



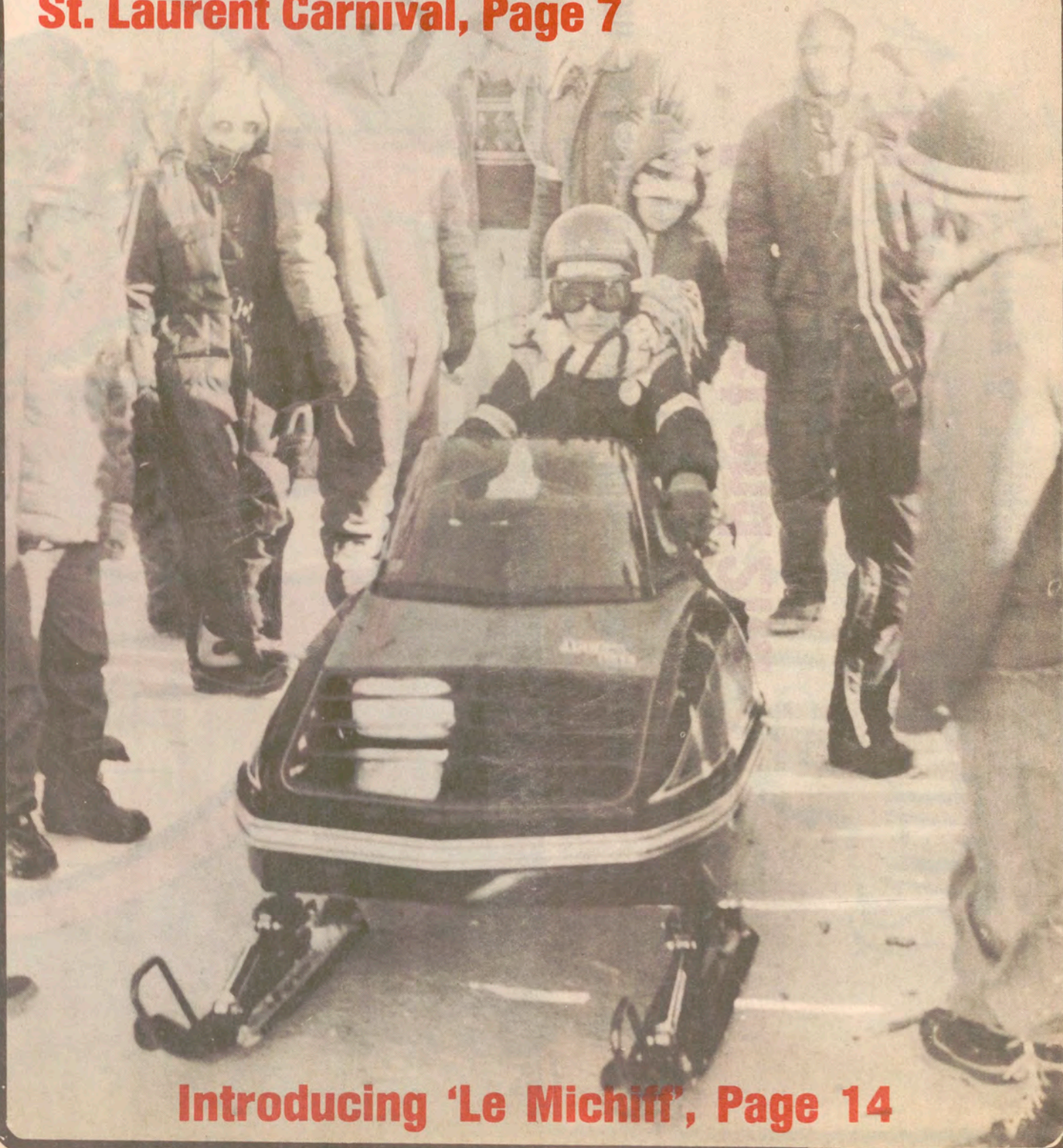
LE MÉTIS

VOLUME 6, NO. 2

35 cents

FEBRUARY, 1977

St. Laurent Carnival, Page 7



Introducing 'Le Michiff', Page 14

Natives form political group

By Doug Marshall



Ferdinand Guiboche (left), Manitoba Metis Land Claims Commissioner and Ovid Mercredi, a University of Manitoba Law School student exchange points at the initial meeting of the Native political coalition group.

Manitoba Metis and Non-Status Indians along with Indian people of the Province met January 27 & 28 to discuss native participation in the next governmental election.

The conference was a follow-up to a similar meeting three years ago. The earlier conference did not win wide following but, says current conference organizer, George Munroe, "there's a different procedure this time in that the people involved will be working as individuals and not as representatives of various Native organizations."

The first meetings took place on Thursday evening, January 27 during which time the structure of the conference was set out along with a plea for donations. The next day saw a more direct approach to the discussion at hand, and the main discussion centered around the fact of dispelling the public's view that Native peoples are incapable of working in politics.

Other discussions revolved around the problem of what party the Native candidate could run for. Loyalties to any established political party were set aside and the consensus was for Natives to run as Independants in as many constituencies as possible. Andrew Kirkness, elected in the Churchill constituency in the last election

pointed out that the cost was not prohibitive in campaigning as Native politicians often have a strong edge just by being in the running.

The favored ridings discussed as possible strong points for Native candidates included Churchill, Thompson, Rupertsland, The Pas, Ste. Rose and Inner Winnipeg.

A concentration of efforts was urged by Ovid Mercredi, a University of Manitoba law student. "We must not," he said, "weaken our efforts but aiming at getting involved or elected in too many regions. We must first present a strong front in just a few areas."

He further pointed out the possibility of a Native group being the balance of power in the next election. The Manitoba Liberal Party has only three members in the legislature and are not an "official Party".

With the thought in mind of organizing a later meeting, a "pass the hat" for funds took place to pay for expenses incurred. Unlike the experience of three years ago, this first group will meet again to carry out its aims and objectives. In fact a further two day weekend conference was held on February 26 & 27 to firm up the groups proposed activities for the next provincial election.

Manitoba Metis Land Claims . . . a pilot project?

By Doug Marshall

Ferdinand Guiboche, Manitoba Metis Land Claims Commissioner, John Morrisseau and Emile Pelletier of the Manitoba Metis Federation, along with Michael Sinclair, legal counsel for the Commission attended a meeting in Ottawa this month to determine the course of land claims for Manitoba Metis.

The four met with representatives of cabinet including Marc Lalonde, Robert Andras, Warren Almand and Francis Fox in a conference set up by the Native Council of Canada to discuss the aboriginal rights question in Canada.

The meeting resulted in the formation of a cabinet joint committee, working committee, and sub-committee to consider and negotiate funding for research and processing of Metis Land claims across the country. The committee was presented with a proposed four-year program of research by the Manitoba delegation who, according to government authorities, are "ahead of most provinces in working towards the settlement of aboriginal rights."

The Manitoba Metis Land Commissioner, Ferdinand Guiboche presented a proposed \$404 thou-

sand budget for the commission's first year of operation. As a result, the Manitoba proposal may become the pilot project for all Metis land claims in Canada.

In the announcement of this possibility, the cabinet committee also asked for the close involvement of the Native Council of Canada. This point was readily agreed upon by delegates to the conference, with the exception of Saskatchewan's delegates who walked out of the meetings, saying the government was not concerned about what was happening in the day-to-day living conditions of the Metis and Non-Status Indian People in their province.

"If the Land Claims Commission budget is approved", says Mr. Guiboche, "the activities of the commission will commence on April 1. When confirmation of the funding is received, advertisements to hire the proposed 16 staff members will be placed in Manitoba newspapers."

Mr. Guiboche declined comment on the amount of money he expected the committee to approve for the commission to operate in its first year, but he did say he expected it to be "a satisfactory figure".

Native leaders are wary of parole

Native leaders in the North are not enthused about a proposal to parole Native offenders back to their reserves instead of to city slums, a spokesman for the Native Clan Organization said.

Curtis Fontaine director of the organization said although a clan representative has been visiting the reserves to promote the idea, few band Leaders have responded to invitations to attend a meeting at Stony Mountain penitentiary.

The meeting with parole officials would examine the possibility of having the reserve bands take the responsibility for parole supervision. Supervision is now unavailable on most reserves.

"If the meeting doesn't happen as scheduled on March 4 & 5 it will be because of a lack of participation from the Native community leaders" Mr. Fontaine said.

Last year, 55 northern chiefs were invited to a similar conference "but I heard not one showed up" said penitentiary director Raymond Desrochers, "apparently one got as far as the door then turned back".

Most (inmates) would like to go back to the reserve, but so often they are not welcome. There may be legitimate reasons, but I think there should be some support in the Native communities for the man who is being released.

About 33 per cent of the prison's inmates are Native. In federal prisons as a whole, the average is about 8 per cent.

Guards, Native prisoners and officials at Stony Mountain told a recent hearing by a subcommittee of Parliament that there are more repeats of offenders among the Natives than among non-Natives. They said that a lack of parole

services in the North is to blame for forcing Natives on parole to live in an unfamiliar city environment.

Mr. Fontaine said that more than 30 chiefs have been invited to the March meeting, but "responses have been trickling in" and meeting may be postponed.

The clan representative has already visited most northern reserves with parole officials and is now beginning a second round of visits, he said.

"He is trying to get a commitment from some of the local chiefs, but there is a reluctance from the community people on having them return - not from all of them but from many."

"A lot of the leaders themselves don't have an inkling of what a penitentiary is about and they have a stereotyped view of the inmate" he said.

Courtesy of The Winnipeg Tribune

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The Athapaskans

'Strangers' who lived to the north of Cree territory



"Athapaskans" was originally a Cree Indian word referring to the "strangers" who lived to the north of Cree territory, especially around Lake Athabaska. Today it is the name given to a set of related languages spoken by a large number of North American Indian groups living in Alaska, in Canada as far east as Hudson Bay, and in continental United States south to northern Mexico.

The northern land they inhabit varies from barren subarctic tundra to open woodland, plateau and forested uplands. It is intersected by two great river systems, the Yukon and Mackenzie. Innumerable other rivers and lakes are scattered throughout Athapaskan territory. The climate is extreme and characterized by two distinct seasons, a short, warm summer and a long bitterly cold winter. Accordingly the traditional way of life of the Athapaskans followed a seasonal pattern.

In spring and summer they lived in bush shelters or tents covered with animal skins or sheets of bark. Once the ice thawed, travel was easy by bark canoe and family groups could move to summer campsites beside lakes or rivers. Fishing was an important activity especially in the west where large quantities of salmon come up the rivers to spawn. It was possible to store the surplus catch for future use. Moose, caribou, bear, rabbits and berries and a few other edible plants were gathered in season.

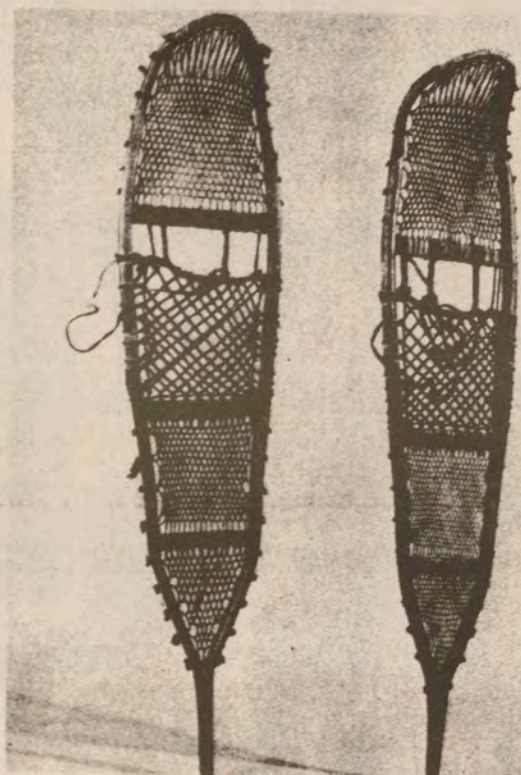
In winter, skin tents continued to be used in some areas. Log houses were constructed along the Mack-

enzie River and partly underground houses were built in the far northwest and in British Columbia. Travel was primarily by snowshoes, hand-drawn sleds and toboggans. In the northwest there was limited use of small dog teams. The Athapaskans hunted throughout the winter, and fished through the ice on lakes and rivers until the ice became too thick. Severe conditions often made survival difficult.

Athapaskan clothing was tailored from tanned caribou or moose skins. The hair was often left on for winter garments. Generally there was little difference between male and female dress, with both sexes wearing a long sleeved tunic or shirt, and trousers with moccasins. Mittens, belts and various kinds of caps or hoods were added as weather conditions required.

Traditionally Athapaskans used the raw materials provided by their environment: wood, stone, bone, and in particular bark and skins. Animal skins, tanned by a laborious process, were made into clothing, several types of bags, and tent covers. Thin strips of cut animal skins, or "babiche" were used for many purposes ranging from snowshoe netting to lashings for parts of a sled. Bark was bent, folded, and stitched to make cooking vessels, cups, plates, collecting baskets, cradles and for constructing houses and canoes.

Today many Athapaskan Indians live in government housing, travel by snowmobile, and purchase commercial goods in the local store or by mail order. Their children go to school and the old ways may soon be no more than a memory.



No money . . . but crews persist on winter jobs

ILFORD, MAN. - With no money to pay wages and little to buy food Shamattawa, Ilford and York Landing, Man., crews are still working on their winter road, fishing and trapping project.

Kip Thompson of Ilford, president of the Northern Manitoba Commercial Fisherman's Association, said despite repeated telephone calls to government officials none of the promised \$172,000 federal-provincial grants have reached here.

A \$92,000 federal Local Initiative Program grant was approved last fall to pay wages for men to build a road between Shamattawa and Ilford.

In mid-January the Provincial winter works committee approved a \$75,000 grant for the project to pay for food, camping and construction equipment.

"This grant is still bogged down in red tape although we phoned to Winnipeg about it almost every day," Mr. Thompson said.

The only money received so far is a \$600 contribution from the Federal Department of Indian Affairs to grubstake the 23 men who started building the road from Shamattawa.

"They've completed 20-miles of road. They've had no pay and I have no idea how they are getting food", Mr. Thompson said.

A fourteen man crew will start building a road from Big Stone Lake east to Whitefish Lake. They will have four large snowmobiles and two swamp buggies and are expected to complete their section of the road soon. The road builders from Shamattawa are also expected to complete their road to Whitefish Lake.

Vehicles and food for the men operating out of Big Stone Lake are being supplied temporarily by Mr. Thompson.

Six fishermen from Shamattawa and five from Ilford will operate on Whitefish Lake. They will ship their fish to the Ilford packing plant by snowmobile, which will save them costly air freight charges.

Ten trappers from Split Lake are also expected to use the camps and road facilities.

"These guys have shown a lot of guts going ahead on their own without waiting for the government to keep their promises," Mr. Thompson said.

(Courtesy of The Winnipeg Free Press)

Funds cut-off irks Native group

A Native organization in Winnipeg has charged the Manitoba government with poor judgment, after receiving word that funds for a family counsellor training program were being cut off.

The Native Family Life Counselling Program sent a telegram to Premier Ed Schreyer asking for a meeting to present its case and requesting a response.

At a recent press conference Cyril Keeper, director of the program, told reporters that Mr. Schreyer had not yet replied.

The program had been financed for two years to train Native people in family counselling. Out of the 13 students who started the course at Aberdeen School two years ago, 10 will graduate in March said Mr. Keeper.

"There are very few if any trained Native people in the social service system". "There should be

room in the system for trained Native people."

This year the proposed budget for the program had been \$187,000 but the Manitoba cabinet, citing restrictions on spending, trimmed that figure to \$100,000.

Last year Mr. Keeper estimated the program budget had been 160,000.

The program is handled through the Department of Colleges and University Affairs he said.

A spokesman in the office of the Premier said it was unlikely a meeting date could be set soon as Mr. Schreyer had been out of town.

(Courtesy of The Winnipeg Free Press)

Publications
from
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301 - 374 Donald Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2J2



Synopsis, Quotations & Prices Available on Request.

Festival of Life & Learning carries education theme



Tom Jackson in concert at the University of Manitoba's Festival of Life and Learning.

February 2 marked the beginning of the seventh annual Festival of Life and Learning at the University of Manitoba - Fort Garry campus.

The theme of this year's Festival was education. There were many programs that did not relate directly to the theme but offered many educational opportunities.

The many events scheduled covered a tremendous range of interest.

Hugh McCullum, an experienced journalist has recently been in-

involved in the issues concerning Northern development. Co-author of a book called "This Land is Not for Sale" spoke on Wednesday, Feb. 2 to an audience which showed the concern many people have regarding the Mackenzie Valley and Pipeline enquiries.

The Indian Metis Eskimo Students Association, a group formed to help students with orientation, social and other related services, held an exhibition in the University Centre which included a display of Arts and crafts, video

tapes on subjects such as local control, and bilingual Programs for local students and other subjects related to Native education.

Invited guest speakers included James Burke the author of "Paper Tomahawks" and Emma LaRocque, Author of "Defeating the Indians".

The New Nation Singers and Dancers entertained the audience with traditional dancing and singing and a performance by Tom Jackson ended the festivities.

Across Canada

Native scholars graduate . . .

The Carleton University School of Social Work's Native Recruitment and Scholarship Program will graduate its first students in Spring of 1977.

Through a grant from the Donner Canadian Foundation, the School of Social Work provides scholarship support to a number of Native Canadians for study at the school. The money from the Donner Foundation is also used to assist in developing programs at the school which focus on the problems facing Canada's Native Peoples. These programs are developed in cooperation with Native students.

The program of the School of Social Work is concerned not only with the provision of traditional social work skills, but also with equipping students with the necessary tools to engage in organizing

to effect change in the wider society to eliminate the causes of poverty, unemployment and other social problems. Community organization is an essential part of the school's program and graduates concentrating in this area will be exposed to a number of methods effecting community solidarity and change.

Candidates for admission normally have a Bachelor's Degree but applications from those with a community college certificate or other educational background and relevant work experience are also encouraged to apply.

For further information please write to Brian Segal or Art Stinson Native Recruitment and Scholarship Program, Carleton University School of Social Work, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, or telephone (613) 231-3641.

Daniels appeals to Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed

Stan Daniels, President of the Metis Association of Alberta asked that Premier Peter Lougheed take over direct personal responsibility for Native Secretariat.

In a prepared release, Mr. Daniels stated, "The present living conditions of the Metis People are a cruel example of poverty in the land of plenty. The majority of Native people struggle on the bottom rung of society to have adequate food, shelter, and jobs. With this in mind, it is ironic, that the two top Parliamentary officials in Alberta are both of Native ancestry. Lt. Gov. Steinhauer and Premier Lougheed are both examples of the great contribution to this society that can be made by Native people."

Mr. Daniels continued; "It is time for a person, who has Native blood in his veins, to take over direction of Native Secretariat. For this reason, I request that

Premier Lougheed, personally, take over the responsibility for the direction and implementation of Native Affairs policy in Alberta."

"Premier Lougheed," Mr. Daniels added, "has often reminded Native Leaders, myself included, that he is one-eighth Indian, but he does not know which one-eighth. I hope that part of the one-eighth includes HIS HEART. For he will need great insight and compassion for his kinsmen, to lead our people from their present state to a decent and productive life within this society."

"I appeal to the Premier, as a brother, to examine and reject the half-hearted attempts by members of his government to help solve Native Peoples' problems. I ask him as a brother, to create a policy, which will right the wrongs of 100 years, so that Native people can take their rightful place in a prosperous and productive Alberta." concluded Mr. Daniels.

Government raises day care fees

The Manitoba Government will raise its maximum daily fee per child in day care centres, but it will not meet the deficit faced by centres this year.

R. S. Hickel, an assistant deputy minister in the Department of Health and Social Development, said this week the Provincial Cabinet has reacted favourably to increasing the daily fee to \$6 from \$5.

However, he said there is absolutely no possibility the government will meet the deficit of the individual day care centres.

He said the current funding formula is considered sufficient by the government.

Health Minister Laurent Desjardins, said day care centres which find they cannot live within their budgets should consider amending their programs and services.

Spokesmen for day care centres say the \$1 increase in the per diem rate is too little and too late, and many centres are facing severe financial problems.

The province financially assists approximately 165 group day care centres in Manitoba.

"HOUSING CRISIS REPORTED"

The Winnipeg Council of Self Help says the housing situation in the city has reached crisis proportions.

The council said in a news release that it gets eight to ten phone calls a week from single mothers with large families looking for housing.

The Indian and Metis Friendship Centre has a list of more than 70 families waiting for decent housing, and the waiting list is more than a year, it said.

The council organized in 1970 to help welfare recipients, said most of its clients are single mothers with five or six children.

"All the new construction is oriented towards singles or families of no more than two children.

(Courtesy of The Winnipeg Tribune)

Brandon gets new Manpower Manager

Newly-appointed manager of the Canada Manpower Centre in Brandon, Mr. Mike Boychuk has been with the department of manpower and immigration since his graduation in 1967 from the University of Manitoba.

For six years, Mr. Boychuk was counsellor with the Canada Manpower Centre in Calgary, Alberta, then he moved to Flin Flon to manage their Manpower Centre.

After a year, he was appointed consultant in the special programs division for the prairie region and later for the department's Manitoba directorate. In that position, Mr. Boychuk administered the special outreach and diagnostic services for Manitoba and was a consultant to the 11 Canada Manpower Centres.

Born on the Isle of Wight, Mr. Boychuk immigrated at an early age to Manitoba. He has his bachelor of arts degree with major in economics.

NWT Metis hire Wah-shee for Claims research

The Metis Association of the Northwest Territories has officially announced the hiring of James Wah-shee as its Land claims coordinator.

Mr. Wah-shee's responsibilities will include the bringing together of all facets of the Metis Association's proposal and putting them together in a logical fashion. The first phase of writing this proposal will begin this month, when community leaders will be gathering in Fort Smith for an eight day workshop.

To avoid concern arising in the northern native community, about Mr. Wah-shee's appointment, all thirteen community members of the Association's board were consulted for their approval. The board felt that Mr. Wah-shee's years of experience in land claims will be a great asset to the association.

On a related matter, the Association outlined its stand on its pos-

ition against working with the NWT Indian Brotherhood. They attribute their stand partly to the manner in which some members of the media, particularly those employed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, have been handling the matter.

Specifically, the Metis Association objects to the proposal for the establishment of two separate governments in the MacKenzie Valley. Although the association does not have a specific alternative the principle that it is developing its proposal on is that there should only be one government. The Association stresses however, that this should not be taken to mean they are in support of the Territorial Government. The Association looks to the future for a more responsible and representative government.

From the Editor's Desk



Louis is going to waste

by Michele Cormier

Winnipeg's Louis Riel monument is now naked in more ways than one.

The Riel testimonial, the work of sculptor Marcien Lemay and architect Etienne Gaboury, has become a spectacle of accumulated litter.

Located close to the riverbank on the Legislative grounds, the Monument has been an attraction to many residents and tourists since its unveiling in 1971.

Unfortunately, it's also become the target of alcoholics, litterbugs and other nuisances that can't be named here. On a recent visit, I found piles of broken beer bottles, rotting food, cigarette packets and other assorted rubbish. I later spoke to Roger Brown, the caretaker of the area, about the abused state of our monument to Riel. According to him, recent cut-backs in funds for Government Ground Employees have made for a heavier work load for the maintenance people and, as a result, the Riel statue has not been properly looked after.

Security guards, we've been told, patrol the grounds twice daily in winter and three to four times

during the summer days. But these patrols don't help!

One security guard added that, because of the location of the monument, as well as its circular, sheltering walls, a number of unpleasant individuals frequently take-up residence there.

Both the care-taker and guard suggested the problem could be solved if the walls were removed so it would be a less tempting shelter where transients could leave their calling cards.

It was also implied that removal of the walls would save the grounds people a great deal of extra work in keeping close checks on the area. This only proves their disinterest and ignorance of the meaning of the monument with which they are charged to protect for the "public good."

"Let's clean up Louis Riel" should be our motto.

But then, the name Riel has been surrounded by so much garbage from people who misunderstand what he and his life's work stand for, that I wonder if this little bit of material trash really harms his (white) "public" image.

Who will come to his rescue this time?

Don't take unity message lightly

By Michèle Cormier

For those who were present at the last Annual Indian-Metis Conference held recently in Winnipeg, it's hoped that the messages you were given won't be taken lightly and that their meanings will be remembered.

The emphasis of unity between Status and Non-Status people was stressed as the only factor able to determine the future of Native people across our country. It is this union that will bring forth the courage, strength, and love we need to pursue our common goal.

The many subjects discussed, were at times repetitious and al-

though we've heard about culture, religion, housing, education, alcoholism and land rights before, it's obvious that these matters are still unsettled and remain an every day reality for us.

It's time we put aside our cultural ranks and join hands. We must think of our children and give them every opportunity we can to assure in time, that their own little one will have a better place to grow.

I believe everyone present at the conference during those three days felt the same emotions and closeness which could well be described as: "Let's get out of our rut and do things together."

Letters to the Editor:

"PARKLAND NATIVE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT"

Dear Sir:

The third Annual Parkland Native Hockey League Tournament is to be held in the Dauphin Memorial Arena on the weekend of March 18th, 19 and 20, 1977.

The tournament will follow the same format as last year; 16 teams, each team is guaranteed two games. Trophies will be awarded and the prize money will be divided among 6 teams as follows: "A" Side - 1st \$800.00; 2nd \$600.00; 3rd \$400.00; 4th \$200.00. "B" Side - 1st \$400.00; 2nd \$200.00.

The entry fee will be \$100.00 -- teams will be expected to arrange their own accommodation.

If your team would like to enter, please contact Box 113 Winnipegosis. ROL 2GO or phone: 656-4541.

Signed,

Mel Carson
PNHL Secretary

OPERATION BEAVER

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you on behalf of Operation Beaver. Operation Beaver is a volunteer organization run by the Frontiers Foundation. Since 1964 they have been working with various community groups, particularly non-Status Indian organizations, sending teams of volunteers into communities where they work with the local people on projects of their own choice. These have been mainly the construction of new homes. In the past there have been many projects across Canada.

This summer there are some fifteen projects planned for across Northern Canada. Perhaps there are some people among your readers who would be interested in spending a summer with Operation Beaver. There is no salary, but travelling and living expenses are provided. No special skills are required, only, honesty, sincerity and an open mind.

Anyone requiring further information can contact our office in Toronto, or write to me in Inuvik.

Yours truly,

Jim Pitt
Box 2222
Inuvik, N.W.T. XOE OTO

NORTHERN COMMUNITY EDUCATORS PROGRAM

Dear Sir:

The Community Educators Program was developed by Native people to make themselves aware of educational courses and facilities available in the Province of Manitoba. A community educator is basically a career guidance councillor.

In the past there has been an extremely high drop-out rate in the school system amongst the Native population. In order to begin to fulfill their proper role in society, Native people must become knowledgeable in all areas of formal and informal education, particularly professional. We must be prepared to undergo whatever training and instruction that can be made available to our people. The Community Educator would be trained to provide the opportunity for people interested towards these goals, the Community Educator's work is a mechanism to arrive at a higher educational level.

A Community Educator's objective is to help bring about ways and means whereby Native people may

gain more knowledge of all that is required in a more sophisticated society that is: a) Assist Native people in becoming more aware of University and College courses, adult education programs, private vocational training schools, apprenticeship programs, and on-the-job training programs. b) learn entrance requirements which would be required. c) become familiar with various forms of assistance available. d) through the process of awareness courses and services assist the community in expressing their objectives more comfortably and with greater confidence. e) with the effective use of resource money and people, assist the community in becoming more confident in decision making - socially, economically and politically.

An initial intake of trainees for the Community Educators Program began in March of 1975. These trainees completed their training the following year and are now working in their home communities. Even though the trainees have been working only a short while, an impact of their work has already been felt in their communities.

These Educators have been directly responsible for many Native people now enrolled at various Community Colleges and Universities. The Educators have also used their resources to get such courses as Sociology, Adult Upgrading, Driver Education and other relevant courses into their communities.

For the past year, the Board of Directors and the Director of the Program have been involved in negotiations with all levels of government in order to get the necessary funding to ensure that the Community Educators Program is continued. The present government does not seem to think that this is a worthwhile program and all funding has been discontinued. The Community Educators Program is the only program of its type in that it assists Native people in developing an awareness of adequate and relative educational courses and facilities. If the Native population is to take an active part in the development of Northern Manitoba, it is imperative that a program of this type be continued. Native organizations (Manitoba Metis Federation and Manitoba Indian Brotherhood) must be made aware that the Community Educators Program is a valuable resource tool to be used by the people and also that the Native population want this program continued.

Both organizations, as elected representatives of the people, must make the government realize the value of the Community Educators Program to the Native Population and they must take the necessary steps to put pressure on all levels of government to ensure the continuance of the Community Educators Program.

Bob Sinclair
Gillam, Manitoba

"RESPONSE TO NATIVE LEADERS WARY OF RESERVE PAROLE"

Dear Sir:

Chiefs of Reserves of Manitoba, we the Native inmates of Stony Mountain Institution, along with the help of the Native Clan Organization, come to you for help, in this paper, for the very blood that courses through your veins, courses through ours. We, as a responsible group, only ask for your honored attendance at our Native Community Involvement Action on Corrections Conference scheduled to be held on March 4 and 5, because we wish of you to sit in and listen to what we have to say and if what we

have to say moves you we welcome your participation.

If you people are afraid of us, be not afraid, for we are not beyond the human response and you have our assurance that you, Chiefs of Reserves of Manitoba, will be treated with the outmost respect perhaps more so than that is presently accorded to you now on your own Reserves, for we are a group of intelligent inmates and we are indeed noted for treating our elders with genuine respect.

Further we do not wish to sit down with you and make demands, but rather want to sit down and communicate with one another and in so doing, we may be able to come up with some reasonable, responsible answers to the problems that we, Native inmates have to deal with constantly; lack of concern as directed at us from our Native Communities.

Chiefs of Reserves of Manitoba why this empty concern? Are you not the responsible people, wise men, that you say you are? If so, act accordingly and help your people, namely those who want to help themselves, inmates, Native inmates of Stony Mountain Institution.

If my words light a fire or two under your rear ends, then I've done my job. I'm a man of action, not words. Are you men of action? If so, Chiefs of Reserves of Manitoba, respond to the plea for help of your people.

Come, attend, learn, contribute something to the Native Community Involvement Action on Corrections Conference, March 4 and 5 at Stony Mountain Institution, Stony Mountain Manitoba.

Clarence Smith-Cassill
Stony Mountain

OPEN LETTER

Premier E. Schreyer
Provincial Treasurer

Dear Mr. Premier:

I am writing to you in your capacity as Provincial Treasurer, responsible for the spending estimates to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly in the near future.

I understand that the process of establishing the estimates for the various departments of government has been taking place in recent weeks.

I am mindful of the desire for restraint in government spending, and the difficulties that any government encounters in attempting to establish priorities.

At the same time, I do write to urge some reconsideration with respect to the project under the Department of Colleges & Universities called the Northern Community Educators Program.

The Community Educators Program sought a grant from the Province of Manitoba of between thirty and forty thousand dollars for the year 1976-77, but that request was not accommodated. The Community Educators Program are now seeking a similar grant for the year 1977-78. It is my understanding that this particular project was recommended by the Department of Colleges & Universities, but that it was decided not to include a grant in the final determination of the estimated for that Department.

As you may know, the Community Educators Program is designed to employ a number of Native persons, both on Reserves and in non-Reserve communities in Northern Manitoba, - their purpose being to work with young people within those communities and encourage them not to become school drop-outs, but rather to continue on with their educational

Continued on page 5

GUEST EDITORIAL:

Why should fishermen suffer?

by Raymond Fleming

Notice how the following chain of lakes are all linked together and what size of mesh is allowed to be fished on each:

Swan Lake	4 inch
Red Deer Lake	4 inch
Lake Winnipegosis	4 inch
Lake Waterhen	4 inch
Lake St. Martin	3¾ - 4½ inch
Lake Manitoba	3¾ inch
Lake Winnipeg	3" - 5½ inch

Why does the Provincial Government insist on condemning Lake Winnipegosis fishermen by forcing them to change their mesh size to 4½ inch and act as a hatchery to all these other lakes?

The Department of Fisheries claim the reason Lake Manitoba, Lake St. Martin, and Lake Winnipeg fishes nets with smaller mesh sizes than Lake Winnipegosis is due to the sauger catches on these lakes. If Lake Winnipegosis was also allowed to use smaller mesh sizes they too would increase their sauger catches. According to records, in 1967 Lake Winnipegosis had a more than usual amount of sauger caught that year which shows that there are sauger in Lake Winnipegosis.

The Dept. of Fisheries are confused and often contradict themselves.

First of all they want to save the pickeral production by cutting down on Lake Winnipegosis quotas. They have already cut the quota down from a million and a half pounds to seven hundred thousand pounds and still they try to reduce them. Meanwhile, Lake Manitoba has a quota of two million pounds of sauger and pickeral.

Secondly, the biologists claim that the four inch net is harming our Lake by harvesting too many young pickeral before they have a chance to



spawn, yet three other lakes are allowed to use three inch and three and three-quarter inch nets.

The biologist, Gordon Sprouse, told the fishermen in Lake Winnipegosis that the increase in pickeral production in the last few years have probably resulted from migration of fish from Lake Manitoba. Until two years ago migration routes of the fish were put to a halt until the Fairford Dam was opened allowing a passage between the lakes.

There has been a belief that fish migrate both ways but their migration habits were disrupted when the Fairford Dam was built for the fish was allowed to flow over the dam but there was no way the fish could come back over the dam. Since the dam has been opened, production in Lake Manitoba, Lake Waterhen, and Lake Winnipegosis has been higher than it has for many years.

The government should quit playing with the fishermen's livelihoods and set up programs which would prove that the change of mesh sizes would help the fish production. Tagging procedures should be set up in every lake and on either side of the Fairford Dam and the migration habits of the fish studied carefully.

Why should the government force the Lake Winnipegosis fishermen into changing their nets to a four and a quarter inch mesh size without proving that the mesh change would help us. Some fishermen stand to lose thirteen to fifteen thousand dollars on twine if the mesh size changes and there is no subsidy allowed for these fishermen.

The government claims ARDA programs helped the fishermen buy a lot of four and a quarter inch nets. This is not true. Some fishermen never received any ARDA monies at all, while others bought ski-doods, bomadiers, and motors for boats. Still others bought four inch nets, therefore, there were few four and a quarter inch nets bought.

In closing, I am hoping for some support from our members of Parliament, no matter which political party they support or from anyone who is interested in our problems on Lake Winnipegosis and can help us.

Letters:

Continued from page 4

training. In large measure the Community Educators Program is funded by the Federal Department of Indian Affairs, but in view of the fact that some of the program deals with Native people who are living off Reserve lands, the federal government is not prepared to pay the entire cost of the program and has suggested to those who are responsible for the program that they should look to the Provincial government for a grant to cover administrative and co-ordination costs.

For what it may be worth, I heartily endorse and recommend this particular project, and urge that renewed consideration be given to making a grant.

The person who is presently directing the program and has a major interest in it, is Mrs. Fracis Campbell, of Thompson, Manitoba. She recently received a letter from Mr. Peter Ferris advising that a grant to this project would not be included in the current estimates. In his letter Mr. Ferris pointed out the Government is involved in funding the Brandon University Native Teachers Educators Program and he suggested that since the aims and objectives were similar it was reasonable that no grant be given to the Community Educators Program. I would simply point out that the Brandon University Native Teacher Educators Program is wholly different in its trust and intent. It is designed to develop Native teachers to work in remote communities. The Community Educators Program, on the other hand, is to work directly with young people, and encourage them to continue their education.

I hope you will not think me too brash in making this suggestion that renewed consideration be given to this particular project.

Yours truly,

Chas. R. Huband
Leader of the Manitoba
Liberal Party

of educational courses and facilities available in the Province of Manitoba. A community educator is basically a career guidance councillor.

In the past there has been an extremely high drop-out rate in the school system amongst the Native population. In order to begin to fulfil their proper role in society, Native people must become knowledgeable in all areas of formal and informal education, particularly professional. We must be prepared to undergo whatever training and instruction that can be made available to our people. The Community Educator would be trained to provide the opportunity for people interested towards these goals, the Community Educator's work is a mechanism to arrive at a higher educational level.

A Community Educator's objective is to help bring about ways and means whereby Native people may gain more knowledge of all that is required in a more sophisticated society that is:

a) Assist Native people in becoming more aware of University and College courses, adult education programs, private vocational training schools, apprenticeship programs, and on-the-job training programs.

b) learning entrance requirements which would be required

c) become familiar with various form of assistance available

d) through the process of awareness courses and in-services assist the community in expressing their objectives more comfortably and with greater confidence.

e) with the effective use of resource money and people, assist the community in becoming more confident in decision making-socially, economically and politically.

An initial intake of trainees for the Community Educators Program began in March of 1975. These trainees completed their training the following year and are now working in their home communities. Even though the trainees have been working only a short while, an impact of their work has already been felt in their communities.

These Educators have been directly responsible for many Native people now enrolled at various Community Colleges and Universities. The Educators have also used their resources to get such courses as Sociology, Adult Upgrading, Driver Education and other relevant courses into their communities.

For the past year, the Board of Directors and the Director of the Program have been involved in negotiations with all levels of government in order to get the necessary funding to ensure that the Community Educators Program is continued. The present government does not seem to think that this is a worthwhile program and all funding has been discontinued. The Community Educators Program is the only program of its type in that it assists Native people in developing an awareness of adequate and relative educational courses and facilities. If the Native population is to take an active part in the development of Northern Manitoba, it is imperative that a program of this type be continued. Native organizations (Manitoba Metis Federation and Manitoba Indian Brotherhood) must be made aware that the Community Educators Program is a valuable resource tool to be used by the people and also that the Native population want this program continued.

Both organizations, as elected representatives of the people, must make the government realize the value of the Community Educators Program to the Native Population and they must take the necessary steps to put pressure on all levels of government to ensure the continuance of the Community Educators Program.

Bob Sinclair
Gillam Manitoba

Honorable Ian Turnbull
Minister of Education

Dear Mr. Minister:

It has been brought to our attention that problems are being experienced in the operation of the Special Mature Students Program conducted at the Brandon General Hospital. While we sincerely congratulate the staff on the purpose, direction and over-all quality of the program, a conflict situation appears to have arisen between students and the co-ordinating support service which we feel may jeopardize the success of the program. Because inter-personal relationships are much more crucial on programs such as this in which students come from a diverse set of academic and cultural backgrounds, we feel there should be more emphasis on student evaluation of personnel than in the normal post-secondary education system. At the very least, a re-evaluation of the compatibility of students and personnel should be considered.

We should also like to emphasize that it is necessary to establish an Advisory Committee for the said Program as provided for in Canada/Manitoba Subsidiary Agreement, Manitoba Northlands. The program at Brandon falls under the Special Mature Students

segment of the Adult Professional Development project in the Northern Manitoba Human Development Services program (Schedule A, p. 14). Under section 3.3 (g) of the Subsidiary Agreement it is provided that the Joint-Managers of the Agreement shall be responsible for "establishing Co-ordination Committees as required for the effective and efficient co-ordination of programs mentioned in Schedule "A". While the Brandon program is not strictly speaking a "program" as defined in Schedule "A" - rather the activity of a project of a program - it would appear that in order to secure the "effective and efficient co-ordination" of the Northern Manitoba Human Development Services Program, an Advisory Committee is necessary. We would suggest the appointment of an Advisory Committee of eight members, two from the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, two from the Manitoba Metis Federation, two from the Province and two from the School of Nursing. Such an Advisory Committee would ensure Native input and avoid any possibilities of misunderstanding or unfounded criticism.

Thank you for considering this position statement. We will be anticipating your response.

Yours in Brotherhood
Lawrence Whitehead,
President
Manitoba Indian Brotherhood.

"A VALENTINE'S DAY SOUVENIR"

*Dawn Came
And softly the rising sun
Kissed the morning mist,
Clinging...
Where last the moon
Yawned and bit
The charcoal tinted sky.
And the birds flew
Two by two.*

*Spring
I am writing this
As I imagine you,
Free
Among the morning dew.
Are you thinking of me,
As I of you?*

Clarence Smith-Cassill



Le Metis is published monthly by the Manitoba Metis Federation and is available at a cost of \$3.00 per year to members or non-members.

The policy of Le Metis is to encourage members and readers to send in materials. All contributions must be signed to be published or returned. The editor reserves the right to edit articles or letters.

Le Metis is also accepting classified or display advertising. Rates available on request.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.

Doug Marshall, Editor.

Jack Carriere, Reporter.

Michèle Cormier, Reporter.

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SEND LETTERS OR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

The Editor
Le Metis
301-374 Donald Street
Winnipeg, R3B 2J2
or Telephone:
The Manitoba Metis Federation
942-2565

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Asmus and Langan elected to M.M.F. Board of Directors

Cecil Asmus and Anna Langan were elected to the board of Directors of the Manitoba Metis Federation at the recent regional conference in the Pas.

Other matters discussed at the meeting included land claims, education and recreation.

A special honor was also conferred on Margaret and Alfred Head of the Pas. The couple has been involved with the MMF since 1970 and Alfred was one of the first people elected to the board of directors. Margaret worked along-

side her husband and has been the director of the Metis Women's association. Today, both are involved in the local LIP project providing special home services for the elderly.

Margaret is also on the board of directors of Native Communications Inc. where she has been serving for five years.

To honor this outstanding service, the Manitoba Metis Federation presented Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Head with a plaque for devotion and service.

Congratulations Margaret and Alfred.



Cecil Asmus

"They even teach us to hate our own people."

by Michèle Cormier

"The inaccurate and worthless information found in text books handed out to Native students, discredits Native and Metis people without ever having any Historical and meaningful purpose. Name calling such as 'Primitive Barbarians', 'Savages', and 'Culturally-Deprived,' persists in forming images in the minds of readers. If it hadn't been for the 'heroics' of those who 'Colonized' us in terror and 'Christianized' us with their 'goodbooks' we would still be regarded as, uncivilized, uneducated people".

This comment was made by Emma LaRocque, the Author of "Defeating the Indians" and a student of the University of Manitoba, during a panel discussion on, "How the Education System has Failed Native People" held during the recent Festival of Life and Learning at the U. of Manitoba.

Other panel members were: Ida Wasacase of The Saskatchewan Federated College, Alfred Linklater from Nelson House, Dave Summerville of Frontier Schools, George Munroe of M.M.F. and chairperson Emma Jane Crate.

Mr. Munroe stated that the dropout rate for Metis and Native students is reaching alarming proportions. "The barriers these students must conquer in order to succeed at the same level as non-Native students, are surpassed by very few".

He added that "courses offered to Native students are not appropriate and that many students require specialized tutoring." "In many aspects they are based in the majority, on White authors who were totally misinformed as to the true nature of their content." "This curriculum creates a difficulty for Native teachers when instructing Native children and unless this misleading literature is modified, the number of Native students leaving schools will continue to increase."

Alfred Linklater, a Native, presently teaches in Nelson House. He commented on the importance of initiating Native children to their Cultural Heritage during the first stages of schooling. "We must teach our children to be proud of who they are, proud to speak their Native tongue and help them develop their natural skills, then we can begin to give them the knowledge

they require to become competent, inside as well as outside their community."

One difficulty confronts those who wish to pursue their careers as teachers. It lies in the support from Indian Affairs which apparently is available to remote communities and, who, for reasons unknown becomes tied up in other presumably more important resources programs.

The Saskatchewan Federated College recently approached the Government for additional funding for their proposed Journalism course which is scheduled to begin this Summer. The College offers courses to Status and Non-Status Indians. Their program is oriented to interest and motivate Native students in completing their education and enabling them to pursue careers which will improve the Native structure.

The discussions ended on this note from Ms. LaRocque. "Until such time as we detach ourselves from the web spun by the middle-class 'white' families who nourish the present Education System, we will perpetuate the 'myths' and 'Falsehoods' we have been subjected to since the beginning of History."



Country Barn

by Roger Williams

CAUTION! CORNER!

WHAT'S YOUR CREDIT CARD I.Q.?

(One of a series prepared by the Manitoba Consumers' Bureau)

Credit card users have rights as well as obligations. Aside from the responsibility of paying off accounts according to agreements, they should know what the law says when it comes to using credit cards.

Under Manitoba law, a company cannot issue a credit card to a customer unless he/she specifically asks for it. All requests, verbal or written, for a credit card have to be initiated by the consumer. They cannot be included in or disguised as part of another contract, a mail order or some other credit agreement.

Credit cards can easily get lost and/or stolen. Credit card users should get into the habit of making occasional checks to see that the cards are where they should be. Under The Manitoba Consumer Protection Act, if your credit cards are lost or stolen, the limit of your liability for unauthorized use is \$50 per card. However, if you notify the company of the loss of your credit card immediately, you're not liable for any debt incurred after such notification. That's why, it is wise to make a list of all your credit cards; the company, the account number, phone number and address. Keep this in a safe place for quick reference in case of loss or theft.

Remember, if you lose your card or if it is stolen you should notify the company in person or by registered letter. If you telephone, follow up your call IMMEDIATELY with a registered letter. Telephoning is not enough! Keep a record of all contacts made with a credit card issuer for further reference. In case of a dispute between the parties, although the law puts the burden of proof on the issuer, your records will help sort out the problem and define the issue.

Finally, to close accounts, cut up the cards and send the shreds with the registered letter to the company stating that you no longer wish to have an account with them. "Just destroying the card does not close an account", says the Manitoba Consumers' Bureau. "Someone could still charge up credit by using your number alone." Be sure -- the extra effort is for your own protection.

Wild Furs Market Report:

The Winnipeg Fur Auction held in the Winnipeg Inn by Dominion Soudack on Dec. 23, 1976 is as follows:

MUSKRATS - Northern & North Central

Grade	High	Low	Average
XL & L			5.1
Lge. Med.			4.1
M. & S			3.1
L. & Slight	4.40	3.05	3.1
Mixed Sizes	4.20	2.30	3.1
Damaged	1.50	.40	1.0

NORTHERN

Mixed Sizes	4.80	2.60	3.8
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COYOTES

XL & L 1 & No. 2	140.	70.	94.5
XL & L 1 & 11	144.	45.	83.9
XL & L Seconds	100.	64.	67.3
XL & L 11	110.	30.	62.5
XL & L Early	48.	43.	46.5
XL & L sl dgd	104.	38.	67.1
XL & L dgd	66.	15.	34.1
M & S 1 & 11	76.	50.	63.0
M & S 1 & No. 2	82.	-	-
M & S 11	64.	20.	43.4
M & S Early	33.	30.	31.0
M & S dgd	52	24.	38.0

Overall average Coyotes \$57.40

RED FOX

Overall Red Fox Sale \$56.65

ARTIC FOX WHITE

All	64.00	9.50	41.1
Blue-All	40.00	25.00	32.5
Silver Fox - All	92.00	52.00	72.0
Cross Fox - All	148.00	5.00	108.0

W. R. Burns
Trapper Education Officer

St. Laurent Carnival

by Jack Carriere

St. Laurent had its Winter Carnival. It started with Bingo and some broomball on February 11, 1977. The parade of floats and trucks and even a motorized lawn mower with clowns was held up by a huge wind. It blew all Saturday morning. Just when some events were to be cancelled the wind went down. The parade started at 1:30 P.M., three hours late, it did not seem to bother the local people as they flocked to the scene. The best team of horses was picked from the parade. The team belonged to Mr. & Mrs. Premack. The best float was Little Arrows hockey team. That trophy was picked up by Nichole Larocque.

The men and women started right after these awards to compete for the Carnival King and Queen. There was log-sawing for men and women. They were given points for 1st and 2nd. Pole climbing and one snowshoe on and one off race.

There was a bannock baking contest with a partner to start a fire. Points were also awarded for first bannock to be cooked. The bannock was very good. It was the first bannock I have ever tasted over an open fire. The reason it was my first was because I was the judge. After all these events were over, they closed the hall and cleaned up for the dance. Music

was supplied by the "West Winds". They had a jiggling contest. The winner was Louise Chartrand. She had real competition from second place finisher Marcia Harcourt. Third was Coreen LeBlanc.

The beard growing contest was won by Laurel Blais. Second place was Roy Lavallee. Third place was won by Leonard Delorme. The crowd was tense and waiting for the announcing of the King and Queen of the carnival. Congratulations to Luc Lalonde and his runner-up was Laurel Blais. Also, congratulations to Mrs. Olga Ducharme and her runner-up was Juliette Jolicouer. The night ended on a happy note. Everyone went home to get a good sleep so they could get an early start next morning.

The morning events started with the ski-doo races. All types of machines were entered. The Little Arrows hockey club beat the ladies at a good game of hockey. The players ranged from 5 to 6 years old. The broomball team called "No Sweat" remained undefeated throughout their league play and the weekend play. The ski-doo racers were going at a very fast pace and it was quite cold out. First the men had 3 runs at the track. And then the ladies had their turn. First in the 250 event was Curtis Chartrand. First in the 340

event Ed Schoz. First in the 440 event was Tony Carriere. There was a big surprise of the ski-doo races. In the ladies open the winner was Lena Desjarlais but that was no surprise it was the time factor. Lena had a better time around the track than the men.

Next year, they are going to have the men and women compete against each other. Watch out men. The judges were from out of town and they did a swell job. Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Richard, a local member, and your roving reporter Jack Carriere. Andy Sharpley and Jay Sheldon Co-ordinators of this carnival did a real good job. For the size of the community they sure did have a large crowd. The community of St. Laurent can be proud of their carnival. A job well done.

Wabowden Festival coming up

This year the Wabowden Festival will take place on the 18-19-20 of March.

The following events will be featured: Trap setting, flour packing, snowshoeing, tea boiling, jiggling contests and many more attractions which should prove interesting to everyone.

The crowning of the "Queen" will take place on opening night and will be followed by a dance. - Note that there will be dancing every evening during the celebrations.

The official opening of the newly built Arena will be on the 18th, for the scheduled Hockey and Curling tournaments.

Social Events

The Lord Selkirk Park Local will hold its St. Patrick's Dance on March 5th at 1230 Main Street, Wpg. The feature of the Dance will be the Red River Jig. An event not to be missed....

Native Nursing College proposed

COURTESY WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

The Manitoba Metis Federation and the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood want an Indian and Metis nursing college to be established under the control of an Indian-Metis board.

In a joint presentation this month to the provincial task force on nursing education, spokesmen for the two groups said the college was needed to train nurses for reserves and Metis communities. The task force was set up last year by Health Minister Larry Desjardins.

The spokesmen said a native-run college not limited to natives, would turn out more native professionals than the present nursing colleges. "Very few (10 per cent of Indian and Metis people) make it past Grade 12," they said.

The college would include academic qualification, registered nurses courses, para-medical and para-professional courses as well as courses in Indian language and culture, the spokesmen said.



Luc Lalonde, St. Laurent Carnival King Makes it up in the pole-climbing contest....and down again in just 5 seconds.

Need help Claiming your Manitoba Tax Credit

The Manitoba Tax Credit Plans are designed to benefit Manitobans depending on their needs and incomes. You may qualify for benefits under The Manitoba Property Tax Credit Plan and/or the Manitoba Cost of Living Tax Credit Plan even if you do not pay income tax. Benefits under both Manitoba Tax Credit Plans have been increased again this year. A projected \$11 million in credits will be distributed to Manitobans. Be sure you claim your share by completing the orange Manitoba form included with your 1976 Income Tax Return. If you need any help in claiming your share, please read your Guide to the Manitoba Tax Credit Plans, or contact the Manitoba Tax Credit Office. Remember, the sooner you claim your benefits, the sooner you get your credit.

"It's Manitoba's way of giving credit where credit is due."

The Manitoba Tax Credit
Information Office
200A-338 Broadway Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0T3
In WINNIPEG phone: 943-3401
Outside Winnipeg phone Operator and
ask for: Zenith 3-6400 (toll free)

Thompson Metis Fest

By Jack Carriere

The Annual Metis Winter Festival started on Friday, February 21 in Thompson and proved to be a successful event again this year.

The kick-off began with a giant bingo with fifteen games and prizes up to \$500. There were winners of all ages and the woman who won the grand prize couldn't have had a better time.

The next morning saw the start of the bonspiel in which 30 teams took part. The top Team was Henry Wilson's group from The Pas. The second team of the first event was Steve Kadachuk from Cumberland House. The second event was won by Leon McCauley.

Runner-up was Sandy Johnson from Churchill.

Also starting on Saturday, was the hockey tournament with senior and junior Metis hockey teams from Gillam, Cross Lake, Churchill, Norway House, Winnipegosis, The Pas, Wabowden and Thompson participating.

The top team of the tournament was the Thompson Metis North Stars. The teams however ran into some difficulty on the ice during their final games. At the beginning of the deciding game against Norway House, stick measurements were called for and some sticks were disallowed from the game because they were illegal. With the sticks supposedly off the ice, the

game went right up to the final fifteen seconds when Norway House scored what could have been the deciding goal. The North Stars coach again called for stick measurements and it was found the player who scored the goal was still using an illegal stick.

The goal was disallowed and the Norway House team received a penalty giving the game to the North Stars. The most valuable player in the deciding game was Elie Teraan of Norway House and the best defence man award was given to Gord McKay, also of the Norway House team. The best goaltender was Bruce McKenzie of the Thompson North Stars.



This unidentified lady curler was just one of the participants in the Metis Festival mixed Bonspiel.



Guy LaRocque receives the trophy for best sportsmanship.

30
teams
enter
Curling
Spiel

It was an
experience
in good
sportsmanship

In the junior boys league, an all Native Tournament, the first of its kind, was held. Teams from The Pas, Grand Rapids, Winnipeg, Wabowden, Norway House and Thompson played in the 12 to 14 year-old tournament.

The Pas hockey team won the "A" side trophy while Winnipeg's southeast local team took the "B" side trophy. The trophy for the most valuable player went to Roland Cook of Cranberry Portage, and the trophy for best defence man and best goalie went to Roger Sicotte of The Pas and John Fiddler, also of The Pas, respectively. An award for the most sportsman-like player was given to Guy LaRocque of Winnipeg.

The highlight of the festival though, was the queen contest. Four young beauties were in competition for the crown on the basis of personality, dress, speech and ticket sales. Frances Hall Junior, a 16 year-old from Wabowden re-

presented the Metis Federation local. Frances, better known as "Cookie" is a member of the local and has lived in Wabowden all her life.

Eighteen year old Jackie Blacksmith was sponsored by the MMF Relocation Program in Thompson. Jackie is originally from Cross Lake but is attending R.D. Parker Collegiate in Thompson.

The Thompson Metis Hockey Team sponsored the winning Contest, Brenda Richard. Brenda is a grade 12 student at Sisler High in Winnipeg and also secretary-treasurer of the Metis Women's Association. Brenda has also played baseball on the all Indian Women's team that took the Western Indian Fastball Championship in Edmonton last year.

As Queen, Brenda was awarded a beautiful beaded crown while runner-up Gwen Thompson and the other contestants were given prize awards.



All the action began with a drop of the puck.....

Festival a huge success



.....and ended with a good handshake.

**All Native
Junior Hockey
Tournament
1st of its kind**

**"A
friendly
festival
in
a
friendly
city.
That's
what
Thompson
is
really
like."**

Over all, the festival was a great success with excellent tournouts. Ed Campbell and his associates along with the Sports and Recreation department from Winnipeg worked hand-in-hand to organize the festival. Their appreciation goes out to everyone involved in making the festival a success, right from the people who pumped gas into the cars to the hotel desk clerks and the friendly Thompson Townspeople. It was the best of warmth and cheerfulness!



Preparations for presentation of the hockey awards with (from left to right) Ed Campbell, John Morrisseau, Cliff Richard and Bob Campbell.



MMF President John Morrisseau sneaks a kiss from Metis Festival Queen Brenda Richard at the presentation of awards.

**"Metis
Festival
Queen
a
real
winner."**

A warm hello from Lord Selkirk Park Local

A warm hello from a tired group who had the experience of taking our Minor Hockey team to Thompson and are very proud of our boys, they came home with two trophies. They won the B series and Guy Larocque took the Sportmanship trophy, the boys had a great time, met a lot of new friends, played good hockey. Even though there was only a small cheering section that came from Winnipeg and Southeast

Region, they were well supported, to the extent of a few of us coming home with laringitis but this is fully expected when you have a great team and coach, Erin Kennedy, as we have.

A special thank you goes to the Parker Collegiate for the hospitality shown the boys in letting us have the gym for the boys sleeping quarters. A great big thank you to the Richer Local in the support given financially and moral support and also two great hockey players that joined up with our boys also to the Selkirk Friendship Centre for the support from the hockey players that joined our group also St. Laurent players who also helped our boys. It was a weekend that our boys will not forget, neither will the adults that travelled with the boys, Mr. and Mrs. A. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson from Selkirk, Manitoba and our local members, Mr. and Mrs. Krause, Herman and Lydia Burston, our coach, Erin Kennedy. I don't think he will forget the tournament for a long time. I hope he has caught up in his sleep and a special thank you to Mr. Robinson and Mr. Stevenson in the help they gave to Erin.

Without all of these folks, things would not have gone as smooth as they did, from the time we left Winnipeg Friday 21 (morning) till we left Thompson Sunday night it was a great weekend everywhere. We served chicken supper on the bus on our way home. Our coach was the waiter and passed out the plates, etc. to everyone on the bus. That is what you call a restaurant on wheels, a job well done, Erin.

Congratulations goes out to Ed Campbell, chairman of the Thompson Local, and his group who worked so hard towards a successful weekend. We hope to see you folks next year.

Just a few words on the serious side, what I saw and felt while in Thompson was the warmth of the people, of working together, a unity of all groups, this is something that should be in all Regions, but I'm sorry to say that this lacking, you talk of working and playing together don't just mouth these words, put the words into action, if a group is finding it difficult to get started other groups should lend a helping hand not knock them down. If we are going to work for the betterment of our people then we have to give the helping hand, and don't forget the youth because they are the ones who will take our place as us older ones take the back seat. Get the youth involved and you have a stronger and more active organization.

One group I have forgotten to give a big thank you to is the Recreation Group of the M.M.F., Cliff Richard and his group did a lot of hard work in helping the Minor Hockey games go so well. Goodbye for now.

Joan Richard
Chairperson
Lord Selkirk Park Local
589-5173

Poplar Point Tournament

Manitoba Metis Federation in conjunction with its Local members sponsored a recent Hockey Tournament for youngsters at Poplar Point, Manitoba.

The tournament for boys ranging in ages from 12 to 14 was played in the Poplar Point Memorial Arena.

Lord Selkirk Park won the 'A' side trophy, and Winnipeg Beach won the 'B' side.

It was a well run tournament. Everyone had a good time.

Thanks to the people of Poplar Point and the Sports and Recreation Department.

Edward Head new Thompson v.p.

Edward Head, past-president of the Manitoba Metis Federation, has been elected as the new vice-president for the Thompson Regional office.

Mr. Head, who was defeated in 1976 by in-coming president John Morrissette, now lives in Snow Lake, Manitoba, but will be moving to Thompson shortly. He has taken up his activities as vice-president since this month's regional meeting in Thompson.

Dauphin holds a law workshop

A Law Workshop was held at McKay residential school in Dauphin on February 3 and 4.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss basic rights including those dealing with human rights, landlords, and juvenile law.

The program co-ordinator was David James, and the conference was attended by representatives from the University of Manitoba Law School, legal aid, the Indian and Metis Friendship center, the Manitoba Metis Federation and the Manitoba Associated Northern work Activities Program.



ED HEAD

Executive Director

The Metis Women's Association of Manitoba requires an Executive Director, administrative experience required. Secretary-Bookkeeper fund accounting, one-write system experience required.

Written applications to be submitted to M.W.A., 501-504 Main St., Winnipeg, Man., R3B 1B8

References please.

Leaf Rapids . . . a profile

By Michèle Cormier

A few months ago I was travelling in Northern Manitoba, on route to Lynn Lake when some friends I met along the way spoke to me of a new community called Leaf Rapids which began in 1971 and was already showing signs of expansion.

It is a small community which can be noted as a "Feather in the Government's Cap" when one hears of planning residential developments in our North. Located approximately 132 miles northwest of Thompson it is accessible by air and by car if one feels a challenge is in order, the newly built road offers just that.

The Town's name originates from the fast moving waters of the Churchill River. The numerous whirlpools and rushing waters caused by the lack of space are quite daring for anyone venturing on it, however it is rumored that the Churchill River Diversion Project will definitely affect the Rapids and these legendary waters will soon become quite docile, making it less dangerous for the numerous people to whom fishing is this River is their livelihood. Being a mining town one would picture it to

be, drab, gloomy, even a bit smoggy but it is quite the opposite. The mine is located 17 miles from the Town and offers no such unpleasantness.

Touring the Town site it is apparent that the people are happy there. One resident told me that he and a number of other families plan to remain there until such time as the mine ceases to remain productive. The Town Center as it is commonly known to the local residents offers the following public services: School, hospital, banks, Post-Office, a fully equipped Gym. Arena, with an adjoining curling rink in season, library, various stores and others that I might forget. The planning was done in such a way as to accommodate the residents with a comfortable, warm, friendly atmosphere and all this is found under one roof.

Bravo! Let us hope that this creative plan is an indication that we are finally understanding the need to remain in good terms with our environment, while engaging in the exploration of its resources.

To anyone favouring a northern adventure, a stop-over in Leaf Rapids will surely leave you with a lasting impression.

Job Opportunities

Professor

The Native Studies Department, Brandon University, is looking for two summer school professors to teach Introduction to Native Studies I and II for the Project for the Education of Native Teachers (P.E.N.T.). Anyone interested is requested to forward an application along with a Curriculum Vitae to

Dr. Art Blue
Head, Native Studies Department
Brandon University
Brandon, Manitoba
R7A 6A9

Salary is approximately \$3,000.00 per appointment.

Secretary

NATIVE STUDIES DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

This vacant position needs a person with excellent typing skills for typing in English and Native languages (shorthand also preferred), high school completion and at least five years office experience, some with Native People's Organizations and Government Departments. The successful applicant must have the will and ability to travel out of Winnipeg to take information and materials on University programs into Native Manitoba communities and promote interest and registration among Native people. Familiarity with Native languages is a definite asset.

Salary: \$8,153.60 - \$10,173.80 per annum (under review).

Interested applicants should contact the Personnel Office, Room 203, Administration Building, University of Manitoba, Fort Garry, or phone 474-9552 to arrange an interview.

Native Education

The DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, requires a person to be responsible to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education for the organization, direction and implementation of a Native education program for the Province of Manitoba.

Three years teaching experience while in possession of a Manitoba Permanent Teaching Certificate, plus proven performance in working with Native communities and organizations in the field of education.

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Winter in Northern Manitoba (Photo by Doug Marshall)

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Shards of "visions"

by Eric Wells
Reprinted Courtesy
Winnipeg Free Press

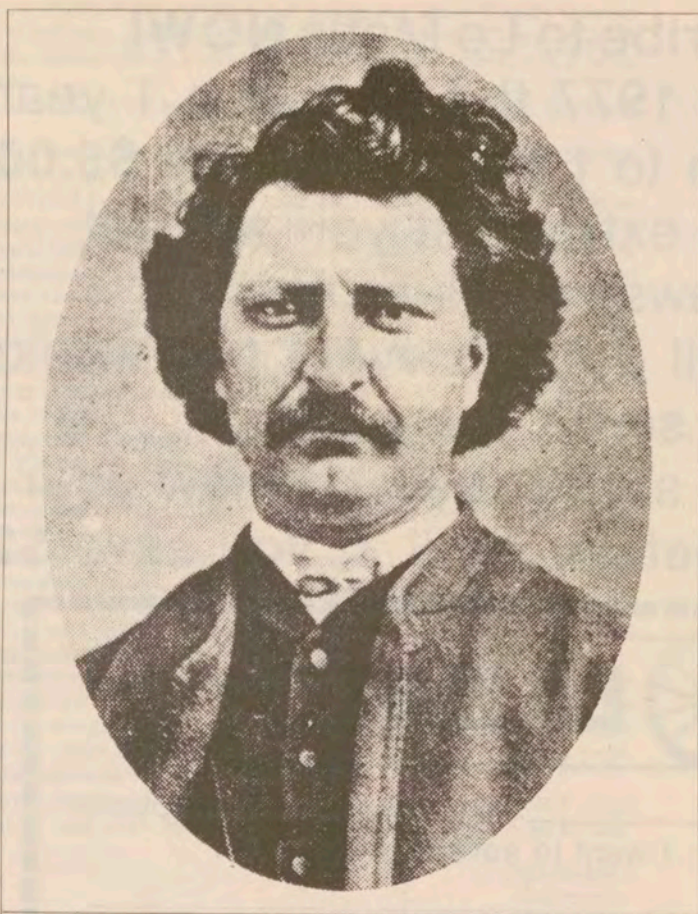
The diaries of Louis Riel: edited by Thomas Flanagan, 187 pp. Edmonton, Hurtig \$4.95 (paper) \$9.95 (cloth).

In his introduction Professor Flanagan (University of Calgary) says his intent in this book is "to present Riel's diaries with a minimum of editorial comment, just enough to make otherwise obscure passages intelligible to the modern reader", and he stays within this stricture except for one lapse which is repeated as a promotion blurb on the cover.

"These journals offer a fresh insight into Riel's baffling personality, uncovering his innermost thoughts during a critical period in his own life and in the history of Canada".

This latter claim is dubious, for Flanagan and Riel, whether assessed individually or as collaborators in these diaries, leave Riel's baffling historical personality undisturbed, and the innermost thoughts of the critical period - the last 18 months of his life on the trail from his Montana refuge to the gibbet at Regina - remain lost in the mist of time.

These are the writing Riel confided to paper, fragments of his lost arguments and tattered dreams, as remote from reader rapport today as they were in 1885. Few persons claimed to understand Riel then, and the ranks of the self-proclaimed enlightened are not augmented by this book in 1976.



Prof. Flanagan cannot be held accountable for this: as noted he does not pretend to be Riel's interpreter beyond translating French into English and that in itself was a formidable task, for Riel at this period of his life was weaving imagery - some say hallucinations - and ghostly puns into fabric without pattern. There is no definable relationship between these tortured entries and the events of Riel's latter days, such as he had demonstrated with cogency in his account

of the Manitoba troubles in 1870.

An earlier translator warned us of the futility of reading Riel's writings of 1885 without having recourse to Riel himself for explanation. Another avenue he suggested was to talk to Riel's intimates who had heard him explain his visions in detail beyond the brittle artifacts left behind his pen.

This translator was Alexander Stewart of Prince Albert, the first person to study the "Batoche Diary" which forms the bulk of this belated book. I say "belated" because it is 91 years since Riel put down his pen for the last time, and as the letters of Alex Stewart (June 1885) show, it was recognized then that the diary entries were but skimpy memoranda of the visions he unfolded before the Metis council.

Riel refused to interpret them, pointing out that he was only a medium, and the discussions of the visions occupied the time of the council while Middleton was advancing. Unfortunately, the Metis council was close to total illiteracy, and by the time Barry Broadfoot arrived on the scene to record our oral history on his tape machine, they were all dead.

This book is a valuable monument marking the sad neglect of western Canadian history, for here we have the shards of the visions which somebody heard, and perhaps understood, but we cannot relate them to the faded scenery there is nobody left to tell us.

Nobody embroidered them in the Arthurian tradition - not even in the American Wild West tradition - and now they are shrivelled in print, with some imprudent incongruities poking up here and there,

and yet we are aware of the melancholy undertones telling us that even Riel himself somehow missed the story.

Among the shards: "Never go out without a hat whether it's hot or cold" "It is no harder for God to keep alive a weak and suffering person than it is to prolong the days of a strong and healthy man".

"Death awaits me as the inkwell waits for my pen".

"Even my casket is a luxurious dwelling place. Pride of death, can you ever have a more sumptuous throne than the 19th century has given you."?

In his predictions of the future of Manitoba, Louis Riel was an optimist, not unlike many westerners of this day. Looking ahead at the year 2385 A.D. he saw Manitoba with a population of 40 million and with the Pope in residence in St. Vital; we'll have to wait 408 years before he can be proved wrong.

In the meantime, and while staying within the affairs of 1885, this book is solely for Riel buffs who may have missed these documents in earlier translations of the "Batoche Diary" into English, the first being by Alexander Stewart in 1885 and the second by Denise Dawes in 1970, in the Nor'Wester, the publication of the Manitoba Centennial Corporation. Having now read all three I am still in the dark as to what went on at those mysterious meetings of the Metis council - the Exovidate as Alex Stewart was the first to explain - but the most memorable phrase to surface in English is out of the Dawes version: That future generations will remember, which is the essence of Louis Riel's tragic story.

"Maski-Pitooon" on C.B.C.

This new CBC drama, produced and directed by Don S. Williams is one in a series of Canadian novels shown under the Magic Lie programs. "Maski-Pitooon," based on a book of the same name by Kerry Wood is set in an era of Canada's past.

When Cree and Blackfoot tribes roamed the prairies, many hostile encounters took place. The drama deals with one of these territorial skirmishes and its effects on "Maski-Pitooon, The Great Chief."

The drama stars Lloyd Henderson as Maski-Pitooon, Reverend Cut-hand as Red Pine, John Cheeki as Atus, Albert Angus as Mia Kun, and Frank Adamson as Gateman.

Although a story from the past, the theme applies even more so today. Truth can be painful; killings are senseless and against man's feelings of love and respect for his fellow man.

This fine Canadian drama will appear on CBC television on March 9 at 4:30 P.M.

Albert Angus, host of CBC Radio's "Our Native Land" plays the principal role of Mia Kun in this drama. Albert was born and raised on a small farm on the Thunderchild Reserve in Saskatchewan. He was educated in Indian Residential schools, the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Winnipeg. Prior to his appointment to "Our Native Land," he worked for the National Film Board, Alberta Native Communications and the North American Indian Travelling College.



Albert Angus (Left) and Lloyd Henderson (right) star in the Lead roles of "Maski-Pitooon" Directed by Don. S. Williams of Winnipeg. The drama will be seen this month on CBC television.

"La Metisse"

par: Louis Riel

Je suis Métisse et je suis orgueilleuse
D'appartenir à cette Nation
Je sais que Dieu de Sa main généreuse
Fais chaque peuple avec attention
Les Métis sont un petit peuple encore
Mais vous pouvez déjà voir leurs destins;
Etre haïs comme ils sont, les honore,
Ils sont déjà rempli de grands dessins...

Le contenu de cette chanson est le seul indice nous permettant d'en situer la date de la composition au début de 1870. Louis Riel était alors au faite de son pouvoir avec les Bois-Brûlés, après la prise de possession du Fort Garry.

Durant Le Festival du Voyageur, un spectacle folklorique traitant de la naissance de notre littérature, fut présenté dans la salle Martial Caron au Collège Universitaire de Saint Boniface.

Le réalisation du spectacle revient à deux personnes en particulier, Soeur Annette Saint Pierre et Monsieur Louis Dubé. Cette présentation fut réalisée avec le concours et l'enthousiasme de vingt-

cinq étudiants et quelques professeurs qui ont démontré leur talents de reproduire une époque qui était pour quelques uns qu'un souvenir vague.

Les contes d'antan, les veillées familiales, les chants d'aventures, les danses, tout ce matériel recueilli afin d'apporter aux scènes certains échos de la Rivière Rouge.

Il fait bon de voir les jeunes gens de notre génération, remplie de vitesse et de visions futures, se raffermir de la ferveur de ces Nobles Ancêtres qui ont certainement laissée leurs empreintes dans nos coeurs et ceci espérons pour plusieurs siècles à venir.

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Le P'tit Métis

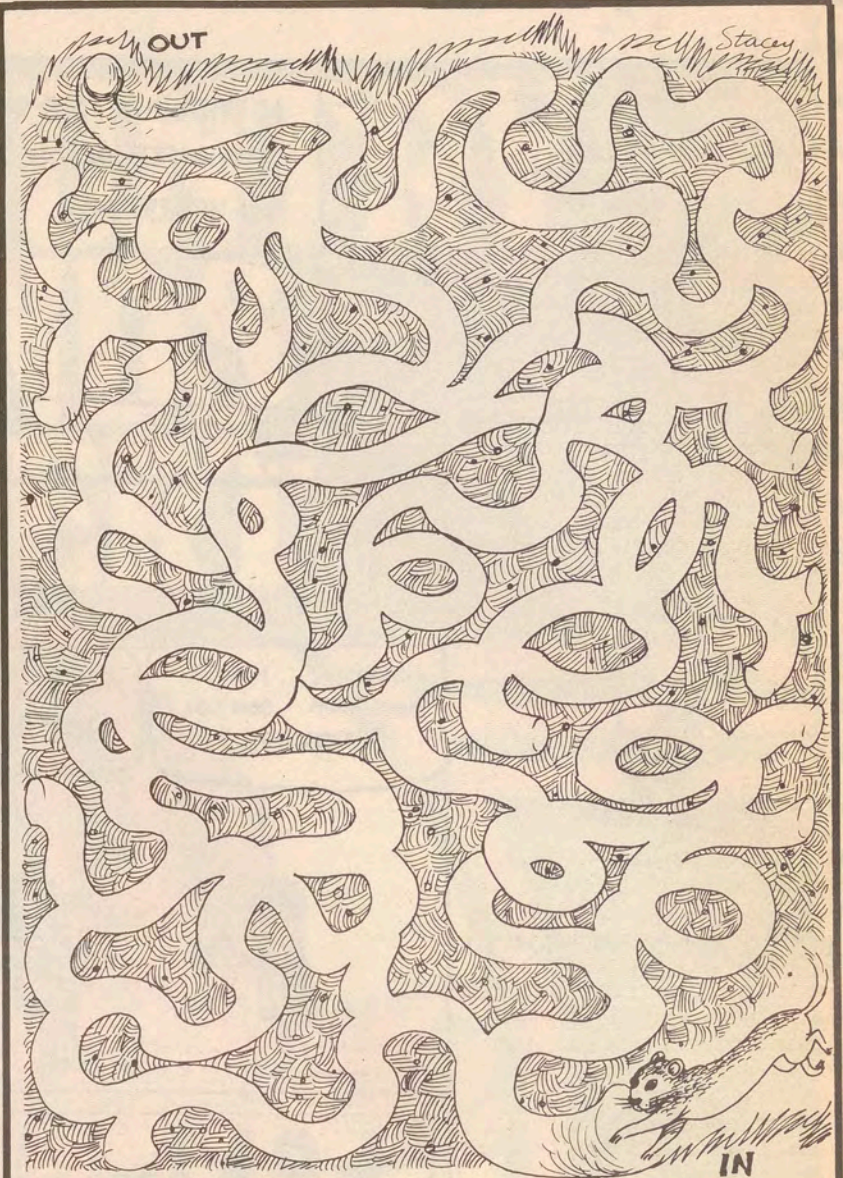


Le Lynx

L'autre jour mon petit chat Onyx
 Rencontra un petit cousin
 Qui lui apparut bien plus gras
 Avec sa queue plus courte
 Et ses moustaches en ailes de tourtre
 Et son manteau tacheté
 C'était bien lui, ce cousin du Canada
 Le Lynx

The Lynx

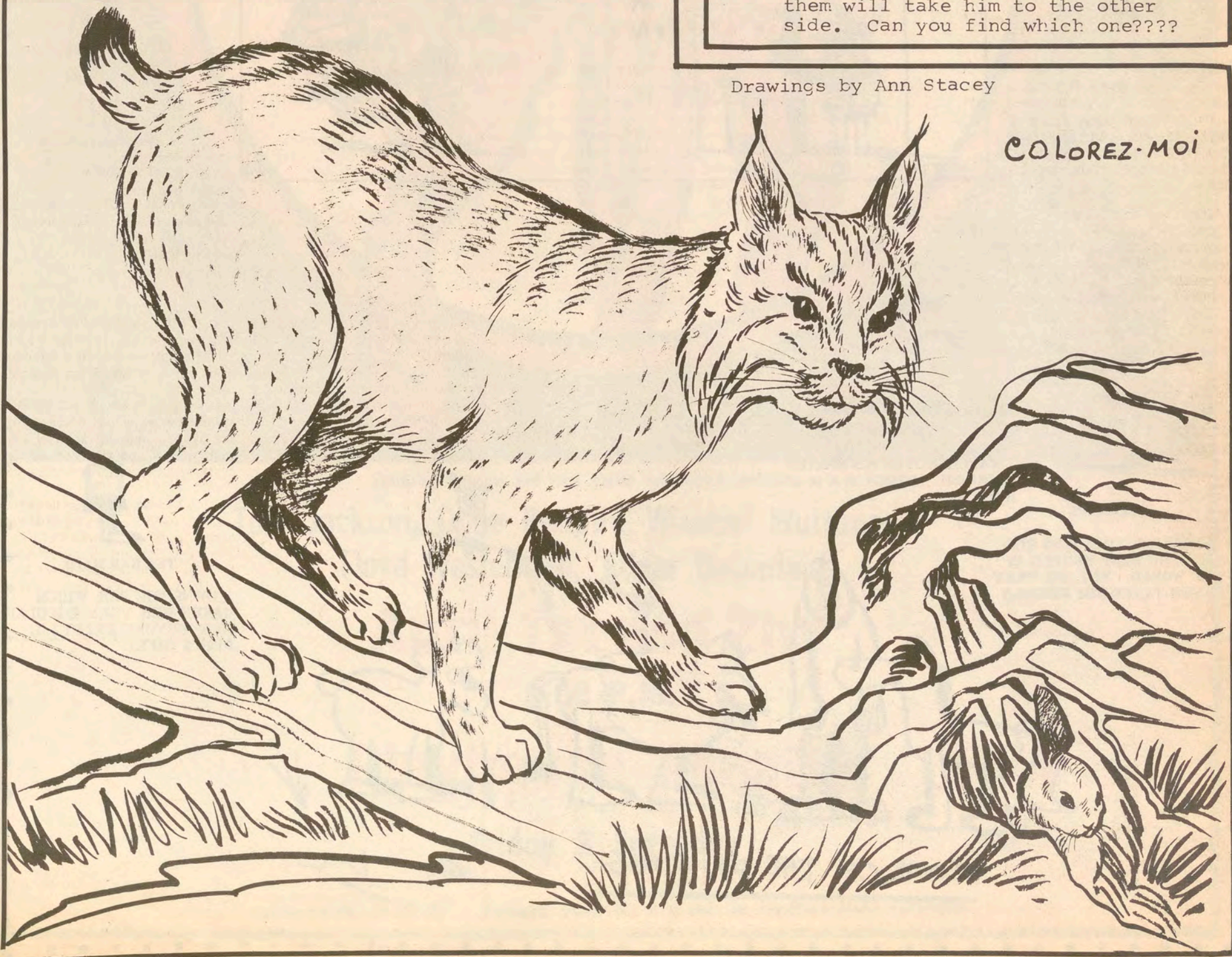
The other day my pet cat Jinx
 Met a distant cousin (or so he thinx)
 Whose tail is too short for curves or kinx
 Whose fur is spotted with grey-brown inx
 Whose sideburns trail in his dish when he drinx
 This large fierce wild cat, the Canada Lynx.



Gary the Gopher has dug a maze of tunnels through the hill. One of them will take him to the other side. Can you find which one????

Drawings by Ann Stacey

COLOREZ-MOI

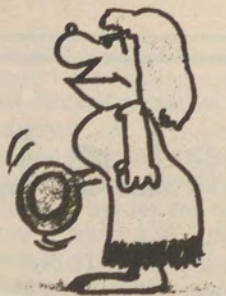
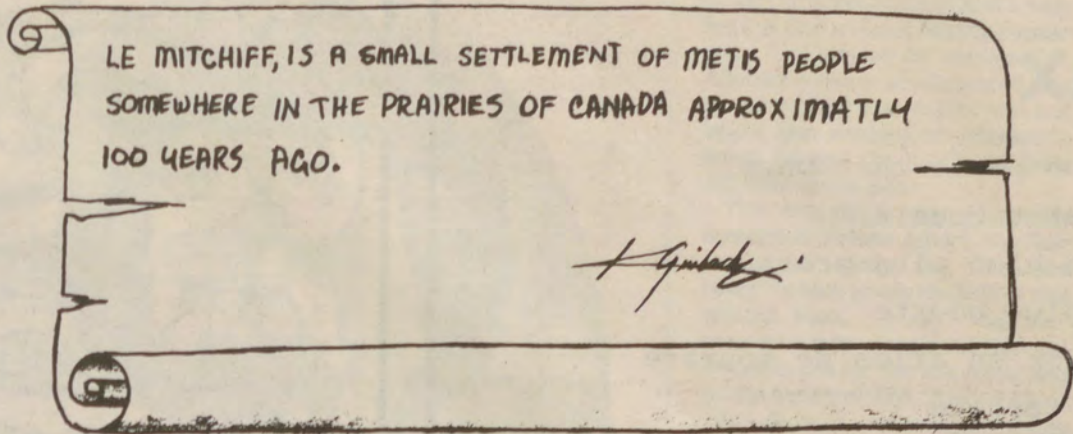


Le Mitchiff



LIL JONN

WHO'S SOLE AMBITION IS TO KEEP ON DRINKING.



LIL JONN'S WIFE
WHAT CAN I SAY!



VERN

WISE OLD MAN! HAS BRAINS, BUT DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO USE THEM.



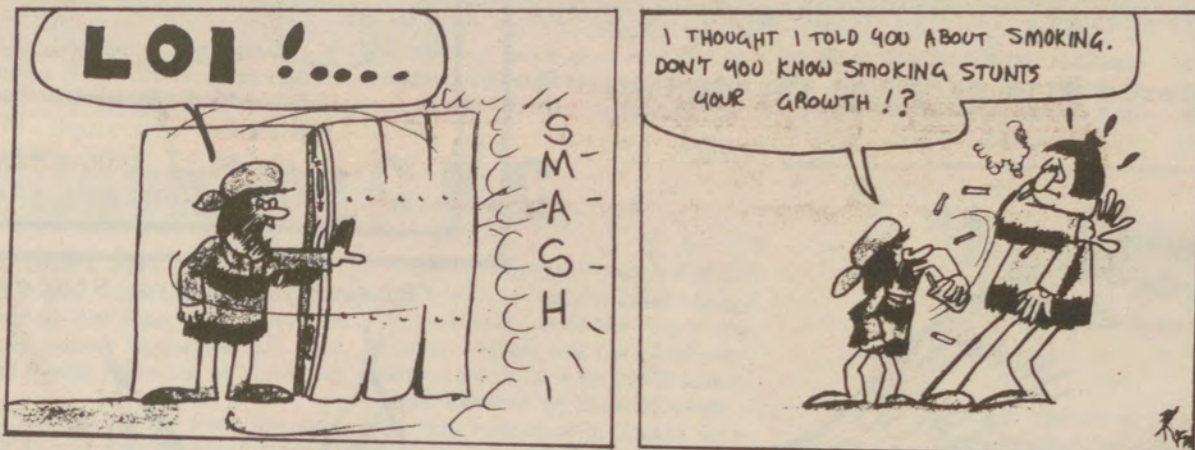
JONAS

DESTROYS, CRUSHES, SMASHES ANYTHING THAT ANNOYS HIM!



BEN

GREAT WIT. HAS MANY SCEMES AND PRANKS. TRIES TO BE A LADIES MAN AND TRIES TO FIND A WAY TO GET RICH.



REVEREND

TRIES TO KEEP HIS PEOPLE IN LINE! SOLE AMBITION IS TO STOP LIL JONN FROM DRINKING!



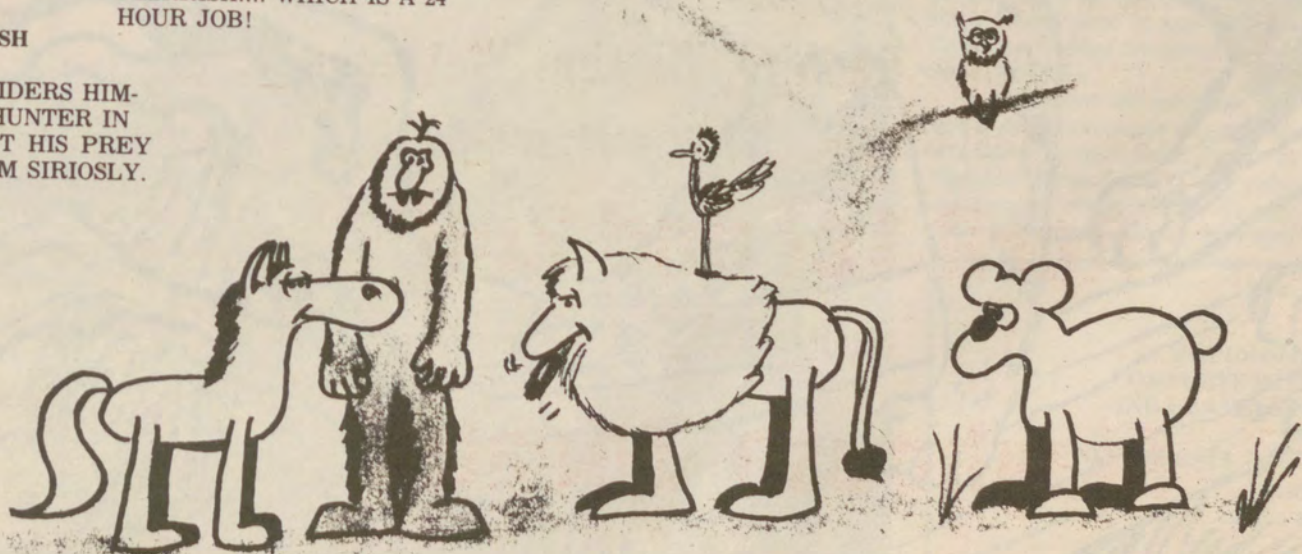
PIERRISH

PIERRISH CONSIDERS HIMSELF THE BEST HUNTER IN THE WORLD. BUT HIS PREY NEVER TAKES HIM SIRIOSLY.



SNIFFER

WATCHES OVER HIS MASTER PIERRISH.... WHICH IS A 24 HOUR JOB!



SOME OF THE ANIMALS



THE BAR MAID

OWNS THE BAR, WHICH MAKES HER VERY POPULAR TO EVERYONE EXCEPT LIL JONN'S WIFE!

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