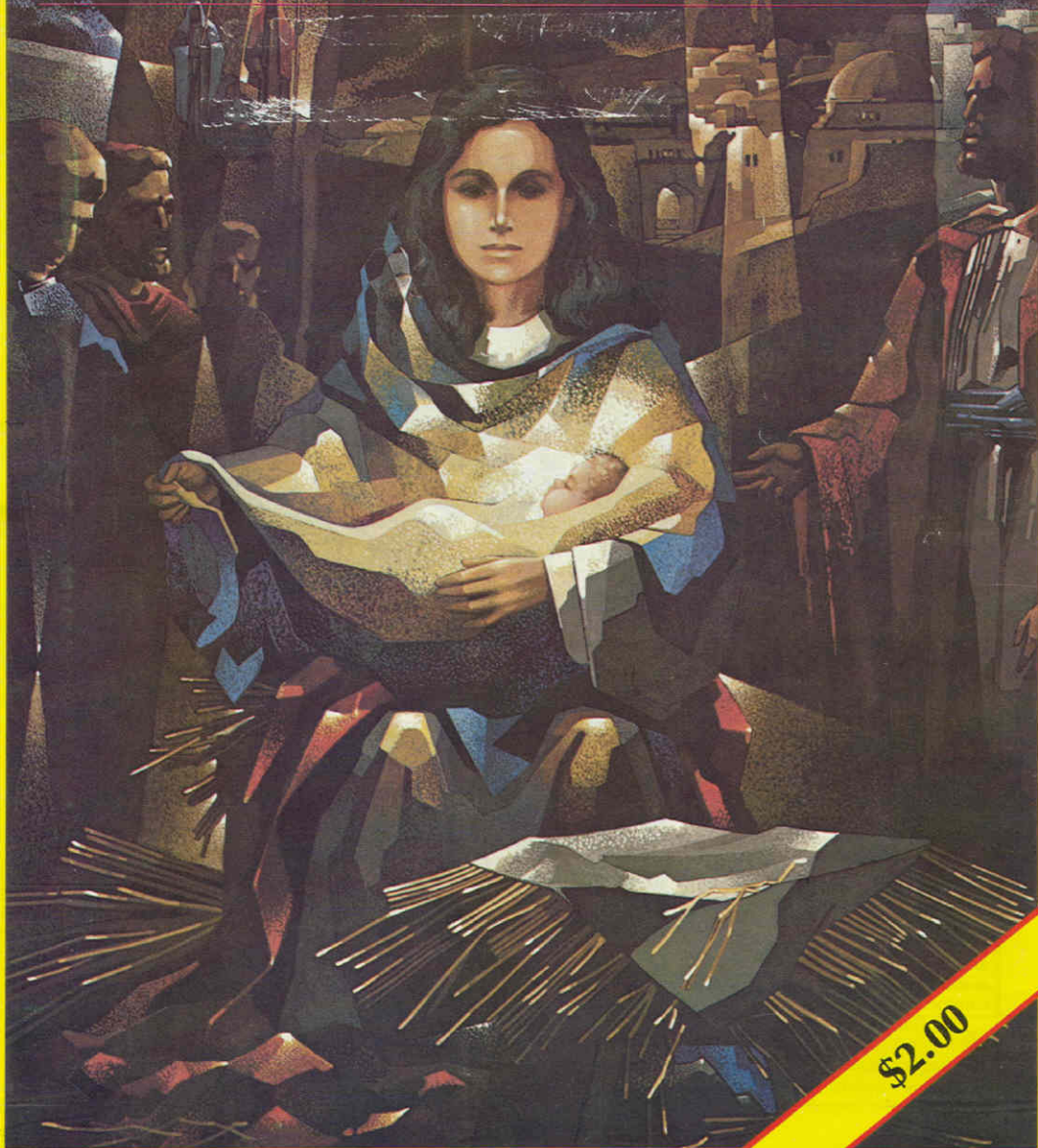


December 1986

Vol. 17 No. 11

NEW BREED

Voice of the Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan



\$2.00

Touch Of Class

Arctic Accents

By Tina La Rose

The Northern craftsmanship of Deschambault Lake designers produces Native crafts of the highest quality. Each creation receives the designers undivided attention to detail which is so lacking in many of today's fashion lines.

Although we have presented the work of these Deschambault Lake artisans in previous issues, readership response encouraged us to give you another opportunity to view these stunning creations.

Do you need a nice pick-me-up this winter? The authentic designs of bead work so evident in these fashionable mukluks, might do the trick. As well as the intricate bead work, the popular Northern mukluk is fur trimmed and accented with fur pompoms. They have gained a world reputation for the comfort, warmth and appearance they afford the wearer. The unique attention to detail, so evident in the design and accent of these fashionable mukluks is equally evident in the other fashionable creations presented here by New Breed staff members, Claudette Carrier and Darlene LeDoux.

The fur trimmed gloves are crafted from soft moosehide and are accented with the time honored, eagle motif. Gloves are a required item in any Saskatchewan winter wardrobe and these gloves prove that one doesn't have to sacrifice fashion for comfort and warmth.

The final touch of class will be the beautiful and fringed, moosehide purse which will catch the eye of all as you wander out on winter's coldest day.



If you're heading out for seasonal festivities, don this beaded head band for that added touch of class. Your sure to be the hit of the party.



Add any or all of these items to the beautiful winter fashion items we have already presented in previous issues and you will not only be warm and comfy all winter long but you'll be warming the heart of that favorite fellow as well.

All of these fashionable items are available at special prices from their Deschambault Lake creators. When ordering remember that all are handmade originals and as such, no two will be alike.

You are asked to include colour preferences, sizes as well as paper outlines of your foot or hand with your inquiries.

Address inquiries to:

Ms. Joan Beatty
210-2505-11th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 0K6

Or

Phone (306)525-9501



NEW BREED

"Voice of Saskatchewan Metis and Non-Status Indians"

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New Breed is looking for community reporters. If you are interested please contact:

Editor, New Breed
210-2505-11th Avenue
Regina, Sask. S4P 0K6

Freelance Articles and Photos:

Articles submitted to New Breed and subsequently used for publication shall be paid for at the rate of \$2.50 per column inch (10pt., 13 pica). All articles must be signed, however, your name will be withheld upon request. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Wehtamatowin Corporation and free expression of opinion is invited. We reserve the right to publish whole or parts of articles submitted.

Photos that are submitted with articles shall be paid for at the rate of \$5.00 per published photo. These shall be returned upon request.

Poems submitted will be paid at the rate of 75 cents per line, minimum \$5.00 and maximum \$25.00.

New Breed is published ten-twelve times a year through the Saskatchewan Native Communications Corporation (Wehtamatowin).

CANADA POST SECOND CLASS MAIL, REGISTRATION NO. 4649

December 1986

Vol. 17 No. 11

**SNCC Board:**

Dominic Lafontaine
Ed Nofield
Edwin Pelletier

WEHTAMATOWIN STAFF:**Executive Director:**

Joan Beatty

Administrative Assistant:

Yvonne Nagy

NEW BREED STAFF:**Editor:**

Jean-Paul Claude

Reporter:

Claudette Carrier

Typesetter:

Jo-Ann Amyotte

Editorial Assistants:

Tom Twist
Don Devine
Barbara McCombie
Darlene LeDoux

CONTRIBUTORS

Adam Cuthand
Augsburg Publishing House
Bonita Beatty
Dover Publishing Corporation
Judith Quill
Lisa Pelletier
Richard I Heule
Sharon Oullette
V Fourwinds

On November 24 a ring was found at Sacred heart Church following Western Region III, Constitutional meeting. Ring can be claimed by description at 306-525-9501, ask for Tina.



Letters

THANKS FOR THE BREAK**Dear New Breed:**

Thank you very much for printing my poems in your magazine. Seeing them in there lifted my spirits tremendously while I did my time and encouraged me to write more.

Hope to hear from you in the future.

Merry Christmas to you and your staff.

**In Spirit and Memory
Sharon Oullette****EDITOR'S NOTE:**

See Sharon's story entitled, "Mommy Won't Be Home For Christmas This Year", in this issue.

A PROUD FATHER**Dear New Breed:**

My daughter's picture appeared in the July 1986 issue of New Breed, Volume 17, Number 7 on page 12. The picture was taken at the Native Business Summit in Toronto. I was very pleased that you have included her in your magazine.

I am writing to request that if there were any more pictures taken, could I please have copies.

I would appreciate copies of the July 1986 issue of the New Breed. Please bill me for any expenses.

**John M. Corbiere
Sault Ste. Marie****EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Sorry, that was the only photo we have of your daughter, however I will send you a few copies of the New Breed at the regular price of \$1.50 plus \$0.50 costs.

GOD ON SALE**Dear New Breed:**

I have been in some stores downtown and looked at some Bibles. The cost for them seems pretty high, depending on who you are.

Just think, we must pay for the word of God! It was God who gave us the ability to use words and speak in the first place. The Lord gave us his word freely and now it costs money to be able to learn His words from the Bible.

People who sell Bibles must think we have to pay money for the words of God, or is the money for their own benefit?

I feel people should be given Bibles freely and I'm sure others also think so.

Those stores selling Bibles should consider whether they are doing the right or wrong thing. I'm glad that I'm not an operator of Bible sales.

**Robert F. Fleury
Yorkton, Sask.**

NEW BREED



210-2505-11th Avenue
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From The Desk of The Editor



As the festive season draws ever nearer, the staff who produce the magazine which you love to read (NO! Not MacLeans!!!), grow increasingly more haggard with every paragraph, word and period they pound out on their typewriters. It is at this time that we work doubly hard in order to produce two issues of the **NEW BREED** in the time normally delegated to one. This is necessary to ensure your receiving your first issue of the new year as soon after the holidays as possible.

While everyone is glowing with the budding Christmas Spirit, we at the **NEW BREED**, wear a slightly different look on our faces. We are tired. Our eyes are red and sore. Our tempers are short and our tolerance levels are totally non-existent. On top of that, most of our contractors are about ready to strangle us because of the impossible deadlines we have imposed on them over the past month. Needless to say, the **NEW BREED** office is definitely not the place to be three weeks before Christmas.

As the final deadlines come down to the wire and we deliver our final copy to the printer, we are all ready to hit the proverbial sack and sleep for about fourteen months. It is all most of us can do to drag our worn and weary bodies back home to our own beds for that much needed sleep that every bone in our bodies is screaming out so loudly for. This is an annual occurrence at this time of the year and so, you would think that I'd be better prepared for it. I thought I would too, but it seemed that things were even more rushed than usual and as a result, the staff couldn't even make it out of the doors this year. They just dropped in their tracks. I did the best that I could given the sudden and sad state of affairs. I petitioned our board of directors to install some sort of sleeping accommodations in the office for

our hard working and deserving staff. They were somewhat sympathetic and it appeared that they too had been smitten by the less than elusive Christmas spirit. They said they would help. I soon discovered however, that rather than being as generous as Santa they acted as tight-fisted as Scrooge. They sprung for one old army cot that Charman of the Board, Dominic LaFontaine managed to salvage from one of the Lebrat Farm bunk houses.

It was too late to make other arrangements and our ZOMBI like employees looked even deader than they did a few moments earlier. They were also begin to make ugly snarling noises and even the ever ladylike Barbara had the hint of a mean and ugly scowl on her face. Whatever I was going to do, I knew I'd have to do it fast.

My mind was made up. I put away the modesty and impeccable taste for which I am so well known (HEY! No snickering out there, eh!!!), and bid them all a pleasant slumber, where upon they all dropped their almost lifeless

carcasses on the bumpy old mattress and began a chorus of the most nerve wracking snoring sounds I'd ever heard in my life.

As I looked around for a place to lay down, as I was even more tired than the rest, it became obvious that no one had cared enough for the poor editor by leaving him some room. The bed was completely occupied. It would have taken an oversized shoe horn to fit between the mass of tangled, unconscious bodies. As I didn't have a shoe horn handy, I simply hung up everyone's smelly old socks on the bedend on the chance that we slept over Christmas and curled up on the floor at the foot of the bed.

So, if you are in town over the holidays, please don't call our offices or stop by for any of the traditional Christmas cheer. I wouldn't want to be the one responsible for waking up the nest of animal like creatures which have mysteriously taken up residence here.

All I have the energy to do before I join them in their sweet and weel deserved slumber is to wish you A VERY MERRY AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A MORE THAN PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

And oh yes, I almost forgot. If you should happen to see old St. Nick over the holidays, could you please tell him where we are! We wouldn't want to wake up to empty stockings now, would we!!!!





It is a privilege and source of immense pride to once again come to you with the greetings of this most sacred and joyous season. During this happy time for most, I cannot help but wonder what Christmas will bring to those of our membership who are not fortunate enough to share so much of what we take for granted at this special time of the year.

I think of our brothers and sisters who are prevented from being with their families because they are locked up in our country's prisons, victims of a system of two levels of justice; one for them and one for us. I am reminded of our elders who have struggled to maintain a culture which is the essence of everything we strive to achieve at the cost of seeing their sons, daughters and grandchildren trampled underfoot by a society not prepared to the value of anything without a dollar sign attached to it. I also think of our mothers who will not be able to afford to give their children some of the pleasure which comes from opening a brightly wrapped package to find the doll or toy truck they have wished for with all their childlike might. I think of fathers out of work and not able to place a Christmas dinner on the family table or bring home a tree around which the family can celebrate this special occasion. I think of all of these people; our people, who look to us, as their leaders to struggle for them and with them for our present and future generations.

On Christmas morning, I will be thinking of all of these and they will be remembered in my prayers.

On Christmas morning, I will be thinking of all of these as I remember that in April of 1987, myself along with all of Canada's Aboriginal leaders will be travelling to Ottawa in an effort to ensure that these same people can know a better Christmas in the years to come. I urge you all to remember our less fortunate brothers and sisters, our elders and our children as we approach this sacred and festive occasion. I urge you to remember their suffering by supporting us, your leaders as we petition our government to right the wrongs which have sentenced our people to a life without hope for a better and more prosperous future.

Finally, on Christmas morning, I ask you to take some time to share with someone whose Christmas may be less joyous than yours. Be thankful for your many blessings and be aware that the aspirations of Canada's Aboriginal Brotherhood is to ensure that all our brothers and sisters have the opportunity to seek the rights and privileges which many of us take for granted throughout the year.

I wish each and every one of you the success in realizing all of your dreams for today and forever.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Wayne McKenzie
AMNSIS Vice-President



PRIME MINISTER PREMIER MINISTRE



Mila and the children join me in wishing the readers and staff of New Breed magazine, a joyful holiday season.

The many festive celebrations and observances taking place across Canada mark a time of joy and peace.

In declaring 1986 the International Year of Peace, the United Nations challenged each of us to work for peace as both individuals and as citizens of the world community. This season offers Canadians an opportunity to pause and reflect upon our good fortune as a nation free of war and civil conflict.

In Canada, we have established a society which has grown from the lessons taught to us by our forefathers; those of tolerance and compassion. Those lessons are particularly well-founded with Canada's Aboriginal people who have built and fought for our nationhood and for our collective vision.

May each of you share in the special spirit of this Christmas season. And it is my hope that peace, health and happiness follow you, your families and your community in the coming year.



Season's greetings to the readers of New Breed and to the Native people of Saskatchewan.

The holiday season is a time of worship and of joyous celebration of life. As we strengthen our bonds with our family and friends, many of us also pause for reflection and renewal.

My warmest wishes to you all, and to your families, for the holiday season. May the New Year bring you peace and happiness.

John N. Turner
Leader of the Opposition




MY MOST MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS

In the summer of 1963, I was placed in charge of a mission, in North-West Saskatchewan, consisting of a small town, farming area and the reserve which bordered the town.

Before Christmas I was invited by Soniyaw-an Indian elder to visit his "new home" to celebrate Holy Communion with his wife, the only communicant in the reserve.

The "New home" was a small log building, newly mud-dried outside, window openings covered with canvas, dirt floor covered with spruce boughs, a rough home-made table was placed in front of me, upon which I prepared the elements for the service. The service began with the words, "Ye that truly and earnestly repent you of your sins-beautifully translated into Cree. That log building became a beautiful Cathedral. All of us felt a Powerful Presence. There were moments when I found it impossible to speak-that Presence was so beautiful and over-powering. The service ended. The many visitors, considered non-Christians all had their heads down. They, too had the same spiritual experience in that humble dwelling.

Adam Cuthand



It was Christmas Eve, 1972, and the children had long ago drifted off to sleep with dreams of whatever little children dream about on Christmas Eve, floating around in their angelic little heads.

I was alone. As I sat in the darkness, watching the tree lights twinkle, creating colourful dancing shadows on the sparsely decorated walls, my eyes fell to the tiny nativity scene which lay nearly hidden beneath the tree's lowermost, swooping branches. My mind wandered to the joy of that sacred birth, nearly two thousand years ago and I found myself longing to share in that most blessed of joys.

Dawn finally arrived and I busied myself for his long awaited arrival, though still unable to whole heartedly believe that he would indeed arrive.

As I prepared breakfast for the girls, who had promised to wait and open their gifts only after he arrived, I was shaking as I found myself experiencing mixed emotions of sharing their Christmas as fully as possible and my own apprehension in believing that he would share his Christmas with us.


It was getting late and he still hadn't arrived. Just as I was certain I would never live to see a more dismal or disappointing Christmas, the loud buzz of the doorbell

crashed through the early morning silence like an intruding bulldozer and rammmed me back into reality.

I rushed to the door, opened it, and there he was, all bundled up in mountains of blankets and sleeping soundly in his mother's warm and protective arms. I don't remember if I looked at her as I wished her a Merry Christmas and invited her in for a cup of coffee. I hardly heard her as she answered, "No, I'd better not. But you have a very, Merry Christmas today and forever. And please, keep my son safe and happy always." Then, she brushed a kiss across his tender cheek, handed him to me and walked out of our lives forever.

I have never forgotten that Christmas morning and doubt that I ever will. It was the morning my son came home to stay. My Most Memorable Christmas.

Jean-Paul Claude



Before I went to school, we would spend most of the winter months on the trapline with my father. Dad would charter an airplane to take us back home a few days before Christmas. We would haul our blankets, clothes and bags full of prepared fur to the frozen lakeshore where dad marked the area with spruce boughs so the airplane could land safely. We would make a contest of who could hear the first faint sounds of the plane coming as we eagerly waited to go home and see our relatives and friends again, who would be returning from their traplines as well.

Once we were home, our house seemed large compared with the cozy, two room cabin we'd lived in since Fall. Dad would sell his furs at the local Co-op store and buy all kinds of groceries and special goodies that we hadn't eaten for so long. We would also get brand new clothes as well as some money for the squirrels and weasels, we'd trapped ourselves.

We would always attend a special Christmas service at the missionary's home and I remember that it was there, I saw my first Christmas tree. I couldn't believe how beautiful it was. During the service, I couldn't take my eyes off of it as I marvelled at the beautiful ornaments and the sparkling star at the top off the tree. As the Christmas story was told, first in English and then translated into Cree by my father, I looked at the nativity scene beside the tree and wondered how baby Jesus, could have kept warm with such a little blanket. At that time, I thought everyone had the same cold winters as we did in Northern Saskatchewan.

At the end of the service, small bags of goodies were handed out to all the children and which had been donated by the Co-op store manager. Boxes of baked cookies were also given to the ladies. The baking had been prepared by the missionary lady.

On Christmas day, mom would always cook a turkey which we shared with somebody else. This has become an annual tradition with our family.

These are the times which have allowed me to maintain the true meaning of Christmas within me. These were my most memorable Christmases. ✨

Joan Beatty



Premier
of Saskatchewan

Legislative Building
Regina, Canada
S4S 0B3

(306) 787-6271

As Premier of the Province of Saskatchewan, I am extremely pleased to have this opportunity to extend my warmest Christmas greetings to the readers of the **NEW BREED** magazine.

As individuals, we all need to renew our faith in each other and to touch base with our roots. If we all strive to preserve the family traditions of Christmas and strengthen our family ties, we will truly have the greatest gift of all.

In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, it is my sincere pleasure to wish you all the very best of the holiday season. May the peace and love of the very first Christmas touch your heart and be with you throughout the coming new year.

Grant Devine
Premier



Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly



Dear New Breed Reader:

As the New Democratic Party Caucus Spokesman for Indian and Native Affairs, it is my pleasure to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

It is my sincere hope that the coming year will bring health, happiness and improved opportunities for all.

Much needs to be done to realize this goal. In a spirit of co-operation and understanding, let us redouble our efforts to make progress in 1987 toward the goal of opportunity and prosperity for all.

On behalf of my wife Linda, and our young family, I wish you joy and happiness throughout the Christmas season and all the best in the New Year.

Yours Sincerely

Keith Goulet, MLA
Cumberland Constituency
Legislative Office: 787-1885



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF REGINA

A Message From The Mayor:

On behalf of the City of Regina, I am pleased to extend holiday greetings to the readers and staff of New Breed magazine.

As we gather together with family and friends to celebrate the festivities, it is my hope that the goodwill and cheer extended during this season will serve to cement friendships, foster understanding and encourage co-operative endeavours between individuals striving to make this world a better place in which to live.

'No man is an island' and the peace and goodwill nurtured within our own homes will expand to and strengthen the larger community.

May each of you experience health, happiness and success in 1987.

Yours sincerely
Larry Schneider
Mayor



On behalf of the AMNSIS Executive, Board of Directors and Staff I would like to extend a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our AMNSIS membership. In the New Year our organization will participate at the FMC scheduled for April, 1987. This will be a historical and crucial period for the development and history of the Metis people. We have to strive forward self-determination and with the AMNSIS membership's co-operation, participation and endorsement, Self-Government will become a reality.

My Family and I also extend a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Allan Morin
Provincial Secretary-AMNSIS

New Breed/December/1986



Christmas Message

Once again, as the most blessed holiday of the year approaches, it is my extreme pleasure to extend to all my friends and associates the best that the season has to offer.

The past year has seen many changes and we have come through them together in the same spirit of unity as when we set out more than a decade ago.

As the new year approaches, a special year for the entire Association and membership, my special wish for you is that when this time of year rolls around again, in 1987, we can still say that whatever we accomplished was accomplished in the spirit of brotherhood and sharing that our people are so famous for.

Mr. Jim Durocher
Treasurer, AMNSIS



Dear New Breed Readers:

1987 will be a very important year for the Metis, since our last First Minister's Conference will be held in April, 1987 to deal with the entrenchment of aboriginal rights, self-government, and a land base.

I make an appeal to all Metis and all other Aboriginal people in the province to unite and work together in obtaining the goals of rights, self-government and land for all Aboriginal people in Canada.

I would like to wish all Metis and other Aboriginal people, a very Merry Christmas and a United and Happy New Year.

Thank You
Leon McCauley
Provincial Constitutional Co-ordinator
Metis National Council



On behalf of the membership and staff of the Southeast Area and it's programs, I wish to extend to you the very Merriest Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.

Dominic LaFontaine
AMNSIS Area Director
Eastern Region III

The holiday season is a time for being thankful for our blessings and re-examining our aspirations and accomplishments over the past year. My recollections are a source of great pride in both our organization and especially our membership.

I wish you all the most bountiful blessings of the Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

Alvin Campeau
AMNSIS Area Director
Eastern Region II

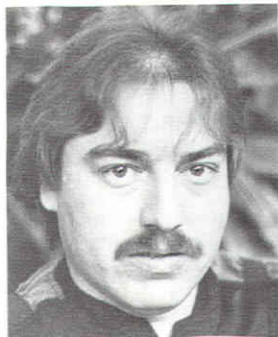


At this most blessed time of the year, I extend to you and yours all that is good. May the blessings of the season be with you to comfort you and all your loved ones in peace, happiness and prosperity.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edwin Pelletier
AMNSIS Area Director
Eastern Region IIA





That time of the year when we join with family and friends to celebrate the blessed season of Christmas and welcome in the New Year has again arrived.

I am proud to be able to wish for you and your family and friends, the warmest greetings today and throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and may all you endeavour for in the future come to pass.

Merril Fiddler
AMNSIS Area Director
Western Region II



On behalf of Western Region III, please allow me to extend my most sincere greetings for the holiday season.

As the New Year approaches the work ahead of us is great, but I have no doubt that the degree of co-operation and support shown by our membership over the past year will continue on into the next and carry us through.

Ed Nofield
AMNSIS Area Director
Western Region III



May this joyous season be filled with the love of your family and friends, and the goodwill of people everywhere. We look forward to working closely with everyone in the upcoming year.

New Breed/December/1986

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The AMNSIS Provincial Staff



Christmas Greeting

The Board and staff of the Gabriel Dumont Institute wish all our friends much peace and happiness this holiday season.

We especially want to express our best wishes to our students. The future belongs to you.

Christopher LaFontaine
Executive Director

Alice Setka
Chairperson
Board of Governors



The staff at the SUNTEP, Regina centre wish to extend Christmas greetings to everyone and wish everyone a happy holiday.



The Board and staff at Gabriel Housing Corporation wish to extend their warmest Christmas greetings to their many friends, relatives and tenants during this festive season.



Christmas Greeting

As we look back at 1986, we recall a number of memorable and exciting events which have taken place within the Pre-Employment Program.

We look forward to the challenges which 1987 will present and the achievements we will make through the co-operation of our participants, client and staff groups.

We would like to extend our sincere best wishes to the readers of the New Breed magazine for today and especially in the coming year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Management and Staff

Riel Local Pre-Employment Program

New Breed/December/1986





It is that time of year again when people come together to celebrate the historical event, the birth of Christ. When we gather with our family and friends, we can reflect on the past year with pride in what we have achieved in having passed on to our people a sense of well being and pride in their new and sober way of life. So, with this pride, we at the Saskatchewan Native Alcohol Commission wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ken Sinclair, Director and Staff



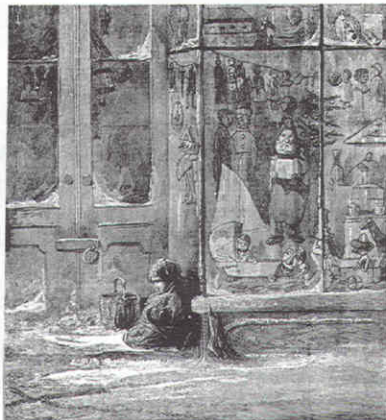
All our staff would like to extend warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all.

We'll be looking forward to seeing you in the New Year. Be sure to come in and see the various services we have to offer such as: Referrals to Educational and Employment opportunities, one to one counselling.

Merry Christmas
From the Staff of
Native Employment Centre



The Riel Local Parent-Aide staff would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Mommy Won't Be Home For Christmas

By Sharon Oullette

The first day of December has just arrived. In twenty-four more days Christmas will be here.

This is a festive time of year when there's so much excitement in the air. Everyone is running here and there, trying to get their last minute shopping done. The children are begging, "Please Mommy, can I go and see Santa Claus just one more time?"

Jack Frost is nipping at the small faces of children as they play endlessly in the snow.

You laugh at Dad as he struggles to bring a tree that's bigger than he is, up the walk and into the house.

You feel so proud as you stand back to admire the beautiful tree after the last decoration has been placed.

You continually hear those annoying busy signals while phoning to make arrangements with family and friends to be together on Christmas Day.

You walk into the room to find that the kids have found your perfect hiding place again this year.

Yes, it's that time of year, when children will be up at dawn, bursting into their parents room and hollering excitedly, "Wake up! Santa was here!" Then, they race out to open their presents. You choke back a

parent's tear as you see the joy expressed on their angelic faces at discovering that one special gift that you knew they really wanted.

And then you choke back one more familiar tear as your little ones hand you the special gift they present to you with a look of beaming pride all over their faces as they gleefully demand, "Open mine first Mommy! Open mine first!" You find yourself shaking as much as the kids did as you tear the colorful wrapping from their precious gifts of love.

After the last gift has been unwrapped, everyone rushes around getting ready before the first guests of the day arrive for the traditional Christmas dinner.

This surely is a festive time of year for giving and sharing with friends and loved ones.

As you look around, seeing all the happy, smiling faces; as you feel the warmth and security of being with the ones you love so dearly, I ask you to stop for a minute and think of a place where time stands still. A place where many women like yourself will be spending Christmas Day because they will not be allowed to spend it with their family and loved ones even though each and everyone of them aches to do just that.

Instead of waking up to the sounds of their children's laughter or hearing the sounds of Christmas carols in the streets, these women will wake to the sounds of clanging steel doors and attendants barking orders. They will wake up to see only the dreary cell they have awoken in since arriving and in which they have spent so many lonely nights, crying themselves to sleep with no one to blame but themselves.

Yes, on Christmas morning, they can only look forward to waking up to the all too familiar sights and sounds of the Pine Grove Correctional Centre.

I'd like to share with you what happens and what is felt inside by those at the Centre as December twenty-fifth draws nearer.

This article is not meant to make anyone feel sorry for us. We ask for no sympathy. But please, stop and think before you go shoplifting or before you assault some one for looking at you the wrong way. Think of what it would be like to have no freedom; not to be able to hold and comfort your little ones when they cry. These feelings which I share with you as Christmas draws ever nearer, are felt more deeply with each passing moment we are away from our families and friends.

As I look around at my sisters in struggle, I see that they are thinking the same thoughts as I do and feeling the same pain as I feel. Each one of us tries to hide our pain while pretending it's just another month like all the rest.

But how can you pretend when every other song on the radio is a familiar and touching Christmas carol? How can you pretend when those people who wear the blue and grey uniforms are telling one another about the cute gifts they bought for their children.

Deep inside of us we realize we must remain strong and make the best of a situation which we are powerless to change. But how do you do that? How do you explain to a small child that Mommy won't be there when she opens that special gift marked, "Love Mom." How do you tell your little angel that, "Mommy won't be home for Christmas this year?"

The presents that you had to save
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for weeks to buy seem so small. You worked everyday, pushing yourself to get out of bed a little earlier on those days you just didn't want to face, so you could work to add another paltry three dollars and eighty cents to your special Christmas savings. And on weekends, instead of sleeping in for a couple of hours to get the extra sleep you so desperately need, you crawl out of bed at seven thirty to find extra work to do so you can earn an extra three dollars and eighty cents. And when the work is all done for the night, you hid away in your cell, making little things you can sell to the crafroom for those few extra pennies. Instead of going to the canteen with the rest of the women, you hide in your cell and smoke rollies instead of T.M.s (tailor-made cigarettes).

Finally you have enough, or as much as you can get, and you look through the catalogue for that special toy or gift that you know they really want while you find yourself in tears as the feelings of guilt make you wish you could die. As you lovingly wrap each gift with plain brown paper, wishing they would

grow bigger, the words, "I'll make it up to them, I swear", constantly echos in your mind.

But for now you swallow your pride and give what little you have, knowing it is being sent with all the love you are capable of giving.

A few women will be fortunate enough to receive Christmas passes. You can feel the tremendous pressure as we all await the decision from administration as to who will get the envied passes and which of us won't.

It seems like we wait for hours and then, finally, one by one we are called to the front and told either yes you can go or more often, permission denied.

From the look on their faces as they return you can tell what the verdict was.

For those who have been told, yes, you can have a three day pass, their faces are lit with the excitement they feel at knowing they will be home for Christmas. They enthusiastically rush to the phone to call and tell their families, "I'm coming home for Christmas."

We are all happy for them and pray that everyone of us will receive the same good news. But of course, that is not the way it works and we know we can't all be so lucky.

For those to whom permission has been denied for one reason or another, all of which don't seem to matter, the look in their faces is nothing short of heartbreaking. They put their heads down so no one can see the tears streaming uncontrollably down their faces. They slowly walk down the hallway, escaping to the misery of their cells. They remain there for hours, alone, as their tears of disappointment explode from the depths of their souls.

They try desperately to find just the right words which will help their little ones understand as painlessly as possible why, "Mommy won't be coming home for Christmas this year."

Some will not be able to hold the disappointment in. As they walk down the hallway, a rage begins to simmer within them. It is a rage each of us share as we watch a young mother take out her anger on the small decorated Christmas tree with one flickering star, blinking

sadly off and on.

After all is quiet and the women are locked securely in their cells for the night, visions of their children on Christmas morning dwell on their minds.

They wonder if the presents for their children will arrive on time. They wonder if their children will be just as happy without Mommy there to share the joy and excitement of Christmas.

As I stand by my cell window, watching the fragile snowflakes drift gently to the ground, I wonder if there ever was a Santa Claus. I wonder where he is when he is needed most to help me believe in Christmas once again? Where is he when he is needed to bring smiles back to the painful faces of these saddened mothers? Where is he when he is needed to show them how to laugh and be happy once again.

Yes, Christmas is a time for sharing memories; a time to rejoice in love and understanding; a time to laugh, and yes, Christmas is also a time to cry.

I have no gifts to give to my friends. I have only a smile, memories to exchange of happier Christmases and jokes to bring laughter to their strained and reddened eyes. If there was one thing I could give these women, it would be hope; hope for a better and happier Christmas next year.

As I walk away from the small barred window of my cell and shuffle to my cot, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Great Spirit.

I pray that each woman and man behind prison walls will remain strong together and help one another through this difficult time of struggle.

I pray for each of our children and our families that they may feel the Christmas spirit and truly enjoy it.

And I pray that one day, we will all join as one in unity and strength.

Finally, drifting off into a sweeter slumber, I hear a Christmas carol playing on the radio. It seems to reach into the very depths of my heart.

Thoughts of Santa Claus have long since escaped my imagination and the true spirit of Christmas comes again to fill my once empty and aching soul.





Christmas Away From Home



By Barbara McCombie
and Jean-Paul Claude

For most people, Christmas is a special, family time. Those who find themselves far away from home at Christmas, for whatever reason, will go to great lengths to ensure they can be home to share this one, special time of the year with their loved ones and friends with whom they feel closest. Few would think of missing the joy of the family Christmas Day with its sharing of gifts, smiling faces, loving embraces, the sharing of a delicious, traditional Christmas dinner and all the spiritual magic that we associate with Christmas.

Yes, most will do anything to prevent being away from home on this day of days. However, there are those who cannot return home. There are some who will be away from loved ones, family and friends. It will not be because they choose to be away, for all day long, they will be fighting tears and depression as they long for the grateful hug of a loving child, the kiss of a much missed wife, a cheerful word or a squeeze of the hand from a loving friend. They will not be allowed to share any of this, but rather, will be spending this blessed family day alone, restrained by concrete walls, steel bars and the iron will of a just, though often misunderstanding society. They will not be going home this Christmas for they are in prison.

In trying to understand what it might be like to be prevented from sharing Christmas day with family and friends by those brothers and sisters behind prison walls, **New Breed** recently visited the Provincial Correctional Centre (PCC), in Regina and spoke to two of the inmates as well as the chaplain about Christmas in prison.

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When we arrived, we signed in at the front desk and were issued numbered visitor tags which we were instructed to wear at all times. After being summoned by the receptionist, Father Doug (Jenson), a tall, proud and gentle seeming man, warmly greeted us and escorted us through a number of electronically controlled iron gates until we arrived at his office. Upon arriving, his phone immediately began ringing and he told us that they were checking about the camera we had carried in. Security was tight.

Father Doug has been at the prison for eight years and he says that Christmas is not quite as dramatic as the first one he spent at the centre. "It was the most depressing time I'd ever had in my life," he commented. "I didn't understand. I felt very much out of place because at that particular time, there was nothing for them (the inmates). I don't know how I survived it because it was so depressing."

Father Doug explained that there were very few organized programs for the inmates at Christmas. He added that Christmas festivities now are more numerous and positive and do much in the way of dispelling the boredom and depression that is an underlying reality of Christmas in prison.

"I feel much happier now than I did then," he explained with enthusiasm. "Much, much more happy. Basically because there are a terrific number of programs now that we have which we didn't have then and this has made the difference."

Father Doug sadly informed us that slashings and suicides were much more common over Christmas in the early days of his prison ministry, though these types of activities are somewhat rare now. He attributes much of this to outside orga-

nizations showing an improved interest in the inmates and contributing their time while visiting and providing various types of light entertainment over the holiday season.

The Salvation Army Band and Chorus visit each year and Father Doug said that at that time, one can hear, "the music and sounds percolating all through the jail." He added that the Christian Fellowship comes in every Monday evening throughout the year, but at Christmas time, they entertain the inmates with a very enjoyable Christmas Concert. Another concert is brought to the jail by the Apostolic Church and they entertain the inmates with a large musical accompaniment.

Christmas Eve is a particularly special time at Regina's jail. People are allowed to send in parcels which are then distributed to the inmates throughout the centre. The inmates also receive a number of 'goodie' bags filled with nuts, sweets, chocolate bars, oranges, shampoo samples and many other items which are provided by the centre itself as well as the Salvation Army and the Regina Friendship Centre.

The spiritual essence is not forgotten in prison and a Midnight Mass is celebrated each year at the centre, to which Father Doug explained, "the attendance is never lacking."

Of course, Christmas would somehow be lacking if one were not able to share it with one's children, and though many are too far from home to expect a visit, those with families close by are often blessed by a visit from their wives and loving children.

The children enter the centre through an alternate route which is meant to spare them as much as possible from the stark realities of prison. They do not see the iron bars. They do not see the electronically controlled gates. They do not witness the regimental discipline and security measures which are as much a part of their fathers' daily lives as recess at school, is of theirs. They do not hear the sounds of sadness, grief and loneliness echoing through the cold marble and stone hallways and they do not see the rude realities of the subservience under which their strong, all-knowing and loving fathers must survive.

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What they do see are the tears of joy and happiness as their fathers hold them close and offer them a father's blessing for a joyous Christmas. What they hear are the sounds of happiness and joy as fathers and children share the day that was meant for them. They hear the rumble of laughter and happiness as fathers and children share a precious loving moment of joy that as of late, has not been heard as often as they remember or either of them would prefer. They also hear the chorus of their two hearts as they beat out a rhythm of love and joy that only a father and his child would know.

The visits, though never long enough, take place in the prison gymnasium which is one of the few buildings which is accessible from outside the actual centre, and Father Doug emphatically stated that in here, away from the prison common areas, "the children have a ball. This is unlike a lot of prisons," Father Doug observed. "There is more of a family attitude in here than there is in most other prisons in that they can get together for X amount of time." He added that there is a great amount of latitude allowed in what they are permitted to do during these visits as long as they remember where they are, observe the rules and abide by the bounds of security which are imposed on them as convicted wards of the state.

Following our short conversation, Father Doug escorted us to the next room where he introduced us to two inmates who had agreed to meet with us. After the introductions were completed, Father Doug turned and left the room and we were left to talk with Carl and 'Spud' alone.

The room was sparsely furnished with few of the niceties which make a room so much a part of its surrounding home. But then, this was not, by any stretch of the imagination, the room of a home. This was part of an institution designed for the incarceration of those who have transgressed the laws of the land. This was a prison and no amount of pretending would allow you to forget that. For just as we would begin to feel comfortable enough to put our feet up or squirm around comfortably on the less than comfort-

able couch, our eyes would wonder to the bland starkness of the cinder-concrete walls, the institution like, fluorescent lighting fixture hanging imposingly from the cold ceiling or the iron bars which adorned the exterior of the glassed-in windows, and we found ourselves, abruptly and unconsciously sitting up, with a determined sense of reasserting our professional and distant presence.

As Father Doug left the room, all four of us, I believe, felt somewhat intimidated. I weren't quite sure anymore, what we were going to ask them and they weren't sure if they wanted to answer. We were even less sure what to expect from each other. But, it was too late to turn back.

Carl made the first move by offering us a cup of coffee. Spud immediately joined him and together, they did much to ease our apprehension with the brand of down-home hospitality we more than likely did not expect to find there.

As we began to make small talk, slowly getting warmed up to each other, the echoing noise from the hall created a distraction and I reached behind me to close the door, forgetting for a very brief moment the nature of our immediate surroundings. I had meant to leave it slightly ajar, but as I leaned back I was a little off balance and my full weight fell against the solid door and it slammed shut with a slam and a click and I realized, a-

long with everyone else in the room, that we were locked in. A few belly laughs later, and after someone came to unlock the door, it was suddenly old home week again. We were just four ordinary people sitting together sharing some good conversation and even better laughs. The intimidation and hesitancy that had seemed so overpowering short moments ago had rapidly begun to melt, although the accidentally locked door did serve as one more definite reminder that we were indeed, in a prison. After making sure that the door was left ajar, we continued with our now friendlier and more relaxed conversation.

Carl is a Saskatchewan Native and Spud's heavy eastern accent immediately betrays him as a Maritimer. While Carl's prison term will expire in a short time, allowing him to be home with his family for Christmas, Spud, who is affectionately called that because he comes from the "Potato Province" of Prince Edward Island, will spend Christmas behind bars and too far away from his three young daughters to expect a Christmas visit.

Spud told us that he is somewhat of an inmate spokesman in that he works on a committee of inmates which acts as a link between the prison population and the administration, to attempt to improve relations between both groups. That committee is presently involved in

Fr. Doug Jenson, PCC Chaplain





L to R-Spud & Carl discuss
a prison Christmas

assisting in planning the program of activities which will be presented for the inmates' enjoyment over the Christmas season.

Although Carl is excitedly making plans for a family Christmas, that was not the case a year ago when he spent his Christmas at the centre. "It's hard to be here over Christmas," he told us. "You want to be with your family, but you're locked up."

Carl said that although his children did come to visit him at the centre last year, he found it quite disturbing when their natural, child-like curiosity led them to question him about prison life. He said that while the children were at the centre, they did not see iron bars. Rather, all they saw were children of his fellow inmates, running around the gymnasium and having fun. He said that this left him feeling uneasy because he did not want his children to think that what they saw, the freedom of running around, playing and enjoying themselves, was an accurate reflection of everyday life in a prison. He did not want them walking away while thinking that prison life was somehow "easy".

This is the first Christmas Spud will have spent at Regina's Correctional Centre. While he anticipates some sadness in being away from his loved ones, he explained that he plans to make the best of a bad situation by being aware of his feelings and sharing the day with his fellow inmates in whatever activities are a-

available to them that day. He added that if he were not in jail, he would most definitely be spending Christmas in PEI with his three beautiful daughters.

Spud has spent one other Christmas in jail and he said that he considered himself fortunate in that he received a great deal of supportive mail from his family and loved ones. He added that this is not always the case with all of the inmates.

He told us that at the time, he felt somewhat guilty because a friend of his, at the same jail, did not receive any Christmas mail. The type of black humour which is sometimes used by people in uncomfortable situations as a means of coping, encouraged this man's prison chums to tease him about all the Christmas cards he was receiving. Spud said that his heart reached out to the man and "I had a Christmas card remailed from outside the jail to help make him feel better."

As for the prison staff, Spud commented that Christmas seems to touch them as well, as they act quite differently than they do for the rest of the year. He added that they seem more sensitive to the needs of the inmates and, "They seem a little more human."

Both Carl and Spud shared Father Doug's concerns that he would like to see more outside groups and organizations actively participate in organizing and promoting programs for the inmates at the centre, espec-

ially at this time of the year. Carl added that Native organizations and elders are generally very good about coming to the correctional centre but, "We need more groups coming in and taking an interest." All agreed that music bands and groups are always popular with the inmates and would always receive a warm and appreciative welcome.

When asked what Christmas means to him personally, Carl answered that, "It's kind of a tough question to answer. My grandfather always told me it's just a time to be thankful. It's a time to sit down and be thankful for what we have. That's how I look at it", he concluded.

Spud responded in the sincere and gentle Maritime accent that we had learned to appreciate and trust since meeting him an hour earlier by simply stating, "Christmas is a time for renewing your love with your loved ones."

Carl concluded his comments with a few words of experience and caution for the young people who might be reading this article.

"Kids, it is not an easy life in jail. Stay away from drugs and alcohol," he said, "because you can't pull yourself out of the mess you'll get yourself into."

As we prepared to leave the centre, hearing the mechanical, metallic locks slide into place behind us as we moved from one area to another, Spud, Carl and Father Doug's every word hung over us like dark, heavy

clouds on an otherwise sunny day. We walked down the long, echoing corridors slowly and hesitantly, almost as if we hadn't finished what we had come to do. The answers to our questions, though thorough, had only served to raise so many more. Not questions perhaps in the sense that we could have put them into words, but rather lazy doubts that hung in our minds like so many dusty and ragged cobwebs in a room closed to reality for a very long time.

We had experienced something honest, sad and unique. What was it? A reminder of another part of ourselves? A memory of a lonelier Christmas than the one we were planning? An awakening to a reality that we were somewhat reluctant to accept? It wasn't clear. It was just a feeling that has remained with us.

I'm not sure we will ever forget it or completely understand it. But then again, I don't know if we have to. What we did come away with was a greater respect for our liberty, a greater appreciation for our shared Christmases and a greater understanding of our loves.

As we stepped outside and paused on the cold stone steps while the brisk Autumn wind invited us to close our coat collars tighter around us, we suddenly remembered the cold feelings we'd experienced while mounting these steps an hour earlier. We were also aware of the warmth we'd left behind in the gentleness of Spud, the childlike sincerity of Carl and the patient wisdom of Father Doug. We couldn't help but wonder what Christmas would bring to these three fine men; our three Christmas friends.

Our steps quickened as we headed out across the long driveway towards the parking lot and the warmth of our car heater. As we started the motor and waited for the heater to take the chill off the vehicle, we were silent. We sat, each in our own private thoughts, while the memory of Spud's parting words echoed in our minds and hearts.

"Keep in mind, we are human, even though we have fallen short. Remember how hard it is being here. We were young at one time too. Now, we have ended up inside. At Christmas, we also share in your love. For Christmas, after all, is a day for love."

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CHILD PROTECTION WORKER

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[Competition No. SSCW-3-NB]

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Northwest Region - Patricia McIntosh (403)324-3960 - Comp. No.: SSCW-2-NB

Northeast Region - Keith Allenby (403)623-5283 Comp. No.: SSCW-2-NB

Edmonton Region - Maryse St. Laurent (403)422-1195 Comp. No.: SSCW-3-NB

Central Region - Karen Kruse (403)340-5610 Comp. No.: SSCW-4-NB

Central Region - Karen Kruse (403)340-5610 Comp. No.: C-4-NB

Calgary Region - John Beatty (403)297-4507 Comp. No.: C-5-NB

South Region - Linda Paven (403)345-4100 Comp. No.: SSCW-6-NB

Please identify the applicable competition numbers noted above when submitting your application form/resume.

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Please send an application form or resume quoting competition number to:

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4th Floor, Kensington Place
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Alberta



Northern Fishermen work their nets

Northern Fishermen Concerned With Study Findings

By Barbara McCombie

In October 1985, the Department of Parks and Renewable Resources sent out a detailed booklet on conservation options to commercial net fishermen and outfitters throughout the province of Saskatchewan. This discussion paper outlined the present situation of the declining supplies of fish, the increasing demand for the resource and some possible future options to be enforced in order to balance and preserve the use of the resource itself. The fishermen were invited to respond and state their views.

There were five issues on fishing practices directed to commercial net fishermen in the discussion paper. They were entitled Highgrading, Small Mesh Nets, Seasons, Improper Use of Nets, and Need for Harvest Information.

"Highgrading means filling a commercial quota with the harvest of a single species of fish, such as walleye, because it fetches the best price." This is the definition given

by the October 1985 discussion paper. The problem with this issue is the overharvesting of certain species and the imminent exhaustion of the resource.

The government booklet described the reasons for the legislated size of mesh gill nets. "The size of gill net meshes permitted in a fishery are based on the following: to allow small immature fish to escape; to catch fish which have spawned at least once; to catch fish which are rapidly gaining weight. The larger mesh sizes are selected to provide maximum conservation to all species." One of the problems with small mesh nets is they can trap smaller size fish before they have had a chance to spawn and thus, ending the reproduction of that stock of fish right then and there. Again, this premature cropping can bring about a final collapse of the resource.

The section on the opening and closing dates of fishing seasons focused mainly on that of the commercial net fishermen in northern Saskatchewan. They commence fishing when the lakes are ice free. The Department of Parks and Renewable Resources stated, "There are no conservation advantages to this option because walleye usually spawn shortly after the ice breaks up in lakes."

Commercial net fishermen are required by law to lift their nets regularly every 48 hours. This is to en-

sure fresh fish and avoid wastage. Improper use of nets leads to wastage of fish and unrecorded harvest which inevitably results in overharvest.

The Department of Parks and Renewable Resources receives data from fishermen on lakes fished, species and weight delivered to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC), the major buyer of the commercial harvest. The department keeps harvest records according to this supplied information and makes estimated quotas to which the fishermen adhere. The problem here is that there are other local consumers who also purchase fish from the commercial net fishermen and, because there is no present requirement to provide harvest data on these sales, the government is overestimating quotas based on the known sales to the FFMC. The section on 'Need for Harvest Information' examined the advantages and disadvantages of recorded information on all commercial fish sales.

Merv Swanson, Superintendent of Fisheries in Prince Albert, said that there is a need for new conservation measures in order that the livelihood and enjoyment of fishing may continue while also protecting the environment, thus making fishing a truly renewable resource. He pointed out that the discussion paper of October 1985 stated the issues to the fishermen and that Parks and Renewable Resources gathered the information they received from the responding fishermen to develop another paper entitled, "Analysis of Conservation Option Commercial Net Fishermen June 1986". This paper revealed the favoured options of those fishermen who responded to the first questionnaire on the five basic issues.

New Breed received a copy of this second questionnaire on proposed actions for commercial net fishermen from one of our readers, Larry Beatty of Deschambault Lake. He wrote, "The past study completed is not a true report as a majority of tourism people were involved in the questionnaire. It should be redone in each northern commercial fished lake. This information I am stating now, comes from commercial fishermen in the Deschambault Lake area, which includes Ballantyne Bay."

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There are approximately 1500 commercial net fishermen in northern Saskatchewan all of whom will be affected by the new proposed actions should they be implemented. New Breed contacted two such fishermen. One was Oscar Beatty of Deschambault Lake and the other was George Smith of Pinehouse. They both spoke freely of their concerns on each issue and their thoughts on possible inaccurate representation of commercial net fishermen's interests in relation to those in the tourist industry.

Oscar Beatty said that in the summer, there are around 50 active commercial fishermen operating at any one time in Deschambault Lake. He thought that there were only a dozen or so local commercial fishermen who actually responded to the 1985 October discussion paper and whose collected opinions the government is basing their future regulations upon. He was concerned that the first and second questionnaire results would not reflect the true picture of the northern commercial net fishing industry.

George Smith told New Breed that there are approximately 16 commercial net fishermen in his area of Pinehouse. He expressed his doubts about how he and other commercial fishermen would receive recognition of their wishes for government regulations. "I don't think that the department is going to consider what commercial fishermen are saying. I think they will more or less favour the tourists. The reason for that is that we'll be outvoted for sure. More of these lakes are being saved for tourist outfitting instead of commercial fishermen. This government now gets its money from the tourists."

The results of the first questionnaire were stated in the second questionnaire on proposed actions for fishing regulations. For example, according to this second paper, the majority of the respondents wanted to adopt species quotas and increased lake supervision on the issue of highgrading.

Larry Beatty, however, had another point of view on behalf of commercial net fishermen. "Highgrading is a must to keep up with quality of fish to produce good prices for fishermen. You must select high priced fish to keep up with

the high cost of operating a commercial fishery." He would personally like to see commercial quotas retained as opposed to the documented preference of species quotas. He did add, "Species limits will work in some lakes. All these lakes can be dealt with at the local commercial fishing areas."

"It's getting more difficult for us to fish because a lot of lakes are getting more species limits on them," said George Smith. "When you apply species limits on these lakes, then it's harder for commercial fishermen to become viable."

On the two issues regarding nets, (illegal size and irregular raising of nets), the majority of the respondents voted that fishermen needed to be educated on the problem and that there should be penalties against fishermen who misuse nets. Oscar Beatty and George Smith were in agreement on the enforcement of penalties, but both felt that education was not necessary as they are experienced fishermen and know full well what the rules are of their profession. Including Larry Beatty, they felt that it can be very difficult at times to lift their nets every 48 hours. Larry Beatty wrote, "Commercial fishermen should check their nets regularly as long as the weather permits."

On the current status of seasons, the survey revealed that there was a "very decisive split" on the voting. "Commercial fishermen favoured Option No. 1 and No. 3" (commence fishing when lakes are free of ice and cease fishing April 15). "Other respondents favoured Options No. 2 and No. 4" (adopt the sports fishing opening dates and cease fishing March 31). The proposed action was to maintain the present system which is in favour of the commercial fishermen. For the concern on spawning fish after the ice breaks, spawning areas would be temporarily closed to all fishermen to protect the replenishment of the fish.

The second questionnaire stated that all respondents were in favour of complete harvest information on all sales of fish. Oscar Beatty said that they are already keeping thorough records.

The point of real contention for northern commercial fishermen seems to be that of the first issue on

species limits. "The species limit is one of the things that's really going to kill us," George Smith stated. "If that was taken out, I think that would be better."

Throughout New Breed's interviews with the commercial net fishermen, it was evident that they had fears that commercial fishing in northern Saskatchewan might be jeopardized to accommodate sports fishermen. They felt a survey on a piece of paper was not enough and that the department was going to have to come to the commercial fishermen in person to discuss these issues openly.

Oscar Beatty expressed these thoughts. "Commercial fishing is not only just an economic situation that we need, but it's part of a way of life. I don't think they should rule these things out. They'll have to sit down with us and make an agreement on both sides. I think there's a manageable solution for everybody in regarding what resources we have here, but I think maybe we've got to be careful on the tourists here, because there, nobody has any control. We know that for sure."

Supt. Merv Swanson said that the department is not proposing much change. They are basically interested in maintaining the status quo by some new measures. He said that the first step is to "tackle sports fishermen regarding reduced limits." The second step is to "go hand in hand with commercial fishermen to come to a happy medium." He also said that there was no bias for either sports or commercial fishing. "There will need to be discussion with the newly elected government and reporting back to all fishermen in order to set up implementations of appropriate controls possibly in 1987." His final statement was, "We're trying to make sure that not only everyone gets a piece of the pie, but that there's still a pie to get a piece from."

When asked what he would like to see the government take into consideration, Oscar Beatty said, "We're still here. We're going to be here all winter. The tourists are going down south just like the birds. They won't be back until the weather's warm, but they don't live up here. We pioneered the area and we're going to be here for many years to come."



L to R-C. LaFontaine, B. Fayant, D. Pinay
discuss Native education options

Educators Challenged From Within

By Tom Twist

"For the first time, the Regina Public School Board has publicly acknowledged there are problems within the present school system. Their attempt to address Native and other minority educational and racial issues, concerns and needs within the present system, is a positive beginning," Sid Fiddler of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC), recently stated.

Fiddler was referring to the recent release of a report on Multiculturalism, by the Regina Board of Education, for public response. The report submitted by Glenda P. Simms, Supervisor of Intercultural Education and Race and Ethnic Relations, contained 55 recommendations that attempt to address the cross-cultural issues and problems faced by students in the Regina Public School system.

"The report is long overdue and it should be noted that many of the recommendations were presented to the Board over five years ago," Donna Pinay of the Regina Native Women's Association (RNWA) stated.

The Regina Indian and Native Education Council (RINEC), was pleased that the report included nine of the eleven recommendations they presented to the Board three years ago. They express hope that the Board would not procrastinate any further.

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Literature reviews, school visits, principal interviews, student interviews, parent interviews, community group meetings, inservice workshops, teacher associate meetings and a Native Studies course were some of the methods used to research the report which began in October of 1985.

Issues and concerns arising from the research were; I.Q. testing procedures and assignments to special education classes, racism, and the need for more minority teachers and multicultural approaches that are so far inadequate in providing children with all the skills and knowledge to function in society, while retaining a sense of their own identity and culture.

Recommendations were made in the following areas; leadership responsibilities, curriculum, selection of learning resources, student services, employment practices, inservice and professional development, response to discrimination, school and community relations, specific needs of Indian and Metis people and others.

Native groups and institutions seemed pleased that the Board recognized racism as one of the fundamental problems within the school system. There were a number of recommendations addressing this issue such as the development of a grievance procedure for dealing with parents' and students' complaints about racial problems, inservice training on racism for all school staff and that all parents be informed of the Race Relations Policy guidelines. However, there was an expressed concern about racism within the system itself.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute

was concerned with the Board's definition of racism. "They talk about attitudes of individuals and the community," Chris La Fontaine of the Institute said, "but very little attention is given to the systematic and structural discrimination that they have in their school system."

RNWA felt that Native people have to be accepted with dignity and as equals in order to correct the problem of racism within the system. "This has not always been the case," Pinay said. "When Native people have expressed their concerns they have been belittled or ignored. Despite this we have continued to work co-operatively when the opportunities arose."

The recommendations for alternate programs for Native students such as a re-entry program, a transitional program and a school within a school received strong support. However, the main concern about this issue was that some of the educational responsibility, authority and control should be given to Native people. Both SIFC and Gabriel Dumont Institute have had tremendous success.

SIFC basing their belief on their experience and success stated that, "An alternative school system for Indian/Native students under Indian/Native control within the urban public school system is a viable option that can no longer be ignored."

"Natives want to participate fully, in decision making authority. They expect that and recommend to the Board that they seriously consider it," La Fontaine said. "Gabriel Dumont Institute feels that the success of the recommendations depends on the involvement of Native people in decision and authority roles."

The recommendations on employment practices such as hiring more Indian and Metis teachers and staff at all levels and the development of skills in cross-cultural communication for all staff received support from most of the Native organizations. Support for affirmative action was voiced by SIFC and RINEC. RINEC plans to make a formal request for affirmative action to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

RNWA emphasized that cross-cultural training must be positive and involve the Native community.

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There were a number of recommendations addressing curriculum development including Cree classes, Native content and perspective in all subject areas and for all students, the involvement of Native resource persons and institutions, the selection of positive materials and the hiring of a Native consultant for Native studies.

The hiring of a Native consultant was supported by SIFC, who also commented that the emphasis of the report addresses the issue of how to better fit the Native student into the dominant education system. They felt that it is equally important and critical that a balance of how the system could better integrate the needs of the Native student is needed. This approach recognizes the positive contributions that Native people can make in the re-inforcement of positive pride, identity, self-concept and cultural worldview through the Native perspective without lowering the academic standards and quality of education.

Other recommendations included the establishment of a counselling centre for Native students and parents, October as Native History Month, parent education programs, more community schools, child development centres, alternate ways to evaluate language proficiency and usage, the assessment and placement of Native/minority students in other programs and a number of in-service areas to be planned and delivered throughout the system.

RNWA and RINEC concur that the financial implications of the recommendations are substantial but feel monetary considerations should not outweigh the human rights of children. "It is the actual lives and livelihood of our children that is at stake," Pinay stated.

There was some skepticism expressed as to how, when or if in fact the Board will be implementing these recommendations.

"The Board has made it very clear that this is not their policy and they will have the option of opting in or out on any of the recommendations," La Fontaine stated.

"The priorities of the recommendations will not be those of the Native community, but will be the priorities of the Board that is political-ly accountable to the public," Fidler said.

In a telephone interview with Mary Hicks, who was Chairman of the Regina Board of Education at the time, she indicated that the Board would be compiling all the input from the community as a whole, not just the Native community.

In the latest report, the Board has responded by passing three of the report's recommendations including the hiring of a Native consultant and the purchasing of educational materials reflecting Indian and Metis culture. They will be spending \$40,000 annually to hire a consultant and \$20,000 to purchase materials.

The board trustees also accepted the statement acknowledging that everyone, including Natives, see themselves as an "integral part" of the school system and that "integration not assimilation be the dominant view."

As a whole, the recommendations received the support of Native organizations and the general feeling is that if the spirit and intent of the recommendations are addressed at all levels throughout the education system, it will be a major step towards developing an education system that will have mutual and beneficial effect for all.

What's Ahead

● Regina

The Salvation Army Family Services Centre at 2040 McIntyre St., Regina will be accepting applications for Christmas hampers up until December 17, 1986.

The Salvation Army's annual Christmas dinner will be held on December 18, 1986 at the Army, Navy, Airforce Vets building on the corner of Broad St. and Saskatchewan Drive. There will be two sittings at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the meal will be given out at 1835 Osler St. and 2040 McIntyre St. They will also be having their regular Christmas dinner on December 25 at 3:00 p.m. at 1835 Osler St.

The Marian Centre at 1835 Halifax St. will be having their Christmas dinner December 25, 1986 at 12:00 p.m.

The Regina Friendship Centre will be having their annual Children's Christmas party on December 13, 1986 from 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. at their location 701-14th Ave. East.

The Regina Friendship Centre will also be having a Christmas party for senior citizens on December 20th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at which hampers will be given out.

The Regina Braves Hockey Club will be hosting an All-Native Hockey Tournament December 27-28, 1986 at the Fort Qu'Appelle Recreation Centre. For further information call Alfred Montgrand 543-6312 or Brian Sinclair 347-0921.

● Saskatoon

The Saskatoon Friendship Centre will be having two Christmas parties this year, for members and their children. To go along with the party will be a concert hopefully with the parents' involvement. On December 11th at 7:00 p.m. the party and concert will be for children aged 7-12 years and on December 14th for children aged 6 and under. There will also be a Christmas dance on December 12th and a New Year's dance on New Year's eve. For further details call Linda Opoonechaw at 244-0174.

Saskatoon Sport-a-Culture Spectacular-87, January 12-17, 1986. Includes a 2 day pow-wow January 11-12, a Native Jamboree and Dance January 13 and an International Native Oldtimer Hockey Tournament January 13-17. Numerous other sports events are also scheduled. For further information contact: Hans Nickel (306) 374-5549.

● Yorkton

The Yorkton Friendship Centre at 283 Myrtle Avenue will be having their annual Christmas party for children under the age of 12 on December 21, 1986. Santa will also be there. For further information contact the Friendship Centre at 782-2822.

● Prince Albert

The Prince Albert Friendship Centre will be having their Christmas party for members and their families on December 23rd at 2:00 p.m.

The New Breed Kitchen



Christmas traditions seem to change which each generation. The joy of wandering out to find the perfect evergreen tree, then cut it down and carry it home has been replaced by the annual visit to the neighborhood tree lot to buy a frozen version, or even worse, the hardware store to buy a plastic imitation which never looks like the real thing. Many things have changed. The gifts we present to each other, the decorations in our homes, as well as most other aspects of this special celebration.

There is however, one Christmas

tradition which has and always remain as constant as the on the first Christmas. That is the tradition of gathering with friends and loved ones around a Christmas dinner table to share in simple pleasures of home cooking.

We would like to contribute to that tradition by offering you these few recipes which are as traditional as Mom's apple pie and Christmas itself and we hope that in some small way they help to make your Christmas celebration a wee bit joyous.

Christmas fare

Researched by Yvonne Nagy



ROAST GOOSE WITH BAKED APPLE

1 8-pound goose
2 quarts bread crumbs
2 onions, chopped
2 tablespoons fat
1 teaspoon sage
2 teaspoons salt, dash pepper
6 to 8 apples
¼ cup brown sugar
3 cooked, mashed sweet-potatoes

Cook giblets until tender, chop and mix with bread crumbs, onion, fat, sage, salt and pepper. Clean and

wash the goose thoroughly. Rub inside of goose with salt, stuff with bread mixture and truss. Place in a roaster on rack and roast uncovered in a slow oven (325°F.) until tender, allowing about 25 minutes per pound. Every hour, skim off fat from broth in pan. Wash and core apples; sprinkle with brown sugar, stuff with seasoned sweetpotatoes and place in the pan with goose 1 hour before goose is done.

Serves 6.

ROAST GOOSE

1 8-pound goose
Potato Stuffing
Salt and Pepper
Flour

Select a young goose, clean, singe, wash in hot water and dry on outside. Flatten breastbone by striking with a rolling pin. Fill body cavity lightly with Potato Stuffing, skewer the opening or truss. Roast in a slow oven (325°F.) for 45 minutes, on rack in uncovered roasting pan. Remove from oven, pour off fat, season with salt and pepper, dredge with flour and return to oven.

When the flour is browned, pour 1 cup hot water into pan and baste goose often, dredging each time with a slight sifting of flour to absorb fat. Allow 20 minutes per



pound for a young goose, and 25 minutes for older goose. Remove from pan, add 1 cup hot water to gravy and thicken, if necessary, with browned flour. Garnish goose with parsley and serve with Giblet Gravy. Serves 5. Serve with applesauce, hot or cold spiced fruit, cranberry-orange relish, or coddled minted apples.

POTATO STUFFING

2 cups hot mashed potato
1 cup bread crumbs
½ teaspoon pepper
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon sage
4 tablespoons melted butter or other fat
2 tablespoons onion juice

Mix the ingredients in order given. Makes 3 cups.





To Your Health



Good Living Habits

By Barbara McCombie



The Body II

(Second of Four Parts)

In our last issue we talked about health tips as offered by a general physician and a dentist. For this second issue on the body itself, we interviewed Grace, a masseuse. Being a licensed massage therapist, she warned that people should never confuse this legitimate European style of practice with that of erotic massage parlors. She read this definition: "Massage is a method of manipulation of the soft tissues of the body for therapeutic results. The operator uses his or her hands to rub, knead and press the skin in deeper tissues of the patient under treatment in a scientific manner with a knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathology."

When massage is correctly applied, it can alleviate, improve or correct certain conditions of the body. It is recommended that you obtain a physician's approval first as there are people who would not benefit from massage. For example, if a person suffers from recently torn ligaments, heart condition, varicose veins and several other complaints too numerous to mention, then they should not have a massage administered to them.

After someone has had clearance from their physician or chiropractor, Grace has the client fill out a past medical history form. She looks for the person's lifestyle, dietary patterns and asks if they are presently on any medication. She observes the client's spine as he or she stands straight to check for any unusual curvature. She interviews them on their condition, (backache, knotted muscles, etc.), and determines whether she should commence treatment or send the client back to their doctor for help.

New Breed asked Grace to give our readers some ideas about good



Masseuse eases patient's pain

living habits that might help correct some daily health problems. She gave us a list of signs and causes for bodily discomfort. The following information exhibits the causes that we have control over. For example, if you suffer from insomnia and backaches, perhaps you should reconsider your sleeping position or check the suitability of your mattress. Take corrective measures to ease your problems.

Causes of Tension: stressful occupation, family problems, poor sleeping habits, indigestion after heavy meal, snacks at bedtime, not enough fresh air, lack of Vitamin B6, poor posture, no outlet for emotional expression, and lack of exercise.

Signs of Imbalance of Back: work desks or tables that are too high causing you to raise your shoulders which can lead to tightness and pain, disc problems caused by lifting heavy objects improperly, working in a sitting position for extensive periods of time, wearing high heels, and poor posture.

Signs of Imbalance in Abdomen: poor muscle tone in abdomen, lower back or thighs, uneven distribution of body weight when standing, constipation, tight buttocks, flatulence, stomach cramps, and menstrual cramps.

Cause of Imbalance in Abdomen: tight belts, girdles or jeans, repressed emotions such as anger, fear and jealousy.

Grace said that she could not emphasize enough the importance of exercise. She commented that she could help as much as she was able to do her part in her role as a masseuse, but the patient has to put in an effort as well in regards to physical activity. Grace suggested stretching exercises as opposed to the pounding movements of aerobics. She acts as a partner to the patient and aids them in developing their own personal exercise program according to their individual needs. She said that you should discipline yourself, but, at the same time, take care of yourself.

Some of our readers may never need the services of a qualified masseuse, but some of the above signs and causes of ailments may help some of you diagnose your own problems. If you suffer from any of the above problems and you have tried to change habits and your environment to accommodate the problems without any success, go see your doctor. You may need your muscles manipulated.

We look forward to Good Living Habits Part III, The Mind, when we interview three counsellors about working out our personal problems.

A Different Christmas Story

By Tina La Rose



Christmas is the time of year when loved ones join together to celebrate the birth of Christ. It is a time when feasts are prepared with every type of mouth watering delicacy and dessert. It is a time when children are laughing, neighbors are carolling, fresh mistletoe is hung above doors to merrily greet festive visitors and candy canes, strung popcorn and gaily coloured lights adorn the fresh smelling Christmas tree.

It is Christmas and Christmas brings with it festivity, joy and merriment for all. But does it really? Doesn't it seem that when there is laughter in the air a tear is often sadly falling somewhere else?

It is Christmas and though it may not seem right, it often happens that as a joyful smile glows on one face another is saddened as tears fill it's mournful heart.

Jean LaFontaine, a widow and mother of five lives on a monthly allowance which leaves her only three hundred dollars once her rent and utility bills are paid.

Jean says that her allowance doesn't change at Christmas time and if it weren't for the generous Christmas hampers which are distributed by worthwhile organizations in the city, "I know I couldn't afford a turkey at Christmas."

Jean remembers when Christmas was a happier time around their home. That was when the family was all there. That was when Larry, her husband still shared that special holiday with them.

Jean still remembers those days. And she still remembers how those joyful Christmases of a time before, suddenly ended for her and her children.

It was a normal day, like all the rest. Nothing unusual had happened which would indicate what was in store for her. Larry was a little late

from work as Jean sat by the window watching for him to return.

Suddenly two glaring headlights blinded her as they approached the house and she bolted to the door to open it, expecting Larry to walk through and greet her. As she swung the door open, she was surprised to see an RCMP officer standing there instead of Larry. She was in shock



and didn't hear him speak. She knew what he was going to say and she didn't want to hear it. She knew it couldn't be true.

Finally the Mountie's voice broke through and informed her that Larry had been tragically killed while working on a trench on a nearby reserve. Still disbelieving, Jean's mind hungrily grasped at every thought and dream that she and Larry had ever shared.

Only short months earlier, they had lost a little girl shortly after birth and now Larry was gone. "I

just couldn't believe what was happening," Jean told us as her eyes wandered aimlessly over the floor.

Jean's troubles did not end there. Shortly after Larry passed away, their small house was flooded and the fatherless family lived for two days in the cold and damp house. Jean was pregnant then.

Finally, Social Services moved the family to Regina where they lived in a hotel room for two months until Jean could find a house to move her family into.

As time went on, Jean learned to budget her income and for awhile it seemed as if life was getting better.

Recently however, Jean's home flooded again and destroyed all of her precious Christmas decorations which had been saved from years gone by.

"I'll manage," Jean told us. "As long as we are together, I'll be happy. I usually take the children to the Christmas party at the Friendship Centre. With the food hampers I usually receive, they generally include a small gift for each of the children. It is hard but we are together and that is what counts at Christmas or any other time," Jean told us with a genuine smile on her face.

Christmas turkeys, decorations and presents all mean extra money. But for some it is virtually impossible to spend extra or give any gifts.

This year, as you are enjoying your Christmas blessings, remember those less fortunate than yourself. Open up your hearts and share the true joy that is Christmas.

There are many worthwhile organizations in every community which work to help the less fortunate have a joyous Christmas. Some of these such as the Salvation Army, the Friendship Centres and others sponsored by local merchants and service groups' will gladly accept any little help you can give to share in their task of bringing Christmas home to those who might otherwise not celebrate Christmas this year.

Seek out these charities and give whatever you can and make sure that everyone in your community has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The History Of The Christmas Tree

By Claudette Carrier



Christ's Day, or Christmas Day as it is better known, is celebrated throughout the Christian world. Each culture observes it slightly differently although most use the evergreen tree in their celebrations.

Other symbols commonly used are recreations of the birth scene or Nativity Scenes and stars which represent the star of David that led the three wise men to the birth site of the Christ child.

These symbols all have biblical roots. That being so, one must wonder how the evergreen tree, not being native to biblical lands, came to be associated with this sacred event.

The first account of an evergreen tree being used to celebrate this holy holiday season goes back to the 14th century in Russia.

The people decorated an evergreen tree with roses after which two important men of the community proceeded to carry it to the center of the village. Once they reached their destination, the two men set the tree on fire and all the villagers danced and celebrated around the burning tree.

Aside from this Russian practice, it is Germany which we must credit for developing the custom of using an evergreen tree to commemorate Christ's birth.

As Christianity spread throughout Europe, the practice of commemorating Christ's birth with the evergreen tree increased.

Early Christians had special days set aside to recognize important biblical figures. At that time, December 24th was known as Adam and Eve day. The early church often presented religious plays in an effort to educate it's illiterate parishioners. As December 24th and the feast of Adam and Eve was in the middle of winter they would use an evergreen tree with apples tied to it to repre-

sent the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden.

The following day, December 25th, was the feast of Christ's birth or Christ's Day and the evergreen tree used the previous day was still standing, and so, very naturally began to be associated with Christ's Day as well.



The people attributed magical or holy qualities to the evergreen tree because while everything else turned brown and died during the winter, the evergreen tree remained green and very much alive. As their belief in the magical and mysterious properties of the evergreen tree increased, the people began using it to celebrate other special occasions and religious observations, such as Easter and Mid Summer Day, a holiday of that age.

The art of decorating Christmas trees began a century or two later. Initial decorations were all edible. Fancy cookies, little cakes and different kinds of hard candies were often used. Some time later, decora-

tions took on a biblical meaning; each depicted a different religious figure. During the mid-nineteenth century, the practice of using lights to decorate the evergreen tree began. As electricity or electrical lights had not yet been invented, small wax candles were placed on the tree. The candles were also placed in the windows to greet strangers during the holy holiday.

Over the last fifty years the use of coloured electric lights, glass balls and tinsel to decorate the tree became more commonplace.

Until very recently, only natural trees were used as Christmas trees. However, following the industrial revolution of the 20th century which resulted in the development of synthetic materials, it was only a matter of time before the artificial Christmas tree, which is now in common use, was introduced to the marketplace.

Today, after five hundred years, the evergreen tree is as much a part of the entire Christmas tradition as midnight mass, Santa Claus and the brightly wrapped Christmas gifts. Both the natural varieties and the synthetic types are now widely available in a wide array of sizes, shapes and yes, even colours.

There is little doubt that the evergreen tree will always retain an important role in the celebration of Christmas around the world for many centuries to come. However, as our technology continues to advance at a run away pace, it would be difficult to imagine what the Christmas trees of a hundred years from now will look like.



Santa Claus Is Coming Back To Town

By Darlene LeDoux

Boy, do I have some exciting news to tell you children. I got a hot tip that Santa Claus was in town and visiting the Friendship Centre. As soon as we heard this, Tom Twist and myself hurried over there as fast as we could. Luckily, we got there before he left and we were able to have a short chat with him. I wonder, did any of you children see him sneak into town? We certainly didn't. But we sure were glad we had a chance to visit with him anyway.

He told us he was in town to check and make sure that everything was ready for the big Christmas party he has there every year. I asked him how he likes his job and he said that he really does enjoy it a lot. He said that he gets to talk to all the boys and girls, who are his favorite people and he learns a whole lot of interesting things about them. He told us that he can always tell if you've been bad or good just by looking at you and talking to you. Of course, he added that just about all children are good, especially at Christmas time.

We asked him if Mrs. Claus was going to travel with him this year and he told us he just wasn't sure yet. He added that Mrs. Claus went with him last year as there were so many children to visit and hand out gifts for, but this year she is really busy at home and isn't sure whether she'll be able to get away.

There are getting to be so many children that Santa has had to hire a whole lot more elves to make the extra gifts. It's Mrs. Claus' job to make sure that they eat all of their vegetables, wash behind their ears, get to bed on time each night and do all of their chores. As you know, elves can be very naughty and they really keep Mrs. Claus busy all year long, and especially on the biggest night of the year.



Santa told us that the reindeer are all waiting patiently for that big day to arrive so that they can fly through the air, one more time. This is a special treat for them that only comes once a year so you can imagine how anxious they are getting.

Do you know what? Somebody told me the other day that Rudolph, Santa's favorite reindeer, has a great big, shiny red nose that shines in the dark. I also heard that all the little elves have green skin. I wonder if that is really so? I have never seen Rudolph or any elves at all so I can't say. If you know for sure, why don't you write and let me know.



Regina Friendship Centre's 1986 Santa

Santa told us to remind you to go and visit him at the special Christmas party in your town. He said that maybe there will be one at your Friendship Centre like the one in Regina.

The Regina Friendship Centre is in a new building at 701-14th Avenue East. Santa told us that he will

be visiting the centre again when they hold their annual Christmas Party on December 13th. Santa added that the big party will begin at nine o'clock in the morning and continue until three o'clock in the afternoon. He said he would have to leave by that time in order to get home in time to feed the reindeer.

He asked us to remind all the children in Regina to try to get out to see him. He said that he will have a special gift for everyone who can come. So be sure to be good until Christmas...and after. Most important of all, make sure you get out to visit Santa when he visits your town this year.

Our short talk came to an end as Santa told both Tom and myself that Mrs. Claus was keeping supper warm for him and he would have to get home very shortly. With a great big smile and a happy twinkle in his eye, he told us that he would be seeing us on December 13th. Then, as we both turned to shake his hand, he suddenly vanished. Can you believe that?

Before he magically disappeared, Tom was lucky enough to snap a picture of him and that is the one at the beginning of our story. I asked Tom if I could use it in order to show all our young New Breed readers what Santa Claus really looks like.

especially me. You can be sure that I won't miss another chance to see Santa again this year. I sure hope he'll have something special in his sack for me!

We certainly hope you'll be able to come out to the party as well. Santa, Tom and myself are all looking forward to meeting you.

By the way, in case you wanted to write to Santa Claus but weren't sure of his address, we have two of them for you.

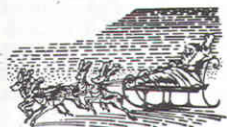
**Mr. Santa Claus
The North Pole
Canada
HOH OHO**

or

**Mr. Santa Claus
c/o Regina Friendship Centre
701-14th Avenue East
Regina, Saskatchewan**

Whichever address you use, Santa said to tell you that he will receive your letters in time for Christmas.

Impressions Of Christmas



EBONY

".....Baby Talk,.....and a kid sister."

"I like to hear his bells."

"I want a Barbie Doll, another one."



LOGAN

"I like to see him go down the chimney."

"Toys!.....A car with those wheels that go up and down.....I saw that car on a commercial before."



RYAN

"Uhm, ah,.....kid brother."

"But, but, when I get up when he comes here and I get up, and I'll see him."



DARRYL

"Eating."

"A car, a toy car."



KEVIN

"I wanta train set for Christmas.....a train that glows."

"I want some racing cars that fall off the track."



KRISTIN

"He has a mustache.....he has big beard and he lives with mooses."



Christmas With Young Mothers

By Barbara McCombie

...the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David. The virgin's name was Mary. Upon arriving, the angel said to her: "Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." She was deeply troubled by his words and wondered what his greeting meant. (Luke 1:26-29, the New American Bible)

How many single, teenaged girls have experienced mixed emotions when their doctors tell them they are pregnant? Though Mary's situation was certainly unique in that she was a virgin and destined to bring Our Saviour into the world, she too must have experienced a feeling of confused amazement upon hearing the news that she was, at that moment, carrying another life within her own body. She must also have had important plans for her life that would now change with this news.

Many single, pregnant teenagers have felt that their personal worlds were dramatically changed because now, an unplanned baby was on the way. They would have to make important decisions concerning the rearing of their child alone or placing it for adoption and praying that it was received into a loving home. If they were in school, they would have to decide whether or not they were going to continue in their education and how they were going to do that. Would they marry? Would

they keep their child? Would they return to school? All big decisions that they never realized they would be forced to face so soon in their young lives. Whatever their decisions, they would not be easy ones.

For our Christmas issue, **New Breed** approached young women who were either expecting or presently raising their babies at two very special homes in Regina. We asked them how they were planning on celebrating Christmas this year.

Thereupon, Mary set out, proceeding in haste into the hill country to the town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out in a loud voice: "Blest are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb. But who am I that the mother of the Lord should come to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby leapt in my womb for joy. Blest is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled." ...Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home.

When Elizabeth's time for delivery arrived, she gave birth to a son. (Luke 1:39-45,36-37)

Martha House is a home for single pregnant women and is owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Regina under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough. The age range of the girls is

fifteen to twenty-two years. There are presently sixteen girls living at Martha House.

Sister Jean Smith is one of the Directors of the home. She introduced **New Breed** to two of their guests who we shall refer to as Alice and Maureen.

Alice, an attractive girl with short-cropped, sunny locks and a pensive smile, is presently taking correspondence courses to achieve her grade ten status. Her baby is due in February.

Maureen on the other hand, is a radiant brunette with a refreshing sense of humor and who is not at all timid about expressing her opinions. She is also enrolled in a correspondence course and is studying to complete her twelfth grade. Maureen's baby will arrive in April.

Alice said she is really looking forward to being with her family at Christmas. Since she left her home town to live at Martha House a few months ago, she said she was experiencing feelings of homesickness. She misses her friends. She especially misses and appreciates her parents as she herself is beginning to understand some of the trials and responsibilities of parenthood.

Maureen said that she also is looking forward to returning to her family's home at Christmas. There are exams coming up in January at school, but she said she is definitely not going to study over the Christmas holiday but rather, she intends on thoroughly enjoying her time off.

Alice laughingly exclaimed, "I'm not going horseback riding this Christmas!" To which Maureen responded, "Or skating or tobogganing!" They both feel that their wings are clipped at the moment as they are both well into their terms of pregnancy. However, they both agree that they will not allow their precious bundles of joy, to weigh them down too much. They can always enjoy spontaneous conversation with loved ones and there is nothing like Mom's Christmas turkey with all the trimmings.

Alice and Maureen said that they felt fortunate that they can go home for a Christmas visit. They are sympathetic to the handful of girls who have to remain at Martha House because their babies are due right a-



round Christmas.

Sister Jean said that on one Christmas Eve, they rushed a girl to the hospital to have her baby. It certainly keeps the good sisters on the alert at Martha House where babies can be expected to arrive at any time.

This will be Sister Jean's third Christmas at Martha House. She said they always have a lovely dinner with all the girls at their annual Christmas party. Each girl will be presented with a personal Christmas stocking with all the stuffings. There will be the traditional succulent turkey dinner, complete with non-alcoholic punch, ruby-red cranberry sauce, glorious gravy and many other gastronomic delights, all served by flickering candlelight. And of course, the decor will be festive and traditional, adding to the joyous spirit, with the time honored and gayly decorated Christmas tree, trimmed to near perfection and lending it's magical presence to the entire affair.

Those girls who must remain at Christmas because their time is near will be in good company. The three good sisters at Martha House are all ready and prepared to not only assist with the possible labour and delivery at the hospital, but will help to make this Christmas a joyous one as well. The girls of Martha House and their babies are in excellent hands.

After the babies are born, the

Sr. Jean Smith, Martha House, Regina



girls can stay at Martha House for an additional month to six weeks. Some give their babies up for adoption while others return home with their new borns.

She gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where travelers lodged. (Luke 2:7)

Some young mothers decide to keep their babies and stay at the Salvation Army residence called Grace Haven. Captain Debra Beaupre, is the officer in charge of the home.

At this time, eight girls reside at Grace Haven with their babies. Captain Beaupre introduced **New Breed** to two of the girls and their adorable children.

The first young mother we met was Charity. She introduced us to her pride and joy, her precious little boy, Jonathan, who inspected the Captain's office with great enthusiasm as we talked with his mother about Christmas. While we talked, Charity completed a sparkling, red and white, beaded doll she was making to decorate the Christmas tree with.

Charity's personality is as bubbly as soda pop and she said that to her, "Christmas means fun!" We could see it will be even more fun with a comical little character like Jonathan investigating the true meaning of Christmas.

Captain Beaupre, Grace Haven, Regina



Charity and Jonathan will be spending Christmas with Charity's, grandmother who, we were assured, is an excellent cook.

Charity added that she also thought Christmas means a time of giving. Captain Beaupre later added that it is hard for the girls because they have very little money as they are for the most part, students and it is very difficult for them to buy Christmas presents. "However, the giving of love is free and much more satisfying for both the gift giver and receiver," she added.

Susan, a tall and attractive girl, held up her golden haired, one year old daughter, Elizabeth, in a proud gesture. Susan is anxious to be home with her family at Christmas where there will be well over thirty people gathered around the Christmas dinner table. She added that there would be more than enough food for everybody.

The Captain said that Grace Haven will have a Candlelight Carol Service where each of the young women will hold a candle and her child while they sing songs such as, *Away In A Manger*. Then, on Christmas Eve morning, the women and children will open gifts presented to them by the Salvation Army. At one o'clock, the women and staff have a Christmas dinner together. They later enjoy a Christmas Eve church service where they offer thanks for their many Christmas blessings.

For those girls and babies who have nowhere to go on Christmas Day, the staff have offered to take them home and share their family Christmas with them.

No one will be left alone and lonely at Grace Haven on Christmas this year.

When the angel had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us." They went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw, they understood what had been told them concerning the child. All who heard of it were astonished at the report given them by the shepherds. Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. (Luke 2:15-18)

Yesterday's Christmas

By Tom Twist

I recently had the opportunity of speaking to a number of Native elders of our community. During these conversations we began discussing Christmas today and most importantly, during the days of their youth. Many **New Breed** readers will perhaps find some degree of comfort and joy in sharing with us these memories of yesterday's Christmas.

Mrs. Jeanette Gosselin

"We used to live North of Prince Albert near Leoville. I remember when I was about eight years old, our family of six lived in a tent in the winter.

"At Christmas, we never had any candy, peanuts or oranges. There weren't any stores nearby. We had deer steaks then and we were a happy family.

"Nowadays, we have a big family gathering every year. I had twelve children of my own and adopted two sons. So, when we can all get together, it is a very special occasion with a lot of happiness."

Mrs. Agnes Stanley

"We lived on the Little Black Bear Reserve near Balcarres. My daddy used to hunt, he was a wonderful hunter, and he used to sell his furs. I remember, we used to have Indian candy, which was strips of meat which had been smoked and dried. We also had fresh cow's milk. Somehow, the milk was placed in an oven and made into a pudding. We also had mashed chokecherries which had been dried. We used to soak them and then put milk and sugar on them. And boy, was it ever good.

"I remember, we didn't have candy. I didn't get my first doll until I was nine years old. I was so proud of my doll. I never let anyone touch it but me.

"We didn't have much in those

days but we were very happy. We didn't worry about the almighty dollar. We just lived for today and let tomorrow take care of itself."



Mrs. Jeanette Gosselin



Mrs. Agnes Stanley



Mr. Maurice Pritchard

"I was born and raised in Spyhill until I was sixteen years old. I had three brothers and four sisters. I remember Christmas as a wonderful time of the year.

"Each year, we would go visiting family and friends on our horses and in our cutters. We had a lot of fun just being together.

"We used to get gifts from the Welby store as one of my sisters used to work there. We had a lot of Christmas candy. We used to hang up our socks and when we woke up, our socks were full.

"One Christmas morning I really remember was when my dad gave me a watch. I've always treasured it and I still have it today.

"Nowadays, we go and visit one of our children at Christmas. We have five daughters and eight sons. We also go and visit my brothers and sisters."

Mrs. Caroline Henry

"I was born and raised North of Balcarres. The earliest Christmas I can remember is when I was about four years old. I can remember my family making me sit on the table and there was a huge three story cake that was all decorated and had a bouquet on top. There were all kinds of pies, cakes and cookies. We had a big roast and grandma made meatballs in batter. They were so



Mrs. Caroline Henry



Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Pritchard

delicious and I remember eating all of my meatballs.

"My grandfather gave me a great big doll and my grandmother gave me a bunch of change. This is when coins were just small little things.

"We used to fill the sleigh with hay and hitch up the team of horses and go to mass and visit our other grandparents and relatives where we would eat some more.

"I remember that it used to be such a lovely time of the year.

"Today, I usually go to one of my daughter's homes and visit with the grandchildren. It's a feeling of experiencing that special feeling of togetherness."



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A HAPPY HOLIDAY WISH

FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF

ASSOCIATED PRINTERS

IN REGINA



As you wander out to share the festive season with loved ones and friends we wish you the happiest and most joyous of experiences.

As you travel home from these special times we urge you to remember the children travelling with you or waiting for you at home. For thier sakes, please plan to arrive safely. Don't drink and drive, please!!!



We thank you and the New Breed for past patronage and we look forward to serving all your printing needs in the future.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF

FANTASTIC PHOTO

IN REGINA



Our greatest wish for you during this sacred season is that will create festive memories which will last throughout the New Year and beyond.

As these memories unfold, we invite you to allow us to record them for you with the extra special care and attention with which they deserve.

We thank you for allowing us to serve you through the NEW BREED and we look forward to serving your personal photographic needs in the months and years ahead.

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Poetry

MY LITTLE ANGELS

*Twinkle, Twinkle little star
up above the Christmas tree
in Grandma's house
Twinkle, twinkle little star
shine your light upon
my little angels' faces
fill their lonely hearts
with joy and happiness
Comfort them through the night
when I am not there
to hold them close to me
and to kiss their fears away*

*Twinkle, twinkle little star
watch over my little angels
this Christmas day
Twinkle, twinkle little star
take care of my little angels
till I am home with them again.
(for Ryan, Leah and Lance)*

By Lisa Pelletier

CHRISTMAS AT THE LAKE

*For me, there is nothing quite like
Christmas at the lake
especially, the growing excitement
of the night before
Kids, some who are not quite so
young, all captured in its' wake
stolen smiles, wide eyed kids, rein-
deer from a distant northern shore
Morningtime, the moon's light still
visible on the silver snow
it is too cold to get up, there's frost
on the window pane
so, why am I sitting here watching
the twinkling tree lights glow?*

*How wonderful to get caught up in
the simpleness of one child
a Saviour king, a star, His love, to-
day I remember...I know!*

*The sun is up, the stockings full, the
magic day has come
the voices of kids, stomping little
feet, then, open the door!*

*"Where's my sock? Did you see
Santa? I saw the reindeer run!"*

*Big kids smiling sheepishly, "Let's
open the gifts on the floor!"*

*Pretty paper all over but dad says
it's good firewood*

*there's a knock on the door, rela-
tives spreading good wishes
handshakes, hearty laughs,
murmured blessings in Cree-God is
good*

*The kitchen buzzez, the cooks at
work, Yikes! Dirty dishes*

*God's gifts to me - health, family,
love and Christmas time at the lake.*

By Bonita Beatty

CHRISTMAS MORNING

*The crispness of the morning rings
in my ears
as the cold, fresh, winter wind slaps
against my window
causing it to rattle and shake with an
awakening presence*

*Though much too early to be
awake, I am not alone
for I hear happy childhood sounds
all around my sleepiness
and I suddenly remember, this is not
a morning like the rest*

*I slide from beneath the secure
warmth of an ancient feather-filled
blanket*

*as my feet blindly stumble around
looking for the warmth of padded
slippers*

*so they can escape the ice like floor
beneath them*

*Tired arms attack too small arm
holes of a moth eaten robe*

*as a tired body rises to reluctantly
meet a longer day than most*

*and though tired, there is an excite-
ment in being here today, so early*

*As I open the door to my sleeping
cell I feel a new excitement*

*the sounds, the smells and the sights
are the cause*

And I suddenly wonder why I hesitated at all

*The magic of the morning casts its happy spell upon me
as I greet the happy faces and squealling voices with equal enthusiasm*

I too am suddenly part of the spirit that is Christmas morning

By Judith Quill

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Not the wealthiest men within the establishment give

But more like misers, hoard their treasure troves

*In temples erected to Mammon who pays semi annual dividends
to his faithful chosen and special favor*

*In the form of plastic talismans bearing numerical inscriptions
that insure its holder blue or red carpet passage*

secure to the ends of the earth or privileged consideration for a much sought seat

*on some future expedition of a moon shuttle flight
as a casual observer*

Those who come from poor beginnings

who give no wasted time to such frivolity

of wishes best left unfulfilled by anyone having common sense

These yet, when fortune smiles upon them

*make the best of philanthropists still and with heart for they care not for tax deductible charity farces
that make mockery of the gift.*

By V. Fourwinds



New Breed/December/1986

A Northern, Country Christmas

By Don Devine



A Northern Winter Wonderland

Do you remember Christmas in the country? Most people, even city dwellers, have some image or distant memory of a country Christmas holiday. There is something romantically magical about the snow laden trees, the glistening frost in the air and the distant, echoing sound of approaching sleighbells.

Christmas in the country was, and still is a time to renew the loving bond between family members and

friends. It is a time of spiritual renewal. All family members, who may be separated by many miles, old disagreements and hurt feelings, make every effort to overcome whatever obstacles stand in the way of enjoying the happiest of holidays with all their brothers and sisters, regardless of blood bonds, with whom they feel closest.

Midnight mass has always played a very vital role in the Christmas

celebrations of many New Breed readers, especially those living in or near a city, town or other community. The entire family would often travel by horse drawn sleighs, across frozen lakes and snow covered fields to join with their neighbors at church where they would acknowledge the spiritual and scriptural significance of this family festival which is steeped in Christian tradition. These trips to midnight mass often took many hours in the coldest of winter conditions. Families would often leave in the early evening and not return until the morning sun was threatening to raise its glistening head above the rim of the frozen horizon.

Mr. Joe Amyotte of Regina remembers attending three Christmas Eve church services, on the same evening. The family wouldn't arrive home until four in the morning or even later.

Joe remembers when Christmas was much less commercial than it is today due to the deplorable economic conditions of communities back then. There was little if any money and gifts and goodies were most often a product of somebody's ingenuity, hard work and sacrifice rather than an absent minded trip to the local mall with your credit card in your hand. Gifts would often consist of an orange, perhaps some nuts or a bit of home baking. Though seemingly sparse by today's elaborate standards, these gifts were somehow more precious than the latest electronic gizmo or expensive piece of art one would more likely receive today.

Unless you lived in the North, where evergreen trees are as plentiful as dandelions in the Southern regions of the province, Christmas trees were seldom seen as they would most often be too expensive to buy and too far away to cut down yourself. Joe and his family saw their first Christmas tree when they moved to Regina in 1952.

Mr. Cliff LaRocque remembers Christmas in the country as a young boy. Vehicles were just about unheard of and horseback and horse drawn carriages or sleighs were the usual mode of transportation used by the family to get around. On Christmas Eve, the early evening

landscape would be dotted with families wrapped in layers and layers of blankets and quilts and bundled on horse drawn sleighs on their way to the nearest church to join in community prayer for the annual midnight mass. Cliff told us that Christmas then, as it still is in many circles, was for the most part, seen as a time for the children. New Year's celebrations were then reserved for adult merriment.

He added that the traditional Christmas meal involved a lot of care and preparation and everyone joined in to help. Much of the food preparation and cooking was completed on Christmas Eve to allow more time for visiting with family and friends on Christmas day.

Ahab Spence told us, that Christmas in the North was a very special time for everyone. On Christmas Eve, all the townsfolk would travel across the frozen lake to the reserve to visit and celebrate the holiday with family and friends. These celebrations included midnight mass, tobogganing for the children and restful visiting for the adults until early dawn. He added that Christmas always brought the community together in a very special way.

It has always been a common Native tradition for the elders to be served the Christmas meal first, after which the children would gather around the festive table setting to enjoy the lovingly prepared traditional foods. This is a gesture of respect for the elders, whose wisdom and remembrances are especially treasured at this time.

The meal was often followed by a glass of wine, offered in a toast to the holiday season, as well as health and prosperity for loved ones.

For many of us, even if only for those few weeks when Christmas is most on our minds, the message of this special time is that of love as we recall that love alone has the power to affect any real change in the world.

This is encouraged as we recall the true significance of this blessed and joyous holiday and recall that it is the celebration of One's birth who's demonstration of love is for many, still the most powerful force in our lives.



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L to R - Dominic LaFontaine, Mary Pitawanakwat, Edwin Pelletier, Ed nofield.

Happy Holidays from SNCC Board of Directors

It is with pleasure that the Board of the Saskatchewan Native Communications (Wehtamatowin) Corporation extends Season Greetings to the readers of New Breed magazine.

The Board and staff are proud to be part of a 17 year history of the publication of New Breed which began as a two page newsletter in the back offices of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan. Those who took part in the initial efforts of the paper are to be commended for having the foresight and commitment to see the need for information and exchange amongst Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people.



Even though it has been many years since the first publication of New Breed was available, the problems remain the same. There is still a need for an efficient communications system for Aboriginal people and never enough funds to achieve that goal. However, the commitment amongst staff and board members, remains the same as those who began this effort many years ago. The Board and staff look forward to working with you this coming year.

May peace and happiness be yours at Christmas and may many good things happen to you in the New Year. Happy Holidays!



Season's Greetings from the management and staff of SNCC

All the staff at Saskatchewan Native Communications (Wehtamatowin) Corporation, have appreciated the opportunity of working for and with you this past year and we will continue to do our best in 1987.

We wish each and everyone of you only good things at Christmas and in the New Year.

Christmas is a time of sharing with family and friends, but too often, we forget about those who may be lonely and those who don't have as much as we do. Let's all make an extra effort to reach out to those who are less fortunate than we are and make this Christmas a truly meaningful one.



L to R - top row - Tom Twist, Ray Liebel, Brian Sinclair, J-P (Jean-Paul) Claude, Don Devine, Centre Row - Claudette CARRIER, DARLENE LeDoux, Tina LaRose, Barbara McCombie, Bottom Row - Yvonne Nagy, Joan Betty, Joanne Amyotte.



Behold,
I bring you

good tidings
of great joy, which shall be to
all people. For unto you is born
this day in the city of **D**avid
a **S**aviour, which is

CHRIST the **LORD**