



LE MÉTIS

March, 1978

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35 cents



**Protest March On
Legislative
Grounds**

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400 Métis Attend Meeting

Dauphin
March 17 - 19, 1978

On Friday night, March 17 over four hundred people packed the Dauphin Inn meeting room for the opening session of a three day regional conference. Reports from locals were presented, Vice-President Walter Menard reviewed the purposes for the conference and nomination for Board of Directors were received.

On Saturday morning Métis from Dauphin Region gathered

at the Ukrainian Orthodox Hall for the remainder of the conference. The Saturday meeting dealt with housing. The Manitoba Métis Federation Housing Branch conducted the workshop. Frank Vivier and Freeman Belhumeur are the Housing Development Officers for Dauphin Region and can be reached at Dauphin Manitoba Métis Federation Office. The housing workshop should have informed the local representa-



Rita Guiboche, court communicator for Dauphin Area explains some of the problems native people face in the Judicial system.

tives sufficiently that they can return to their homes and be able to inform others of the opportunities available in housing.

Saturday evening a social evening was held and all had a great time. Throughout the evening sashes were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Whitford of the Salt Point Local to commemorate their 43rd wedding anniversary.

In the jiggling contest 19 contestants participated, the winners were Lionel McKay and Gail Smith. An honorary participant in the contest was Emile Fleury of Winnipeg.

The Sunday portion of the conference was devoted to information in the morning and elections in the afternoon. First on the agenda was Rita Flamond Guiboche, Court Communicator for the Dauphin Area. Rita, a former Manitoba Métis Federation Board member presented her work and explained what her role is in the judicial system. Ms. Guiboche and about a dozen others throughout the Province are hired by the courts to assist native persons who are involved in the court process. These court communicators are able to help those people who have the lack of comprehension of proceedings. They are also available to those persons requiring guidance and direction in adopting the best course of action.

Tom Campbell of Planning and Policy at the Manitoba Métis Federation Headquarters reviewed the Economic Development plans which are being developed. His talk suggested many possibilities for long term projects to encourage jobs and employment through the Manitoba Métis Development Cor-

poration. Further projects were encouraged throughout the Dauphin Region.

Bernard Wood and Ferdinand Guiboche of the Manitoba Métis Land Commission also gave an update report on the progress of the Commission.

President, John Morrisseau addressed the conference of over 400 persons, and called for unity and support of all Métis people throughout the Province. In referring to a demonstration at the Manitoba Legislature held on March 16th, John was pleased with the short notice response which brought out about 100 Métis from many parts of the Province. He went on to request physical support of hundreds and even thousands of people whenever a demonstration is called in the future.

Dauphin Vice-President, Walter Menard, went on to say, "We need strategy and confrontation, everyone has a role to play in making unity a priority."

Sunday afternoon was election time for two Directors. One hundred and ninety-six votes were cast on the first ballot. There was such a large number of persons able to vote due to a resolution passed at the previous regional conference giving any membership card holder over sixteen years of age the right to vote on the regional level.

The two Directors were elected on the second ballot. Jack Fleming of Winnipegosis was re-elected. The new member of the Board is Leon Guiboche of National Mills.

The conference came to an end late Sunday afternoon and all participants were better informed and able to return home with a new Métis Pride and purpose.

Higher Unemployment

On March 10, 1978, Honorable Ken MacMaster, Minister of Northern Affairs held a press conference concerning the lay-off of 373 provincial employees. These lay-offs took place due to the amalgamation of the Northern Affairs, Renewable Resources and Transportation Departments. Mr. MacMaster gave assurance that these lay-offs would not interfere with the quality of service given within the total Department.

He felt the amalgamation would, hopefully end duplication and give a far more efficient service. When asked how these lay-offs would affect Native government employees, Mr. MacMaster suggested this question could not be considered as the Human Rights Commission does not allow discrimination in employees.

The reasons given for the cut-backs in employment were due to duplication of services such as information, cultural and educational services.

M.M.F.

Housing Report

During the week of March 28 - 31, the Housing Branch of the Manitoba Métis Federation and staff from C.M.H.C. held a workshop at the Westdale Motor Hotel in Charleswood, Winnipeg.

Employees of the Housing Branch from all six regions attended the workshop.

At this meeting the new Housing Development Officers were introduced. There are six new Housing Development Officers, one from each region who will work with their Senior Housing Development Officer.

The objectives of this workshop would be to better inform the staff of the Manitoba Métis Federation and C.M.H.C. about the housing situation as it is today.

Listed below are the Senior Housing Development Officers and the newly appointed Housing Development Officers for each region:

Southeast Region — Senior Housing Development Officer, Claude Courchaine, Housing Development Officer, Ted Blais.

Southwest Region — Senior Housing Development Officer, Fred Shore; Housing Development Officer, Ron Erickson.

Interlake Region — Senior Housing Development Officer, Lloyd Pelletier; Housing Development Officer, Jerry Allard.

Dauphin Region — Senior Housing Development Officer, Frank Vivier; Housing Development Officer, Freeman Belhumeur.

Thompson Region — Senior Housing Development Officer, Garry Nabess; Housing Development Officer, Buddy Meade.

The Pas Region — Senior Housing Development Officer, Eric Sandberg; Housing Development Officer, Richard Lowe.

Southeast Regional

On March 11 and 12, 1978, the South East Region of the MMF held its regional meeting at Winnipeg. On Saturday March 11 the MMF housing branch held a workshop and on Sunday a business meeting and elections of Board of Directors was held.

During the Housing workshop concerns were voiced about different aspects of the housing programme. Some of these concerns were: Proper standards, Water and sewage, Senior Citizen housing. Mr. Orval Strong, MMF Housing director explained how the housing Branch

came into being. He also explained how the housing development officers could be of assistance in the communities.

Mr. Leon Lavasseur, C.M.H.C. manager spoke about home ownership. The points he raised were quality control, condensation and humidity defects in houses, and repayment plans.

The Sunday meeting opened with a talk given by MMF President John Morrisseau. To better inform the membership of what his work consists of he told of some of the

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Métis Credit Union

The Métis Credit Union of Manitoba Ltd. is now legally incorporated and will be open for business every Wednesday from the 12th of April, 1978 on. The provisional officers of the Credit Union are: PRESIDENT: W.T. Campbell (Director Policy & Planning, MMF); SECRETARY-TREASURER: Larry Dysart (Policy & Planning, MMF); BOARD MEMBER: John Morrisseau (President, MMF); BOARD MEMBER: Ernie Blais (Vice-President, MMF S.E. Region); BOARD MEMBER: Ferdinand Guiboche (Land Commissioner, MMF).

Interim Manager of the Credit

Union is David Clouston, Executive Director, MMF.

Services provided presently by the credit union are limited to Saving Accounts for individual members and MMF locals, but we are hoping that services can be increased as more members join and make deposits.

Official opening ceremonies will be held at the 1977-78 Annual Assembly of the Manitoba Métis Federation.

For further information, please write: Métis Credit Union of Manitoba Ltd., 300-275 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2B3, or call: 956-2070.

First Year A Success

The Manitoba Métis Land Commission is coming to the close of its first year of operation. Our contract with the Federal Government terminates March 31, 1978. A proposal has been submitted to the Federal Government for an additional three years funding. This should be negotiated the latter part of April.

In reviewing the Commission's first year, there are several areas of research we have worked into. These are Riverlots, Scrip, Community Consultation and Translation.

We have prepared a pamphlet to outline these areas which you will find enclosed.

We have accumulated a great deal of information in this first year. In turn, this has given us an indication as to how much more research has to be done. We have merely scratched the surface. The material we have now must be analyzed as well as prepared for presentation to the people at the community level. The future holds greater contact with the communities to pass on our research findings.

Our Cover

March 16 / 78 -

On Thursday, March 16, a group numbering approximately 700 strong rallied at the legislative grounds in protest of the new government cut-backs and lay-offs in the labour force.

Partaking in this protest march were approximately 200 Native people. These people are the ones that are being hurt the most due to the government cutting back employment in the North.

The MMF was on hand to

lend support to this protest with approximately 100 members who came from as far north as Thompson to attend.

The assembly at the Legislature grounds was successful in the fact that the people were united to try and achieve a common goal. Let us hope that this appearance by all working class citizens has an influence on any decision that the Lyon administration might make regarding jobs and employment.

C.B.C. RADIO requires an **ANNOUNCE OPERATOR**

to be located in
THOMPSON, MANITOBA

The successful applicant will be responsible for:

- the accurate and efficient performance of Announcer-Operator functions according to C.B.C. standards on local and regional programs.
- planning, researching, organizing, preparing and presenting radio programs including scripting, interviewing and continuity
- performing routine duties and technical functions as related to the above

REQUIREMENTS:

- knowledge of the North, its indigenous peoples, resources and geography is required
- the ability to communicate ideas clearly, orally and in writing is essential and knowledge of a native language will be of considerable benefit
- travel will be required.

SALARY: \$15,488.-\$19,392.

Apply in writing including details of background and experience to:

J. WATT

Staff Development Officer
Canadian Broadcasting
Corporation
P.O. Box 160
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2H1



**CANADIAN
BROADCASTING
CORPORATION**

Our Provincial Government is keeping its promise of restraint. Finance Minister Craik has brought forth estimates of expenditures for the coming year, the lowest increase in Canada we're told. Departments have been cut, combined and curtailed as a result of recommendations being made by the task force established to examine the serious financial situation, Mr. Lyon tells us our province is in.

The jobs which have been lost due to cutbacks will have a definite effect on the economy. When people are without work, they don't spend as freely as they would otherwise. At present the north is the hardest hit. The small towns which will be effected by the lay-offs will feel the pinch also. There is rumour of further cutbacks in the health care areas. This would be a blow to all parts of the province.

Some of the plans of the Lyon government are to turn much of the provincially owned business over to the private sector. We can appreciate some of these ideas. Boats and booze are two areas which government has had its fingers in, where the private sector might do far better. This writer is one who was very critical of the government operated insurance corporation at its conception. From my experience since, with both auto pac and property insurance, I would be reluctant to see an invitation extended to the private companies to return to Manitoba. In a survey conducted throughout Winnipeg the opinion of 60% of insurance agents contacted was they would also be hesitant to have the same system return as in the pre-Auto pac era.

If the government is wanting to turn over our insurance to the private companies we wonder if Auto-pac would continue to show profit and be able to keep rates as low as they have been.

This Federation has plans for economic development province wide. With assistance from governments both federal and provincial permanent jobs could be created, thus employing hundreds of people and producing goods and services which at present are non-existent or are being secured from other parts of the world. Through sound planning the economy would be strengthened, and unemployment rates would decrease. The response to the plan has been very favourable wherever it has been examined, yet the response from the province in requesting funds to get the plan underway had been negative due to lack of any monies available.

At present we are in a period of restraint, until the books are balanced we will have to wait in anticipation, of co-operation in the future.

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MWA plan Annual Assembly

On Saturday March 18, 1978 the executive of the Metis Women Association met in Dauphin to discuss

Foster Care and to finalize plans for the MWA annual assembly to be held Saturday and Sunday April 15 & 16, 1978 at the Balmoral Motor Hotel in Winnipeg.

Some of the concerns in the area of Foster Care in Manitoba are that there are very few Metis Foster homes, that children are taken out of family situations and placed into receiving homes, group homes, and the Manitoba Youth Centre. This situation is serious as these Metis children are taken out of their own homes and cultural environment only to be placed in a different milieu with other problems and a different lifestyle. The MWA feels this is a real concern and intends to examine the possibilities of approaching government with alternatives in the near future.

The MWA annual assembly will be held in Winnipeg this year and will examine "Metis Women and Employment." During the two-day meeting the assembly will also discuss the Constitution, director of the association in the future and have elections of officers and board members.

Sherridon Winter Festival

The recreation Association of Sherridon in conjunction with the Métis Federation Local hosted the Second annual Sherridon Winter Festival, March 24-26, 1978.

The Festival started out March 24, 1978 with a community Banquet to honor guests. In true Métis tradition all food for the Banquet was donated and served by the ladies of the community. The Evening activities were started by competitions in Squaw Wrestling, Moose Calling, Goose Calling, Frog Calling, Yodelling, and highlighted by the jiggling contest. The jiggling contest was judged on the steps of the Red River jig with thirteen competitors entered. No doubt the judges had a hard time especially when it came to the ability of the old timers. Rounding out the evening was a Community Dance to the Music of Storm House from The Pas.

Saturday's events got underway at 7:00 a.m. with a Pancake Breakfast to feed the athletes who were going to

compete in the day's activities. The events which were once the life essence of life for a trapper out in the bush in below zero weather became the events to be used for sport and competition in all Northern Festivals these days. These events included Swede saw nail driving, trap setting, snow-shoe races, flour packing, Bannock making and tea-boiling.

Highlight of the day was the Men's Flour Packing Event, as the crowded hall was completely silent in order to allow the packers the utmost concentration. Pound for Pound the men battled it out only to see young George Brightnose capture the crown. The original flour packing contest originated in Sherridon with an original settler James Sayese carrying 1200 lbs. Present Day record is held by John Flett of Moose Lake carrying 1000 lbs.

The Young People of Sherridon deserve a big hand from all Métis for a job well done in organizing their Second Annual Winter Festival.

Report North Outbreak Of Infectious Syphilis

Health officials in northern Manitoba are keeping daily watch over an outbreak of infectious syphilis that has developed during the winter in northwestern Manitoba north of 53°.

There have been 17 cases reported since Christmas in an area between Grand Rapids and Cranberry Portage, with the largest number of cases reported in The Pas area, including Moose Lake. Several

contacts of the victims are being treated.

Health officials are urging all sexually active persons in these areas to see a doctor, especially if they suspect that they may be infected. Syphilis is a serious disease, which is spread by sexual activity, and is usually detectable by a blood test. Prompt treatment ensures a complete cure. All discussion and treatment is kept in the strictest confidence.

Card of Thanks

To all residents of Sherridon who showed us true Northern Hospitality during the Sherridon Winter Festival. It will always be remembered.

Cliff Richards
Joan Richards
Sandra De Laronde

To all musicians who supported IMISA in the Springtime Fever Concert on March 5, 1978. It was Greatly Appreciated.

IMISA
To Errol Ranville, Stella Houle, Delores Starr, Theresa & Wayne Courchene, Louise Lafraniere, Kathy Spence, Joan Menard, Mervin Moar, who all supported IMISA for the Springtime Fever Concert on March 5, 1978.

IMISA



LE MÉTIS

Le Métis is published monthly by the Manitoba Metis Federation and is available at a cost of \$5.00 per year to members or non-members.

The policy of Le Métis 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 Métis is also accepting classified or display advertising. Rates available on request.

Deadline for submission is the 10th of each month.

Marcel McIvor
Editor.

SEND LETTERS OR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

The Editor
Le Métis
300 - 275 Portage Ave.,
Winnipeg, Man.
R3B 2B3

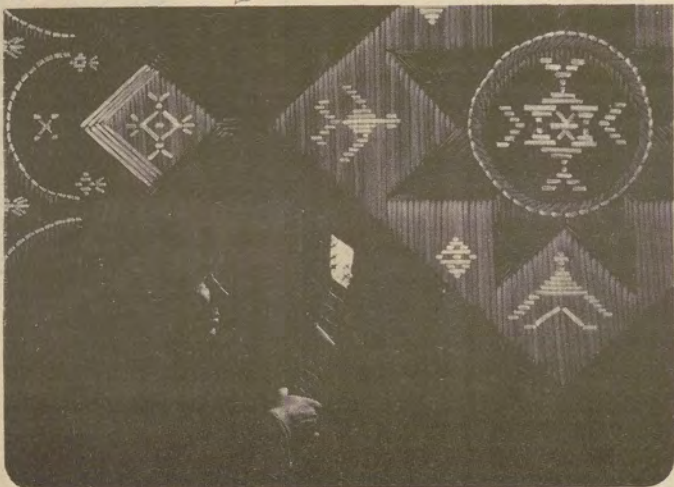
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**NEW
RECORD
AVAILABLE !**

**SOURIQUOIS VISIONS
by
Peter Frank**

Souriquois Visions



Peter Frank

A REVIEW BY CONRAD W. PAUL

Nothing draws people together like good music. **Souriquois Visions**, a newly released album by Peter Frank of Nyanza is more than just good music. It is a vital statement written with the blood of the entire Micmac experience.

The powerful quality of his lyrics and superb musical arrangements drive home an incisively perceptive attack on apathy and the present path both the Aboriginal people and the people who invaded this continent tread unaware.

Souriquois Visions describes the rape of an entire race — a cultural deffilement bordering genocide. "Then came the hunger, the welfare, and me . . ." is but one lyric of many that catches the thushness of the problem. It can't be explained, only outlined. For the only articulation that grasps total understanding is to live it — as many have and many will — too many have and too many will.

Souriquois Visions. Say it out loud. Say it aloud again and feel the mystical finality of it. Go ahead . . . say it and don't be afraid. **Souriquois Visions** is a prophetic outcry against cultural termination of the Aboriginal peoples. The phenomenon of lemmings marching en masse into the sea is suicide. The Micmac and other Aboriginal peoples are being driven to their deaths — both cultural and actual. To most moral people, this is often called murder.

Peter Frank, a Micmac of Wagmatcook reserve (written on the map as Nyanza), may be more than just a modern day Diogenese walking amidst today's white society. He has experienced the Indian residential school and battled its assimilation tactics. He went on to earn a degree from St. Dunstan's university in 1963. Peter Frank has been everything from a provincial government employee in Ontario and Nova Scotia to a bush pilot in the vastness of the Canadian North. He's lived it and now he tells it.

Souriquois Visions is quiet beauty. With the help of a popular Halifax-Metro area band called "Old Blue", Peter Frank's message radiates from the heart reaching other hearts. It is a giant step at demolishing the stereotype of the Indian as a drunken heathen savage.

Conviction, power, mysticism, beauty, and profundity fall short of describing **Souriquois Visions**. Find out for yourself first hand by listening to **Souriquois Visions** by Peter Frank. **Souriquois Visions** is available by writing the Research Department of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians or the Native Communications Society of Nova Scotia at Post Office Box 961, Sydney, Nova Scotia, B1P 6J4. The price is only \$7.99 so write soon. A limited number of **Souriquois Visions** available!

Attention all Young People

Join our big

Métis Calendar Art Contest

and win

Some Great Prizes

Cash Books

Plans are under way for the publication of a 1979 Métis Calendar consisting of 12 color pages for each month of the year depicting scenes of Métis History and Culture. In order to assist in this project, the calendar art contest is aimed at encouraging a number of entries, and 12 winners will be selected for the calendar.

Here's how to enter:

***Make a scene relating to Métis History and Culture (past or present). For example:**

- Red River Jigging
- Métis Days
- The Battle of Batoche
- Scene(s) from Louis Riel's Life
- Buffalo Hunting
- Blueberry Picking
- Fishing or Trapping
- Horse Racing
- etc.

***Send your entry together with your name, address, age, and school to:**

Métis Calendar Art Contest
Manitoba Métis Federation
300 - 275 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B3

Contest Deadline: April 30, 1978

12 Prizes will be awarded, as follows:

- 1st Prize: \$75.00 plus complete set of books published by the Manitoba Métis Federation Press (valued at approximately \$45.00).
- 2nd Prize: \$50.00 plus complete set of books published by the Manitoba Métis Federation Press (valued at approximately \$45.00).
- 3rd Prize: \$25.00 plus complete set of books published by the Manitoba Métis Federation Press (valued at approximately \$45.00).
- 4th to 12th Prizes: A complete set of books published by the Manitoba Métis Federation Press (valued at approximately \$45.00).

TO THE TEACHER:

This contest may be integrated with a unit on Métis History in order to encourage classroom activity and participation. Filmstrips with accompanying narration and script entitled "The Métis" are available on loan from the following address:

**The Curriculum Section
Native Education Branch
Manitoba Department of Education
507 - 1181 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3G 0T3**



Trail Blazers of the North

When Mr. and Mrs. Alex Colon moved from Oxford House to Norway House with their family, Susan and Amos, they built their first home on Hope Island, on Little Playgreen Lake. After a few years they went to Fort Island, building a home at the place where the Playgreen Inn is now situated. Finally, they moved to the reserve on the Jack River side of Fort Island to build their permanent home.

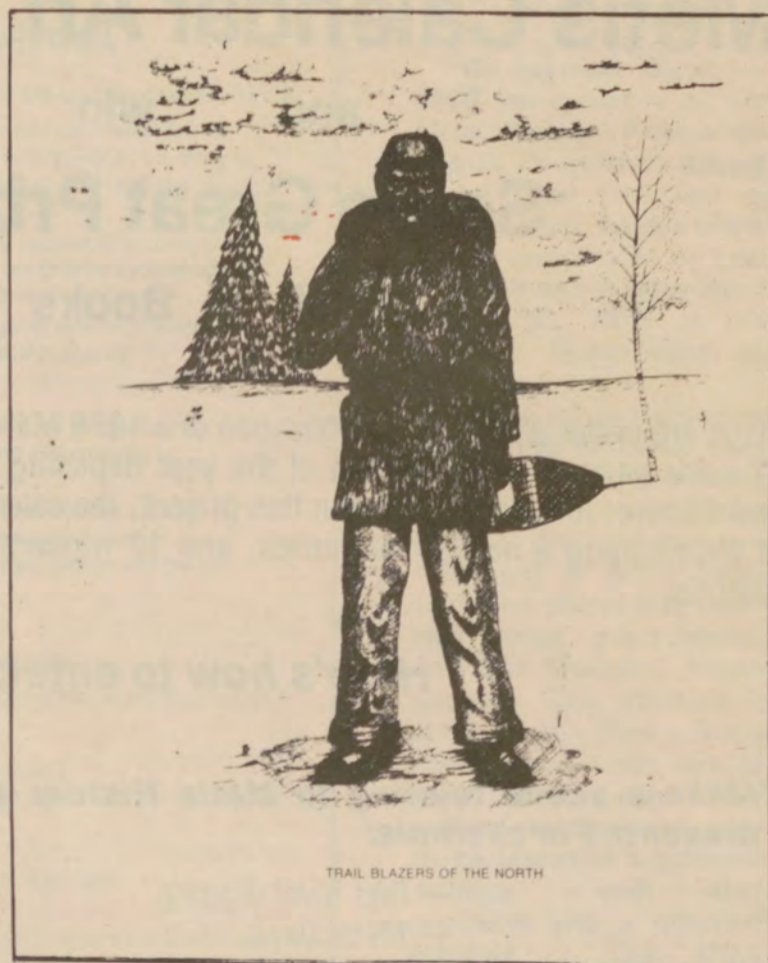
A few years later my father built his house about three-quarters of a mile upstream from the Colon family's home. By this time Amos was married and had a family of four children. Two of his children are still living; his oldest son, Henry, and youngest daughter, Adele. They had a few head of cattle and Amos' father used to drive an ox, hauling wood for his own use or to sell. He also hauled hay to feed his cattle in winter. For years I watched them cutting and stacking hay along the shores of the Jack River. Some years, when the water on the river was high, they used a skiff or canoe to haul the hay up on the rocks to dry.

The Colons had two gardens where they planted potatoes to eat through the winter. Some they kept for the next year's planting. They often gave my mother fresh milk and cream of which they had plenty, and potatoes before my father had his own garden. In later years after Amos' father had died, they butchered the cows because Amos was unable to look after them. He was away from home most of the winter, working with guides for the Hudson's Bay Company and other fur traders.

In those days, the only means of transporting freight, mail, and furs in the winter was by dog team. Ten to twenty teams hauled freight and mail along a route linking Norway House and Riverton, the nearest railway point 275 miles away. Amos was one of the head runners for the dog team. His job was to break the trails for the dogs and keep them open.



The huge sled dogs were huskies, or sometimes part wolf. They were tied up all summer and were not too friendly to strangers. After a steady diet of fish, they were very energetic. If you can imagine, for one minute, the speed at which those dogs ran. Yet Amos was able to



TRAIL BLAZERS OF THE NORTH

keep ahead of them, running with snowshoes on, at that. He would later pick up speed and leave them far behind so that he could go and set up camp. Although Amos ran most of the day, it still took him 5 to 6 days to reach Riverton. He made overnight camps at Simpson Point, Berens River, Rabbit Point, Snake Island, or Bull Head. This man covered approximately 45 to 55 miles a day. There were times on his return trips from Riverton that he would extend his journey to Island Lake, God's Lake, Oxford House, Cross Lake, Nelson House, and finally Split Lake, when the Hudson's Bay Company inspector visited the outposts.

Amos made these trips every winter for many years. He was always on his way by 6 a.m. and travelled all day till late in the evening. He carried a bag on his back containing a tea kettle, an axe, a pair of dry socks, and moccasins. On their

and unloaded the sleigh, Amos would have the camp ready with the kettle boiling for tea. There were other runners also who set up camp in a short time, but no one could beat Amos.



TRAIL BLAZERS OF THE NORTH

One of his favorite pastimes was square dancing. If there was a dance on during one of his return trips, regardless of how far he had run that day, it meant nothing to him to run another 3 or 25 miles to go the dance. He was known in every community along each side of Lake Winnipeg for his square dancing ability. People used to set the date for a dance when they

expected him to be arriving at their community. They would send a man driving a dog team and carriage toboggan to pick Amos up from his lodging and take him to the place where the dance was to be held. The driver made Amos as comfortable as possible by wrapping him under a sleeping robe up to his shoulders to keep him warm. When the dance was over the dog team driver would take him back to his lodging the same way. This is how dignitaries travelled in those days and Amos earned this respect by not going to the dances uninvited.

The Hudson Bay railway to Churchill was completed during the early 1930's. There was no more hauling of freight and mail along Lake Winnipeg after that. Amos was 56 years old, I was told, when he made his last run to Riverton in the winter of 1935. Then, people used horses to haul freight and mail to the Hudson Bay railway station at Wabowden.

George Arthurson, one of the mail carriers Amos used to run for, switched to horses from dog team to continue his mail hauls. However, Amos continued running to inland communities. He started to slow down when he passed the age of 60 but was still very active on

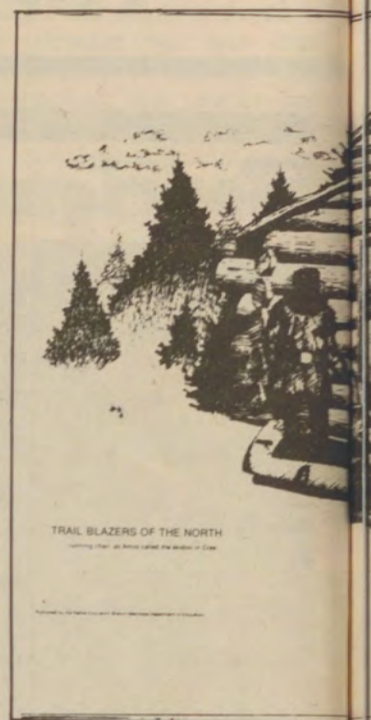
the trapline where his son and his son-in-law trapped at the northeast end of Molson Lake. He was still able to keep ahead of the dog team pulling his sleigh behind him. He loved to be out camping where he'd do some fishing and a bit of trapping. He would also go short distances from the community to set up rabbit snares which he would attend to every day.



SHORT

MURD

CON



TRAIL BLAZERS OF THE NORTH

In the spring of 1966 when Amos was 92 years of age, I took him with me to do some spring trapping for muskrats. He was still very active and anxious to be out trapping again. He would ride behind me on the skidoo when we went out to check our muskrat and beaver sets, or we'd walk through the bush when we could not get through on our "running chair" as Amos called the skidoo in Cree. He told me he knew an old man who used to imagine his friend had a chair that could run like a human being long before there were any skidoos invented or heard of in the community.

I remember one day on our





following the old mail route on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. This was the route taken by Amos and other mail and freight carriers of bygone days. I took Amos to meet the group and he was interviewed and had his picture taken by the reporter of the group. At that time he was 93 years old. Amos, a short lightly built man, weighed around 100 to 125 pounds. He was five feet tall.

Amos was never famous in his time. He was one man amongst many who blazed the forest trails in northern Manitoba on foot and on snowshoes. He ran approximately six thousand miles (ground miles) each winter for many years in his younger days. As Donald McIvor said, if he didn't reach six thousand miles he was not very far off.

He was registered as 100 years old when he died in November of 1973. Amos was one of many Native people whose names are not mentioned, who provided service to the people of the north and who deserve a place in history.

The following are the names of some of the other men, dog team owners, and mail carriers now deceased:

- Donald Houle
- Jimmie Robertson
- Alex Budd
- George Arthurson
- Hector Simpson

Edward Saunders, trapper and camp trader, is still living. Amos used to run for him in his later years.

I wish to extend my appreciation to the following men who gave me some of the information in order for me to write this story.

- Horace Robertson — son of Jimmie Robertson
- Arthur Arthurson — son of George Arthurson
- Donald McIvor (retired) — store clerk, Camp trader
- George Gunn
- William Scribe — my father
- Thomas Simpson — his father used to carry mail also

Life on the Trapline



Also wild geese and ducks stopped as they flew south. Wild animals were plentiful in the surrounding area too so fresh meat was always on hand when needed.

The older children usually cut wood for the camp and kept a good supply ready. The young boys and girls also did some trapping not far from the camp. They had trails leading into the bush where they set rabbit snares and traps for small animals such as squirrels and weasels. Sometimes a lynx, fox, mink, or fisher was caught if they were lucky. This made them feel proud and happy that they also were able to trap the larger animals.

From the time the child was able to talk and understand his language he was told Native stories of brave men and hunters who had done great deeds for their fellow men. As they grew older, their grandfathers or uncles would make toys in the form of bows and arrows, snowshoes, and so forth. These would be presented to them as gifts to play with. A child would learn how to use them in his outdoor activities by pretending he was hunting and trapping, camping, or travelling long distances.

By the time a boy was ten years old he was able to look after himself and hunt small birds and animals short distances from his camp or cabin. He

Continued on Page 6

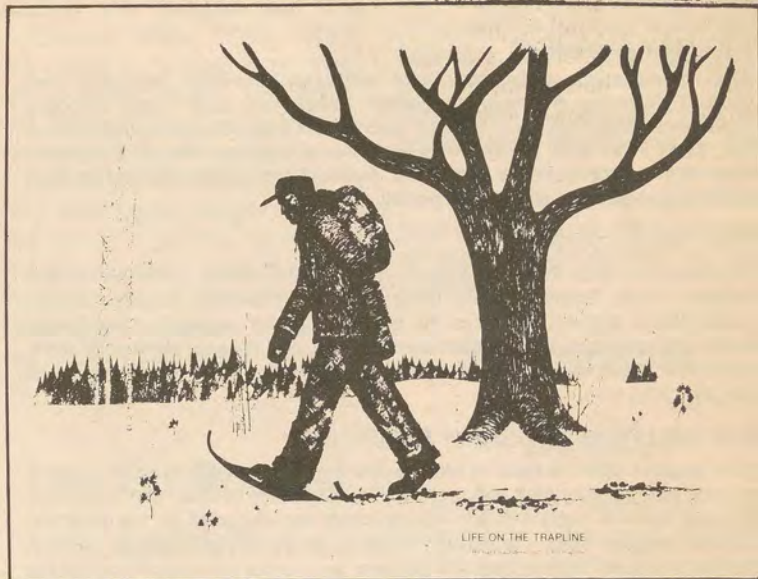
In the winter of 1941 and part of the winter and spring of 1942 I went with my uncle, Richard Saunders, out on his trapline. His trapline was in the area of Great Rapids, and Molson River, Thunder Lake, White Pine Lake, and along the Swamp Fish River which is about 25 miles south of Molson Lake. The area we trapped was 15 miles wide and 30 miles long.

The names of these lakes and rivers are not on the map; they are Indian names that have been used by the trappers in the area for many years. Thunder Lake in Cree is pe-na-so-wesa-ka-ye-kan. Great Rapids is me-sta-le-pa-wi-stick and Swamp Fish River is ka-as-jo-a-ma-kos-ka-sik-se-pe. The fish in these swamp lakes are black and when full grown are 5 inches long and somewhat resemble a mullet.

Our main camp was 2 miles downstream from Great Rapids. From here we made the rounds to the trap sets. The trapline was laid out in the shape of a clover leaf. Each day my uncle would walk 15 to 20 miles on snowshoes carrying a packsack on his back. He would check and re-set his traps and snares as he went along. The packsack contained his lunch bag, tea kettle, a few traps, and one or

two animals he found caught in his traps. There were times when he returned with his packsack heavily loaded with his catch and other times when he came back to the cabin with bark and dried branches clinging to his clothing and his packsack empty.

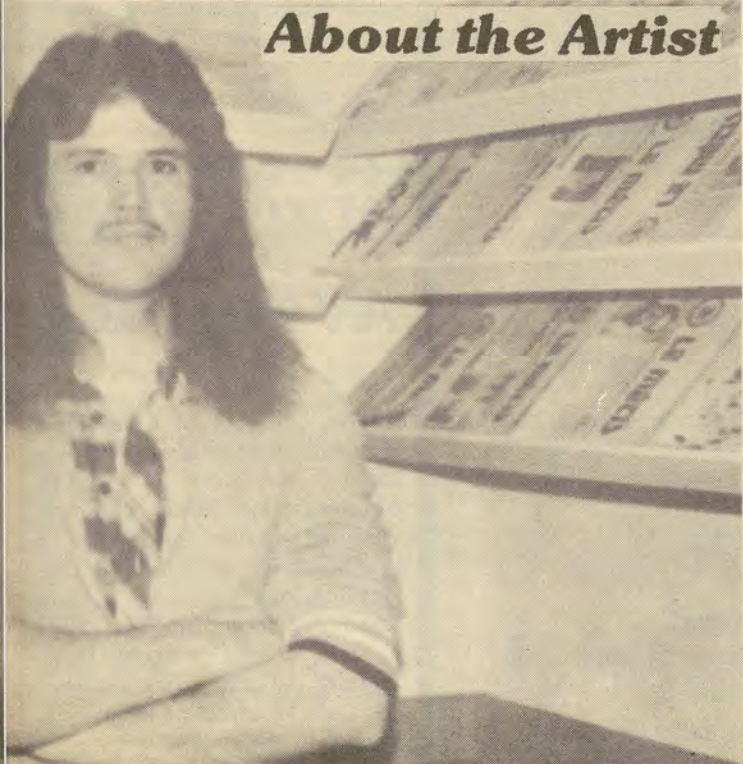
That same year a group of about 5 families set up their winter camp south of our trapping area. This site was chosen because wood was plentiful for fuel and there were many tall straight trees which were cut down and used to build cabins. Many species of fish were found in the nearby lakes and rivers.



ay home, I was towing a sled behind the skidoo. Amos was sitting on the sled with his pipe lit and was smoking as we rode along a 10-mile stretch across the lake. Suddenly we hit a patch of clear ice which sent the skidoo into a spin and then into a sudden stop. Both of us flew off the skidoo. Amos dropped his pipe which slid by his trailing smoke as it went along the ice. Before I could get up Amos was on his feet, going after his pipe. We finally got set and we were on our way again.

In the centennial year of 1967, a group of people from Pine Falls, Manitoba travelled to Norway House by skidoos

About the Artist



Today's younger generation of Canadian Native artists is fortunate in receiving inspiration from such outstanding elder masters as Noval Morrisseau, Daphne Odjig, and Allen Sapp, to mention but a few. One young Manitoba artist who might well fit this category is **Keiron Guiboche**.

Raised in the community of Camperville, the 20-year-old Métis artist traces his interest in art to his early school days when doodling and sketching helped fill the gaps of otherwise endless hours of classroom boredom. While receiving little positive encouragement from his teachers, he managed to sustain a spark of artistic interest throughout his youth. However, it is only within the past year that he has begun to view art as a priority in his life to the extent that it may eventually become a means for his livelihood. Although realizing that this will not be an easy struggle, Keiron

Guiboche hopes to become a well-known artist, achieving personal satisfaction of expression through art.

One of the major influences in his work has been that of Daphne Odjig. Ever since his mother took him for a visit to meet Odjig at her former shop on Donald Street in Winnipeg (now the Wah Sah Gallery), when he was 14, he was immediately impressed by her early works in pen and ink, the medium which he has chosen for his own work. Although he would eventually like to expand to oils, he finds ink easier and cheaper to use for the time being.

The theme of Guiboche's work has generally centered around Métis life and culture: the familiar images of his earlier youth which remain a part of his artistic expression today. Having lived in Winnipeg for the past few months, he has had the opportunity of meeting other

artists and being exposed to their work.

To date, a selection of his limited edition prints is available from the Manitoba Indian Village in Winnipeg. His cartoon column entitled "Le Mitchiff" is also a regular feature in the Manitoba Métis Federation's monthly newspaper "Le Métis" and has appeared in such other Native publications as "The New Breed" from Saskatchewan. He is currently in the process of negotiating for a regular cartoon column in another provincial Native publication, "The New Nation". Meanwhile, he is also illustrating a series of curriculum materials for the Native Education Branch, Manitoba Department of Education. His immediate future plans are focussed toward enrolling in the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Manitoba where he will have the opportunity to further develop his artistic talent.



LIFE ON THE TRAPLINE

would be instructed by his father or grandfather on hunting, trapping, and learning how to survive the weather conditions.

He also had to learn how to cross newly-frozen rivers, creeks, or lakes in the fall and the same for break-up in the spring.

At adolescence the boy had mastered skills of long distance running in his snowshoes, accuracy in shooting at targets, and had learned the general skills of survival in his own wilderness environment.

In the camp area a wigwam was built for everyone's use. It was used for tanning hides, thawing out fish for the dog teams, or for making snowshoes and sleighs. Here the women worked at skinning the animals and putting the furs on stretchers for drying. They did their share of other work in the camp too, such as keeping clothes in good condition, making and mending moccasins, and preparing hot meals for trappers returning from a long journey on the trap line.

The following spring of 1942, the whole camp moved to their



LIFE ON THE TRAPLINE

spring trapping area. Here they trapped muskrats until the spring season was over near the end of May. Then they returned to the community by canoe.

During camp season a Native

layman of the United Church travelled from camp to camp visiting families on their trap lines. Because camps were about 20 to 35 miles apart, he was a messenger bringing news to the families from other camps and from the home community. On Sundays he conducted prayer services. He also told tales of we-sa-ka-chak, cha-ka-pase, and other Native legends to the children. He helped families in time of sickness. If illnesses were not severe, he used Native medicine to aid them. He was the centre of all people around him, giving advice and spiritual guidance when needed. He was a teacher in his traditional Native ways, a trapper for his livelihood, and an honest man.

He passed our trap line one day and found an animal caught in my trap. He picked it off the ground and hung it under the trees where no birds or animals could get at it. Then he wrote a message on the snow in Cree syllabics telling what time of the day he passed our trap line and of the good deed he had done for us by hanging our animal under the trees.

As well, there was a trader in the camp who also trapped for his livelihood. The Hudson's Bay Company and other traders in the community used to supply goods to the trappers in the winter camps. They had one trader looking after the supplies which were stored in a small cabin a few yards away from the camp trader's cabin. Furs were brought in from the surrounding areas. We used to visit the people at the supply camp, especially on Sundays, to join with them in their prayer services and to get the supplies we needed.

This is how many Native people lived 40 years ago. They were happy and willing to help each other even though life was hard.

So ends my story of life on the trapline.

THE SPECIAL MATURE STUDENT PROGRAM



"for those who never had the chance ..."

WHAT IS IT?

The Special Mature Student Program is offered to those people who might desire a University education but who, because of life circumstances, have not had the opportunity to attend.

WHO MAY QUALIFY?

Life circumstances which may have previously prevented someone from attending University are many and varied. People may lack formal schooling requirements; they may lack financial resources; family responsibilities may be large; living in an area isolated from educational services often is a problem; single parents bear a special load. Other personal and social factors often have prevented people from attending University.

WHAT MAY I STUDY?

Students may study for any degree offered by the University. There are several: Bachelor of Arts, Science, Music, General Studies, Teaching. Successful work towards these degrees increases the opportunities for careers and/or further training and education in fields such as education, civil service, community work, social services, and possibly the professions (law, engineering, agriculture, social work, dentistry, etc.)

HOW WILL THE PROGRAM ASSIST ME?

The program offers support in many ways. Financial support is given to meet the living costs of students and their families. Costs for courses and books are also paid. Medical expenses and moving costs are also paid by the program. Students are given help in selecting courses for study that will assist a student in reaching his goals. Special help will be given in courses when students feel the need. Assistance is available in the area of study skills for those who need it. Support is also available in helping people find housing and become familiar with the community and its services. In fact, the program offers help and assistance in any way that will benefit the student as he pursues his work at the University.

WHAT MUST I DO?

A student accepted into the program must have a strong desire to obtain a University education. One should be prepared to move one's family to Brandon

for a period of several years. This means that a person must be willing to undertake quite a change in his life and be able to cope with all the problems such a change might bring. Needless to say, hard yet exciting work is also required. Desire, commitment and effort describe the kind of person we are seeking.

WHEN MIGHT I START?

The program for new students begins in August. A special month long program helps people prepare for the beginning of formal university courses in September.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Please fill in the brief application and send it to the University by the 1st of May. We will then get in touch with you about your possible acceptance into the program.

SELECTION CRITERIA

More people apply for the Program than can be accepted. It is therefore necessary to define some guidelines for selection into the Program in order to insure fairness to the applicants and justice to the spirit and goals of the Program.

Need Criteria

1. Financial — students should not have sufficient resources of their own or from other sources to attend University.
2. Academic — students should lack the adequate educational background normally needed for University work.
3. Social/Personal — students should be from backgrounds whereby access to University has traditionally been limited.

That is, the student might:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. be older | 5. have health problems |
| 2. be unemployed | 6. be underemployed |
| 3. lack formal education | 7. come from the North |
| 4. be a single parent | 8. have few assets |

There should also be evidence that a candidate has made attempts to improve his life situation (up-grading, trades courses, home study). The candidate should also have the potential to contribute meaningfully to society and to be successful at University (motivated, mature, stable).

The above factors are used in making decisions about final student selection.

S.M.S.P. APPLICATION

DATE: _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

Grade reached in school _____ Age _____ Other training or courses taken _____

Number of Dependents (children) _____ Status (married, single, divorced, etc.) _____

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Job	Year

COMMUNITY WORK AND/OR GOVERNMENT PROJECTS

Position	Year

SEND TO:

The Director,
Special Mature Student Program,
Brandon University,
BRANDON, Manitoba
R7A 6A9

BURSARIES AVAILABLE

The Faculty of Education Alumni Association, University of Manitoba, is offering bursaries for Métis students wishing to enter the faculty of education in September 1978. Applications should be forwarded before May 31, 1978, to Dr. Eric MacPherson, Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Man. R3T 2N2.

I.M.I.S.A. hosts SPRINGTIME FEVER - Playhouse Theatre, a Benefit Concert



Gypsy Moth, along with other groups were appreciated at the benefit concert.

The Indian, Métis, Inuit Students association of the University of Manitoba hosted a Benefit Concert in aid of the Native Studies Bursary Program for Non-Status and Métis Students on March 5, 1978 at the Playhouse Theatre. This is the first Project of it's type that the Students have undertaken which was judged a success by all in attendance. All the Best Musicians in Winnipeg ranging from Folk to Country Music gave their time to make the concert a success.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Mike Ried of CHMM-FM who humorously filled in the minutes between changing of acts. Opening the show with an air of Country Music were the Henry Bros., followed by a new Band Gypsy Moth whose lead singer Suzanne Bird capably produced the eloquent melodies of Janis Ian and Carole King. Winston Wuttunee calmed the audience with a traditional chant of the Cree which gave the audience a sense of sitting on the open prairie waiting for the Buffalo to come. Closing off the first act was Denim and Lace under the leadership of Gloria Geffrey who wowed the audience with her strong voice and unique talents as an artist. Gloria has been nominated

for top female country vocalist in Manitoba and her band Denim and Lace for top country band in Manitoba.

After a short intermission the second half opened with Shingoose and Prairie Dog Revue who sang original Compositions Superchief and Sweet Alberta from the Native Country album. Following up Shingoose was Bert Todd and the Toddsman who are strictly a Country Band. Coming to a close the excitement mounting C-Weed appeared with Teddy — Boy Houle on Fiddle. This act was highlighted by a very stunning rendition of MacArthur's Park a classic of the 60's. Not able to control that Métis Blood when the fiddle tunes a jig Winston Wuttunee and Sandra De Laronde burst on stage to give the audience a comedy of old time jiggling steps. After that act Tom Jackson and Friends followed and aptly kept the fever up with some really good Folk tunes and a sing along to Love is a Rose. The evening drew to a close with a Grand Finale where all musicians returned to the stage to sing I Believe in Music which capably summed up the feelings and attitudes of every one involved in that night of treu Springtime Fever.

Richard and Simard Named Directors

cont from Page 1

aspects of being president. He spoke of funding problems, and provisional government. He also shared his awareness of the many problems which the Metis of the province are experiencing. Some of the points he raised in these areas were lay-offs, government handouts, the lack of Metis industry, and the problems the Metis of the North are experiencing.

Mr. Blais was happy to announce the establishment of two new Locals in the Region. These are Fort Fougé Local and the Youth Local at the University of Manitoba. He also announced plans for Metis Days

to be held June 4th and 5th, 1978.

President Morrisseau and V.P. Blais made presentations to four persons for their contributions to MMF in the past years. The recipients of the plaque and sash were Mrs. Mary Guilbault, Mr. Arsene Spence, and Mr. and Mrs. George McKay.

Ernie also presented a MMF S.E. Region T-Shirt to President Morrisseau.

Mr. Dave Clouston, executive director at MMF headquarters reported on the Metis Credit Union, some of the possibilities and goals.

Larry Dysart of MMF Planning and Policy presented

the Economic Development proposal and encouraged regional participation.

Cliff Richard MMF Sports and Recreation director also addressed the meeting telling of the different projects available from his department.

The afternoon session resulted in the election of two new members of the Board of Directors. The two new directors are Ed Simard of Manigotogan Local and Joan Richard of the Lord Selkirk Park Local.

The Meeting convened and attendants were able to return home better informed and satisfied that the Region is progressing well.

Recreation Workshop Held

One of the oldest and one of the youngest, participated in the March 18th workshop that was held at 1230 Main Street.

That afternoon we saw three categories, Junior Main and Senior Class in the Red River Jig eliminations. The oldest to dance the jig that afternoon was Mrs. Elizabeth Clark from Lac du Bonnet, and the youngest was 5 year old Daryl Breland from Winnipeg. I believe the whole Breland family danced the Red River Jig that afternoon and later that evening.

The social evening was put on by the Lord Selkirk Park Local. Fine job I must say. The music by the Westwinds was as usual real lively.

During the afternoon activi-

ties, the fine young people from Brandon, Manitoba led by Bill Leclerc gave us a good demonstration on the Manitoba style of square dancing that they've learned, also they did the Drops of Brandy. Like old pros all in all I believe the fine people attending that afternoon enjoyed themselves.

The Moccasin Stomping music was provided by a fine fiddler Mel Bedard and guitar Tony Bias, that afternoon.

As long as we have people participation as we did that afternoon I'm quite confident our cultural heritage will continue to grow and gladden the hearts of young and old.

These are the Red River Jig winners:

- Junior Boys
- 1st Daryl Breland
- 2nd Cory Breland
- 3rd Allan Kent
- Junior Girls
- 1st Dellan Breland
- 2nd Nadine Richardson
- 3rd Barbara Spence
- Men
- 1st Norval Desjarlais
- 2nd Joe Breland
- Ladies
- 1st Alvina Ducharme
- 2nd Lorraine Lavallee
- Senior Mens
- 1st Norbert Flett
- 2nd Fred Flett
- Senior Ladies
- 1st Mrs. Mary Spence
- 2nd Mrs. Elizabeth Clark

Southeast

Office:

Hi there! Just a little note to remind the people that the Southeast Métis Days, which are going to be held in St. Vital, are drawing closer. We would like to hear from more people who would like to participate.

We would especially like to hear from those people who are interested in setting up booths on the grounds. For those of you who would like additional information please contact our Southeast office at: 942-2672.

Lac Du Bonnet

Local:

Four ladies from the Lac du Bonnet Community Resource Centre attended a week long training program on the Prevention and Treatment of Alcoholism in Powerview, Manitoba.

The four women were: Mrs. Joyce Gus, Mrs. Ruby Kocis, Mrs. Martha Hansen, Miss Holly Meade.

This seminar was held in the Manitoba Lodge at Powerview, Manitoba and was sponsored by the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba. Each member of the Lac du Bonnet Community Resource Centre received a certificate of attendance after they completed the course. CONGRATULATIONS!

The Lac du Bonnet Manitoba Métis Federation Local and the Home and School Association of Lac du Bonnet sponsored a Métis Awareness Program in Lac du Bonnet on March 21, 8:00 P.M.

Great Falls

Local:

A dance was held by the Great Falls local on March 10 at the St. Louis Centre in St. Boniface was successful.

Except for the fact that there was not much financial gain, everybody had a good time. The band did an excellent job of entertaining the people at the dance.

A jigging contest was also held at the dance. The winners of the jigging contest are as follows:

Powerview

Local:

On Monday, March 20, the Powerview Resource Centre sponsored a Métis Awareness Program which was held at the Powerview School at 7:30 P.M.

The presentation was very good. Winston Wutenee putting on an excellent performance.

It should be mentioned, however, that the attendance by the people in the Powerview Local was very poor.

Anybody interested in selling handicrafts, please bring their wares to the Powerview Resource Centre. For additional information phone 367-2704.

Four ladies from the Powerview Resource Centre, Miss Debbie Gus, Miss Evelyn Allicott, Mrs. Adele Duff, and Mrs. Yvonne Yewchyn attended the week long (March 13-17) training program on the Prevention and Treatment of Alcoholism in the Manitou Lodge in Powerview. These ladies also received certificates of attendance from the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba when it was completed. CONGRATULATIONS GIRLS!

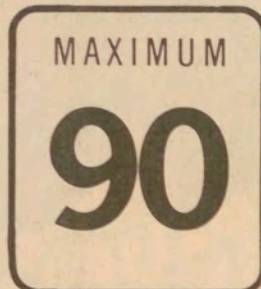
Attention Motorists

Manitoba Speed Signs Go METRIC, April 3rd

**OLD
m.p.h.**



**NEW
km/h**



km/h



km/h

Beginning Monday, April 3, 1978, all speed signs on Manitoba highways will be shown in the metric measurement of kilometres per hour (km/h) NOT miles per hour.

It is important to remember that although the new signs show a higher figure, this does not mean you can go faster. In fact the maximum highway speed limit is now reduced and for your own protection you should familiarize yourself with these changes using the "Metric Converter". To avoid confusion, all the new signs will carry a "km/h" tab below. Remember Thinkmetric.

Ramp and Curve Speeds

Extreme caution should be observed when approaching ramps and sharp curves. Remember that although the figures are higher they are in kilometres NOT in miles per hour. Thinkmetric and drive safely.

Clip this easy reference
"METRIC CONVERTER."

