go into service at Salt Point, also in the Dauphin Region. This will definitely be an asset in that community, as will the road and hydro, when completed.

NEW LOCALS

The MMF News is pleased to announce that a new Local has been formed in the Rosburn area of the Southwest Region. It has adopted the name "Turkey Trail Local" and is under the Chairmanship of Jerry Roy who has recently moved to Manitoba from Eastern Canada. Two new Locals have also been added to the Dauphin Region: the Birch River Local (Joshua Brightnose-Chairman) and the San Clara Local (Mrs. Annie Short - Chairman)

BEREAVEMENT

Sympathy is extended to the Onofriechuk family of Roblin in the recent loss of their father. Doreen is an employee at the MMF Head Office.

-Gordon R.J. Samatte

Notice of Annual Conference

The Board of Directors of the Manitoba Metis Federation has called for an Annual Conference of Local delegates for Friday, February 1st, Saturday, February 2nd, and Sunday, February 3rd, 1974. The Conference will be held at the Oo-za-we-kwun Centre in Rivers, Manitoba.

Article IX, Paragraph 3 of the Constitution states:

"The General Conference shall be attended by three delegates from each Local, the Board of Directors, and Presidential candidates in an election year. The delegates shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer of each Local or their proxies."

1974 is an election year for the Presidency. Therefore, it is important that Presidential candidates are aware of the rules of the Constitution relating to the election of President.

Article IX, Paragraph 9 of the Constitution states:

"No person shall be eligible for election as President at the General Annual Conference unless not less than twenty one (21) days or more than thirty (30) days before the date appointed for the meeting, there shall be delivered to the Executive Committee a notice in writing signed by a member of the Federation qualified to attend and vote at the General Conference, nominating such person for election and also a notice in writing signed by that person of his willingness to be elected. The Provincial Headquarters shall immediately send a list of the candidates to all Locals of the Federation. This list shall include the names, addresses and a short biography of all candidates."

All Presidential candidates are requested to submit their nomination papers and information about themselves as required for the biographies to the Executive Director at the Head Office in Winnipeg.

Also, Article X, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution states:

"A candidate for the Presidency of the Federation must have served a minimum of one year in any elected or appointed position of the Manitoba Metis Federation."