

LE MÉTIS

OFFICIAL VOICE OF



Rev
970
M5664
1988
Suppl.

M.M.F. TO TAKE MANITOBA LAND CLAIMS TO THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

On Wednesday, July 13th., 1988, the Manitoba Metis Federation held a press conference at the St. Regis Hotel in Winnipeg. The participants of the conference included; Yvon Dumont-(President, Manitoba Metis Federation), Thomas Berger-(Manitoba Metis Federation Lawyer), Louis (Smokey) Bruyere-(President, Native Council of Canada), Vic Savino-(Native Council of Canada & M.M.F. lawyer).

The M.M.F. called the press conference to express their view of the recent Manitoba Court of Appeal decision regarding the Land Claims. The M.M.F. announced that they will appeal the decision of the Manitoba Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

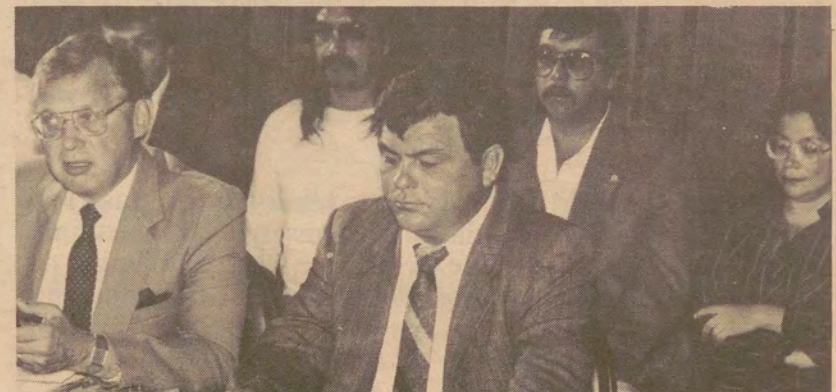
Yvon stated, '... for the second time in history the M.M.F. land claims were before the courts. We have won the first battle and lost the second. This has united the Metis of Manitoba more than anything else. We want our day in court to settle this dispute once and for all.'

Full media participation was on hand to hear the planned course of action to be taken by the Manitoba Metis Federation over the Land Claims dispute.

Some background information and a more detailed description of the M.M.F. plans for the land claims case is presented in the following news release that was distributed to the media at the press conference.



THOMAS BERGER AND YVON DUMONT EXPRESSING THE M.M.F. PLAN OF ACTION



PRESS CONFERENCE PANEL WAS FURTHER REPRESENTED BY M.M.F. VICE-PRESIDENTS

NEWS RELEASE

The Manitoba Metis Federation, supported by the Native Council of Canada, will be asking the Supreme Court of Canada to grant leave to appeal the judgement of the Manitoba Court of Appeal handed down June 17, 1988.

The Manitoba Metis Federation's case is based on the Manitoba Act of 1870, which provided that the Metis and their children were to get 2 million acres of land in the old 'postage stamp' province of Manitoba. The Manitoba Metis Federation alleges that the Federal Government and the Province of Manitoba passed a series of unconstitutional measures in the 1870's and 1880's designed to ensure that the Metis did not keep their land.

The Federal government has asked the courts to hold that the Metis are not entitled to their day in court on the ground that the issue is academic. The Manitoba Court of Appeal, by a 4 to 1 majority, agreed with the Federal government and struck out the Manitoba Metis Federation's case.

The Manitoba Metis Federation will be applying to the Supreme Court of Canada for leave of appeal on the following grounds:

1. The Metis were recognized as an aboriginal people in the 1982 amendments to the constitution.
2. The courts ought to be able to decide cases involving the rights of peoples as well as individuals. (This point was emphasized by Mr. Justice O'Sullivan in his dissenting judgement.)
3. The Metis case is essential to their land claim, not academic. At the heart of their claim lies the question, why are the Metis an aboriginal people without a land base. If they can go to trial and prove that they lost their land because the federal government and the province acted unconstitutionally to take it away from them, this will greatly strengthen their bargaining positioning with the federal government.

The Manitoba Act was in essence a treaty between Louis Riel's Provisional government and the government of Canada. It contained guarantees for the land rights of the Metis, the schools of the Roman Catholics, and the language of the Francophones. The Catholics had their day in court in the 1890's, the Franco-Manitobans had their day in court in the 1970's and 1980's. It would be ironic if the Metis, who established the Provisional Government and negotiated the Manitoba Act with Canada, were to be denied the opportunity of vindicating their rights under the same act.

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

NORTHERN METIS TAKE ACTION

The Metis people of the northern area of Manitoba have decided to take action as a result of the effects that the Hydro-Electric projects have had on their land and livelihood.

On April 22, 1988, the Honourable Jake Epp, Minister of Health made the announcement that the Federal Government will provide \$75 million dollars for water and sewer costs as well as \$13 million for new housing and housing improvements. This is \$88 million that five Northern Flood Bands are receiving as compensation from the Federal Government and Manitoba Hydro to offset the costs of damages to their land and livelihood attributable to the adverse effects of the Hydro-Electric Projects.

Our Metis leaders have united with the Community Mayors and Councils to express their concern and disappointment with Hydro. We feel that in spite of being excluded from the Northern Flood Agreement, we live along the same communities as the Northern Bands and have experienced the same suffering and loss as they have. Therefore, identical compensation must be made to us that has been given to our brothers and sisters living across the river.

Meetings are presently under way in the various communities affected to deal with this matter. Representatives from these various communities along with the Mayors and Councils, MMF Leaders, the President of MRTA and members at large, of the communities are in attendance to express their concerns and recommendations.

Our first meeting was held on May 11, 1988 in Norway House. Our second meeting took place on May 31, 1988 in Cross Lake, and a committee has been struck up to represent all communities in an effort to bring all concerns and recommendations forward collectively. This committee will request a meeting with Jim Downey - Minister of Northern Affairs, the Honourable Harold Neufeld - Minister responsible for Hydro, Don Orchard - Minister responsible for Health, along with their colleagues in the near future to work toward a solution.

This is an ongoing series of meetings of which you will be kept up to date on in this paper. Any concerns or advice from our readership is more than welcome. Let us not forget that this endeavor is of historical importance to our Metis people and the future of our livelihood. We urge you to share our concerns.

A FEW WORDS FROM NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Hello everybody! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who supported me in this past election. It is very satisfying to finally have the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors. As many of you know, I have sought this position in this past but lost out by a very narrow margin. I'm glad to see that the persistence has not been done in vain.

I wish to thank Joyce Gus (Vice-President S.E.) for keeping me involved in the MMF as well as introducing me to the Metis Womens Alliance and the Indigenous Womens Collective. I've had the chance to attend some of the conferences that deal with aboriginal issues and I have found them to be quite a learning experience and very rewarding as well. My mother, Madeline Sanderson, has also handed down some of her knowledge of MMF operations as a result of being involved in this organization in organization for many years.

I have been a resident of Grand Marais for 12 years and I have tried to remain active within this community. I have been involved in our school as well as being on the parent council for a number of years. I served as Vice-Chairperson for one year and chairperson for two years of the Grand Marais MMF local.

Last year, I was able to work for the MMF directly as a tripartite liaison worker. This short term experience gave me some valued hands on experience with the MMF, which I am sure will help me in some of the decision making that I will do as a Board Member.

I feel that the MMF has advanced a lot in the last few years. The tripartite negotiations themselves are certainly proof of that. I feel fortunate to become a board member of this organization during these exciting times of change and progress.

I plan to visit each local in the S.E. region, so until I see you again, 'Au Revoir'.



DENISE THOMAS
Board Member-Southeast Region



JOHN LAVALLEE
— Newly elected Vice-President,
Southwest Region

'Greetings everyone from the Southwest Region. First of all I would like to thank everyone who supported me in the April 19th. election. I met many people from different locals during my campaign visits and I hope to meet with all of you again in the near future.

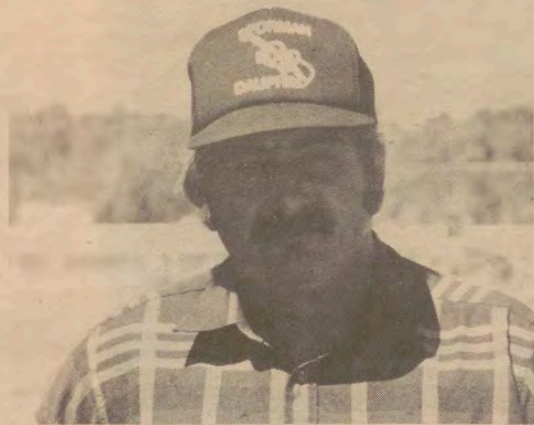
The regional office here in Brandon is continually buzzing with day to day business concerning the corporation and the locals of the Southwest Region. As soon as the bulk of the bills are paid off I will be visiting the locals on a regular basis.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our region please do not hesitate to contact me at 727-0759 in Brandon. 'Thankyou'.

BOARD MEETING (WATERHEN)



In an effort to bring the front line activities of the M.M.F. closer to the communities, Board Meetings are being held throughout various regions in Manitoba. The first such meeting took place in Waterhen Man., on July 9th & 10th. A number of local people were on hand to discuss issues ranging from local housing concerns to self-government negotiations. The weekend was structured to include a community forum with access to all staff on Friday 8th (previous to the board meeting), and full access to the board on Saturday and Sunday.



LEN DELAFLUENTE
CHAIRPERSON, SPENCE LAKE LOCAL

Len DeLafluyente, Chairperson of the Spence Lake Local was in attendance for the full weekend and announced that the Spence Lake Local has decided to take the initiative to change the name of their local from 'Spence Lake Local' to 'Spence Lake Metis Council'. Len explained that the rationale behind the name change was that it will reflect a stronger image for their representatives. N.W.M.C. Vice-President Ron Richard welcomed the idea and would encourage other locals to do the same.

The next Board of Directors meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 10th and 11th to take place in Churchill Manitoba.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

LILLIAN DeLaFLUENTE

Lillian has been involved in Metis activities for many years. A lot of the interest stems from being made aware of the negative attitudes that some people have toward Native people. Lillian has fought to help change some of that kind of thinking since her teenage years, when she saw first hand, some of the prejudice that the Native and Metis people were subjected to.

As a youngster, Lillian studied and admired Abraham Lincoln. This was because of his concern for the colored people and the part that he played in abolishing slavery in the United States. It was difficult for her to understand how the same people that condemned the Americans for their attitudes toward the Black people could express those same attitudes toward the Native and Metis people.

Being a Metis herself, she always felt that more needed to be done to change this kind of thinking and bring about a stronger sense of justice. Human rights and fairness are of great importance to her.

Just recently, Lillian was appointed to the Police Commission by the Manitoba government. She hopes to play a part in bridging the gap between the police department and the Native population.

'... there is a communication problem existing as well as a serious lack of understanding.'



Mrs. Lillian DeLaFluente

At the present time Mrs. DeLaFluente is employed by the Frontier School Division and works at the Waterhen School as a special education teacher. She has completed almost three years of university in the P.E.N.T. program (Program for the Education of Native Teachers). Lillian hopes to receive her Bachelor of Education degree by next summer. This year she received an award for being among a group of students with the highest grade point average after completing two years in the P.E.N.T. program.

METIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

On June 9th, 1988, the Child and Family Services department received a call from a Houston family in the Pine Falls area requesting some financial assistance to cover funeral costs for a member of their family. The deceased had passed away while in Vancouver and was finally traced back to Manitoba.

The Houston family encountered frustration and closed doors as they attempted to gain some assistance in providing a decent burial for their dearly departed. The costs of the burial amounted to \$2600.00, \$1000.00 of which the Houston family themselves were able to raise.

The MMF Child and Family services department took on the challenge to raise the balance of the costs. We approached various agencies in Winnipeg and met the same frustration and closed doors that the Houston family had experienced. It seemed that our only resort was to go out and solicit donations. We presented this dilemma to various Native and Metis organizations in Winnipeg, many of which sympathized with us by opening their hearts and pocketbooks.

The Houston family and the MMF Child and Family services department wishes to extend a grateful thank you to all the in-

dividuals and organizations that assisted in this effort.

As of this issue, \$540.00 of the \$1600.00 needed has been raised. Should you or your organization or group like to contribute, please send any amount to:

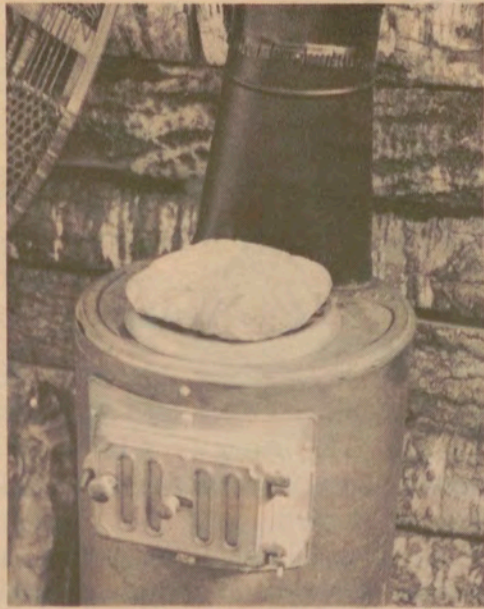
**MMF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
C/O DENNIS SPENCE
620-504 Main Street.
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
R3B 1B8**

Once again, we wish to thank the following people for their assistance;

1. STELLA MISSION (\$15.00)
2. RAINBOW COMMITTEE (\$200.00)
3. ANONYMOUS (\$100.00)
4. MMF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (\$100.00)
5. CEDA (Staff) (\$15.00)
6. NATIVE WOMENS TRANSITION CENTER (\$10.00)
7. LUNDAR (MMF) LOCAL (\$100.00)

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

FOLKLORA



DON'T PANIC,
THERE'S LOTS OF BANNOCK



DEPUTY MAYOR, MAYOR
AND METIS QUEEN



THE METIS PAVILLION REPRESENTATIVES



THE METIS FLOAT

Folklorama! The largest multicultural festival in the world took place in Winnipeg from July 31-August 13th. The Manitoba Metis Federation sponsored the Metis Pavillion which ran during the second week of the festival. Approximately 15,500 world travellers visited the pavillion, making this years pavillion (our 4th year) the most successful yet.

Sponsoring a pavillion is not an easy job. Preparations start many months ahead of time. The pavillion simply wouldn't exist without the effort exerted by the hundreds of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to ensure a smooth running pavillion. Spearheading this group of individuals was Jeanette Goertzen, our pavillion co-ordinator. A special thankyou must be extended to Jeanette and all of the volunteers for the fabulous job that they did.

The official representatives of the Metis Pavillion this year are;

MAYOR: Ed Swain
DEPUTY MAYOR: Joyce Gus
Yvon Dumont

QUEEN: Lynn Brisson
PRINCESS: Michelle Lee Paul
Korean Paul

**YOUTH
AMBASSADORS:** Susie Thordarson
Larry Kocis

This years attendance figures has surpassed the previous three years, and the people working the door had to stamp many passports for a second and third time. We are fortunate to have the Folklorama festival as a means of promoting our culture to so many people. The feedback recieved by the organizers indicates that many of the visitors enjoyed the Metis Pavillion more than any other that they had visited. Thanks again, to everyone involved. We'll see you next year.



LEARNING THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE



PREMIER GARY FILM
LITERATURE

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

MA 1988 !!!

Entertainment is always the major focus of any pavillion, and the Metis Pavillion audiences were treated to a myriad of performers with talents ranging from old tyme fiddling to intricately choreographed dance groups. All of the performances came off looking very sharp and each show culminated with the audience themselves participating on the dance floor.

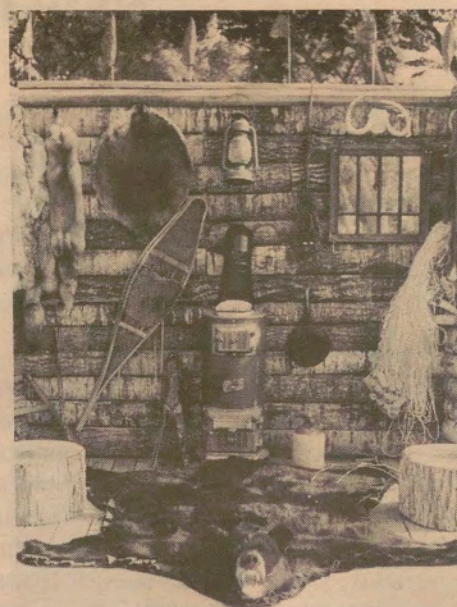
Entertainers for the 1988 Metis Pavillion are;

Musicians: **REG BOUVETTE**
MARCEL MEILLEUR
PATTY KOSTERAK
DARRELL PHILIPS &
 The Fire in the Night Band
DEL GARNEAU
LAWRENCE (Teddy Boy) HOULE

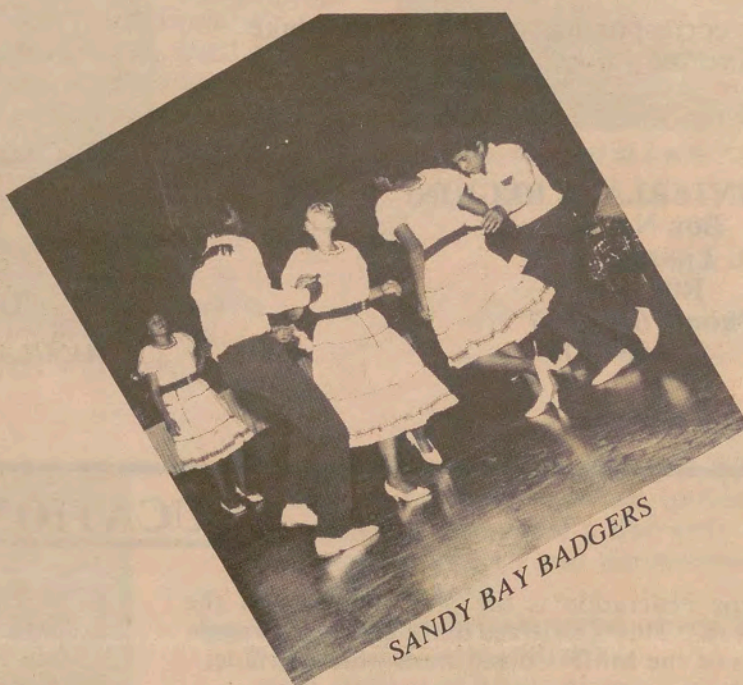
Square Dancers: **TINYVILLE DANCERS**
 (Kamsack, Sask.)
SANDY BAY BADGERS
 (Sandy Bay, MB.)
SANDY BAY JUNIORS
 (Sandy Bay, MB.)
BLUE LIGHTNING SQUARE DANCERS (Peguis, MB.)
PEGUIS JUNIOR DANCERS
 (Peguis, MB.)

Step Dancers: **BRENDA LAPOINTE**
 (Jiggers)
KIM CHARTRAND
BEATRICE CHARTRAND
EMMA DUTIAUME
JAMIE DESJARLAIS
EMMET SUTHERLAND
TIM COTE
MANUEL FLETT
ERNEST LAVALEE
GI GI CAMERON
AUDREEN HOURIE

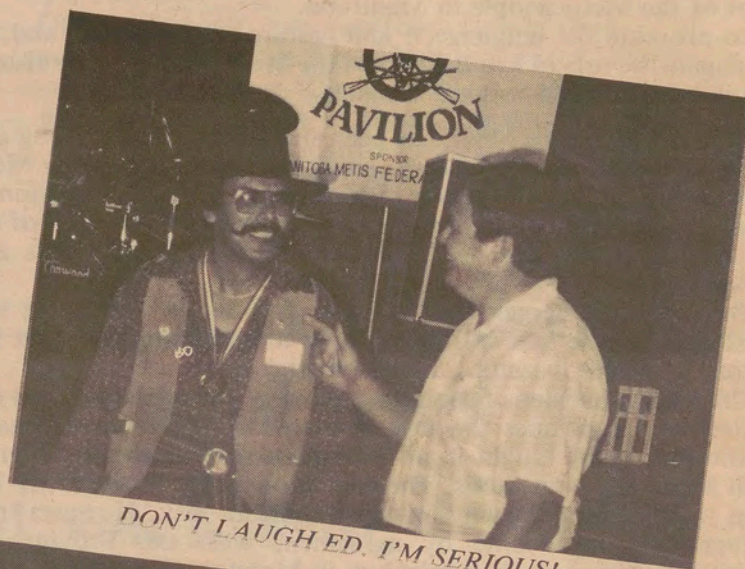
Masters of Ceremonies:
BILL FLAMMOND
HARRY DANIELS



TYPICAL METIS HOME (1900'S)



SANDY BAY BADGERS



DON'T LAUGH ED. I'M SERIOUS!



AND A 1-2-3



UP ON METIS



ANY VOLUNTEERS?

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

NEW INTERLAKE REGION OFFICE

The Interlake Regional Office of the Manitoba Metis Federation has a new home as of July 1st, 1988. After 20 years of renting office space, the Interlake Region is in the process of finalizing a purchase agreement for a permanent home base in St. Laurent. The 9,000 square foot structure is situated on 22 acres of land that will be used for future Metis economic development projects within the Interlake Region.

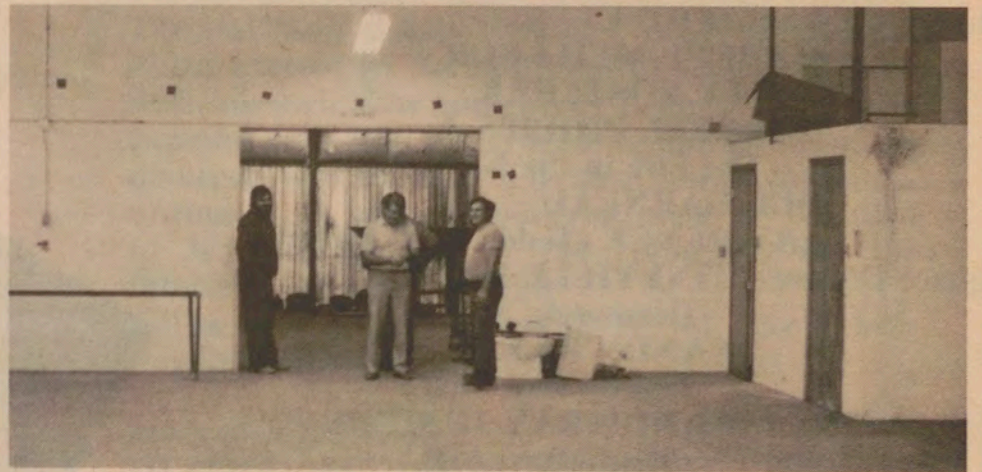
Interlake Region Vice-President, Edgar Bruce Jr. is quite pleased to have been able to work with the President and Board of Directors of the M.M.F. to establish a permanent office for the Interlake Region. Edgar also added that several proposals for use of the available building space and land have been presented to him. While nothing has yet to be finalized, there are several options available and Edgar will be working closely with the President and Board to consider all proposals and implement an economic development plan that will be beneficial to all the Metis population within the Interlake Region.

Any inquiries and correspondence for the Interlake Region may now be directed to;

M.M.F. (INTERLAKE REGION)
 Box No. 44
 St. Laurent, MB.
 R0C 2S0
 Phone: 646-2887
 646-2878



EDGAR BRUCE JR., PROUDLY DISPLAYING NEW OFFICE



AVAILABLE WAREHOUSE SPACE WITHIN THE NEW BUILDING

EDUCATION

The Manitoba Metis Federation is the political voice of the Metis people of Manitoba. This is reflected in the constant struggle to meet the objectives of the MMF Constitution which include;

- to promote the economic, education(al), and social development of the Metis people in Manitoba.
- to promote the language(s) and culture of the Metis, and, to propagate the role of Louis Riel and the Metis people in the history and development of western Canada.

Over the years, the MMF has been successful in researching and documenting Manitoba history, particularly the role of the Metis in the creation of the Province of Manitoba and the negotiation of Manitoba into Canadian Confederation. Many of the terms of entry remain unfulfilled by the governments of Manitoba and Canada.

The current 'Berger Court Case' is intended to settle this outstanding issue and will in fact and at the same time, put the history of Manitoba and Canada on trial.

The Manitoba Metis Federation remains true to the original objectives and continues to work toward having a comprehensive Manitoba history taught in all Manitoba schools to all students, both Metis and Non-Metis. The education sector of the MMF has been successful in carrying on this important task. However, real change can only come by agreement with the Province of Manitoba who controls curriculum in Manitoba schools. It is important to continue public speaking in the schools, universities, community meetings until we are successful in bringing about major curriculum change.

The MMF will continue to develop oral history and language retention. The language(s) of the Metis are oral as opposed to written and this makes development both difficult and unique. It is hoped that translation of materials acquired in Michif-French can begin in the summer of 1988. Much of this work can be taken over by the 'Louis Riel Institute'. Negotiations on education/LRI between the MMF and the Province of Manitoba will be pursued during the summer. It is intended to properly staff an MMF education unit and the 'Louis Riel Institute'. This would include both office staff and field workers who would be responsible to continue the work towards MMF objectives and to develop and deliver education services to Metis people.

The education committee of the MMF will meet on an ongoing basis to deal with education issues. Committee members are;

BRUCE LAVALLEE — Interlake
JOHN LAVALLEE — Southwest
SANDRA DELARONDE — The Pas
ROSEMARIE MCPHERSON — Northwest Metis Council

Please feel free to contact the committee members or myself by phone or mail at the MMF Head Office

AUDREEN HOURIE
 Provincial Education Co-ordinator
 M.M.F.
 620-504 Main St.
 R3B 1B8

NEW STAFF



PAULA BONNER
 Assistant Bookkeeper

Paula Bonner has joined us in the bookkeeping department as a summer student. Paula is presently enrolled in a Business of Commerce Honours course at the University of Winnipeg. A degree in her field of study is sure to be hers judging by the drive and determination that she has demonstrated at the Head Office. We wish her all the best in her studies.

The Tripartite department of the Manitoba Metis Federation is very pleased to welcome Nancy Chartrand back. Some congratulations are in order as Nancy and her husband Dean have a new son to brighten up their lives. *Daigneault Keith Chartrand* was born on May 5th, 1988.

So, congratulations Nancy and it's great to have you back with us!



NANCY CHARTRAND
 Secretary/Receptionist (Tripartite)

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

METIS NATIONHOOD

This month the Winnipeg Region will profile Randy Ranville, Local Chairperson of the Winnipeg North Local.

Randy was nominated for the position of chairperson of the Winnipeg North Local in 1978. At that time, the local was quite busy with the 'Canada Works Projects', in which Randy was very instrumental in helping to become a reality.

The Winnipeg North Local was located on Selkirk Avenue and was the base of three Canada Works Projects.

Randy was born in St. Boniface in 1950. He is the son of Emile and Mary (nee Spence) Ranville. He was born into a family of eight brothers and three sisters. When he was only two weeks old, the family moved north to Eddystone, Manitoba. Randy attended elementary school in Eddystone and then went on to Ste. Rose Collegiate. In 1967 the family moved back to Winnipeg. Randy experienced the hardships and frustrations of adjusting to urban life as a native person.

Music was a big part of Randy's life. He played in a rock band called 'C-Weed and the Weeds' for three years as one of the weeds. Randy then started to think about getting married and starting a family, and wouldn't you know it, he met and married the girl next door (Donna) in 1971. To date, they have two beautiful daughters, Rhonda and Melanie.

Randy still felt that something was missing in his life, so he returned to school (Red River Community College) to pursue his second interest, a career in carpentry and woodworking (his dad's occupation). He received a Journeyman's Certificate in Carpentry after five years attendance at RRCC and apprenticeship training in Winnipeg (1970-1975). Following this, he became self-employed as a contractor and builder until 1977 at which time he accepted the position of manager-trainer of a woodworking shop supervising eight employees which was overseen by the MMF.

In 1980-81, Randy managed a work project to upgrade the 'Greater Winnipeg Indian Council' - 650 Burrows Ave. In 1982-85 he worked as a carpenter-contractor before starting his job with the City of Winnipeg as a Property Standards Inspector in May 1985, where he is still employed.

Some of the major achievements Randy credits himself with are;



Randy's monument at Louis Riel Memorial Park



RANDY RANVILLE — Chairperson, Winnipeg North Local

- Married 17 years, father of two daughters
- Musician, full and part time (original C-WEED band)
- Successfully completed a five year course in carpentry (RRCC) and obtained a Journeyman's Certificate.
- Long standing chairperson of the Winnipeg North Local of the MMF
- Well studied in Metis history and the life of Louis Riel
- Designed, built, and erected a twelve foot monument at Louis Riel Memorial Park, in honour of our leader 'Louis Riel'.
- A founder and present Board member of Aiyawin Corporation (a non-profit housing corporation) now in its fourth year.
- Established Metis Local and Center on Selkirk Ave. (Winnipeg North Local).

Books That Break Boundaries

Now Available! A Brand New Release
From Pemmican Publications

HONOUR THE SUN by Ruby Slipperjack

In this new book, Ruby Slipperjack creates an isolated Native community, set in northern Ontario, where her character, a ten-year old girl called The Owl, writes seasonal diaries, beginning in the summer of 1962. At first she writes of the warm, carefree, often humorous, events of her childhood, then with increasing sorrow and despair, she experiences a dramatic change that sweeps through her life and her community.

Watch for Ruby Slipperjack's Reading Tour this fall - a stop is scheduled for Winnipeg on October 26 & 27.



MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

MEET THE N.W.M.C.



RAMONA GUIBOCHE

As regional secretary of the NWMC, Ramona finds herself directly involved with the people in her region. Ramona has been a member of the M.M.F. since the beginning of the organization. Her involvement with the Metis Womens Alliance and the Dauphin Friendship Center have also brought her closer to the Metis people that she loves to work with.

RON ZONG

Ron was born and raised in Duck Bay, Man. He attended school in Duck Bay as well as in Cranberry Portage. Ron is presently living in Bacon Ridge and has been an M.M.F. member for the past ten years. Ron's main interest is working directly with people and his position as a tri-partite research worker enables him to do this. Ron feels fortunate to be able to work with the people in the communities that he grew up in.



ROSE MARIE McPHERSON

I was born and raised in Duck Bay and attended elementary school there and went on to graduate in Cranberry Portage. At the present time I live in Dauphin with my husband and three children. I have been employed as a court communicator for the past seven years in the Parklands Region, a job that I still enjoy today.

I have fulfilled my goal of becoming a Board of Director of the M.M.F. in April 88. My position as President of the Dauphin Friendship Center combined with my involvement in various Dauphin area committees keeps me well in tune with Native and Metis situations throughout the Province.

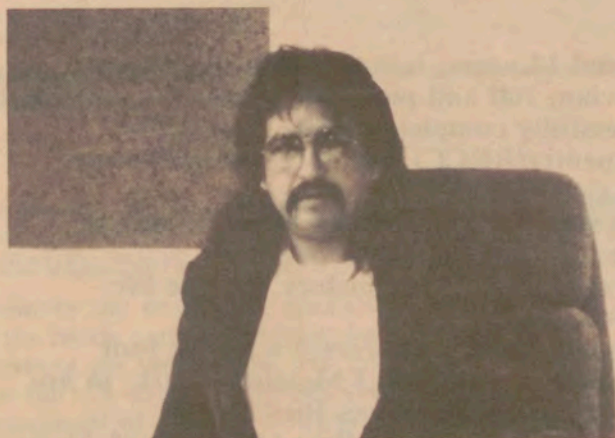
I feel that the more I can learn about our people, the more I may be able to help out in some of the more serious situations. I want to thank all the people in the NWMC for supporting me in this past election. I only hope that I can live up to your expectations.



MARLENE DICK

Marlene joined us in May, 1988. She was previously employed in the Thompson Region as a Metis Child and Family Support worker. Marlene is also the Vice-President of the Dauphin Friendship Center as well as being an active member of the Metis Womens Alliance. Her main concern has always to recognize and deal with the needs and well-being of the Metis children and families of Manitoba.

**METIS IS — BEING PROUD TO
BE ABLE TO STAND ON YOUR
OWN**



RON RICHARD

Ron has always been interested in and supportive of local government for the Metis. At the age of 25 he was elected as Mayor of Camperville's town council. His 2 year term as Mayor were enough to show Ron that the road to Metis self-determination was being blocked by the Northern Affairs Act and the bureaucrats that administered it. As chairman of the Camperville local of the M.M.F., he found the vehicle which could relieve the people from the bureaucratic process placed on his community by the government.

Ron's involvement with other organizations such as the Friendship Centers, the Trapper's Association, the Commercial Fisherman's Association, the Home and School Committee and the Metis Farmer's Association has only served to cement his commitment towards self-determination and Metis representation on decision making bodies such as Education, Natural Resources, Housing, Family Services, Health Care and Northern Affairs.

'BEFORE WE FULLY ACHIEVE THE SELF-GOVERNMENT THE OUR ABORIGINAL STATUS WOULD GUARANTEE US, WE WILL HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE, NOT ONLY TO GOVERNMENTS, BUT TO OUR OWN PEOPLE THAT WE CAN FUNCTION AS A DISTINCT SOCIETY WITHIN THIS CANADIAN MOSAIC.'

Ron realizes that this process will take some time, since senior bureaucrats tend to regard requests for recognition from the local committees, as a threat to their administration jobs, and many Metis (such as long term prison inmates) have become accustomed to being 'taken care of', and fear the responsibilities of self-government.

Presently, his major concern is in re-organizing the locals and re-establishing the credibility of the regional office through informational meetings for Zones and by attending local meetings.

Ron also serves on two sub committees of the M.M.F. Board. The tri-partite committee and the Justice Committee. As chairman of the Justice Committee, Ron hopes to have a positive impact on the inquiry into Natives and the Justice system. As a member of the tri-partite committee, Ron will participate in Tri-Partite self-government negotiations in MB, defining the aboriginal negotiating agenda and positions on various matters under negotiations.

The new office of the Northwest Metis Council is at 18-2nd Avenue, N.W., Dauphin, Manitoba R7N 1H2. Please feel free to come by and offer your suggestions and assistance.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

By: Duke Redbird

*The wind is swirling in gentle whispers
Converse with Mother Earth
They tell of Metis warriors
Who mid-wifed a nations birth
Who lived, and laughed,
Who fought and died
And left their spirits here to ride the winds
A hundred years ago.*

*They tell of council fires,
Of dreams in forged desires
Of men and women filled with hope
Of pipes filled with sacred smoke
Of Red River carts as far as the eye could see
Of a child's happiness on his mothers knee
A hundred years ago.*

*The dreams, their visions speak
The winds still sing their songs
The fires burn with memory's coals
Of a Metis nation
A hundred years ago.*

*Awake! The swirling winds command
Re-sow the pastures of a fertile land
Your fathers live! And they command
A Metis bond, from hand to hand
A Metis nation that will grow
From the seeds sown here
A hundred years ago.*

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.