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Hunters complain

Metis leader 'sick and tired' of alleged harassment

By Lesley Crossingham

The Metis Association will attempt to enter into negotiations with Alberta Fish and Wildlife after allegations of harassment and discrimination have been made by several Metis hunters.

Zone 1 vice-president, Gerald Thom says he is "sick and tired" of the alleged harassment. He feels the association must step in to defend the rights of the Metis hunter.

See Story on Page 2



COURTESY OF FAUST CVC

STUDENT PRACTICES HANDGUN SKILLS

Students of the Faust Community Vocational Centre are enjoying a unique sports program this year as part of their upgrading studies.

Taken as Physical Education 10, this credit course offers a broad range of recreational and sports activities. Eleven students will be participating in activities ranging from canoeing, skiing and curling, to dancing, archery and gun handling.

CVC Faust's instructor Jo Dutton said, "The aim of this program is to develop an interest in local activities that can be life-long interests, as well as improve and maintain health and fitness.

A number of local people have volunteered their time and knowledge to help instruct the course.

Dave Warren, pastor of the Faust Gospel Church,

instructed the 11 women in the art of canoeing. This challenging activity included a tip and rescue session (in which all students participated) and a scenic but strenuous trip across Giroux Bay.

Doreen Bellerose, president of the Students Union commented, "I didn't think we'd ever make it across that bay, but we did!"

Most recently the students have been learning proper gun handling through the assistance of the Faust RCMP.

Discussion of the Criminal Code of Canada, showing of films and trips to the Kinuso Gun Club Firing Range were all part of the course. At the practice range the ladies fired a variety of rifles and hand guns, filling the targets with holes.

Meat confiscated by Wildlife officers

Metis hunter will fight for his rights

By Margaret Desjarlais

A Metis hunter is determined to appear in court next month to demand the rest of his moose after being charged by Fish and Wildlife officers for an untagged animal.

Edward Cardinal from Calling Lake says he was issued a ticket for the alleged offence and three-quarters of the moose was confiscated by the officers, leaving him with the last quarter. This hind-quarter still resides in his deep freeze.

Cardinal and son say they were approaching the highway at Rock Island Lake (about 20 miles north of Calling Lake) with a bagged moose Sept. 27,

when they were met by Fish and Wildlife officers from Athabasca.

Cardinal, who claims to be illiterate, was able to produce a hunting licence

when requested by officer David Hillary. The officer then confiscated the carcass, saying the meat would be given to needy families.

Cardinal, 54, claims he lost the moose tag while on the hunting trip. "But, I couldn't throw the meat away," he says bitterly (in Cree), adding that he has five children to feed.

Cardinal who is charged for failing to immediately tag a moose under Section 39 of the Wildlife Act had an option to appear in court Nov. 9 in Athabasca or pay

a specified penalty of \$150. He has chosen to appear in court.

According to Cardinal, he has contacted Zone 1 vice-president Gerald Thom in Lac La Biche for advice. "He will appear in court to translate for me," Cardinal says.

In a telephone interview, Thom indicated the "harrassment" Native people are receiving from Fish and Wildlife officers "has got to stop." He also indicated he's received more complaints of harassment since the Cardinal

incident. "I feel totally upset about it," he says with bitterness, adding that the Metis people get to hunt only once a year. "If this is the way we're going to be handled by Fish and Wildlife, I think we're going to lose it (hunting)," he stated.

Thom added he will be consulting a lawyer who has expertise on Fish and Wildlife incidents.

Meanwhile, Cardinal says he has not gone out hunting since the incident. "I'm going to get that meat back if I can," he says with confidence. "I killed the

moose for my family — no one else."

No official at the Athabasca Fish and Wildlife office was available for comment, however, regional superintendent, Dennis Gigges said neither he or his department has received a formal complaint.

"Until I get feedback I cannot step in," he said.

Gigges also pointed out that none of his officers can speak Cree but added that a translator could be obtained if requested.

Calling Lake is about 40 km north of Athabasca.

Provincial

Zone prez to try defend Metis hunters

By Lesley Crossingham

The Metis Association will attempt to enter into negotiations with Alberta Fish and Wildlife after allegations of harassment and discrimination have been made by several Metis hunters.

Zone 1 vice-president, Gerald Thom says he is "sick and tired" of the alleged harassment and feels he and the association must step in to defend the rights of the Metis hunter.

Thom cited several incidences that were

reported to his office by concerned Metis hunters who had been charged by local Fish and Wildlife officials for a variety of alleged offences.

"We were informed that they were clamping down on poaching, but we are not the poachers they are trying to stop," he said, adding that Fish and Wildlife officials must be made aware of the fact that many Metis hunters cannot read or write English well enough to understand some of the regulations.

However, although Thom

has contacted a lawyer, the association does not have the funding to take on a long and expensive law case against the Alberta government.

"We get funding to maintain our offices and do day-to-day things, but not to fight for our rights," he said.

Thom is particularly upset over the fact that the lynx restrictions were put into place without the input of the association. Alberta Fish and Wildlife recently set lynx quota at one per trapline.

"We just don't have the money to deal with all these issues," he said. "It's totally unfair."

Now, Thom says he is looking for a lawyer with expertise in the area of hunting rights to take on the case for the Metis hunters.

"A lot of people depend on hunting as part of their livelihood and our people understand the animals. The lynx, for instance, follows a cycle. It's not an endangered species our hunters tell us," he said.

"We haven't been

involved in the decision-making and that has to stop," he added.

Fish and Wildlife officer Doug Stalnick was contacted at his Athabasca office, but declined to speak to Windspeaker until he had spoken with the officers concerned.

However, Dennis Gigges, St. Paul's regional superintendent, said that he has not yet received any formal complaints regarding the incidents.

"My hands are tied until I receive a complaint...I would suggest Mr. Thom

contact me and lodge a complaint so I can investigate," he added.

Gigges admits that no Cree speaking officials have been employed by his department, but added that if requested, a Cree translator could be located.

"We are in close contact with the Metis Association at Bonnyville and they are always willing to locate a translator for us," he said. "But until I get feedback, I cannot step in," he added.

Municipal Affairs official Ron Harrison was also unavailable at press time.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Indians refused service, Ottawa lounge must pay

Two Indians who were refused service at an Ottawa lounge were recently awarded \$1,500 each by the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

In an incident in 1984, Margaret Lanigan and Jim Rossetti were refused drinks at the Syde By Syde Lounge by the bar's manager Reg Leclaire. Leclaire maintained that he had "management discretion."

When the two complainants phoned the owner, John Montgomery, Montgomery sided with Leclaire.

Ed Ratushny, chairman of the commission inquiry, said in a judgement that Lanigan and Rossetti suffered "humiliation, embarrassment, shock and justifiable anger."

The owner of the bar was ordered to pay each complainant \$1,000 and the manager was ordered to pay each \$500.

"It is disheartening to know that an incident of this nature could occur in Ottawa in 1984," Ratushny said in his judgement.

Indian police fired to calm angry mob

Police of the Akwesasne Mohawk reserve were fired recently by community leaders to calm about 50 people who threatened to burn the police officer's homes if they didn't release a jailed suspect.

The angry mob threatened to burn the home of the nine-member police force if a Mohawk man arrested on drug trafficking charges was not released.

The police told community leaders that the only way they would release the suspect was if they were fired. Leaders fearing the crowd's threats were serious, fired the force and released the suspect.

The following Monday the police officers were rehired.

Convicted hunters appeal, say arrest is unconstitutional

Eight Saskatchewan Indians are appealing to the Supreme Court after being convicted in Meadow Lake, Sask. of using a spotlight to hunt.

The eight say they have a right to hunt on private, unposted land and that their conviction is therefore unconstitutional.

The original court ruling applied the 1982 amendment to the Wildlife Act which requires all hunters to get permission to hunt from the owner of the land.

Peigans share culture with Kazahks

Crowshoes return from China, surprised by cultural similarities

By Dan Dibbelt

While his fears of going without pemmican and moose meat were partially dismissed, Joe Crowshoe was faced with a new problem — how to use chopsticks.

Crowshoe, along with his son Reggie, both of the Peigan reserve at Brouck, recently returned from their two week visit to China, where they were accompanied by some of Canada's finest archeologists.

"A lot of the food was similar, so that didn't bother him," said Reggie Crowshoe of his father's trip. "But it was sure hard for him not being able to eat with a fork."

The Crowshoe pair left Sept. 16 for China with the Canada-China Dinosaur fossil expedition sponsored by the Ex Terra Foundation of Edmonton.

Because of similar dinosaur finds in the two countries an expedition was arranged sending Canada's experts to China this year, followed by China's experts visiting Canada in fall of '88.

Native Canadians became involved in the expedition because, like dinosaurs, it is believed that they crossed into North America when the two continents were connected. The involvement began with the painting of tipis that were presented in a ceremony to China's native people — Kazahks. In turn, it is expected the Kazahks will return the gesture in 1988 with a visit and a gift of yurts — their native dwelling.

"I'm really pleased that we were able to contribute something to this expedi-



LESLEY CROSSINGHAM, Windspeaker

JOE CROWSHOE

...had difficulty getting used to chopsticks in China

tion," said Crowshoe. "I think the introduction of our culture with that of the Kazahks helped to break the ice between the people there."

The Canadian expedition was greeted in China by a large crowd of Chinese and Kazahk people.

"It was a real sharing of culture," said Kevin Taft, Ex Terra chairman of the board. "There were so many different lifestyles; the Blackfoot, caucasian, Chinese and the Kazahks."

Crowshoe was most impressed by the similarities in lifestyles between the two countries aboriginal people.

"They cooked bannock similar to our way," said Crowshoe, but instead of beef, they use a lot of mutton — something Crowshoe says is an acquired taste. And, like Indians, Kazahks also have chiefs and elders and similar spiritual beliefs.

"I was really impressed by the number of people who showed up for the ceremonies," said Crowshoe, referring to the raising of the tipis. "We, (Reggie and Joe) raised the tipi and then through interpreters explained what the design meant."

The Crowshoes had little time to explore the other sights China had to offer.

"They (the Kazahks) put on so many special events," said Crowshoe. "They had horse races, ethnic dances, meetings with their elders and just talking about the similarities in culture."

Next year it will be the Peigans turn to offer their hospitality.

"We're hoping to have the Kazahks come over next year with their yurts," said Taft. "Right now we are in the discussion stage, but I'm optimistic."

"It was really interesting to meet the Kazahks, to see their lifestyle and experience their culture," said Crowshoe. "I'm looking forward to offering the Kazahks the same experience."

IAA child welfare report

Leaders saddened by desperate state of child welfare

By Dianne Meili

The sad state of child welfare is a symptom of a greater problem that begins in the community with alcohol, loss of cultural identity and poor parenting, Indian Association of Alberta (IAA) Treaty 7 vice-president Narcisse Blood told leaders at the all-chiefs conference in Calgary Oct. 7.

Blood was referring to a unique child welfare report commissioned by the IAA and presented to the chiefs for their adoption.

The report contains extensive interviews with children, parents and grandparents, gained by researchers who went into communities to record their feelings about growing up as a child or raising children. It also has drawings done by children living in alcoholic homes — pictures of themselves crying because there's no food in the house, or because their parents are fighting.

"The statistical reports have been done; this is a report to get talking about the problems we have," said Blood, who coordinated the report. "It shows how desperate the situation is with our children, it says we have to do something, and it comes right from the people involved."

Wilton Goodstriker, spiritual leader of the Blood band, set the tone for the

presentation of the report, saying: "I urge you — the issue of child welfare is so important. People are crying for help as they search for their identity and heritage." He explained the chief teaching of Indian children used to begin at conception with naming ceremonies and societies that concentrated on the development of that child.

"The concentration on our youth has been destroyed, just as our strong spirit has," Goodstriker concluded.

IAA president Gregg Smith introduced the report, pointing out initiative. Jurisdiction is the other thing. Our recommendations have to be considered by the government of this province, yet we are under the federal responsibility."

Through interviews with community residents at all levels, including social welfare workers, numerous issues are brought to light in the report. Such intrusions on Native life as residential schools are discussed at length and pinpointed as part of the problem in family breakdown.

"Adults we talked to seemed to be very affected by the residential schools. In a lot of cases they never had the chance to be raised by their own parents, so they are at a loss as to how to bring up their own children," explained Betty Bastien, a research co-

ordinator who worked extensively on the report.

Dr. Pam Colorado, who assisted Bastien with the report research, addressed the denial system at work within communities. "It's as though we set up our young people to choose death rather than break the denial surrounding school; we lie to them when someone dies from alcohol. We tell them that person went to heaven," she said, quoting from the report.

The 138-page report contains exhaustive insights into the problems facing today's children and the fact so many are being put into non-Native foster homes. Dr. Colorado outlined the major resolutions that had risen from the report: "We have to go back to the people so they can start talking about it, discuss the issues and come up with the answers, we have to go back to the family, to the Elders — the relationship between them has been damaged. We have to create that relationship again...and finally, we have to realize that our children are on loan to us. The way we treat them comes back to us...it's reflected in the community."

Narcisse Blood and Betty Bastien are currently working on a proposal to implement suggestions made in the report and put them to practical use. "People are talking about



CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS
...reflect findings in report

the problems now. We wanted to impress upon our leaders how important it is to work together on this," Blood pointed out in a telephone interview after the conference. He thinks the chiefs recognize that problems start in their own communities and they must take steps to create a new environment for their people.

"The report says 'this is what's happening out there' and impresses upon the chiefs that they must network and counsel and work together to save the children. Our kids are being ignored, if we don't do anything with this report, then we're doing the same thing," Blood said.

Such developments as

"repatriation group homes" for children returning to reserves from foster homes, cultural youth camps and parenting workshops are practical applications arising from the report. Funds are needed before any of these developments can occur.

Blood stressed it is not the IAA's mandate to become involved with the delivery of services and programs regarding child welfare on reserves. It is his group's responsibility to lobby for funds and "get people networking and talking about the changes that have to be made. We've given the chiefs a mandate that they now have to follow up on to take responsibility for child

welfare." He added the resolutions arising from the report will not be detrimental to those bands and tribal councils which already have tri-partite or bi-lateral agreements with the government for child welfare responsibility.

"We respect what they're doing where bands have taken the problems and tackled them. We want to work with them and share notes. Every person that's involved in this has got their own answer. In the past we've followed the white way of having a department for this and that and they never talk to each other and know what they're all doing. Now we want to find out how we can all work together."

Sarcee Elder Meginnis dies at 103

By Dan Dibbelt

Elizabeth Meginnis, matriach of the Sarcee nation and oldest resident of the reserve situated west of Calgary, died Oct. 10 at the age of 103.

Meginnis is remembered by Sarcee band members for her warmth and understanding.

"We could have a house of 20 people," recalls her grandson Bruce Starlight. "And she would always make room for more."

Meginnis was the last sibling of David Crowchild, the great Sarcee leader after whom Calgary's Crowchild Trail is named. The Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs committee has also named a yearly award after the Great Chief who advocated peace and understanding between all peoples.

Meginnis' grandfather was Chief Big Plume who signed Treaty 7 as representative of the Sarcee nation.

Meginnis was born Nov. 14, 1883 and spent her whole life on the reserve.

Apart from being descended on one side of her family to the great Sarcee traditional chiefs, Meginnis boasts Cree connections through her father Mark Crowchild who fled to the Sarcee reserve after the Riel resistance.

However, it wasn't easy for Crowchild to settle on the reserve as the Sarcee were at that time fighting the Cree, says Starlight. However, eventually he was accepted by the tribe.

"This is how the name Crowchild was introduced into Sarcee," added Starlight.

Meginnis married twice. The first time in the early 1900s to James Little Bear. They had four children but only William survived. James Little Bear died of tuberculosis.

In 1913 Meginnis married Pat Grass Hopper and had three children: Philip, Sarah and Mary Jane who survived their mother.

From the name Grass Hopper came the name Meginnis, says Starlight, who explains that when the Indian agent came to the reserve he did not like the name Grass Hopper and asked what the Sarcee name was. They replied Metoonish. The agent could not pronounce the Sarcee name so wrote the name Meginnis.

Meginnis also died of tuberculosis so Elizabeth decided not to marry again. However, she had two more children, Walter and Michael.

"She never turned anyone away; her door was

always open," says Starlight. "Although she was a devoted Anglican, she still taught the old ways as well," he added.

Meginnis took part in the first Calgary Stampede Parade and helped promote the Stampede in the 1912 tour of Winnipeg. Since then she has always attended each stampede.

"She always attended the sundance in Small Boy (Montana) every year and continued her beading until very late in her life," says Starlight.

"I am poor — just as I am I want to go," Starlight recalls her saying. "Don't make a big thing about my funeral — do it the Sarcee way," she had said.

Her last wish was indeed carried out Wednesday Oct. 16. Relatives cut their hair or wore their hair loose and some of Meginnis' personal belongings were burned.

Sage was burned and her house was left empty to ensure her spirit went home.

"She was a very humble person," says Starlight. "She loved everyone."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Elizabeth Meginnis always refused to be photographed or allow tape recordings of interviews with her to be made.)

IAA to march against Meech Lake Accord

By Dianne Meili

A march and rally at the provincial legislature building to protest the Meech Lake Accord ratification is being coordinated by the Indian Association of Alberta (IAA).

It is scheduled for Nov. 23, the day when Premier Don Getty is expected to introduce legislation ratifying the Meech Lake Accord.

Houle new Goodfish chief

The Goodfish Lake reserve's 1,100 residents have a new chief.

Ernie Houle was elected chief of the reserve, winning the voter's confidence on Oct. 30 at the Goodfish Lake Pakan school where 261 band members placed their votes. Houle has not occupied the position as chief before and is the former recreation director of Cold Lake First Nations.

He was one of four councillors elected last Oct. 6 before band members selected the chief from that newly elected council.

Houle received 93 votes and was followed by Velma Memnook (82 votes), Miles Hunter (73 votes), and Joe A. Cardinal (11 votes).

The resolution to coordinate the rally was passed at the Oct. 7 all-chiefs conference in Calgary, where IAA president told the audience Premier Getty had scheduled no public debate concerning Meech Lake accord ratification in Alberta.

"We're going to make it clear to Getty that there are a lot of people concerned over the accord," said

Peter Manywounds, IAA political advisor and an organizer of the protest. "This isn't just an Indian problem."

He told Windspeaker in a telephone interview that many provincial and national politicians, individuals and groups are being approached to attend the event. Representatives of groups which testified at the New Democrat Meech Lake Accord hearings, the Alberta Teachers Association, the official opposition, coalitions and action groups for women and minorities "and anyone affected by the legislation" are invited, Manywounds added.

"If the accord is passed, provinces will become semi-autonomous...a single province acting in its own interest will have the ability to prevent the federal

government from acting on behalf of a national interest," explained Manywounds, stressing the accord affects many Canadians, not only Indians.

The march is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. at Churchill Square, across from Edmonton's city hall. The marchers will proceed down Jasper Ave. to 100 Ave, where it will turn south and continue to the Legislature building. The rally will begin at 11:15.

Other IAA resolutions, which were not passed at the Oct. 7 all-chiefs conference will be dealt with at a special chiefs' assembly scheduled for Nov. 23 or 24 in Edmonton.

Two new councillors elected at Whitefish

By Margaret Desjarlais

About 78 people turned up to cast their votes for two councillor positions at the Whitefish Lake band Sept. 30.

The by-election for the two vacancies was held due to the resignation of two councillors recently. According to band officials, the two wanted more personal time to spend with families.

The two successful candidates, Casey Gaudette and Lloyd Thunder, were elected from eight candidates, says Dave Willier,

Chief Electoral Officer.

The two will join councillors Gilbert Laboucan, George Tallman, Robert James Grey, Fred Thunder, Tommy Oar and Chief Eddy Tallman for two-year terms.

The Whitefish Lake band is situated 84 km northeast of High Prairie.

Pope's dove will be re-erected

The white dove canopy under which Pope John Paul II made his famous impassioned plea for peace during his 1984 visit will be re-erected in Edmonton next year.

A non-denominational committee has already been formed and is joining forces with the architect and design engineer of the dove, Edward Williams and Henry Kasten.

The goal is to ensure the 17-meter wings of the dove span municipal or provincial property which has yet to be selected. The event is scheduled to coincide with the Edmonton Catholic schools centennial celebration.

The committee estimates it will cost between \$25,000 to \$50,000 to erect the dove.

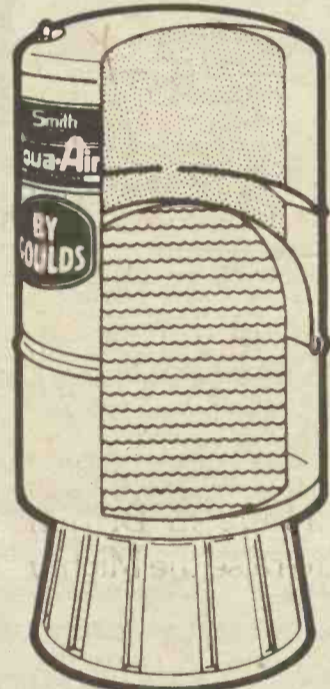
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Native Art Competition

Esso Resources Canada Limited is sponsoring an art competition that is open to all Native Canadian Artists in Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

Five pieces of work will be selected from the submissions, with a \$750 prize given for each. From these five selections, the eventual first place winner will be chosen and an additional \$750 prize awarded.

The winning art work will be reproduced as a poster and as cover art for an Esso Resources corporate brochure detailing the company's commitment to native employment and education.

The remaining four finalists will be added to Esso's widely-acclaimed collection of Emerging Canadian Artists.

Competition Rules

1. Submissions should include a color slide of the selected work and be accompanied by a written description outlining the medium used, size of the work, name of the piece and any necessary interpretation.
2. Submissions are limited to original works of art including paintings in any medium (oil, acrylic, mixed media and water colors) and drawings. Materials, i.e.; sculptures, weavings, silk screens and prints cannot be accepted.
3. Size of the original art work may not exceed 42 inches in length or width.
4. All work should be unframed.
5. Deadline for submissions is November 6, and all work must be ready for delivery by that date.
6. Esso Resources will assume ownership of all five final selections, and retain all rights to reproduction.
7. Entries will be judged by a panel consisting of Lois MacLellan, general manager of the Alberta Indian Arts and Crafts Society, Hugh Dempsey, curator of the Glenbow Museum, Pat Larson, co-ordinator of the Esso Resources Art Collection, and two additional Esso Resources staff members.
8. All judges' decisions are final.
9. All entries should be sent to: Richard Jeffrey
Room 3412, Esso Plaza West
237 - 4th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta, T2P 0H6

Note: In the event of a mail strike, send via collect courier.



DROPPIN IN
By Rocky Woodward

Hi! Did you read what Big Eddie (Eddie Keen) wrote about the Metis and all their problems? Just this past week I was reading his column in the Edmonton Sun, the newspaper I just cancelled my subscription to, and he headlined his column with **MURKY FINANCES PLAGUE ALBERTA METIS**.

Big Eddie, I've been called many things but never a "Murky Metis." What you wanna go and do that for Big Eddie? Did you have a bad day? You wrote about a lot of crap we already know about, but nothing new. What's the matter Ed? Couldn't think of anything to write about, so why not the Metis. I suppose that's the right of a columnist, huh Big Eddie? You don't have to get both sides of a topic that you choose to write about...so today why not the Metis.

Ed, in his positive way, wrote about an audit that can't be obtained by Metis members of the Buffalo Lake Metis settlement. He wandered on about protests that were filed alleging voting irregularities during the Metis Association of Alberta's elections and then he gave a point by point, however vague, description of other problems that we as Indian and Metis are responsible for.

Usually when I have had the opportunity to listen to Eddie Keen on radio, he always supports his comments with something positive, but I didn't see anything worthwhile to read in this particular column...nothing. In fact all he did was make the Metis look bad, or is there a message hidden somewhere in the lines... Big Eddie? No, I think you were sleeping when you wrote it. Does Big Eddie believe by writing what he did some affirmative action will take place or was he simply informing the public...in his own little way that the Metis have a problem?

You know Ed, the Metis have a bad enough time proving to society that they are people...real people just like everyone else...so why would you want to give this dark side of Metis problems without a hint of something being done to correct the Murky Metis Finance Plague?

Many of your readers do not understand what a Metis is. They do not understand Metis politics or what a Metis settlement consists of. They only understand what you wrote about Big Eddie. A gossip column that reeks of someone pretending to be a watchdog for society, and least the public forget that there is a people out there called Metis...reminds them that they are still up to no good? Great Eddie. Okay you got your quotes, you got your one sided facts possibly right and you got your column. But the fact remains that you did nothing for a people who are struggling every day...to make a better life for themselves...while people like you hide behind informative columns that in reality...simply, gossip.

And what about the Murky Metis? Well I trust they will eventually work things out. They've been doing it since well over 200 years.

HIGH PRAIRIE: Can you believe this picture of a potato this size! Fort Vermilion, eat your heart out! I put my cigarette package (I only smoke because I am against clean air. It could kill me) next to this potato just to give you an example of what our Native people in the High Prairie area grow in their gardens...and this was a

Droppin' In speaks out against Eddie Keen's story about Metis' 'murky' finances

small one! The big ones rolled away!

This particular potato was grown in Dorothy Supolik's garden. Dorothy says when she goes to pick potatoes from her garden...they use a winch truck.

Congrats Dorothy.



PEACE RIVER: The SHAFESBURY FERRY... someone should write a song...has made it to La Crete where it will take over duties from an older model that has been retired.

On Sept. 23, while I was in Peace River many residents of the town, along with me, had a chance to glimpse a new ferry boat, built in Edmonton, put together in Shafesbury, 10 miles upstream from Peace River. It made its way under the Peace River bridge in route to La Crete, where it will be put to use, ferrying people, trucks and cars across the Peace River.

In order for the ferry boat to make its journey safely, the Bennet Dam near Hudson Hope in British Columbia, opened its doors enough to raise the Mighty Peace River another four feet.

It was indeed a historic sight to watch as it embarked on its two day journey up the Peace River because there are not many ferry boats left in Alberta, that once helped move settlers with their wagons and horses across these waterways for homesteading.

You might say that the Shafesbury Ferry will now "bridge the gap" at Tomkins Landing, between La Crete and the highway near Paddle Prairie.



ENOCH: On Oct. 10, MIKE SIGUDUR of Fort McMurray and CLARE MANY FINGERS, originally from the Blackfoot reserve at Cardston, in southern Alberta, were married at the Enoch Recreational Centre.

A reception held following the wedding saw more than 300 relatives, friends and family join in the happy affair.

I just love what one of Clare's sisters said as a guest speaker. "There are 117 of us at last count that are related within the Many Fingers family and Mike now makes it 118. We welcome you Mike into our family."

Congratulations Mike and Clare Many Fingers Sigudur.



DROPPING IN: Don't forget that the Friendship Centre in Edmonton will be holding a Halloween Dance on Oct. 30. Prizes for the "BEST COSTUME" will be awarded.

Have a nice weekend everyone.

PHOTOS BY ROCKY WOODWARD, Windspeaker

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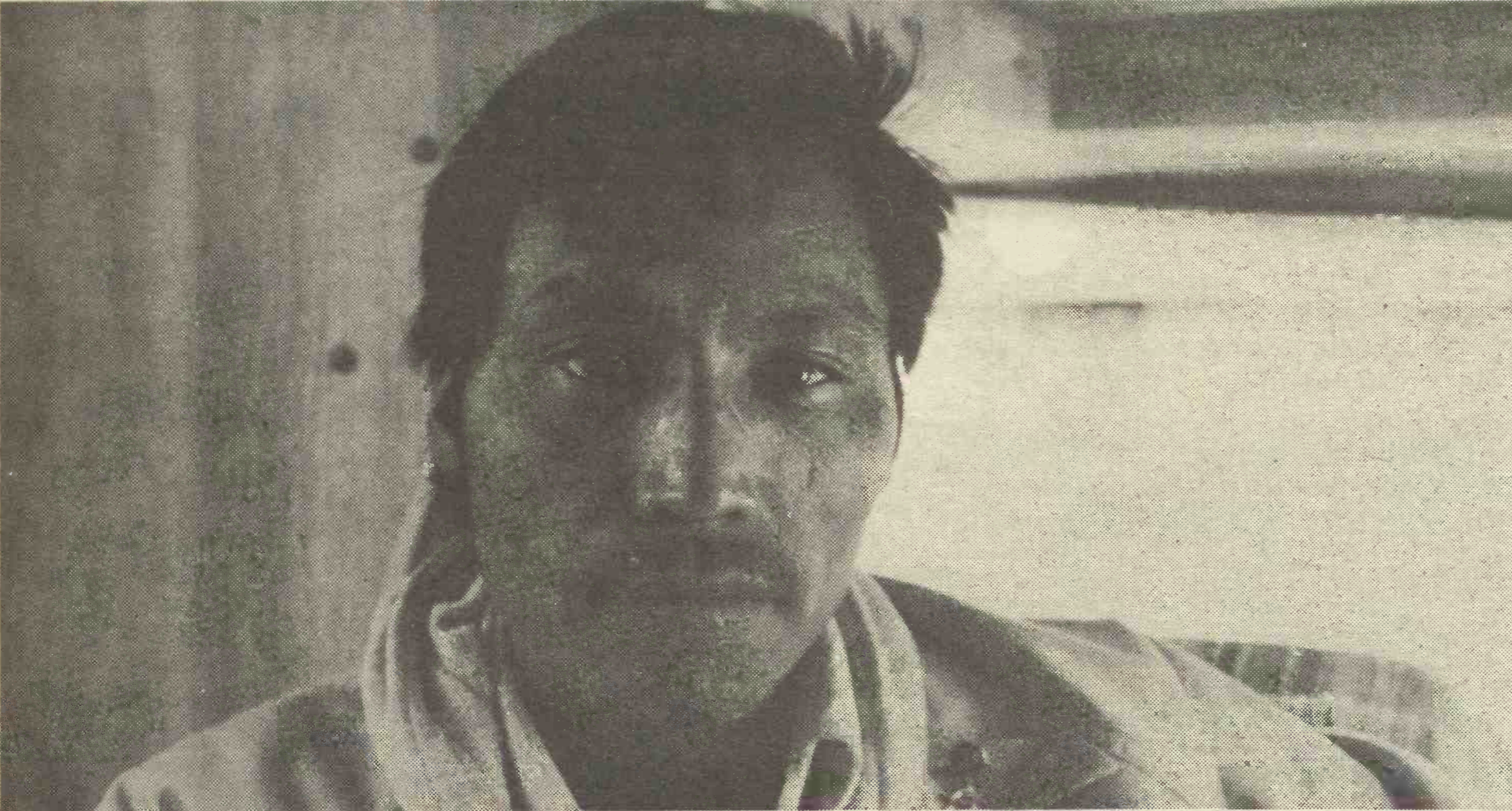
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People

Editorial



MARK McCALLUM, Windspeaker

RICK TETSO
...expert trapper at 29

Living in balance with nature

By Mark McCallum

Although he scarcely finished Grade 4 in a school that only held classes three months out of the year, Rick Tetso now earns about \$25,000 tax free each year by trapping.

At age 10, Tetso started trapping his "back yard," a narrow 60 km stretch of muskeg located 85 km west of Fort Simpson, N.W.T. He grew up on his father's trapline and learned how to survive from his Elders on the rugged land only 500 km south of the Arctic

Circle.

Tetso, now 29, says furbearing animals are plentiful, although he notes with a smile "there's not much fox and always too many spruce chicken."

The trapping business has been good to him, but Tetso admits he still just "breaks even" after buying the provisions he can't hunt down such as gasoline and spices.

The Slavey Indian trades furs in Fort Simpson at the Hudson Bay, which was four days hike before Tetso bought his snowmobile and

an all-terrain vehicle (A.T.V.) about 10 years ago. Tetso and his parents, Fred and Mary, who are in their sixties, would walk to the tiny fur trading post. "It only takes two days by paddle," he boasts, adding he made the trip by canoe recently when his A.T.V. had a flat tire.

Even with the drawbacks a trapper must endure, Tetso has never seriously considered another line of work. "Another job would keep me away from the land. I feel like I'm missing something really exciting

when I'm not in the bush...I don't want to miss anything," he explains.

Tetso learns all he needs to know about surviving and making ends meet in the bush from his Elders. For example, he learned to read the sky and predict weather conditions, a skill no trapper can survive without.

The weather affects everyone, but for Tetso there is almost no margin for error. If a sudden storm should appear in the sky and he's caught unprepared, it could cost him days -- even weeks of work. Much worse, it could cost him his life.

Tetso doesn't have a million dollar weather balloon, but he can forecast the weather days in advance by "the redness of the sky at sunset."

A successful day's work also depends largely on wind direction. Tetso says, "a trapper must walk with the wind in his face" and stay down wind from animals, which are easily alerted to an approaching hunter by scent and sound. A good trapper will use the noise of rustling leaves blowing in the wind to cover his approach, he adds.

Tetso says the most difficult animal to capture is a moose, even though tracking the animal is not hard. "You can even tell if it's a bull or a cow by its droppings." But, if there is no wind, he says a hunter can't get any closer than a mile to a moose.

"The Elders always say that a moose is higher than us, that it can see into a person's life...into his future. I respect their words. The moose and all of the other animals keep me alive," Tetso concludes.

IAA All-Chiefs Conference

Child welfare report touches leaders, opens minds and hearts

A giant step forward was taken at a recent all-chiefs conference in Calgary. Although all of Alberta's chiefs weren't present, a good number were touched by the findings of a child welfare report that had just been completed. Alcohol, a lack of culture and poor parenting techniques were presented as primary reasons for the breakdown of families and the placement of so many children in foster homes. As they discussed their own experiences as children and observations of the situations on their own reserves, a healing seemed to take place. In the sharing of their stories a sense of unity was established and a closer look at attacking these problems was taken.

One chief, after hearing accounts of how residential schools had left many people ill-equipped to raise their only families, exclaimed he was "starting to realize that many of us never had the chance to mature emotionally." Another representative pointed out that the class structure on reserves has to go before people can accept the idea of their friends and neighbors getting ahead in life, without putting them down out of jealousy. One chief talked about his own experience as a foster child and how he never stopped thinking about going home and returning to his natural family. He identified with the identity crisis Native foster children go through, and expressed his opinion that repatriation group homes might be the answer to help children returning to reserves to first learn about the Native way of life.

The earnest exchange of experiences, feelings and possible solutions was encouraging. Hearts and minds opened as the chiefs re-established they are the key players in bringing about changes in their communities. Here was an issue where there could be no isolation — subject to reinstate the networking and information sharing system amongst them.

The Indian Association should take pride in commissioning report and initiating this networking system. It is an IAA mandate to preserve treaty rights at the reserve and community level, and it has certainly hit the mark in addressing the issue of child welfare because it is our young ones who must be strong enough to carry the fight on into the future.

CORRECTIONS

A story entitled "Aboriginal people gather to celebrate film art," which appeared in last week's Oct. 16, 1987 issue of Windspeaker incorrectly named Suzanne Lorinczi as the president of the Pincher Creek Film Society. In fact, the president is Mr. Csaba Lorinczi. Windspeaker apologizes for any confusion this error may have caused.

Also in our Oct. 16 edition Helen Gladue said to have been born in Beaver Lake. She was born on the Samson reserve, her husband Joseph was born on the Beaver Lake reserve. He was raised by Mr. and Mrs. Yellowcalf on the Enoch reserve. We apologize for any confusion caused.

In our Oct. 2 edition Freezien Norris was said to be Malcolm Norris' daughter. She is in fact his niece.



MARGARET DESJARLAIS, Windspeaker

CANOE LAKE ELDERS

Alex Iron (right) is the oldest member on the Canoe Lake reserve in Saskatchewan. The 86-year-old Elder lives independently. Alex and his buddy Jules Opikokew, 81, pose for Windspeaker during the Pope's visit Sept. 20 at Fort Simpson, N.W.T.

Opinion

Desmeules says coverage unbalanced and unfair

MAA president questions reporting

Dear Editor:

I trust that you will give me the opportunity in your pages to respond to your editorial conclusion that the Metis Association of Alberta (MAA) is at death's door (Rumored split could finish MAA," Windspeaker, October 2, 1987) and other coverage, particularly since the Sept. 1 election.

And, since your reporter and editorial writer did not see fit to offer me the opportunity to respond in the same issue of the newspaper, I trust that you will run this letter (including these preliminary paragraphs), without editing it, as a balance to that coverage.

I trust, also, that you will ensure that this letter and the "Windspeaker" coverage to which it refers will be reviewed with the writer(s) concerned, your management and your board of directors in the interests of balanced coverage and fair comment when you write about MAA in the future.

(It would only be fair if this letter and the results of this review were published soon in "Windspeaker," just as prominently as your negative, unbalanced and inaccurate coverage of the MAA.)

Finally, you will note that copies of this letter have gone to other media (some of whom have also offered questionable coverage of MAA activities on occasion), and others to whom fairness and accuracy in Native journalism should be a concern.

Unjustified Conclusion

I certainly agree that it is unfortunate when losers in an election choose to form a splinter organization or otherwise act in a manner detrimental to an organization and the members who

rejected them at the polls.

Unfortunately, there is more than one kind of loser. There's a good loser, who accepts defeat graciously and continues to work for the good of the organization with those who were elected. There's the poor loser who refuses to play the game if they can't be in control and either goes home or tries to start his own game. And there's the real loser who gets thrown out of the game for refusing to play by

the rules.

I certainly agree that both members and leaders need to "take a long hard look at the goals of the organization and try to cast aside any differences." That, and "the need for immediate action that leads to results, were important planks in the platform on which I was elected.

But I must challenge your editorial writer's dependence on the unfounded accusation that the MAA is \$80,000 in debt,

the unsupported allegations of "undemocratic election practices," the "disgruntled member's" conclusion that "there doesn't seem to be room for opposition within the organization" and the "rumoured split of the Metis association into two Alberta organizations" as the basis for concluding that the current situation "could finish the MAA."

Who are the people saying these things? What basis do they have for saying them? What effort

have you made to verify them? What opportunity have you given those of us who were elected to respond?

Balance and Fairness

A review of your coverage of MAA activities since the Sept. 1 election has focussed on the complaints of defeated candidates, terminated employees and ousted members and on crises — real and imagined — facing the association.

I am not suggesting that our critics be denied the opportunity to air their views. I'm not suggesting that well-founded negative stories should not be published.

But surely there is an occasional glimmer of light among the doom and gloom worth reporting. Surely you can seek out some of the positive things we are doing as a fair balance to the negative stories you have been publishing.

A little patience would be appreciated, too.

We have barely had time to take office, and already we are being buried under negativism and hostile media coverage. We are moving rapidly to achieve the objectives we set out in our campaigns, but even the most effective administration needs time to get things done.

Right now we're in the planning stage, so there is little we can report. When we do have positive achievements to report, we trust that you will cover them with the same prominence that you have covered and unsupported allegations of our detractors.

As someone with years of direct involvement in the media, I am well aware of its power and influence. I can assure you that I am available to the media as much as my schedule will permit, both to provide background and to comment on current issues.

I trust that our concerns can be resolved, and that a good relationship can be established between the media and our organization based on honesty, accuracy, integrity and fairness.

**Yours truly,
Larry Desmeules
President
MAA**



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Dianne Meili

Windspeaker responds to Desmeules letter, say he's made false allegations

Windspeaker editorial staff and senior management stand by the editorial and story questioned by Metis Association of Alberta president Larry Desmeules in his letter to the editor. We regret his dissatisfaction with the articles, but feel he's made false allegations.

Mr. Desmeules says he was given no opportunity to reply to Ron Laroque's statements in a story we ran in our Oct. 2 edition. This is simply not the case. Mr. Desmeules was contacted on no less than five occasions, but chose not to return our calls. He also saw fit to avoid the calls we made to him after the story ran, in an attempt to get his explanation of the controversy.

When he first became president, he refused to give us the official election count. A week after he took office, we asked him for a personal interview to introduce him to our readers and publicize his plans as the new MAA leader. He turned us down. This week a reporter spoke with Mr. Desmeules, who once again refused to answer any questions.

Mr. Desmeules, the people have a right to know what their elected officials are doing. This includes the dismissal of employees and the financial status of the organization because public money is involved. And, as head of the MAA you must have heard rumors of a split within the organization and know this could be detrimental to the unity of Alberta's Metis. Why not go

on record with your explanation of these current affairs and tell your people what you will do about the situation?

We at Windspeaker will continue to do everything in our power to contact all parties involved in news stories and write balanced stories. However, the refusal of any key player to answer questions will not result in the story being held.

Mr. Desmeules also complains that there is little 'positive' news in Windspeaker. Such is not the case. Each week the stories on positive news far outweigh those that might appear to many as 'negative' news stories.

Readers should remember that because we have no official 'opposition' parties, as in mainstream politics, very often a free voice, such as Windspeaker, is often the only "watchdog" organization that grassroots people feel they can turn to.

Each week we receive letters or telephone calls from people who are concerned over threats or perceived threats to their way of life, either from government departments or from their own local administration.

Windspeaker is obviously fulfilling a need. And it is a need we do not take lightly. We have a role to provide our readers with information, both good and bad, in order that the communities themselves can deal with the problems before they get out of hand.

Reaction to Lubicon being compared to terrorists

Reader backs Lubicon, not terrorists, he says

Dear Editor:

Edgar Best, Security Chief for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, missed the mark completely in calling the Lubicon Lake Crees terrorists. The true fact is that these Crees share the plight of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who have also been denied access to their traditional lands in the Middle East. Both groups have been struggling desperately for

their land rights during the past fifty years. The chief motive of the Crees and Palestinians has been the desire for economic security in a hostile environment. Both groups abhor the refugee camp conditions under which they have been compelled to live. Powerful North American politicians are inclined to blame the Crees and Palestinians for conflict that results from their hideous oppression.

Who are the real terrorists whom Mr. Best seems unaware of? The legislators of the Province of Alberta who passed retroactive legislative legislation (Bill 29) in 1977, to oppress the Aboriginal people of the Green Zone who wanted to file a caveat to hold their original lands. The provincial government officials who raided the offices of the Federation of Metis Settlements at a time when the Supreme Court of

Alberta was considering a claim by the Metis people. The court justices who arrogantly decided many months ago that the business interests of the oil companies were more important than the cultural and economic rights of the Lubicon Lake Crees. The federal government that fires public servants who decry the immoral tactics used against Aboriginal peoples. The federal and provincial governments

who practise genocide by denying the Crees a traditional livelihood. The bureaucrats in the federal and provincial departments who stonewall Chief Omnyak by creating all sorts of political and administrative roadblocks to avoid a settlement. The oil companies, including Petro-Canada, who continue to mine the oil, knowing full well that there is an unsettled land claim, and who hide behind the skirts

of the Alberta government.

And, last of all, the organizers of the Olympic Games, who are profiteering with federal and provincial monies, while Canada claims having not enough money to perform its education obligations to Treaty Indians.

The Olympic athletes advocate brotherhood. Others practise terrorism.

Sonny Mesa



NORTHERN ALBERTA SPECIAL:

EAST PRAIRIE — FORT VERMILION — JOHN D'OR PRAIRIE — HIGH LEVEL — HIGH PRAIRIE — TALLCREE

STORIES & PHOTOS BY ROCKY WOODWARD

As you will see, Rocky Woodward, Wind-speaker's community editor, has been on the road again. This report is the result of his 5-day, 2,200 km journey to these communities.

Many more stories were not published because of space restrictions, but they will be published in coming weeks.

Tall Cree school proud of progress

TALL CREE — The Tall Cree Band has much to smile about since their education takeover from the Fort Vermilion School Division in 1984. Over the last two years the schools at North and South Tall Cree have become quite a success story because they have something to offer for everyone.

This success is due to the schools community-oriented format, says staff teacher Sharon Clarkson. "It's been very good. The school board has really come a long way. We have

increased in staff and the grade levels have really started to go up, especially since last year," she added.

Clarkson has been employed by the Tall Cree band as a teacher for three years. "I think the big thing since last year was that we finally got a good administrator here, Mike Campbell. He's been with us for just over a year and its made a real difference. They have been a lot more selective in their hiring and we have good teachers here who really like the kids," Clarkson said.

Although the school, which accepts students from Kindergarten to Grade 9, do not have a Cree culture program, it is something they are aware of and hope to start in the near future.

"We do a bit of our own Cree in class. Teachers like Kathy Auger, who has the Kindergarten class, speaks Cree and has been involved with the school for 15 years," says Clarkson. "Last year they set up a tipi in the class. One of the grandfathers came in and helped set it up."

"We don't have a class where you say this is Cree, but the students bring a lot of their own culture into their stories or even when you're teaching. You have to talk about people from the community and things that are going on here because you can't really rely on workbooks. It has no relevance to them. They don't really care what Dick and Jane went and got from McDonalds," explained Clarkson, adding that students would rather talk about Ronnie down at the garage. "So we use people and situations that they are familiar with."

Clarkson believes that students at Tall Cree had bad experiences in school



SHARON CLARKSON and STUDENTS ...education is important at Tall Cree

when it was run by the Fort Vermilion School Division. Over the last year and ever since Campbell arrived a lot of time has been spent with the students, even after school hours.

"Last year I taught the Grade 4 - 6 class and you wonder why you have kids that have been in Grade 6 for three years. That's incredible because these kids are really smart. There was no reason for them to be stuck there. You know kids were allowed to work maybe ten pages in a work book for a year and it amazes you how something like that could go on," Clarkson said.

Clarkson states there were Grade 4 students, who after three years, still did not know how to read. "When I first started here I had the Grade 7 and 8 class and after three weeks this one student, you'd give him a Grade 7 science book and he would not understand it. I sat down with him and found out he didn't know how to read and here he was in Grade 7."

"The levels that you're looking at teaching in a classroom are incredible. You're looking at maybe seven levels within ten kids."

According to Clarkson you have to get to know each student and their families.

"Once you get to know the parents they really back you. We have the parents in a lot and so they always know what and how well their children are doing."

Last year when the students were on a camping trip, more than 30 parents came out to participate in the camp out. Clarkson says the parents, since last year, have been more involved than ever before.

"They made sure the beds were warm and helped us with other things. They showed the kids how to build a thing for their stew pot and helped put up the tents," Clarkson proudly added.

Since the takeover by the band and especially in the last two years the students have made tremendous strides forward. Most of the students in the classes last year went up at least a grade or more. "I think by the end of the year most of them are going to be working at grade level, especially the elementary kids."

The school now has about 90 per cent attendance record, and over a

year most students get a perfect year attendance.

"We used to have a problem where if you tried to discipline them they would run home. But we go after them now. It helps and the parents help. One mother, Mary, does not speak English but we take someone with us who can talk to her and explain why the student should be in school.

"People are really good here. We never have problems...they are super. Mary last week baked all the bannock for the kids and Nancy phoned one morning and asked if we needed bannock for the camping trip. They give moosemeat when we go camping. The parents and the community as a whole are very good."

At present North Tall Cree employs eight full-time teachers with four at South Tall Cree for about 120 students in total.

Today with an almost perfect attendance and a system that is, as Clarkson says, more community-oriented to meet the needs of the student, the students at Tall Cree are learning an education and, "we're very proud of the school and the students."

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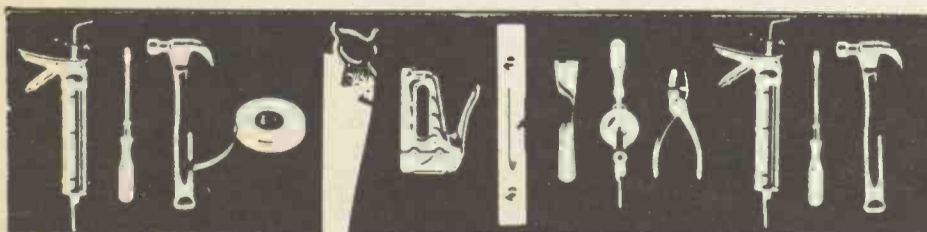


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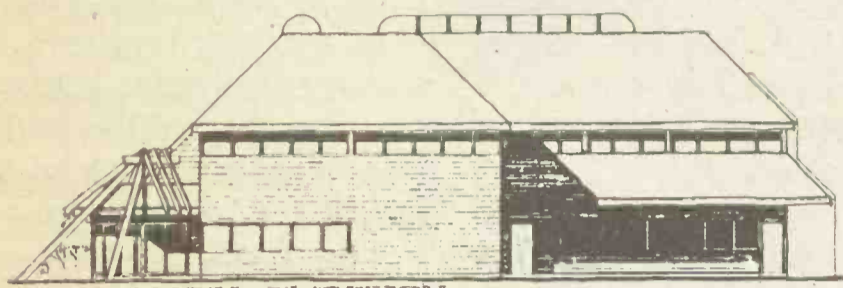


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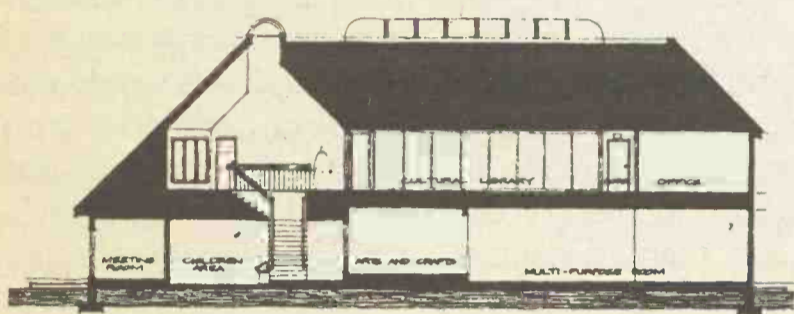
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New centre to open next year

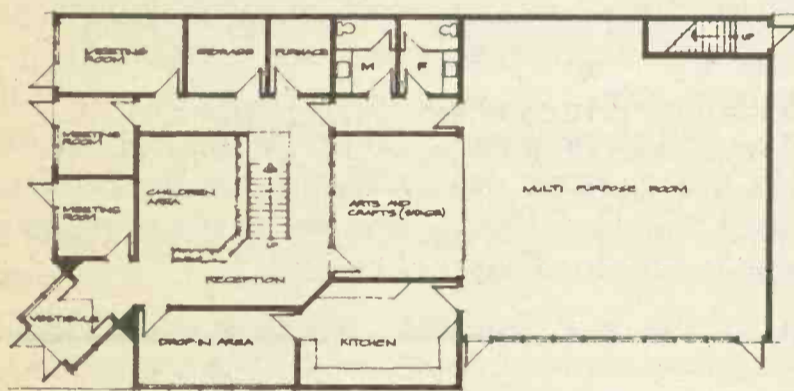
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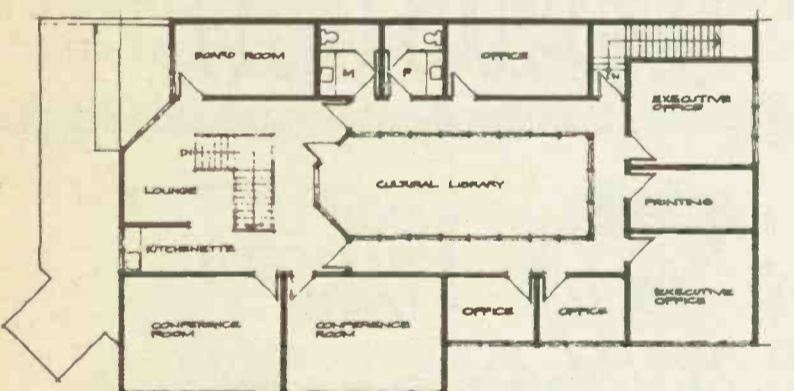
SCENE ELEVATION



SECTION



MAIN FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

CENTRE'S STAFF
...believe a dream is being built

HIGH LEVEL — Since its establishment in July 1982, the High Level Native Friendship Centre, 800 km north of Edmonton, has been working toward improving the quality of life for Native people in the town itself and its surrounding area.

In order to continue and broaden their services for Native and non-Native people the centre's board of directors and its executive looked into the possibilities of acquiring a building with better facilities. Now, after five years they have finally accomplished it.

Construction on a new building began early in 1986 and will provide 8,200 square feet of multi-function space, a big step forward compared to the small trailer that once housed the centre's staff.

The new building was first estimated to cost \$515,000 to build, but since 1986 that figure has risen to a total projected cost of about \$700,000. "That's where it stands, but we don't expect it to go over that figure," said bookkeeper for the centre, Bruce Stephen.

According to the acting director Judy Middleton, in order to finance the project, money was raised through community projects and through government grants.

"We hold various fund raising activities right in the community such as bingos and fund raising drives. We also received funding from Secretary of State and other government agencies."

Some of the businesses in the High Level area have

also donated funds towards the project. Rainbow Lake Esso operation contributed \$5,000 towards the project.

"We also raised money by offering individuals a chance to have their names inscribed on the feature wall in the main foyer of the centre. It only costs \$50," said Middleton.

The new building will have room enough for a commercial kitchen, for in-house catering, a drop-in centre for visitors, arts and crafts theatre, a 200 person capacity multi-purpose area for community activities, conference rooms, office space, cultural library and a children's area to promote family participation.

Middleton believes many things can be accomplished if there is room to operate important community functions.

"When you have the room, the sky's the limit, so we're all very excited about our new building," she said, adding that when they were housed in the trailer people usually forgot that there even was a centre.

"I think when the new centre opens we will gain a much larger and more active membership. The growth that we see for the future is tremendous. Right now we are at a turning point. Very shortly, we will have the facilities to offer our services to their fullest," Middleton says the centre should be completed early in 1988.

Next year when the new centre opens its doors, the High Level Tourist Information Centre will move into the facility. With more than

3,000 estimated tourists visiting the High Level area over the past summer, Middleton sees the move helping the town and the centre.

"The tourist information centre was located in a small building so when it's moved, tourists will have better access to it. It will also help our tourist trade. Native crafts and arts will be available to people wanting to view or buy them."

Once the friendship centre is open, says Middleton they will be better prepared to meet the ever growing demands for

their services by other community organizations and service agencies within the High Level region.

The new centre will become a place for relaxing, family participation, and a place to visit with friends complete with friendly staff.


"It is also a referral and informational centre, with full recreational and Native cultural programs," said Middleton.

Upon completion the new building will become an attractive landmark in High Level. It will also provide a focus for the culture and community pride of the citizens of High Level.

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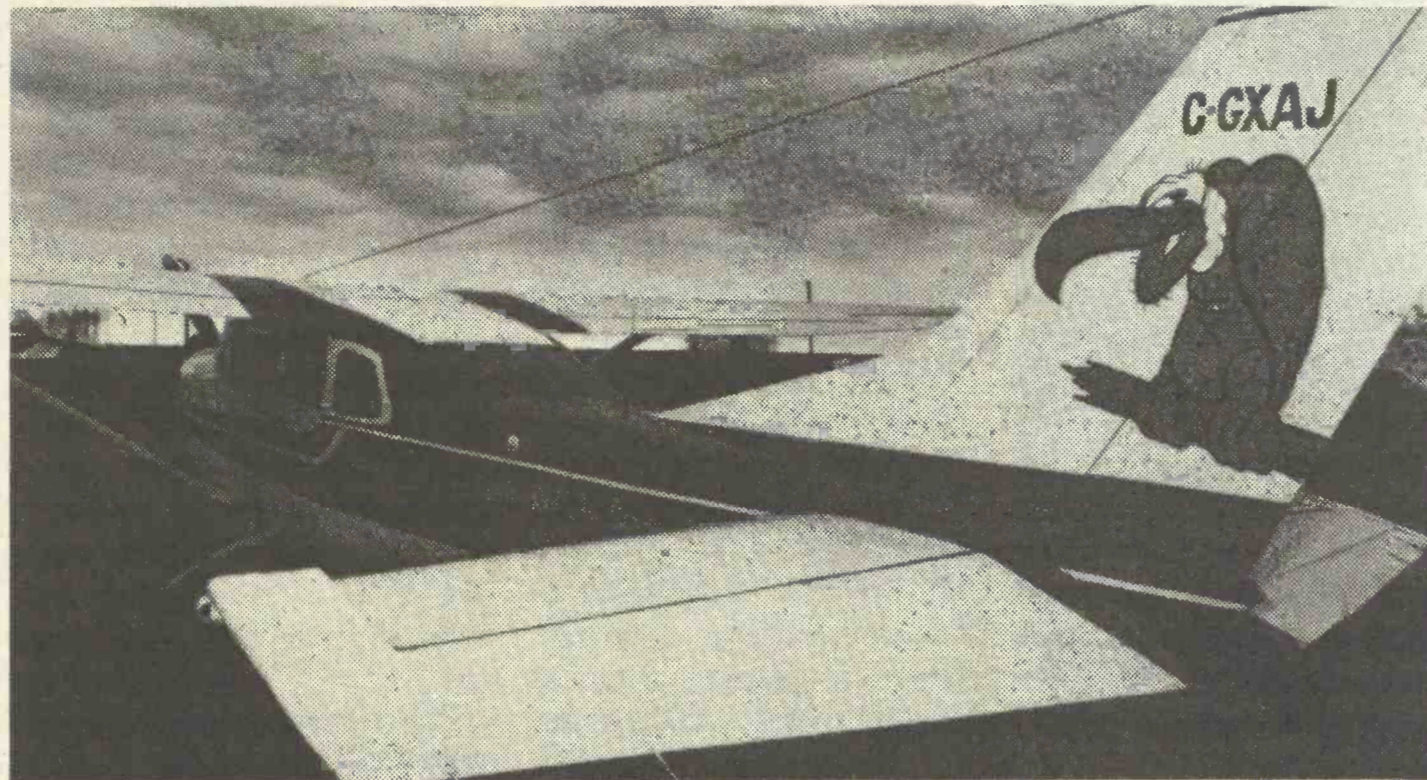
Little Red River band starts air service

Because they saw a need for better air service for their isolated communities at Fox Lake and the Garden River settlement, the Little Red River band in northern Alberta decided to begin their own charter air service.

Last year with one Cessna airplane the "Little Red Air Service" was born. Since then the band's air service has moved from a corporate service to a chartered service, allowing it to compete with other air services in the area.

"We became a chartered company in April of this year after leasing another plane to go along with the one owned by the band. We used the smaller 206 Cessna for lighter hauls and the 207 Cessna can haul six people plus the pilot," said the manager and pilot Wayne Loe, adding that they may trade the 207 in for a bigger Beaver airplane because of demand.

Loe believes the Little Red Air Service can compete against established services



LITTLE RED AIR SERVICE
...the bizzard's out!

in northern Alberta and that they are already proving it.

"There is a lot of potential. We've only been operating as a charter service for just over five months now and each pilot is filing about 100 hours a month. We are extremely busy."

Little Red Air Service flies into Fox Lake, John D'Or Prairie and Garden River on a regular basis.

Based out of the airport at Fort Vermilion, they haul people and supplies into each community.

"Every Wednesday is freight haul day and we supply the communities and the Hudson Bay store at Fox Lake with their orders. When there's a lot to haul we can always stick a couple of hundred pounds up in the nose area of the plane and still have a good

flight," smiled Loe.

The air services flies clients such as Indian Affairs, government people, HBC personnel and health and welfare people in and out of isolated areas.

"We are looking into expanding the business. Last year we just worked for the band administration and now this year we are a chartered service. Peace Air's main base is at Peace

River. They are also at High Level, Fort Vermilion and Slave Lake. However, they used to have two airplanes and the band had only one, now it is reversed." Even though the cost is very high, Loe believes the band can overcome the problem and become a viable service.

"Insurance costs, fuel costs and maintenance is very high and of course pilots have to be paid. Extra precautions have to be taken to ensure that our planes are always in top shape and that costs, but in the long run I don't see why the service can't make it. Things are happening in the north and many organizations and people have to depend on good solid air service."

Loe has been a bush pilot for a number of years, working for Simpson Air in the Northwest Territories. He has been round Native people as a bush pilot and when he got a phone call that the Little Red River band was looking for a base

manager...it was news to him.

"I never heard of an Indian band doing this, taking their resources and putting it into a business such as an air service. It was very intriguing," commented Loe, adding that the chief of the Little Red river band has a lot of insight and a lot of heart.

The Little Red River band are looking to the future. They even see the possibility of becoming a "Medibac" an air ambulance service serving the north. Of course this would mean another airplane would have to be made available but as Loe says, "They are certainly thinking about it. If we do we would have to buy something like a Twin Navajo; you have to buy the right kind."

"Anyway, you come back in a year and you just may see a whole flight of airplanes, marked with the Little Red Air Service logo not with the bizzard that you see on the plane now," Loe said.

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NORTHERN ALBERTA SPECIAL:

EAST PRAIRIE — FORT VERMILION — JOHN D'OR PRAIRIE — HIGH LEVEL — HIGH PRAIRIE — TALLCREE

Courtepatte makes changes

Ex-prez now settled at High Prairie friendship centre

HIGH PRAIRIE — Since resigning as the president of the Federation of Metis Settlements in 1985, Joe Courtepatte has undertaken a series of positions ranging from a community health advisor for the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council, to senior housing officer for Rural Emergency Housing (trailer program), but he says his life is more together now since becoming the executive director for the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre.

"I have no intention of getting back into politics. I feel I am more effective working at community issues or administrating Metis and Indian programs," he says.

Courtepatte is responsible for amount to ten Friendship staff members and all of them are kept very busy working on various programs and activities in High Prairie and surrounding area.

At the moment the centre is being renovated to meet the needs of the community.

"Our goal here is to have an atmosphere that is friendly as soon as you walk through the door. That's why we are renovating. To make it more appealing," Courtepatte commented.



JOE COURTEPATTE
...shows jackets made at centre

Assistant director for the centre, Loraine Duguay says the Friendship Centre's staff and executive have operated out of their building for about nine years. She was proud to announce that they are close to paying off the final payments and the building will belong to Native people." Just two more bingo's and we have it done," Duguay laughed.

The centre focus is on meeting the communities needs and even though the atmosphere inside the centre is friendly to its

visitors, this does not take away from the administrating and hard work that goes on to make all the programs they offer work effectively.

The centre offers workshops and other leadership oriented activities, childrens' parties, training workshops with crafts experts, workshops on creative use of leisure time, recreational activities all combined with a monthly newsletter that lets the membership know what is available and what is happening in the community.

"We work towards keep-

ing people involved in the community and keeping the youth involved with revenue available from Native Services. We also send children to the Eagle Day Camp during the summer months. The camp runs during the months of July and August and youth, whose ages range from 6 to 16, participate in the program. We like to get them involved," said Duguay.

The centre's facilities are always in demand by the community and with Christmas only two months away, Courtepatte says they are already booked up to the end of December.

"We have conferences taking place and many consultation services; a lot of meetings; one reason we are renovating," Courtepatte said.

The centre's administrators are also looking for future services that can be incorporated into their long list of programs.

"We should soon have an alcohol and drug abuse resource worker working right out of the centre and Canada Manpower will be placing a counsellor here on a once a week basis. Since I have been here we have planned many changes

for the better," Courtepatte added.

The centre also stays in close contact with the Elders in the community and homemade bannock and tea is always available to them at the centre. "We work closely with the nursing home and the hospital so we can help the elderly in any way we can," said Courtepatte.

This year the centre is already gearing up for an Elder's Christmas banquet in recognition of their wisdom and their accomplishments.

A senior citizen program is also in place on a social function format for interaction between local Elders and the youth. "There are many seniors that frequent the centre and we're always there to help meet their needs."

Inside the centre is a boxing area for Native youth and a sewing department that employs students who graduate from the Arts and Crafts program offered

at the Alberta Vocational Centre at Grouard.

The centre is seeing a lot of changes since Courtepatte began as director.

Carpenters are already busy installing shower rooms, knocking down walls to add space to the bingo room and a ramp is being built to provide handicapped people in wheelchairs easy access to the centre.

"We're very busy here right now. Come and see us in a couple of months and you'll see the difference compared to today," said Courtepatte.

Indeed the centre was busy. With its great volunteer program and a 1987/88 schedule tacked to the wall, the centre is taking on the task of fulfilling the communities needs and just as the name says, the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre with its open door policy, is a "friendly place to spend some time, have a cup of soup and meet new friends."



FOR SALE BY TENDER

Northland School Division No. 61 of Peace River is offering the following mobile homes and vehicles for sale by tender on an as-is, where is basis.

Asset #1676 -

1969 model Dutchess 12' x 60' mobile home -

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Unit #131 - serial #E6597

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Contact Mr. S. Moreside at 624-2060 for viewing

Asset #0477 -

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The following vehicles are stored at the Divisional Warehouse yard at 10501 - 75 Street in Peace River. For viewing contact Mr. R. McCandless at 624-2060.

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Asset #1827 - (1) 1977 Chev Pickup Unit #683 - serial #CCL2471153697

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NORTHERN ALBERTA SPECIAL:

EAST PRAIRIE — FORT VERMILION — JOHN D'OR PRAIRIE — HIGH LEVEL — HIGH PRAIRIE — TALLCREE

East Prairie family remembers

Settlement has proud heritage

By Rocky Woodward

EAST PRAIRIE — During the depression in the 1930s, the Metis living conditions deteriorated to such a degree that Metis leaders began to lobby the provincial government. In 1932, Metis from across Alberta met at St. Albert, near Edmonton, to work toward a land base with rights for the Metis. It was at this meeting that the Metis Association of Alberta was formed.

The first leaders of the association were: Francis Dion, Felix Callihoo, Malcolm Norris, Jim Brady and Peter Tomkins.

As a result of pressure by the Metis, in December, 1934 the Alberta government established the Royal Commission commonly known as the Ewing Commission to investigate the conditions of the "half-breeds of Alberta."

After discussions and consultations with the Metis people of Alberta, there was little doubt that the establishment of settlements for the Metis would be the main outcome of the commission.

Following the recommendations of the Ewing Commission, the Metis Betterment Act was passed in 1938. It set aside land for the Metis and provided for the establishment of settlement associations to occupy the land. The first Metis Settlement opened for settlement was Paddle Prairie. Others followed, Peavine, Kikino, Gift Lake, Caslan (Buffalo Lake), Elizabeth, Fishing Lake and East Prairie.

It was in 1939 that East Prairie became a settlement. At that time only George Harvey and Charlie Bellerose and his family lived there. Bellerose became the first council member for East Prairie, known as a colony then. Then other Metis families such as the Auger's, L'Hirondelle's, Norbert Andrews, Solomon Johnston began to move to the settlement.

In 1945 the first school and teacherage were built on the settlement. Many of the houses during these years were log cabins with sod roofing with little or no flooring. According to the book "East Prairie: 40

Years of Determination" back then times were tough. People did not have the sophisticated machinery available today. Every job was demanding and most times the only reward was the satisfaction of meeting a community need and getting the job done.

Felix Bellerose, whose family moved to East Prairie from Grouard in 1940, explains his first encounter with farming, when he was only 12. His family moved there when he was nine.

"In the year 1943 my dad and my brother farmed in East Prairie with four head of cayuses and a walking plow. That's the first time we had a crop out there. When the land was ready to seed, we had to drill, so my dad and brother broadcast it by hand and then we used a disk to disk grain into the ground, harrowing it later," he says.

Today, much of the settlement land has been cleared for farming. As before, the land plays an important part of the life of the East Prairie settlers. Farming, trapping, hunting

and logging are the main resources for the settlement, although oil exploration is taking place at present, and gas development has occurred on settlement land.

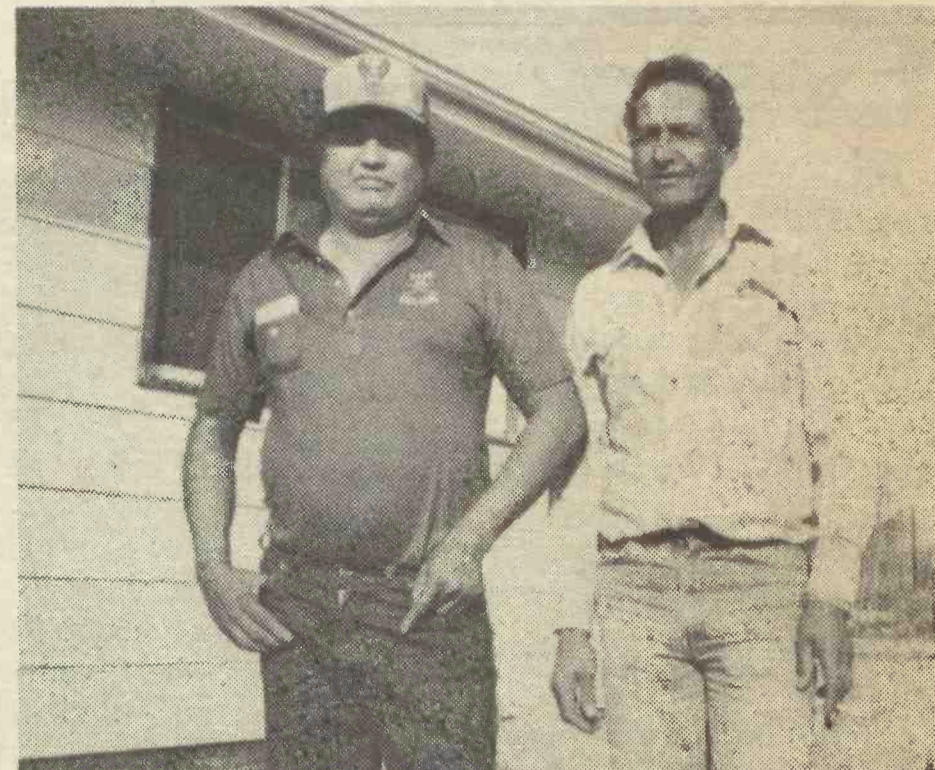
Settlement residents as in the past must follow council regulations when living on settlement land, if they plan to live there. Long time settlement member Louis Auger explains: "As far as I can remember you had to improve the piece of land you were given, like clearing, breaking and have a dwelling before you could get a loggers permit or a trappers license. The trapping permits were limited to 50,000 feet of lumber for making our homes and also for marketing."

The settlement now has two caterpillars, a D6 and D7 for clearing land, making roads and any other use they may be needed for. A gravel truck is also owned by the settlement.

Over the last few years heavy equipment machines have been working on the settlement's new town site. Already many modern houses have been built and families have moved in. In 1986, water and sewer for the houses were put in and new roadways were built. The town site has been surveyed for residential, recreational and industrial purposes.

"It's all been planned and we are gradually moving residents onto the town site from the old place," said settlement manager Harold Bellerose.

East Prairie is about 40



ELMER PATENAUDE & HAROLD BELLEROSE
...are serious about community progress

km from the town of High Prairie. Students from the settlement are bused into High Prairie to receive an education from Grade 1 - 12. For settlement residents interested a Community Vocational Centre (CVC) is located at East Prairie where adult technical courses are offered.

"We have four journeymen carpenters who are working at the new town site right now and we just finished building roads in the area for the department of highways and transportation. So far we've built about six km of roads. There is some work here, but not enough," said economic development coordinator, Elmer Patenaude.

The residents of East Prairie with a population around 400 are governed by a chairman and four counsellors. The chairman is Louis Haggerty and council members are Marlene John, Alphonse L'Hirondelle, Hank Bellerose and Elmer Patenaude.

Although work is limited in East Prairie, residents keep themselves busy with the ever changing commu-

nity. The settlement boasts a store, administration office, a large community hall, water treatment plant and a church. Although trapping has been on a downslide over the years, some long time residents and younger people still trap in the area, and even though agriculture is limited by the climate and the areas natural environment, some 20 families are involved to some extent in farming operations with oats and barley considered to be the major crop.

"We are constantly moving ahead in economic development, recreational possibilities and other work related adventures," commented Bellerose.

Due to many changes that have developed through the more recent years, the living conditions and lifestyles of the Metis people at East Prairie have changed considerably. Most of the changes have bettered the community and people have an easier life now than they had before, but as Bellerose and Patenaude both agree "there is still much to be done" and East Prairie is doing just that.



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NORTHERN ALBERTA SPECIAL:

EAST PRAIRIE — FORT VERMILION — JOHN D'OR PRAIRIE — HIGH LEVEL — HIGH PRAIRIE — TALLCREE

FORT VERMILION — A group of concerned women from the Fort Vermilion area have formed a committee to apply for \$75,000 from the Department of Education to provide a hot lunch for the students at Rocky Lane school, approximately 25 km northwest of Fort Vermilion.

The proposal also asks for a Native Home and School Liaison worker, for the Rocky Lane school and at High Level, plus the purchase of Native history books for 13 schools in the area.

Although the High Level school already has a home school liaison worker, the Native Friendship Centre at High Level has also made a request through the newly formed committee, so their program, that now lacks funding, can continue at Rocky Lane. A meeting between the committee

and the Deputy Minister of the Fort Vermilion School Division, Ralph Windsor, and Dr. Gordon Rencier, acting deputy minister, has seemed to favor the request.

"Three of us from the committee will be travelling to Meander River to look at their hot lunch program and our final proposal will be submitted based on the research we receive from their program. It does look promising," said committee member Helen Randolph.

The committee has looked into splitting up their project into three different but major areas with \$30,000 going towards

the hot lunch program for Rocky Lane school.

"There are 240 kids at Rocky Lane and they have no hot lunch program. We will have to hire a cook and a helper but we will definitely need volunteers to help out with the program, in order to stretch the money," said Randolph, adding that the hot lunch program if accepted by the department of education, will be handled by Native women at Fort Vermilion, while the home liaison worker for Rocky Lane would be sponsored by the High Level Friendship

Centre.

The Hot Lunch Program first began under the Metis Association of Alberta and was catered to schools with a large Metis population, under the Department of Social Services. Schools like Rocky Lane which has a large portion of Indian and non-Native students did not receive the program.

"Now the hot lunch program is taken care of by the Department of Education so this may help us in obtaining our goal," commented Randolph.

The Native Home and

School Liaison worker proposal, would see the hiring of two workers, for four schools, Meander River, High Level, Fort Vermilion and Rocky Lane. The amount the committee has allowed for the liaison project is set at \$30,000.

Randolf sees the need for Native liaison workers who can work as an intermediate between the Native student, parents and educators.

The remaining funding, approximately \$14,000 will be spent on the purchase of Native history books for the 13 schools under the

Fort Vermilion School Division.

"They will be used to give students a different idea about Indian people. One, I believe is a case study of the Peigan Indian Nation, and I believe that two are about the Metis.

"The interesting thing is that I understand that these books were written and edited by Native people. They are about the Native people and their cultures," said Randolph.

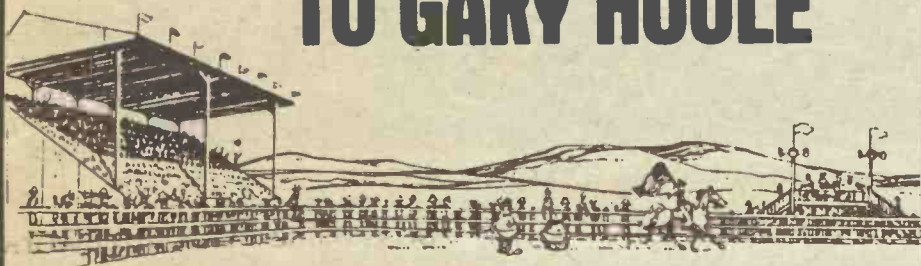
The committee are hoping to have their final proposal shortly and if accepted, "We will probably begin in early November," Randolph said.

The committee members are, Alvina Bulldog, Bonnie Lizotte, Judy Middleton, Helen Randolph, Noreen McAteer, and Marilynn Bossey.

Concerned women 'cook up' hot lunch program

Rocky Lane school

CONGRATULATIONS TO GARY HOULE



A local cowboy from the Paddle Prairie Settlement for his 1st place win in the Bull Riding event on the weekend of Oct. 16 - 18, 1987 in Hobbema at the NANCA Finals.

Gary will be attending the National Finals in Albuquerque, New Mexico Nov. 19-22, 1987.

Gary had retired from Bull Riding for a few years and just started riding again this year.

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Sports

'Greenhorn' rodeo a great success

By Mark McCallum

NANCA (Northern Alberta Native Cowboy's Association), Indian country's newest rodeo circuit, held its last rodeo of the season, Oct. 16 to 18, but that certainly doesn't spell the end of the association's life after only one year of existence.

Although some didn't think the "green horn" circuit would last, proof that the association is here to stay came by way of 12 action-filled rodeos and an exciting final, to wrap up the season at the Hobbema reserve where talented wranglers were selected to

represent the circuit at the Indian National Finals Rodeo.

A spot was already reserved at the nationals for two cowboys, who were double winners, resulting in a decision by NANCA to send two second place finishers in their place.

Bull rider Collin Willier and calf roper Lawrence Crawler are the lucky wranglers, finishing the rodeo season in first place for both NANCA and the IRCA (Indian Rodeo Cowboy's Association). But, they will be replaced at the nationals by Bruce Larocque and Larry Bull, respectively. The double

winners will represent the IRCA at the nationals, to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Nov. 19 to 22.

Explaining the success of the new circuit, NANCA secretary Doris Roasting says "a lot of people figured we wouldn't make it. But, all our contestants and spectators really took the circuit seriously and got involved."

Roasting adds about a half dozen communities have approached the association, wanting to host a NANCA rodeo.

Although the association's earnings have not been calculated, she adds the circuit had a financially solid

year because cash fines were imposed for no-shows and prices at the gate were reasonable enough to draw good crowds.

Nearly 200 rodeo fans were kept entertained and sheltered from below zero temperatures inside the Panee Memorial Agriplex while wranglers bid for a spot in the nationals.

Ginger Cattlemen, a barrel racer from Hobbema, will go down in history as the association's first Queen and representative at the Miss Indian Rodeo North America pageant in Albuquerque. The nationals will also host an art and crafts fair and powwow.

Year-end qualifiers for the nationals were decided by season totals before the outcome of the final, which gave other contestants a chance to qualify in "sudden death" rodeo action. The association will have two wranglers entered in major events in Albuquerque.

Contestants making the trip to the nationals are: Bareback - Kenton Randale (year-end winner with \$2,116) and Melton Lewis (unavailable finals totals), Saddle Bronc - Clyde Roasting (\$560) and Rome Wager, Steer Wrestling - Virgil Jacobs (\$1,686) and Dennis Samson, Calf Roping - Lawrence Crawler (\$1,966)

and Harvey Littlechild, Team Roping - Dennis Samson (\$3,366) and Trevor Roasting and William Larocque, Bull Riding - Collin Willier (\$1,551), Senior Ladies Barrel Racing - Gina Raine (\$1,541) and Trina Piche, and the All-around cowboy - Benji Buffalo.

In junior events, steer rider Roddie Baptiste Jr. (\$769) and barrel racer Renatta Cattleman (\$855) finished the season in first place. But, the two wranglers will have to sit out the nationals — at least until they reach senior level competition.



SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Kim McLain

Edmonton Strikers strike out the Classics

Wood missed a season because of a broken thumb. Of course, there would be the yearly swimsuit issue.

But I'm getting carried away. The possibilities are endless.

What's important here is that from now on handgames will be spoken of next to hockey, volleyball and baseball. And I gladly welcome the new old event to the column.

EDMONTON STRIKERS: No, not the postal strikers, the volleyball team. They're a jubilant bunch, the women's team was triumphant over the last year's Canada West champions at last weekend's men's and ladies volleyball tourney in North Battleford, Sask.

The Strikers (women's team) played the finals in a "down to the wire, nail-biter game," against Saskatoon's Classics, said a smug Robert George, team coordinator. The teams played best out of three — the Classics winning first 16-15. Then the Strikers came back with a 15-11 win. In the final game, the Strikers had the Classics down 14-4, but no one could put the Classics away. The Classics caught up and the game seasawed back and forth until the 18-16 score — Strikers win first and \$800.

Another Alberta team, the Frog Lake ladies, came in third.

Best setter and best spiker awards went to the Striker's Doreen Cardinal and Darla Ferguson.

Coming up in mid-December, the Strikers will host their first annual Native men's and women's tourney at the Commonwealth Stadium. I hear it'll be a big one. For more info about the tourney call Robert at home 426-4859.

CORRECTION: Peace Hills Trust Company did not sponsor the Strikers for \$300, like I said last week. They gave \$600.

BROCKET: Oct. 9-12 Brocket saw 32 handgame teams compete for \$11,000 in prize money. The tournament is an annual event that takes place every Thanksgiving weekend.

This year, teams came from the Washington coast, Montana, Oregon, Idaho, not to mention northern

Alberta's Raymond Cardinal, Alec Wood, Peter Trottier and Francis Saulteaux.

But even though most of the teams are visitors, local southern teams took the top three positions. The results are: Walter Smith's team, Peigan, \$5,000 — Darlene Wells, Standoff, \$4,000 — Joe Iron Shirt, Standoff, \$3,000 — Laurie Left Hand, Arlee, Montana, \$1,000.

"Sometimes the visitors win, sometimes the locals win — you take your chances," said Nancy North Peigan, member of the host team, the Crow Lodge Stick Game Club. "It's a sport," says North Peigan, "but like bingo."

The tournament packed Brocket's community hall and winners were determined by double knockout.

CALGARY: No time to get bored at the Calgary Native Friendship Centre. Here is a schedule of activities that are going on every week:

Monday: is drop in basketball night. When I lived in Calgary I used to hang out at the centre and once in a while I'd play some basketball. I'll always remember those Jobin boys — short, quick and crafty. They would run under my legs, bounce on my head, deke me out, etc.

Tuesday: is floor hockey night. Open to the youth of the city, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday: is bow and arrow night, in other words, archery classes. Classes run from 7-9 p.m.

Thursday: is reserved for the All-Native Co-ed Volleyball League. So far there's eight teams participating.

For more information about these and more recreational activities phone the centre and ask for Mike or Happy at 264-1155.

One last thing, ever wonder if powwow is a sport? Sometimes when I'm designing the paper (my other job) I get this urge to put the sports banner above the powwow stories because they're so competitive and some of the winning dancers are so acrobatic. Anyway, that's another story.

See you next week.

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Hobbema Jazz vs Northern Lights

Game played in wheelchairs

By Mark McCallum

The Alberta Northern Lights wheelchair basketball team wheeled their way to a fun and entertaining evening of basketball, Oct. 14, against the Hobbema Jazz, the 1986-87 Stand-Off Regional champs.

Champions of the National Wheelchair Basketball title for four years running, the Northern Lights lit up the court at the Howard Buffalo Memorial Centre in Hobbema, to promote wheelchair and other handicapped sports.

Ranked in the top ten of a 180 teams nationally, the Lights are trying to raise the awareness of wheelchair sports by doing live and video presentations for audiences across the country. They have also formed 12 other wheelchair basketball teams in Edmonton alone, including the Mini Lights (12-under), the Junior Lights (13-18) and the Aurora Lights (women's team).

And, the Lights are responsible for organizing



CAMERON SWAMPY, Bear Hills Native Voice

HOBHEMA JAZZ BASKETBALL TEAM ...in wheelchairs to champion handicap cause

the Alberta portion of wheelchair athlete Rick Hansen's "Man in Motion Tour."

They played the able-bodied Hobbema team, which converted to a wheelchair team for the evening, for three-quarters

before the audience was invited to play the Lights. Nobody kept score in the game, sponsored by the WIN (Western Indian Native) Sports Association, but the Lights are number one in a lot of hearts for their tireless effort.

The Windspeaker Calendar of Events



- Sunday Mass**, every Sunday, 11 a.m., Native Pastoral Centre, 108 St. & 105 Ave. Come and meet the new staff, Father Brian and Lucian Meek.
- All-Elders Conference**, Oct. 28 & 29, Alexander Reserve. For more information call the Indian Association of Alberta at 452-4330.
- Bear Shin Bone Family Reunion Powwow**, Nov. 1, Blood Reserve.
- 8th Annual Rita Houle Memorial Banquet**, Nov. 7, CNFC Edmonton. For more information call 482-6051.
- Blackfoot Veteran's Powwow**, Nov. 11, Gleichen, AB.
- Canadian National Finals Rodeo**, Nov. 11 - 15, Northlands Coliseum, Edmonton.
- Men's and Ladies Volleyball Tournament**, Nov. 13, 14 & 15, Deerfoot Sportplex, Blackfoot Reserve.

AGT

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GOOD NEWS PARTY LINE

All-Elders Conference, Oct. 28 & 29, Alexander reserve. For more information call the IAA at 452-4330.

3rd Annual Native Arts & Crafts Show & Sale, Nov. 21, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sagitawa Friendship Centre, Peace River. For more information call 624-2443.

PUT IT HERE

CALL OR WRITE THE EDITOR OF THIS PAPER TO INCLUDE GOOD NEWS OF EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS YOU WANT TO SHARE, COURTESY AGT

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(Men's & Ladies)

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For more information call Doug Bull at 585-4075 or 585-2507, Hobbema.

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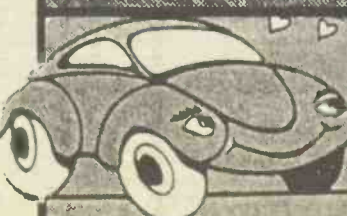


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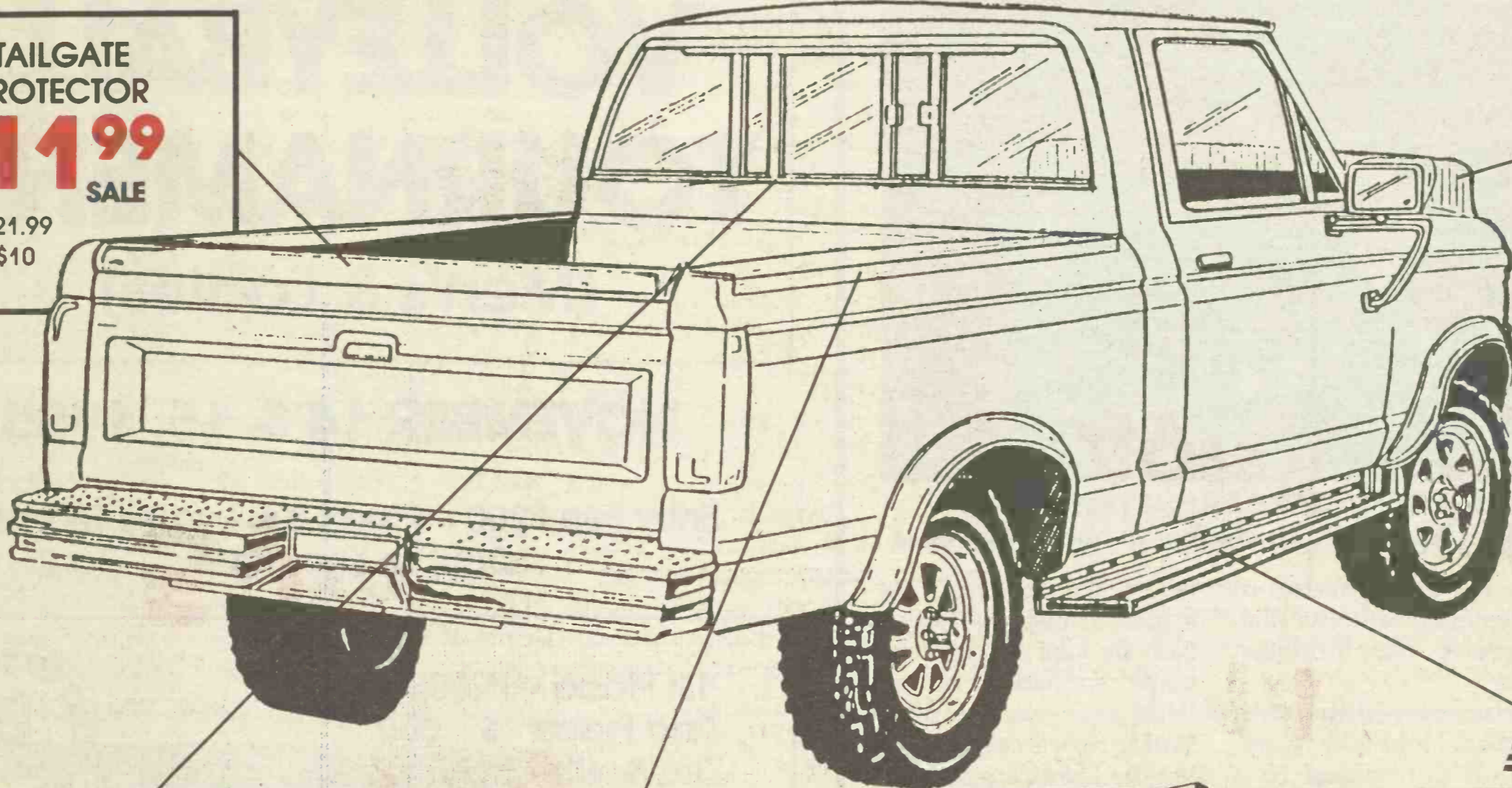
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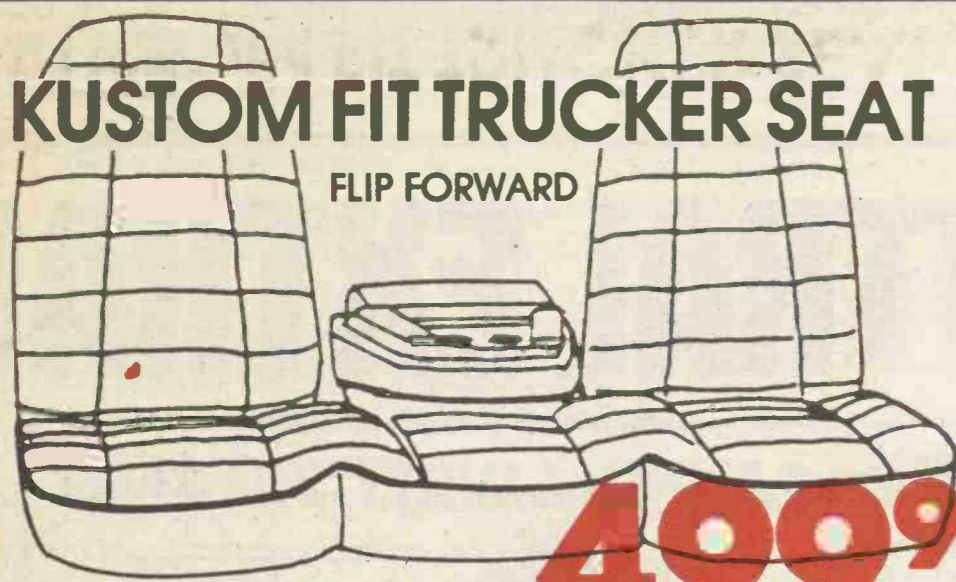
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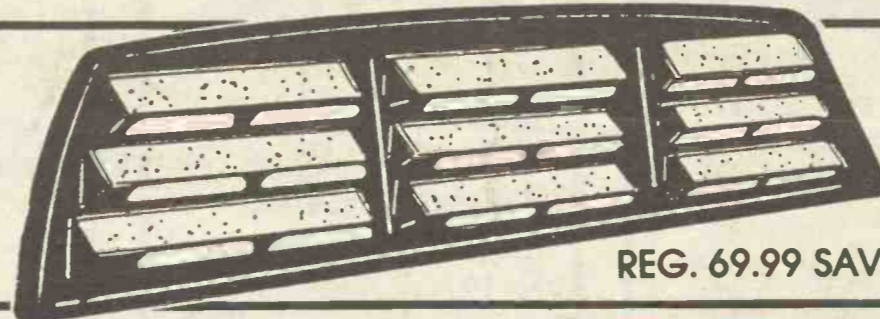
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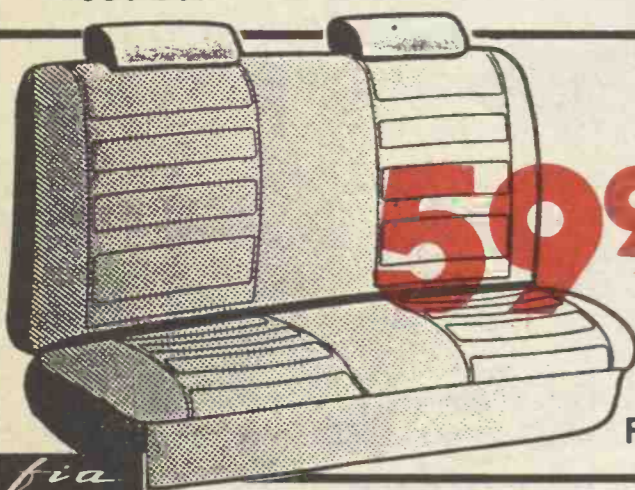
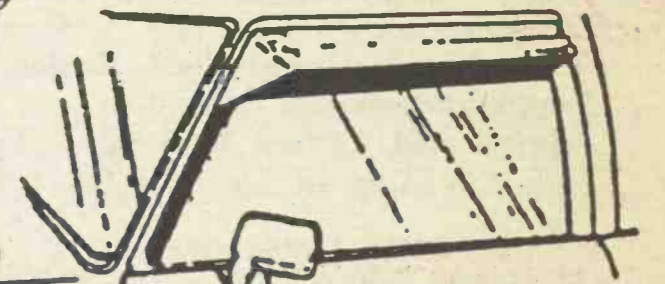
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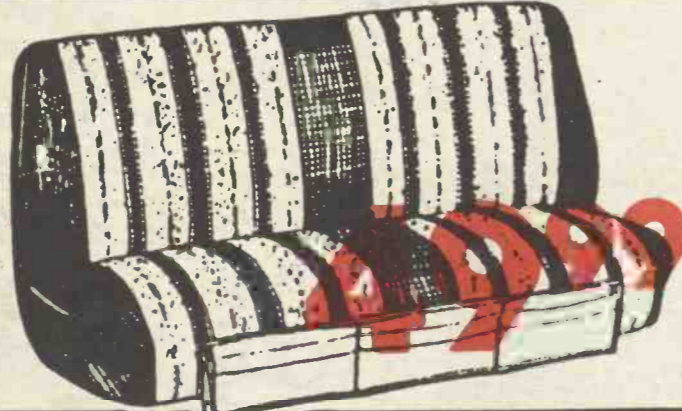
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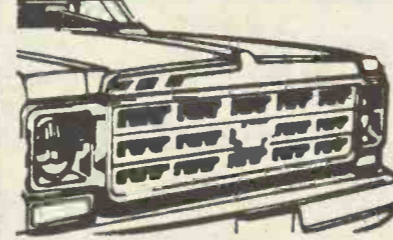
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