

A

Introduction

In Elkhorn, Manitoba, on October 31, 1989, there occurred the death of Sybil, wife of a former Residential School staff member, Claude Tutthill. The family requested The Rev'd Daniel Umpherville (a former student at the Residential School and friend of the family), to conduct the Burial Service.

Following the Service, Daniel, with Bernard Tutthill and Ernest (Flett) Hall accompanying him, decided to visit some of his former schoolmates living on Sioux Valley Reserve at Griswold, Manitoba. During the visit someone of the group expressed the idea that it would be good to hold a reunion of former students and staff members of the Residential School. A committee was formed consisting of: Doris (Dowan) Pratt; Ernest (Flett) Hall, Rev'd Daniel Umpherville, Ina (Pratt) Whitecloud, Kathleen (Dowan) Stevenson, Etta and Bernard Tutthill. A notice of the planned reunion was sent out to the various Manitoba Reserves requesting favourable reaction.

In March, 1990, the author learned of the committee's plans and offered his services to help advertise and promote the reunion. He also offered to write a history of the Residential School, something he had wanted to do down through the years following his time spent as a Church Army Officer in charge of the Parish of Elkhorn and as a staff member of the Residential School 1944-1946.

The reason for telling this story of the two Residential Schools once located in Elkhorn is perhaps summed up in the words of the commemorative plaque placed upon the cairn situated on the grounds of the Elkhorn Automobile Museum. See following page.



1st ISSUE - JULY 19,1990

All of the materials recorded in this book with the exception of that in chapter M, were researched, compiled, typed, and the original sixty-five copies, printed, collated and bound within a time period of less than five months. This to meet a deadline date corresponding with the July 20-21, 1990 Reunion of former students and staff members of the Anglican Indian Residential School which was once located at Elkhorn, Manitoba 1888-1949.

2nd ISSUE - JANUARY 15,1991

This present issue, the second, contains a revised chapter M in which are recorded the events that took place during the July, 1990 Reunion. This chapter also expresses an appeal for future recognition of the school site and the recording of its historical value.

* Note - Chapter M has been produced in supplemental form and will thus be found in a slightly different format to the other chapters in the book.

3rd ISSUE - JUNE 30,1997

This third issue contains the story of the second school reunion that was held during the month of August, 1995, plus a section on one of the most beloved teachers ever to have graced the halls of learning in the institution known as The Anglican Indian Residential School, Elkhorn, Manitoba. And
THE SPIRIT LEVES ON.



In Elkhorn, Manitoba
The Anglican Church of Canada established
the Washakada Industrial School - 1888-1918

and the

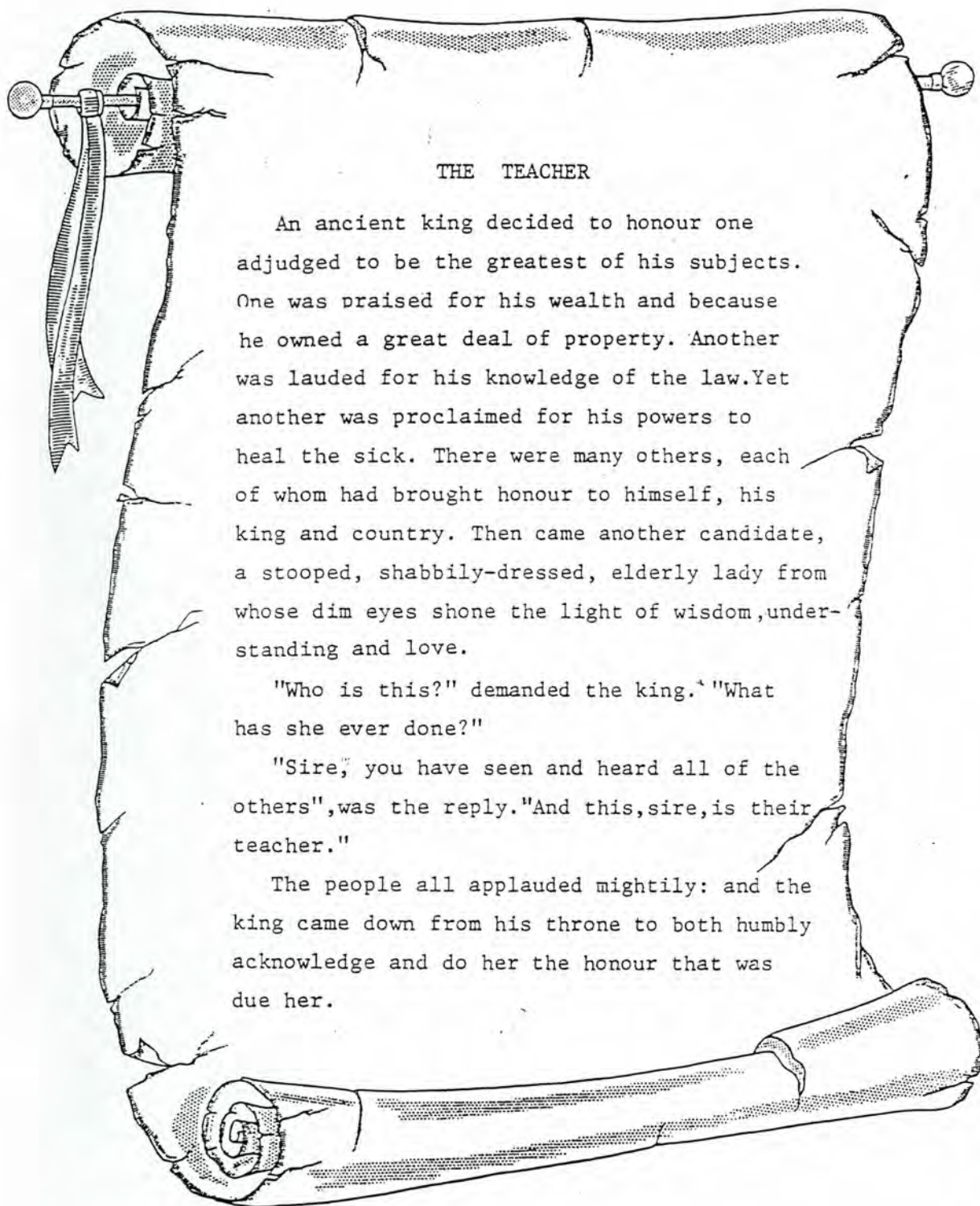
Anglican Indian Residential School 1921-1949
S.E. 4 - 12 - 28

From these halls of learning there graduated many pupils of Indian ancestry: some who were to serve their country with honour and distinction in wars throughout the world and others who became clergy, teachers, nurses, lawyers, leaders, chiefs and councillors and strong community and family builders both on their home reserves and throughout Canada.

Erected by 1990 Reunion Committee

AND THE SPIRIT LIVES ON





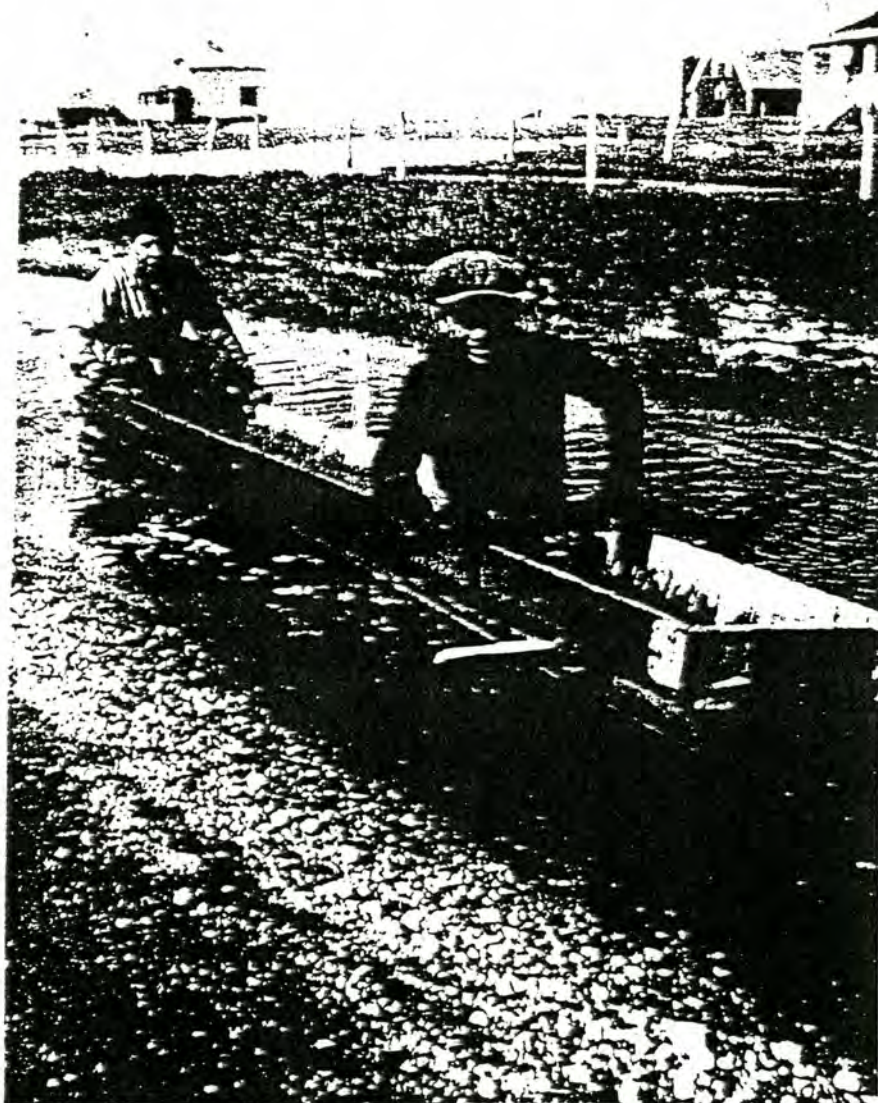
THE TEACHER

An ancient king decided to honour one adjudged to be the greatest of his subjects. One was praised for his wealth and because he owned a great deal of property. Another was lauded for his knowledge of the law. Yet another was proclaimed for his powers to heal the sick. There were many others, each of whom had brought honour to himself, his king and country. Then came another candidate, a stooped, shabbily-dressed, elderly lady from whose dim eyes shone the light of wisdom, understanding and love.

"Who is this?" demanded the king. "What has she ever done?"

"Sire, you have seen and heard all of the others", was the reply. "And this, sire, is their teacher."

The people all applauded mightily: and the king came down from his throne to both humbly acknowledge and do her the honour that was due her.



Spring - Water-filled ditch - Drinking trough -
Adventurous boys - Innovative spirit - Success -
Fun and Happy boys.

I
The Hiltz Year

MR. RALPH E. HILTZ

Following an advisory inspection of the School by The Rev'd Canon House, Principal of the Residential School at Gleichen, Al'ta, the Commission appointed Mr. Ralph E. Hiltz as Acting Principal with Miss Jean Hives as Acting Head Matron. The two made an excellent team. Both were young, energetic and progressive-minded.

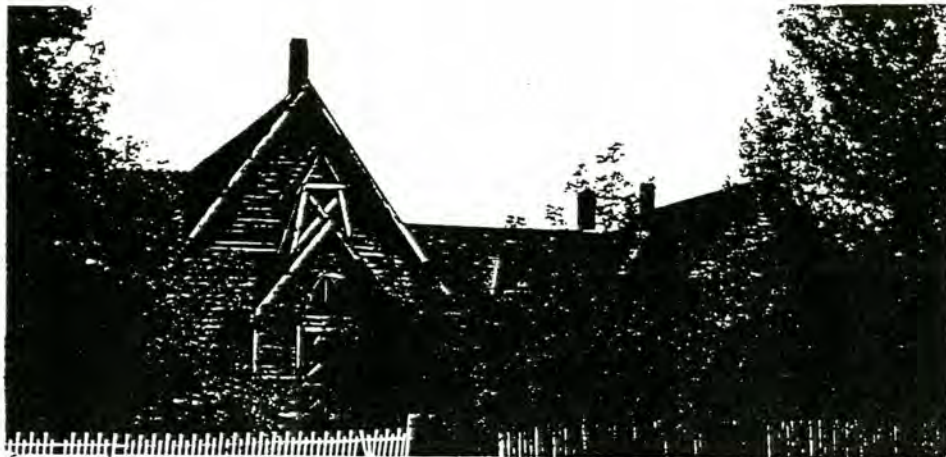
The highly critical report that had been made of the School the previous April by Dr. Simes of the Indian Department was immediately acted upon. The Commission then received another report that the new Acting Principal "had made an excellent start and had already corrected many matters commented upon adversely in the (April) report". And that "the Department were at last considering a large expenditure on the building which should greatly improve it and the prospects for the future were much brighter."

In September the School staff was joined by two new members, Carl Dahl as Farm Instructor and Claude Tuthill as Gardener, the latter beginning seven years of dedicated service to the School. Captain Miller boarded with the Dahls and so came to live in close proximity to the School. Thus enabling him to volunteer even more of his services.

Cupboards were cleared of old outdated and useless bedding, towels and clothing. Those of wool were sent to Selkirk where they were turned into a carpet for the rectory floor.

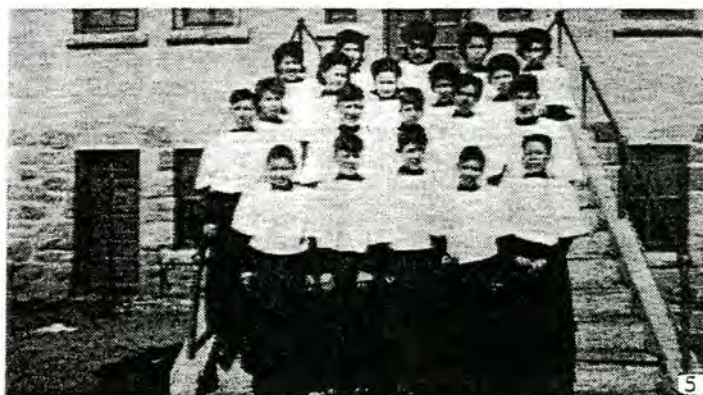
Hallway doors, previously locked, were left unlocked, thus creating easier access to areas throughout the School and a greater sense of trust and confidence in the children. New coverings of battleship linoleum were laid on floors and stairways.

A new Chapel, used for daily services of Morning and Evening Prayer, was located in a small room opposite the School office.



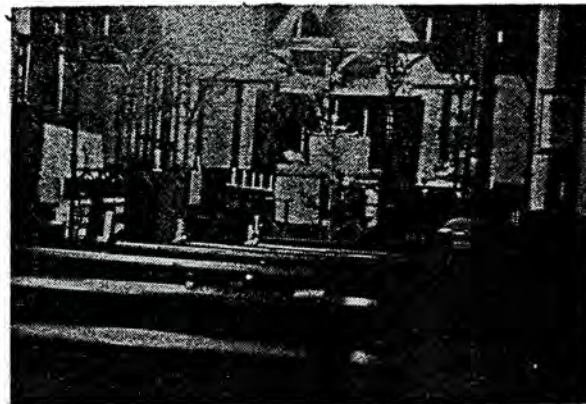
The Senior children regularly attended Sunday evening services in the Parish Church of St. Mark's. No longer did they occupy the Annex area, but sat and worshipped in the Nave along with other members of the congregation.

Mr. Hiltz even made a request of the Commission that they consider naming the School after the Parish Church of St. Mark's. Although not officially approved, the School began to be referred to as St. Mark's Indian Residential School.



By December, a choir, under the direction of Miss Gibney, had been formed and material obtained with which to make cassocks and surplices.

A Girl Guide Company had also been formed and a renewed sense of pride and well-being prevailed amongst the Senior Girls.



Early Christmas Eve, all of the staff and children attended a special Christmas Candle-light service in St. Mark's Church with the newly-formed School Choir bedecked in their new red cassocks and white surplices. These had been specially made in readiness for the occasion by staff members and the girls of the Senior Sewing class under the direction of the Sewing Matron, Miss Hilda Corder.

1945

January 1st, 1945 initiated a year of increased activity, excitement and great changes in the life of the School and of those who worked and dwelt in it. A new sense of co-operation and comaraderie began to emerge and prevail throughout the entire School. Captain Miller, (an experienced athletic's coach) began to spend more time at the School in his role of volunteer boy's activity director and, in spite of the fact that no equipment existed for use in the new activity rooms, he was able to initiate recreation programs for the boys to participate in. A boxing program was developed. A number of old skates were secured and a hockey team organized. This team played against a team of similar age boys in the town rink with creditable results. The Seniors were allowed to take in the Saturday night film presentation held in town in the hall above McLeod's Store.

Captain Miller became more involved with the boys' supervision. In addition to providing night time supervision and activity programs, he also

became quite adept to the art of snare construction when the boys involved him in trips into the bush areas around the School where they set snares to catch rabbits. When successful in their trapping ventures they always found, in the person of their friend Mrs. Oakey, one who was willing to prepare and cook their catch.

Usually amongst the members of the School staff would be found one who possessed a talent or skill that they would pass on to others. Such was the case with Miss Gibney and Miss Dixon of the teaching staff, and Miss Corder, the Sewing Matron. All three passed on their music skills; Miss Gibney with voice and choir; Miss Dixon with round and square dancing and Miss Corder with Highland Dancing. And there were others who, through the sharing of their talents, helped to enrich the lives of many of the children. In February Miss Dixon started to have dances for the boys and girls usually on Friday nights. It wasn't easy for there was a great deal of shyness, real and pretended, displayed during this session, but at least and at last, these young people were experiencing the breakdown of out-dated attitudes that had tended to keep them apart in almost all aspects of "free time" school life. No doubt, this breakdown was, in no small measure, due to the fact the so many of the staff members were themselves only a few years older than the Senior boys and girls and could better understand their wishes, feelings and needs for fellowship and socialization.



The inter-relationship of the Residential School and the community of Elkhorn was further enhanced and strengthened when on March 16th the Elkhorn High School students staged what, in the eyes of the reporter for the Elkhorn Mercury newspaper, was "the most successful School program The Elkhorn Mercury has recorded throughout the entire thirty-three years it has given this town and district."

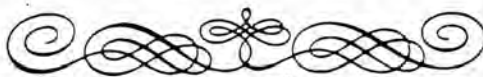
Three of the people involved in that presentation were two High School students from the Residential School; Annabelle Stranger and Ina Pratt and the volunteer activity director, Captain Miller.

The following quotes are the words of the reporter of that night:-

"Then followed the pantomime, "The Girl With Too Many Beaus," excellently portrayed by Annabelle Stranger, who gracefully made the first entry, with Bob Cowan featuring a coat rack, Blair Lund a table, Frank Williams an arm-chair. The abrupt entry of Stanley Matychuk, who bumped over the coat rack, knocked down the table and fell into the chair, wrecking the entire household."

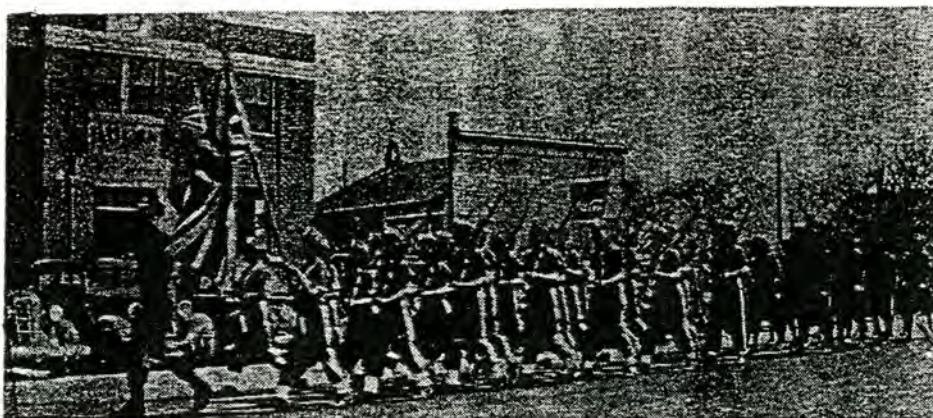
"The outstanding feature of the programme was decidedly "Rendezvous," a well-appointed number played under a system of colored lights, and skillfully directed by Captain H.B. Miller, C.A. This displayed scenic beauty, graceful dancing, rhythm and good singing. Howard Loewan, Winelda Gardiner, Amy Mallet, Ina Pratt, Pat Naylen, Helen Matychuk, Jean Frazer, Garry Corbett and Lionel Middleton contributed well in this splendid item."

Both of these resident High School students, Annabelle and Ina, through their poise, deportment and academic skills, had a distinct influence on the people of Elkhorn enabling them to better understand the desire and ability of young people of Indian heritage to reach the same academic and social goals that their own children sought.



May proved to be an exciting and event-filled month for both the School and the community. Word came that the German army had surrendered and Victory in Europe became a reality. Horns blew, bells rang, people shouted and danced with joy. A Community-wide Service of Thanksgiving was arranged for the evening. St. Mark's Church was filled to overflowing. The annex was re-opened and the entire Residential School student body, led by their robed choir, filled it to capacity; while townspeople filled the church body to overflowing. All were anxious to raise their voices in Thanksgiving to God that the awful conflict was finally at an end and loved ones could now return home.

Following the church service, the children and staff returned to the School, but their day's celebrations were not over. A torchlight parade was hastily arranged. Then, with boys mounted on horseback, banners waving, torches burning, children singing, the entire student body, led by Principal Hiltz, wound their way from the School, throughout the town and back to the School. The day was over, but the joy and celebrations had only begun.



Later on that week, a gigantic Victory Parade was organized. Leading the parade was the Residential School Cadet Corps, under the leadership of Mr. Bert Hartley, the School Engineer and Cadet Commander. Immediately following the Cadets were the Residential School Girl Guides, then the Elkhorn Air Cadets and the various Community and District schools and organizations.

Principal wrote to the Commission in May requesting that Captain Miller be employed as part-time boys' supervisor to compensate him for the amount of time he was now spending in his work with the School. This request was placed under consideration.



Principal Hiltz, having stage, dance and drama experience, had been greatly impressed by the performance of the High School Drama night held in March. He decided to show the townspeople that the students of the Residential School could, if given the opportunity, do just as well. And with the Graduation Exercises held on June 22nd, he proved this to be true.

The excitement of the V.E. Day celebrations being over, Mr. Hiltz set about to develop a stage presentation to be held before the general public in the Elkhorn Stadium as a climax to the events of Graduation Day.

The following is the copy contained in the Souvenir Programme produced for that Day. It alone tells the story:-

Programme Graduating Exercises

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

ELKHORN - - MANITOBA

JUNE 22nd, 1945



- 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
9:00 a.m. Presentation of diplomas to Graduates—Awards of Merit
9:30 a.m. Parade
10:00 a.m. Races
12:30 a.m. Banquet



- 2:30 p.m. Cadet and Guide Inspection
3:00 p.m. P. T. Display — Boxing
4:00 p.m. Racing Finals — Presentation of Prizes
5:30 p.m. Buffet Lunch
6:30 p.m. Ball Game



- 8:30 p.m. Original 3-Act Ballet.
Original Ballet — "The Moon Goddess."
Original Cast — Entirely Student



A Dramatic Spectacle of the Princess Wagaska (Little One), a Pagan who is wooed and won by a Christian brave Amugkapiaska (White Cloud), in which, torn from the old practises of Paganism, they find peace and happiness in the new life.

Souvenir Programme

ST. MARK'S INDIAN SCHOOL

presentation of

"Moon Goddess"

Only and original all Indian Ballet



For your added pleasure

THE CHAPEL CHOIR

presents

"Sanctus"

A meditation in music and colour

SANCTUS

A striking scene of light and music featuring the singing of Gounod's "Ave Maria" by Miss Margaret Gibney accompanied by the Chapel Choir, followed by an unaccompanied arrangement of Malotte's "The Lord's Prayer."

Appealing to the eye and ear, it is a solemn moment which speaks of peace to come.



CHOIR

Annabelle Stranger
Ina Pratt
Melita Thomas
Gladys Taylor
Doreen Taylor
Betty Stranger
Katherine Paul
Audrey White
Ethel Chaske
Rose Keyewahken

David Stranger
Freeman Stranger
Andrew Kirkness
Denis Stranger
Walter Noel
Burman Pratt
George Chaske
Gordon Lathlin
Freddie Ironman
Lawrence Whitehead

Choir Mistress: Miss Margaret Gibney

OUR AIM

In producing Moon Goddess it has been our aim to put before the public for their approval, something different in the field of entertainment; but more than that, it has taught these children to whom, often, there comes little opportunity for such things; confidence and independence. They are capable and should have the chance to develop latent talents which are surely here presented.

In one short month this show has been organized, trained, and staged with ordinary children all under the age of sixteen. If this can be accomplished in so short a time, it is proof enough that a show on a Dominion basis, picking talent from all the Indian Schools and bringing them together in one school for six months, training them, then begin a Canadian tour from Coast to Coast. During this time they should also receive schooling in classroom work.

We are sure this would put the Indian in and before the public in a much better standing than many receive them now, and that when possibilities are known and promoted, would raise considerably their own morale to make them better citizens and good Canadians.

We would appreciate any remarks on this subject and suggestions for its continuance to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

R. E. Hiltz,
Director,



The last Church Service before leaving home for holidays was outdoors on June 25th. The guest preacher, Miss Maxted of the Sunday School by Post Van assisted by Miss Betsy Ewing, the Van helper.



A TRIP TO REMEMBER

By Captain Harry B. Miller, C.A.

Graduation over, excitement gripped the young people as they prepared to go home for holidays. It was raining on Wednesday, June 28th; in fact it had been raining on and off for a day. At 8:30 p.m. that night the pupils who were to go to The Pas and up the Churchill line were put on the School bus to Neepawa and there the children were to board the train that would carry them home. It was raining when they left Elkhorn and it was raining when they arrived at Neepawa, there to find that someone has been misinformed and the train would not be arriving until the following night.

What to do? Confusion abounded. Phone calls back to the School were of little use. The children going north of The Pas would have to catch the train the next day. Finally it was decided that those going up the Churchill line should be taken by the School bus to The Pas; the others would return to Elkhorn and there wait until the bus returned.

Following a short conference between drivers and supervisors, it was decided that Mr. Tuthill and I would drive and Miss Corder would ride in the back and care for the children's needs. We would travel west to Binscarth

and then straight north to The Pas. In the darkness of early morning, the bus pulled away from the Neepawa station; and still it rained. The wet and often slippery gravel road was hard to drive on and little speed could be made. With wipers going, eyes straining to see the road in the poor light, and a precious load to consider, the time and the miles passed slowly by. Morning broke and still the rain came down.

Arriving at Binscarth, we took a short refreshment break, and then back on the road again. The driving became a little easier in the day light but still the rain came down and little speed could be gained. At around three in the afternoon we arrived at St. Faith's House in Swan River where the Bishop's messengers kindly provided refreshments for all. And still it rained.

Shortly after leaving Swan River we came upon a stretch of new road construction. It was muddy and the truck bogged down. Try as we might we could not free the bus from the mud. The children were unloaded and with Miss Corder walked on ahead to the point where construction stopped. Mr. Tuthill and I continued to try and free the bus but to no avail; the more we tried the deeper the wheels sank.

Finally, after what seemed hours, we found a farmer and requested help. The man was friendly and upon learning of our plight was only too willing to assist us. And with the tractor pulling the bus was soon back on a more firm roadbed.

Night began to fall. The condition of the road and the combined weight of the children and the bus body forced us to travel no faster than ten to fifteen miles an hour. And, of course, with so many children on board, there were always those necessary stops with the boys and girls each heading into the bush on opposite sides of the road. Night fell and the rain came down. Every post marking each mile between Swan River and The Pas became a welcome sight. Finally at nine o'clock on Friday morning we landed in The Pas.

Throughout the whole ordeal, the children had been amazingly well-behaved and Miss Corder, who looked after their needs throughout the entire journey, was superb.

Practically the whole of Friday was spent in making certain that The Pas children were looked after; the children from Moose Lake and Cedar Lake cared for until their parents arrived and then, at last, that those going north up the Churchill line were safely on board the train that would carry them home.

There was to be no rest for the three weary adults. We must get back to Elkhorn, or so we felt; another load of children would be eagerly waiting to be transported to The Pas and home and holidays. So, without rest, we boarded the bus late in the afternoon and headed south. It had stopped raining and although the weight on the bus was less, the road was still in horrible condition and that construction spot between Bowsman and Swan River had to be traversed. Speed was still a problem. We drove all night. Arriving at Swan River, we saw a passenger train pull into the station but we kept on going.

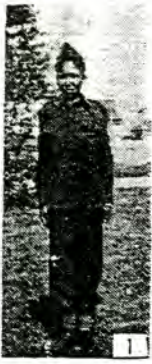
Saturday morning, we arrived at Binscarth where we were greeted by Miss Corder's parents, and where she was to stay. A fairly lengthy time was taken to eat and freshen up. Then back on the road again. Finally we arrived back at our destination, the Residential School at Elkhorn, at 5:00 p.m.; there to find that the remainder of the children had already been sent on to The Pas by train. The same train that we had seen pull into the station at Swan River.

And so came to a conclusion a "Trip to Remember".



Mr. Hiltz had previously been notified that a new Principal had been appointed and thus his services would no longer be required. He left Elkhorn on Monday, July 4th, leaving Captain Miller in charge of the School until his replacement arrived.

While Mr. Hiltz had been Acting Principal for only ten months, several events of a historical nature had taken place. Many signs of progress and improvement were also evident in both the physical and administrative nature of the School which made it much easier for his successor, the Rev'd B.O.G. Dixon to take up the reigns of leadership.*



The 1945-46 Cadet Corps of the Anglican Residential School
Elkhorn, Manitoba. Mr. Bert Hartley - Instructor.

I

The Dixon Years

THE REV'D B.O.G. DIXON

The Rev'd B.O.G. Dixon, the newly-appointed Principal, arrived to take charge of the School on July 29th. Mr. Dixon had been Senior Teacher at the School in 1940.

September witnessed the children returning to some rather startling changes. Mr. Dixon's views of Residential School Education were quite innovative and he did not hesitate to put them into practice.

Several new staff members appeared on the scene and Captain Miller was finally appointed a full-time worker at the School while continuing to serve the Parish, with Mr. Dixon as Priest-in-charge. In addition to his supervising and activity work, Captain Miller was requested to and accepted, the task of teaching an up-grading class consisting of older pupils who did not comfortably fit in with the younger children in their grade level. It proved to be an undertaking that was both challenging and rewarding. This class was conducted on a half-day, morning only basis and was held in the old power house, which, no longer used, had been turned into a classroom. There were ten pupils, all utilizing desks that had been manufactured out of wooden boxes by their teacher.

Some of the innovations introduced by the new Principal:-

The boys and girls were no longer to be confined to their respective play areas, but were allowed to mix together during various recreation periods.

Arrangements were made that allowed most of the pupils to attend all-day classroom sessions. Evening classes in handicrafts were arranged for those girls who were in classroom during the day.

The Principal had breakfast with the students, while other staff members ate their noon day meal with the children, each supervising a table.

The staff were allowed more time off, with those living in the vicinity of the School allowed to go home for the weekends.

There was no Head Matron. The Principal taking over that duty, assisted by an office Secretary.

Other activities such as Choir, Guides, Cadets, Citizenship Classes continued:

More playground activities were introduced.

When Colonel Mermagen had inspected the School he had reported: "One of the major difficulties in keeping our children clean has been keeping an eye on the soap as well as trying to keep them using their own towels. In a school, or even a household where more than a half dozen children are involved, this becomes a problem because soap has so many ideal uses in the manufacture of tractors, stabilization of spit-balls and what not. The towels, on the other hand, appear clean only on the first day they are hung up, as well as being an ideal medium for transmission of infectious skin diseases. Mr. Phelan agreed that these difficulties should and could receive attention and authorized expenditures totalling \$600.00 (refundable by the Indian Affairs Branch) to pay for the installation of lather soap systems and paper towels, in six of our schools; (one of which was Elkhorn)."

A TRAGEDY

A tragedy that shocked the entire staff and student body took place on Saturday, October 27th. It was a bright, sunny day and children were all out on the playground occupied in a variety of activities. On the girls' side of the School some of the younger girls, in a carefree and happy mood, were enjoying their turn on the swings. All of a sudden, and while enjoying her turn, little ten year old Annie McGillivary, while swinging forward and up-

ward, released her grip on the ropes and in so doing fell backwards landing on her neck. The children immediately called out for her sister, Irene and Ina Pratt. Annie, seemingly only dazed, and assisted by Irene and Ina, walked up the stairs to the Dormitory and got on her bed. The doctor was called and responded as quickly as possible. It was to no avail. Little Annie had broken her neck and as a result passed away shortly thereafter. Her older sisters, Irene and Louise, along with brother Ronald were devastated. Staff and fellow pupils did their best to comfort them. The whole School was in shock for days after. Annie's body was returned to her home and grieving parents and the following Saturday was buried in the cemetery on the Reserve at The Pas.

School life slowly returned to normal and the regular procedures carried on. When cold weather set in Mr. Hartley and the Senior boys set about building the skating rink, where much of the winter recreation activities took place. Usually the older boys played hockey while the Senior girls were busy with Guides, handicrafts and Citizenship meetings. The younger boys and girls always found enjoyment in sliding down the snowbanks. It was a happy life.



Appeals for assistance in fighting hunger in the war-torn areas of the world, especially in Europe were constantly being made. One of these appeals was to produce the following story, which the author wrote down immediately after the event happened.

Miss Sims, the girls' supervisor, had placed on the walls of her store-room a picture of a little Dutch girl, her hands folded, saying grace. In front of her was a plate upon which rested a piece of bread or meat. That was all the food on the table. The background depicted a scene of bombed-out tragedy as through a hole blasted in the walls of a little Dutch home.

Day after day, three small children would enter the store-room after the others had gone to school, look up at the picture for a few moments in silence, then one of them would say: "The poor little girl - she's starving isn't she?"

At no time was money ever mentioned to these children, yet the following is the result of that little daily meditation.



DORIS
AND THE
STARVING BABIES

By Captain H. Miller, C.A.

"Civilization moves forward on the feet
of little children"

If I were allowed to take no other memory from Elkhorn this one would, I believe, compensate for the lack of all others.

Softly Doris, the pretty, coy, little Indian twin of five summers, moved up to me, her face lightened with a shy little smile, her steps hesitant, yet with intense seriousness marking her every move. "Cap", she said (most of the children called me "Cap"); "Cap, I'd like to get three cents from my bank, please".

Lifting her up on the office table I asked, "And what do you want three cents for?" Her head went down and a little murmur I couldn't catch issued from her lips as shyly she tried to tell me. "What would you like the three cents for?" I again asked. "For the babies". "What babies?" Once again I failed to grasp the shy little voice so once more I asked. This time, very faintly, I caught the words "the starving babies."

Bless her little heart. A lump caught at my throat as I thought of the innocent little native child wanting to give of her few pennies to help feed the starving little ones of Europe. Three cents against millions of mouths. Yet it is these three cents that make the basis of the millions needed.

"You bet you can have three cents". And going to the bank I took them and placed them in her little hand. "Good girl" and I gave her a hug. "And where are you going to put them?" I asked. Softly came the answer: "In the yellow dish."

I talked with her a little longer and when she began playing with her three coppers I said, "You'd better put those in the yellow dish or you'll be losing them". Once more her little head bent down. After a few minutes I again repeated "You better go and put them in the yellow dish". "Where is the yellow dish?" I asked. This time I could hardly see the lips moving. So once again I asked and finally caught the word, "Chapel". Then a light broke over me. I had thought the "yellow dish" was something in the playroom but it wasn't, it was the Chapel Alms Basin. So taking the little one by the hand I said, "Well, come on then, I'll take you in".

As I opened the Chapel door I felt the little hand, placed so shyly in my own, tighten. The little body began to shake as she drew back. It reminded me so much of the times when I have gone to God's House alone and could feel the very presence of God as I stepped onto that Holy ground. And surely His Presence was with us now.

With her hand still placed in mine we slowly walked to the altar steps. "Now we'll offer it to God", I said and while she stood awe-filled at the steps I walked up, took the alms basin and held it out for those eager little hands to deposit their gift for "the starving babies".

I turned to the altar, held the basin high and, just as if there were 3000 present instead of three, I said: "All things come from Thee, O Lord, and of thine own has she given Thee".

As I laid the basin on the altar and turned, a beautiful smile radiated the little face before me and with a joyful leap, her fear gone, her duty performed, her little heart singing to the breaking point she ran from the Chapel.

An angel paused in his upward flight,
 With the seed of love and truth and right
 And said, "Oh! where can this seed be
 sown,
 Where 'twill yield most fruit when fully
 grown?
 To whom can this precious seed be given
 That 'twill bear most fruit for earth
 and heaven?"
 The Saviour heard and said as He smiled,
 "Place it at once in the heart of a child".

-Unknown

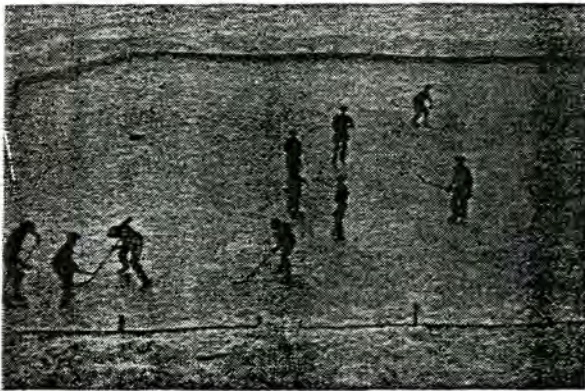
A set daily routine became the order of School life. There were usual celebrating of Hallowe'en Parties, Thanksgiving dinners, and Christmas with all the excitement surrounding the celebrations of that day.

The staff proved to be a most congenial and well-balanced group. The children appeared content and happy.

A note of interest regarding 1945:- When the School had re-opened in 1923, the student roll was set at 126 and the Government grant allocation for the School was \$170.00 a year, or 46¢ a day, per pupil. Between 1926 and 1945 the world had experienced inflation, depression, war, recovery and high cost of living. Yet in 1945 the grant provided by the Government for the operation of the Schools was still \$170.00 per year per pupil.

1946

The New Year was heralded in, first with a children's party early in the evening of December 31st and later, a midnight party for the staff.



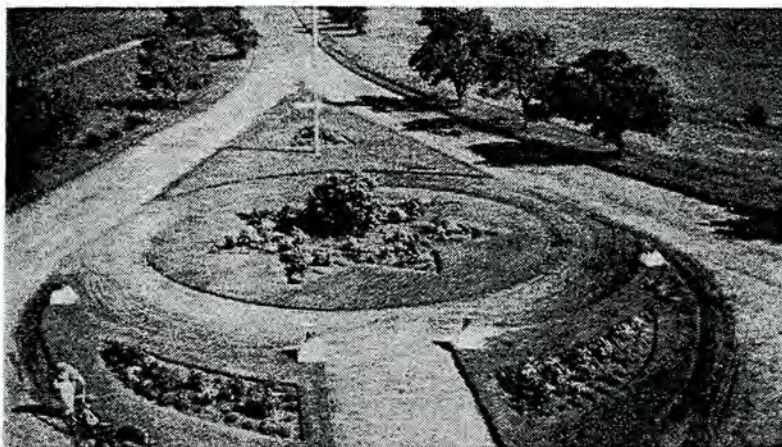
Hockey games were arranged and played during the winter months both between teams at the School and with the School versus town teams. Mr. Hartley and some of the Senior boys keeping the skates sharpened and seeing that the rink was in good shape. The Senior girls had their handicraft classes and did fine needlework, an art at which many excelled. One could always count on having his sweaters repaired to an invisible degree. Of course, being winter, there was always snowmen to create and snowballs to throw.



Throughout the winter months the playrooms, as well as the ice rink, were always a source of evening activity. The boys were usually involved with boxing and cadets as well as skating and hockey. The girls had Guides and Brownie programs. Captain Miller had attached an extension from a radio set to a loudspeaker in the girls' playroom, and so they were able to listen to their favourite music programs. The boys and girls often joined the staff members in social evenings held in the dining hall.

Miss Maggie Thomas returned to Elkhorn, having been appointed to the staff as General Assistant and was heartily welcomed by both staff and student bodies.

Cadets and guides, boys' and girls' ball games and playground activities were the order of the day.

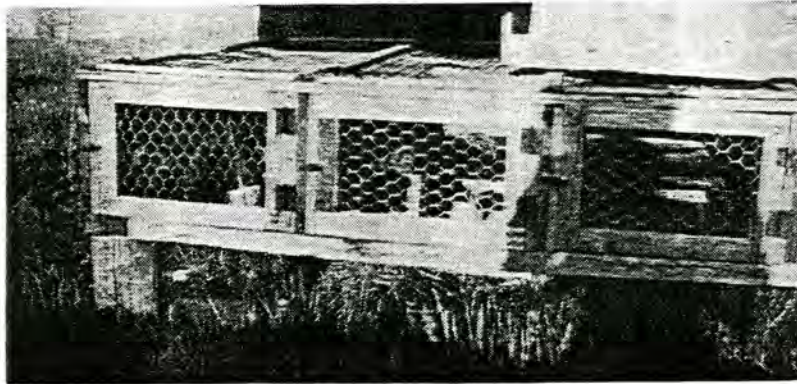


Mr. Tuthill, the gardener, with the assistance of the Senior boys began to shape up the grounds around the front of the School. There were always the well-groomed flower beds to fill with the plants that in a few weeks time would present a kaleidoscope of colour.

The annual Cadet inspection was held. The Corps being well prepared by Mr. Hartley and under whose leadership they proved themselves a credit to the School.

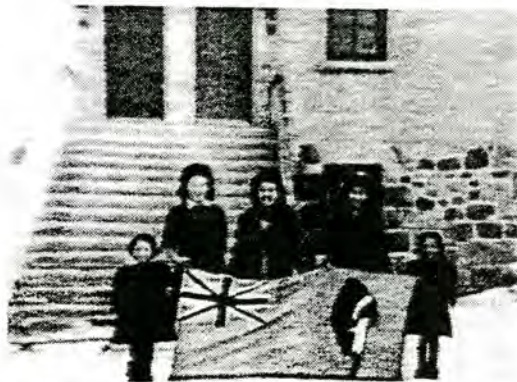


In 1923 and the years that followed, the School Administration had constantly requested the Indian Department to provide both a building and salary allotment for Manual Training instruction at the Elkhorn School. On April 30th, Captain Miller brought his up-grading class to a close and on May 1st, Mr. George Galicz arrived at the School to take up the position of Manual Training Instructor, utilizing the old power building that had been in use by the up-grading class. It had taken twenty-three years but, at last the long sought Manual Training was to become a reality.



Minks in their cages

Mr. Galicz also brought his minks to the School as Mr. Dixon thought it could be good for the northern boys to get some idea of fur ranching, and to remove some of the uncertainty of wild trapping. It was part of Mr. Dixon's effort to prepare the boys for life after School and the girls were encouraged to enter High School and prepare for some suitable training such as teaching, nursing, etc.



Girls holding the School Flag which was designed by Captain Miller and crafted by the girls of the Senior Handicraft Class. The Flag was used for all parades and flew from the School flagpole for special occasions.



The entire School was both thrilled and overjoyed when it was announced that the Grade Twelve student, Annabelle Stranger was to have the honour of being Valedictorian for the Elkhorn High School Graduation Class. Such an honour was proof beyond a doubt that a student of native heritage could "stand tall" in any area of academic and social life that she or he wished to enter. Throughout her years of attending the High School in Elkhorn, Annabelle had won the hearts of all who came to know her. Her speech on Graduation night entitled: "We Go Forward To Blaze New and Better Trails", was well-fitted for the occasion and fell upon the ears of an appreciative and enthusiastic audience.

Annabelle was another of the Elkhorn Residential School graduates who had "Aimed High"; and with that goal in mind and the hard work associated with it, she had "won the day".

A note of interest; The name of "Stranger" was synonymous with the history of the Elkhorn Residential School. Annabelle's grandfather, David Stranger was listed as number forty-nine on the roll of the original students in the Washakada Industrial School, having taken up, and excelling at the trade of Carpentry. He was also a Lay Reader in the church on the Reserve. He enlisted in the First Great War and perished in France on March 29, 1917.

Solomon Stranger, her father, had also been a pupil at this School, leaving when David went off to war. Uncles: Walter Gordon, Thomas and Robert were attending at the time of the School's closing in 1918. Brothers: Earl, David, Freeman, Dennis and sisters: Betty and Jeanette attended the School with Annabelle until June, 1945.



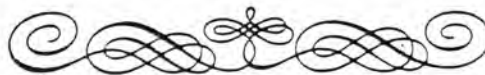
1946 Grads



1946 Grads

Through the month of June, preparations for holidays brought with them the exciting prospect of "going home". The five graduating boys were measured for suits, while the six graduating girls busied themselves with making their own beautiful graduation dresses, under the skillful instruction of the handi-crafts instructress, Miss McNeil. Then came Graduation Day and the end of Residential School life for those boys and girls who would not be returning for High School in the Fall.

Captain Miller had received unwelcomed word from Church Army Headquarters, that he was to be transferred to a small mission station in Saskatchewan. As he bid farewell to the children he had come to love so deeply, and the friends he had made and enjoyed as well, they also bid farewell to him. But not quite. For "The Spirit Lives On".



The Captain, on arriving home for holidays, was asked to address his home town Rotary Club on the work of the Residential School. The following is the newspaper report of that speech:

TRENTON COURIER ADVOCATE

Date: July, 1946.

SAYS INDIANS OF CANADA MERIT EQUAL CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

*Captain Harry Miller, C.A., Returning To His Home Town From West,
Tells Of His Work With Indian Children

An eloquent plea that Indians of Canada might be granted equal rights with their white fellow citizens which they had earned in war and peaceful pursuits over a long period of years, was made by Captain Harry Miller, of

Trenton, who is with the Anglican Church Army in the West, addressing Trenton Rotary Club on Monday evening.

Captain Miller, who was introduced by Rotarian Ken Couch, observed that a revision of the Indian Act which would give Indians the same franchise privileges as white people was now under contemplation at Ottawa, and he hoped that it would become law. The Indians, he declared, over a long period of years, had played an important role in the development along many lines of the Dominion of Canada. They had earned by their courage, perseverance, faith and sincere loyalty equality in all things with the white race in this country. They were on the whole peace-loving citizens, living the lives of Canadians, worshipping the same God, making important contributions to the religious, industrial, commercial and social life of Canada, yet they were denied full citizenship rights; they could not own property, they were segregated, and all because they were Indians. In the war they fought with valor, some with distinction, side by side with their white brothers. He felt sure that none who fought with them would deny them full rights as free citizens in a land of opportunities.

Captain Miller has worked for two and a half years in the small Manitoba town mostly among children, some of whom come 700 miles to get an education to make themselves worthy and useful citizens of Canada. He said that education is a moving force among the Indians because of the increasing demands laid upon them by the white man.

The speaker pointed out that while many people think of Indians as merely trappers, farmers and guides, history reveals that they have won distinctions in the fields of literature, art and industry. They could be made skilled mechanics if given a chance. In the last war, Pte. Chas. Prince, from a Manitoba Indian Reserve, was one of the most decorated Canadians. Relating incidents revealing the spirit of self sacrifice and unselfishness in child life coming to his personal attention, Captain Miller declared that this is the spirit that is going to make the Dominion a greater power and influence than it is today . . . it is the spirit of self sacrifice and a desire to help others that is going to count and one that should be a factor in the granting of equal citizenship rights to Canada's Indians.





Miss Amy Aldridge - Fallmouth, N.S.
 Sunday School by Post Van Worker with
 1946-47 School Girls

AND THE SPIRIT LIVES ON

In September, following the move to his new appointment at Crooked River, Saskatchewan, Captain Miller contacted Mr. Tuthill and arranged to meet him at Swan River on his way to The Pas to pick up the children returning to Elkhorn. This was done, and the two men once again journeyed to that two-ton truck-bus. But this time there was no rain and no adverse problems. Children loaded, the bus returned to Elkhorn.

Captain Miller then rode back to Swan River with Mr. and Mrs. Tuthill who were returning to The Pas for the second group of children.

Crooked River was a small village whose only industry, a sawmill, closed down early in the Fall of 1946. It had been reported by Sunday School Van workers that there were "hundreds" of unchurched Anglican people living in the village and the surrounding countryside. Because of this report, the Bishop of Saskatchewan had made an appeal to Church Army Headquarters for an officer who might be able to start up Mission congregations. However, the report proved to be "far-fetched", most of the population being already served by the Lutheran Church.

Finding life very lonely after being surrounded by 130 Residential School pupils, Captain Miller found himself often reflecting on the wonderful, happy days that he had spent in working with, and on behalf of the young people. So one night following a beautiful sunlit Autumn day, while sitting in the living room of his lonely little Mission house, he penned the following:

. LOST IN MEDITATION

Softly night has drawn her quiet veil of darkness over a hushed countryside bringing with it peace and serenity.

As I sit at my desk to-night writing this, only the occasional bark of a dog or cough of an engine breaks the stillness.

Glancing up out of the window I see a harvest moon sending its smiling beams down upon the sleepy countryside and in meditation my thoughts take in the great wonder of the fact that the same moon shines in the same regal splendour upon a sleepy school, now hushed after the noise and activities of a busy day, 300 miles to the south of me.

Through the screen on the window a cross appears on the moon's face like the cross above that school, holding the greater significance that "In the Cross of Christ I Glory". As if His loving, guiding care protects those that lie in peaceful slumber under the "Shadow of His Wing". How close the school, and those friends I love so much, seem to me tonight. It is as if I could call out, or reach out, and in silence, without disturbing, contact each one. The same stars shine overhead like the twinkling altar lights in the Church of God's great Universe. As if the shimmering wings of the childrens' angels look down, proof of His words, "In Heaven their angels do always behold the face of their Father".

I feel as if I could mount one of those beams of light and in a moment of time be transported to silently bend over the cot of each little one and, without waking or disturbing, pressing my lips against their rosy cheeks.

To-day the countryside was bathed in a riot of colour as if a beautiful Persian rug carpeted the floor of the World. Such a mixture of colours: red, brown, green, gold and blue, yellow, amber, fawn, purple, sand and violet. Colours beyond description, all woven together in a beautiful pattern that only He, who created all things, could paint and weave. Ah! the beauty and simplicity of it. And, as I think of those little ones lying so peaceful and trusting there, I imagine what beauty could be wrought in their little hearts if they would but yield them into the Hand of this Wonderful Artist who to-day revealed such a spectacle to the eyes of mankind.

Shortly thereafter, these words were penned and sent in a letter to Mrs. Ida Oakey, a beloved friend:

THE CHILDREN OF THE ANGLICAN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
ELKHORN, MANITOBA

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. The children of the Elkhorn School
I love them very dearly,
And as I sit and think of them
They seem to draw quite near me.</p> | <p>5. So here I am in this little town
Many miles north according to measure.
Jesus' words are ringing true to-day
Where the heart - there the treasure</p> |
| <p>2. It's just as if I could reach out
And touch each by the hand
And say; "I miss you very much"
In a way they'd understand.</p> | <p>6. My heart is still in Elkhorn School
With the children in their pleasure,
True just as Jesus said 'twould be',
It is there lies my earthly treasure.</p> |
| <p>3. I'd love to see them laugh and play
And run around the yard
To leave them was my saddest day
It was so very hard.</p> | <p>7. Oh! some sweet day I hope to turn
Once more to find my little gem;
But I must bide a little while,
'Till God says "Return thou to them."</p> |
| <p>4. But God has said, " I need you Cap.,
In a place called Crooked River
And you must leave the Indian School
Though to do so seems quite bitter."</p> | <p>8. What joy will be within my heart,
For from them I didn't want to part,
But God has other work to do
And he's appointed me to see it through.</p> |
9. It's with patience then that I must wait,
"Till some day I shall pass the gate;
Through which I'll see, as is the rule,
The Anglican Indian Residential School.

- Captain H. Miller, C.A.

The last verse came true when, at Christmas time, the Captain spent the holidays in Elkhorn. As a result of this visit a decision was made that was to effect the rest of his ministerial days, and beyond. The next day, after returning to his Mission point, he boarded the train for Prince Albert and contacting the Principal of St. Alban's Indian Residential School in that city, he accepted the position of Supervisor.

AND THE SPIRIT LIVES ON





Griswold Girls



Elizabeth Whitehead
Beth Garson



Julia, Winnie, Grace,
Dinah, (?)



Henry Ironman



Matilda C.
Esther Young



Dinah Cook, Audrey
White, Evelyn Wasicuna



L. Whitehead
Phyllis Dorion
Elizabeth Young



Snowball Time



Friends



Audrey White
Doreen Taylor



Georgina Rabishka



Freddie Ironman



Julia Spence

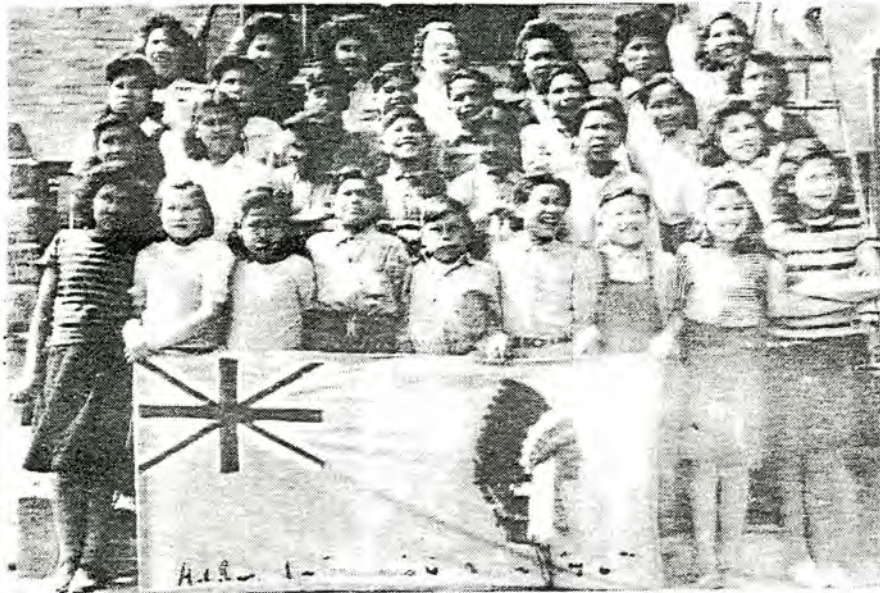


Alfred Lathlin





1945 The Young Twins - Doris and Esther - with Captain Miller at Elkhorn 1946
1945-46 and with (now) Rev'd Harry Miller taken at Prince Albert, Sask. 1956



Mrs. Toone - Teacher - Intermediate Room A.I.R.S.
1945-46

Top Row: Helen Pratt, Garda Bear, Nancy Flett, Mrs. Toome, Matilda Constant, Dora Flett, Hazel Taylor.
2nd Row: Mary Spence, Mary Mink, George Chaske, Freddie Ironman, Gordon Lathlin, Clifford Peebles, Lawrence Whitehead, Cora Keywakan. Third Row: Jessie Tobacco, Lena Tobacco, Robert Sumner, Roy Dowan, Walter Lathlin, Ronnie McGillvary, Myra Cook. Bottom Row: Jean Antoine, Merdine Flett, Julia Constant, George Bignall, Richard Antoine, Roderick George, Walter Pratt, Dinah Cook, Margaret Harris. In Front: The School Flag.



Daisy Dowan



Garda Bear



Wm Garson



Kathleen Harris





Lena
Tobacco

Jean
Antoine



Elizabeth Young



Mary
Spence Phyllis
Dorion



Raymond Ross



Ethel Cheske



Merdina Flett



Doreen Taylor



Matilda Constant
Agnes Cook



Nancy Flett, Irene
McGillivary and
Elizabeth Whitehead



Audrey White



William Garson, Henry Ironman, Ahab Mink and Roderick Pompana



Aurelia and Ruth



Nancy Flett



Clifford Peebles



The Buglers



Grace George



Walter Lathlin



The Rink





Felix Waters



Elizabeth Whitehead



Beth Garson



Dora
Flett

Amelia
Spence



Ruth Thomas



Ina Pratt



Grace and Roderick
George



Elizabeth
Whitehead



Jack Young, Raymond Ross
and all.



Nancy
Flett

Burman
Pratt



Mickey Constant
Peter Whitehead



Grace George and Twins



Snowball Time



William Garson, Ahab Mink,
Philip Wavey and Henry
Ironman



Outdoor Service June '45



Rosie Young



Ina Pratt - Edna Constant

Seven students who were to attend High School in Elkhorn returned in September. Including this number was Ina Pratt, who was to begin Grade Twelve studies. This was the greatest number ever to take High School studies in any one year in the history of the Residential School. It was evidence that the new policy of all-day schooling in the Residential School was really working.

1947

Dr. Alderwood of the Indian School Administration, visited the Residential School on March 20th and reported:

"The Elkhorn School gave every evidence that a real advance has been made under the leadership of the Rev. B.O.G. Dixon. Mr. Dixon has boldly experimented in the matter of staff duties and has devised a system which keeps most of the pupils in the classroom for the greater part of the day. With four teachers, a Manual Training Instructor and a Handicrafts Instructress, he is able to keep most of the children under instruction continually and has a large enough staff to allow for much more time off duty than has been common. It is also possible to grant a certain amount of weekend leave which is very much appreciated."

The development of all-day schooling for the majority of the pupils required the establishment of a fourth classroom which through necessity was located in the larger infirmary. Since few children now developed the more serious diseases such as Tuberculosis, this size infirmary was no longer required.

With the addition of a Handicraft Teacher, the Sewing Room of the School was utilized for crafts instruction. This required that the Junior boys' and girls' dormitories be equipped with storage and sewing areas in which the supervisors worked while the children were in classes.

Dr. Alderwood again visited the School on Wednesday, April 2nd, and the following is his report of that occasion:

ELKHORN

Dr. Alderwood, April 8, 1947.

Arrived on Wednesday, April 2nd, and found the School humming with activity. The building, generally, was clean and bright with the exception of the playrooms, which were really nothing of the kind. There were no materials for play in them. The large skating rink outside was used a deal during the winter months and during the summer it is expected that LaCrosse will be introduced. The Manual Training Instructor is making tables and chairs for the playrooms. The dining room has been used on Wednesday evenings in the winter months when Miss Dixon has been teaching the older children ball-room dancing. Twice a month the Principal has arranged for the National Film Board to show sound films and is desirous of having his own projector for similar puposes. Other activities included Guides and Brownies for the girls and Cadets for the boys. The latter is being discontinued. The Guides have a clubroom in the Manual Training Shop where they keep all their equipment. Money is obtained by the sale of work. They are entering the Bessborough Shield competition again this year, which competition consists of building a bird-house and planning the flower bed for the Girl Guide House in Winnipeg. The Manual Training Instructor is helping them with this. In addition to LaCrosse, it is planned to use the hockey rink area for basketball and volleyball during the summer months. Citizenship classes are held for those girls who do not belong to the Guides, concurrent with the Guide meeting.

The system of duties in this School provides for all-day in the classroom for the majority of pupils and classes in manual training or sewing for one-half or a whole day each week. The Sewing Room is very bright but needs some sort of covering on the floor as the wood is in a poor state and catches all threads etc., making sweeping difficult or almost impossible. Using scraps of material, the children are learning to sew, embroider, knit, crochet etc., beginning on a small scale with dolls' clothes and gradually attempting something more difficult. It was suggested by the Instructress that it would be valuable for graduating girls to make their own dresses in the final year and it is recommended that the W.A. be contacted with view to their sending twelve yards

of material for this purpose, instead of the seniors' dresses. The girls are entering their handiwork in nearby competitions or exhibitions and there are two evening classes to accommodate those that are occupied elsewhere during the day.

The Manual Training Shop in a separate building gives evidence of the progress of the boys in this field. There were a number of finished articles and an armchair in the making by one of the boys.

This School was seriously in need of footwear for all the children and of clothing for the bigger boys. The kitchen was sorely in need of stock pots, those on hand being full of holes and past the mending stage. They were under the impression that these had been ordered from the penitentiaries a year ago. There was general dissatisfaction expressed with the manner in which supplies had been forthcoming this year in all schools. Unpacked a bale of clothing while at the School and found some new articles and some second hand. Half of the latter was no good for School use and was set aside to be sent out to the reserve. The storeroom was a good size and well lit.

The staff was a pleasant and congenial group. The members are able to get into town easily on days off and the teachers are able to go home for weekends. The sitting room is quite cheerful but could use better furniture. They have some games but would appreciate more. It appears that Misses Sims and Dixon will be leaving at the end of this term, the former to take practical nurse's training. It was felt by the Principal that someone with nursing training was required on the staff in a position such as the one held by Miss Sims at present.

The classroom that is being held in the infirmary is big and bright but those in the separate building were found cold during the winter months. In wet weather considerable discomfort was caused by reason of the roof leaking. Some classes had to be held in the dining room during the winter months. Miss Fry advised that she found difficulty in getting some classroom supplies and bought these herself.



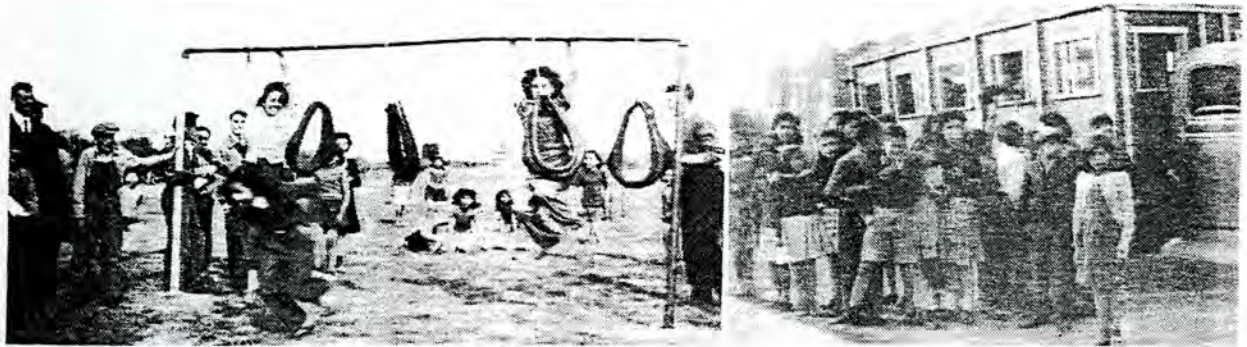
ELKHORN SCHOOL, 1947

<u>Day</u>	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>4 - 5:30</u>	<u>5:30 - 6</u>	<u>Supper</u>	<u>Prayers to 9 pm</u>
Monday	The Principal	The Principal Sec.&Gen.Asst Senior) Junior)Tchrs. Primary)	Housemaster Jr. G. Super.	Sec.&Gen.Asst	Housemaster Jr.G.Super.	Boys' Super. Engineer Girls' Super.
Tuesday	The Principal	The Principal Sec. Senior) Junior)Tchrs. Primary)	Housemaster Sec.	Sec.	Housemaster Jr.G.Super.	Boys' Super. Farmer Girls' Super.
Wednesday	The Principal	The Principal Sec. Senior) Junior)Tchrs. Primary)	Housemaster Jr. G.Super.	Gardener	Housemaster Jr.G.Super.	Housemaster Girls' Super.
Thursday	The Principal	The Principal Sec. Senior) Junior)Tchrs. Primary)	Gardener Sec.	Sec.	Principal	Principal Girls' Super.
Friday	The Principal	The Principal Sec. Senior) Junior)Tchrs. Primary)	Housemaster Jr. G.Super.	Sec.	Housemaster Jr.G.Super.	Boys' Super. Man. Trainer Girls' Super.
Saturday	The Principal	The Principal Sec.	12:45-2 p.m. Principal Girls' Super.	2 p.m.-6 Housemaster Jr.G.Super.	Principal	Housemaster Girls' Super.
Sunday	Sec.	The Principal	11:15-1 p.m. Principal -2 p.m. Girls' Super	till 6 Housemaster Girls' Super	Housemaster	Principal Inter. Tchr.

Sec. - Sec. & Gen. Ass't (one person)

Mealtime supervisors , at lunchtime at any rate, eat at the children's tables,
using their own cutlery etc.

FROM THE PHOTO ALBUM OF WINNIFRED (JAFFRAY) MULLIGAN



In September, Mr. D.A.B. Stoddart, House Master, was appointed to the position of Manual Training Instructor. Shortly thereafter the Rev'd B.O.G. Dixon was offered and accepted the position of Principal of the Residential School at Alert Bay, B.C. He left Elkhorn on November 20th. Mr. Stoddart was then appointed Acting Principal of the School.



Bernard Tuthill and Etta Black on the old School Cannon. This Cannon was reportedly obtained and presented to the School by the W.A., in honour of the graduates of the School who had served their country in the Great War of 1914-1918. Bernard and Etta were employed at the School as Boys' and Girls' Supervisors 1947-1948. Cupid struck and the two were joined together in Holy Matrimony.

THE END LOOMS NEAR

An indication of how near the School was to closing appears in an Indian School Administration report of 1947.

1947 Two Schools of doubtful value (Elkhorn (130) Chapleau (100)

Elkhorn was opened 58 years ago and has played a valuable part. It now appears to have outlived its usefulness as most of the pupils could attend Day Schools. The building is old and the government is reluctant to spend further money on it. We shall probably be offered a new School in Northern Manitoba in place of Elkhorn, which our Church has requested on many occasions.

1948

Following a visit to the School, the Acting Superintendent of the Indian School Administration reporting January 21, noted the following:-

Buildings:- The main School building in need of exterior paint on wood trim and windows (brick building). Interior in process of being painted. Floors generally, also stairs quite worn and in places dangerous. Reported to be a cold building -- around windows leak badly. Noticed that corner portions of the stone foundation need repointing due to action of the

splashing water from eaves trough spouts. Eaving not connected up in places.

Classroom building also in need of paint, very cold.

Coal storage building needs replacing -- sides broken and out of shape. Two to three feet assorted coal dust and coal in bottom of building.

Principal's Residence physically in fair condition, needs paint inside and a thorough cleaning. Former Principal kept birds, and cellar is in unsavoury condition. Some furniture in need of replacement as is kitchen stove.

Staff:- Mr. Stoddart, Acting Principal - Apparently no training in or understanding of office routine. Imagine him a very loyal type of person in a minor position. Mrs. Stoddart, Boys' Supervisor - an intelligent and experienced staff member. Mrs. Scott, Cook - A good economical cook. Miss Black, Girls' Supervisor - A good staff member leaving in March to return home as she and her brother operate their father's farm - he is an invalid. Mr. Tuthill, Gardener - General Assistant - Best male worker, lives away from School. Miss Thomas, Junior Teacher - Good at her work and a bright and willing staff member. Staff members needed - (according to Acting Principal) Housemaster, Female Assistant, Laundress, Junior Girls' Supervisor. He's not fussy about having a matron. Mr. Stoddart and the Parish Warden taking Sunday Services in Elkhorn Parish Church. Parish badly run down. Bishop Thomas (Brandon), however, apparently satisfied with set up.

Pupils:- In very good health in spite of the fact that they were not well clothed (footwear poor also) and not overly clean. Most of the children are from The Pas Agency and the Chief and parents have threatened to remove many children unless conditions are improved soon.

Found that no child has rubbers, children all wear leather shoes, some in poor repair. Recommended to Mr. Stoddart that he requisition immediately for rubber shoes, rubber boots for barn and senior boys.

Generally the clothing not overly clean, bed linen wash every two weeks -- not sufficient. Badly need Laundress and a good clean up and some organization in the laundry.

There are new clothes in stores and piles of used boy's clothing to be repaired. The repairs have piled up as not sufficient staff to do work. No

local Indian women who could be hired for occasional half days to catch up on this work either.

At this School they allow Senior boys and girls to play together under supervision of the super and they've found that children are less shy as a result.

Conclusions:- This School needs a strong Principal and an experienced matron. Then a thorough cleaning up and reorganization.

While in Winnipeg called on Inspector Hamilton, Indian Department, Federal Building, and he promised to give what assistance he could at Elkhorn. He was concerned re conditions there as the Indians had repeatedly complained to him.

The Acting Superintendent, in his quarterly report of February 3rd stated:-

"Since the transfer of the Rev. B.O.G. Dixon to the principalship of the Alert Bay School, negotiations are now under way to fill this position".



Miss Jaffray's Grades 5-7 Boys
Back Row - L to R: Roderick Pompana, Ernest Flett, Lawrence Whitehead, George Chaske, Gordon Lathlin, Freddie Ironman. Front Row: Roderick George, Richard Antoine (front) Ronald McGillvary, Clifford Peebles, Robert Sumner (front), Walter Lathlin.



Back Row - Georgina Rabiska, Caroline Sumner, Grace George. Front Row - Esther Young, Camilia Constant, Susan Nakaluk, Doris Young.



K

The Woods Year

THE REV'D W.W.J. WOODS, PRINCIPAL

Formal approval was given to the action of the General Secretary in recommending to the Department at Ottawa the Rev'd W.W.J. Woods for appointment as Principal of the Indian Residential School at Elkhorn.

Mr. Woods was in charge of the School on June 1st.



In a further report the Executive Committee were informed that "The grounds of this School are in excellent condition and the vegetable garden was the best of any at the six schools I visited."

The results of the fine instruction that the boys had received through the co-operation and expertise of the Gardener, Mr. Claude Tuthill.



Standing: Mr. Snyder, Mr. D.A.B. Stoddart, Miss Irene Dixon, Miss Eva Fry and Mrs. M. Scott. Sitting: Mrs. G. Galicz, Miss W. Jaffray, Miss Margaret Thomas, Miss Mary Sims, Mrs. Stoddart and Mr. G. Galicz.

A clay-surfaced tennis court is maintained by the staff for their own use.

The October, 1948 issue of The Living Message magazine carried the following article first published in "The Northern Mail", The Pas, Manitoba.

NORTHERN CHILDREN LEAVE
FOR ELKHORN SCHOOL

For most children, the ring of the School bell can be heard from home but in the north some must go far afield to learn even the three R's.

Late in August a party of twenty-four children passed through The Pas on their way to Elkhorn. To many of them this Boarding School offers not only the chance of an education but also food, clothing and adequate shelter for the winter. For instance, the six children of the Peters' family have lost both father and mother during the past three months. Nancy, who is thirteen, has carried, during the past year, a housekeeping burden far too heavy for one of her years. Eleven-year-old Doreen is rather a tomboy who prefers a water pistol to caring for younger brothers and sisters. Luke is nine and can snare rabbits beautifully, but he can't be expected to take his father's place as breadwinner! Seven-year-old Elizabeth is full of fun, but she can't keep her face or dress clean for even half a day. Wee Sam, who is five, seems too solemn for a child of his years and misses his mother most of all. Three-year-old Thelma, a merry little soul, must go along with the others as there is no one to care for her.

Other members of the party need school for various reasons. Three come from Churchill where schools are too crowded to take them in. Five are from lonely railroad sections. Four children are motherless and six have no father to provide for their needs.

Yet another group from Split Lake and southern points will leave shortly for Prince Albert where there is another Anglican Residential School. These also need the care that only a Boarding School can give them. Such institutions certainly have their place, although they cannot make up for a happy home to which children can race in search of cookies each day as soon as school is over.

"Northern Mail", The Pas, Manitoba.

TWO LITTLE INDIAN BOYS

The train was crowded, the seats were full;
Two little Indians going to school,
Hadn't a place to make down a bed,
Hadn't an inch to lay down a head.

Into the smoker the parson went,
To find a sleeping place he was bent.
Prospectors, traders and trappers were
Laughing and talking and cussing there.

"Gentlemen all, could you give me space,
Where two little boys could find a place
To lay down their heads and go to sleep
While the stars above their vigil keep."

"Sure parson, sure; git out o' there, Jake,
And give the parson a chance to make
A bed on his train that sure is full,
For two little boys going to school."

The bed was made and the boys climbed in,
The smoker again soon filled with dim,
But one of the boys then knelt down there
And in sight of all, began his prayer.

Through the smoker then the clamour stayed,
To hear the boy, as aloud he prayed,
Each pipe was pulled out, each tongue was still
As they heard in Cree, "Father, thy will".

Then goodnight, boys, until it is day,
And the train rolled on upon its way.
That scene in the train is with me yet,
That prayer and the boys I'll not forget.

Unknown

In his quarterly report to the Indian School Administration Committee the Acting Superintendent, on September 9th, made the following statement:-

"As further use of the classroom block (a separate building apart from the main building) has been condemned and the Government adverse to replacing it, the pupilage at the Elkhorn School has been reduced from 130 to 75 pupils. The staff also has been reduced proportionately. A completely new hot water type of heating unit has replaced an outworn boiler and a new jacket heater and 800 gallon hot water pressure tank for laundry purposes has been installed."

Following the Superintendent's visit to Elkhorn on October 22-23, he forwarded a Memo to Head Office in which the following comments appeared:-

"Principal Woods met me at the station and as appointments had been made with the Mayor, the municipal Secretary-Treasurer and the Rental Board we went first to the village rather than the School. In the Secretary-Treasurer's office I went into the matter of Indian Affairs lots which might be traded for municipality lots at the entrance of the School grounds.

Mrs. Woods, at the time of my visit, was critically ill and in hospital at Winnipeg and so I was housed at the School rather than the Residence. During the evening in general conversation with the Principal it was obvious that his nerves were bad and that the whole School administration was a task too demanding for his capabilities. He admitted that he could not handle the School but due to his wife's illness he had formulated no plans."

Pupilage:- 62 in residence or rather on rolls at time of visit with three in hospital. Have written Colonel Neary in an effort to get more. Staff and accommodation could easily handle seventy-five. Most of children now at Elkhorn come from reserves where good day schools are in operation. Children appear to be generally healthy and happy though considerable trouble over truancy has been experienced. Evidence that Principal over supervises the children and recommended to him to allow the children some time to themselves. Classroom activities satisfactory.

General Observations:- On the whole the Elkhorn School situation a most depressing one. The Principal is inefficient and his staff and children keyed up in an unnecessary manner. The staff is depressed because there are so few pupils and they are constantly being hounded to keep down expenses. The

Principal will have to be replaced as soon as it can be kindly arranged. One wonders if the School is doing a worthwhile job. Most of the children at present resident at Elkhorn come from reserves serviced by day schools or from reserves much nearer to Prince Albert. If Prince Albert had the equipment to handle sixty extra children the wise thing to do would be to move staff and pupils to Prince Albert and forget about Elkhorn. It is evident that it will operate at a loss this fourth quarter. A strong Principal would put things in shape quite easily as there's basically good staff with which to work but more pupils would be needed to bring up the income. But as the building is so old and outworn and the pupils not desperately in need of residential schooling - would building up Elkhorn be justifiable?

1949

In a report dated February 15th, the Superintendent reported that:-

"Indications are that Elkhorn Indian School will have to care for the Residential School needs of Northern Manitoban Indians for a few more years. Indian Affairs Branch has not, as yet, completed its survey of the area to the point where decision can be made between the erection of more Indian Day Schools or a Residential School."

THE END IS IN SIGHT

Following his visit to the School on April 6-7, the Superintendent in his report to the Indian School Administration made these statements:-

Pupils:- Very few ill. All well fed and well dressed and happy generally. There is some activity (organized) for them every night. Griswold and Fisher River Agents say no prospects from those reserves for next September. With Day Schools operating Woods worries about his next years pupilage.

The whole School much happier than on last visit. Everyone however, complains of the coldness of the building and the generally outworn condition of the place. Impossible for the Principal to operate within his grant as the type of School building demands a big staff even though pupilage low. With all conditions as they are it might be wise to recommend closing the School as of June and switch pupilage to Gordon's. The farm will take quite

a lot of money yet to develop before there's any hope of profitable returns. Decision right soon will have to be made whether or not to continue a policy of summerfallowing and the like. No sense spending money on such work if there's a possibility of not continuing the School. Have recommended that plans carry through for the usual vegetable garden to be planted and cared for. Bring this matter up at May meetings.



Miss Woods on the way to town with the girls.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, INDIAN SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION TO THE M.S.C.C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MAY 9TH, 1949

In regard to Elkhorn our books have shown that, for a considerable time past, the School has been operating at a loss. With its reduced pupilage (necessitated by turning two dormitories into classrooms when the classroom block was condemned) the School is now slipping behind \$2,000.00 a quarter. This fact coupled with the worn out state of the building plus the knowledge that the present pupilage could easily be accommodated at Gordon's and in Reserve Day Schools makes it evident that no useful purpose is served in the continued operation of the Elkhorn School.

THE DEATH KNELL IS SOUNDED

May 10, 1949:- It was moved by Canon H.G. Cook, seconded by Canon H.J. Cody, and resolved:-

"That, in view of the fact that the Bishop of Brandon, the Indian Affairs Branch and the Indian School Administration, agree that the Elkhorn Indian Residential School is now serving no useful purpose by remaining in operation, approval be given to closing the School as of 30th June, 1949, and transferring the children to other Residential Schools or to Day Schools on their respective home reserves. And further that such usable Administration-owned equipment currently at Elkhorn be disposed of as thought best by the Administration officials."

On motion of Canon H.G. Cook, seconded by Mrs. R.E. Wodehouse, the report as a whole was received.



The last Confirmation held at School - May, 1949

SUPERINTENDENT'S VISIT TO ELKHORN SCHOOL

JUNE, 1949

The whole purpose of the visit was to make arrangements for the closing off of the School at the end of the present term. An inventory of all equipment and stocks was taken and, in consultation with Mr. Davis the government-owned equipment was re-allocated. Mayo, Woods, and H.G.C. decided re disposal of I.S.A. owned goods and equipment.



Reverend and Mrs. Woods with the School girls - June, 1949

EPILOGUE

A REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD BY THE SUPERINTENDENT THE INDIAN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, SEPTEMBER, 1949

Following instruction given at Winnipeg "to make every school a credit to the Church and not to continue a school unless it fully justifies itself", the Administration has deemed it expedient to close two of its better known institutions. St. John's Chapleau, after a long and useful term of service as an Anglican Residential School, closed its doors as of June 30, 1948. One year later, June 30th, 1949 the Elkhorn School ceased to function. The "case history" of both schools is identical. The economy of the Indian groups from which pupilage was drawn had changed during the past decade and their children began to attend day schools on their home reserves. Each school building was old, and in need of extensive and very costly repairs. Both institutions had, for years past, operated at a considerable deficit and in neither case was it possible to maintain the School at satisfactory standards. The Administration's action in both these connections had governmental approval.

- FINIS -

BUT:- THE SPIRIT LIVES ON

L

The Demolition Years

THE END OF THE VISION THAT BECAME A REALITY

1888 - 1949

The closing of the Residential School was a great loss to the community of Elkhorn and although many ideas and suggestions came forth to put the School into use once more nothing was finalized. In 1949, the Village of Elkhorn was given the opportunity to take over the Residential School property.

By May of 1950, no decision had yet been reached because of a few strings attached to the settlement wanted.

Attempts were made to encourage the Provincial Government to step in and use the site and buildings for some project under the Department of Health and Welfare.

In August, 1950 the Elkhorn Council met and found the terms under which they could take over the Residential School property unsatisfactory. They proceeded to enlist the aid of Mr. J.R. Matthews, MP., to assist them in making new negotiations with the Federal Government Department of Resources and Development.

By September of 1950 the Council agreed to purchase the property from the Federal Government. The price of the property was \$8,302.50 which was about (1/10) one tenth of its real value. The low price was the result of the minister's desire that the property be used for public or welfare purposes.

At this price the Council would not be able to re-sell the land to individual members of the public. However, they had permission to sell and remove the buildings and barns on the property. On February 1, 1951 the Village of Elkhorn took over the ownership of the property.

By re-sale of the buildings the Council expected to obtain all of, or more than, the purchase price. The intention was to use any benefit they may derive from the transaction to reduce the cost to Elkhorn of the proposed hospital. Council met to discuss the sale of the buildings and they concluded

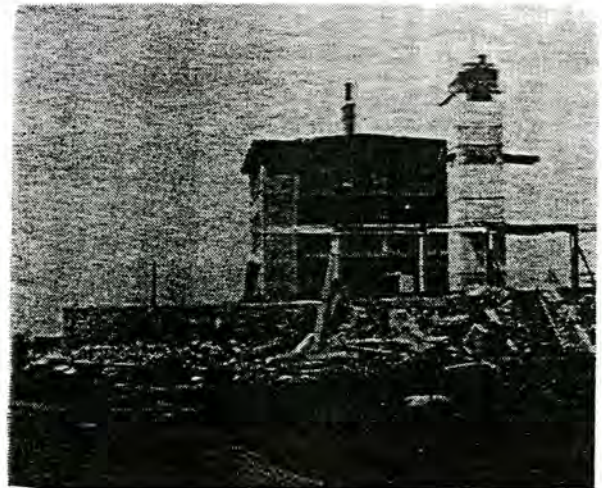
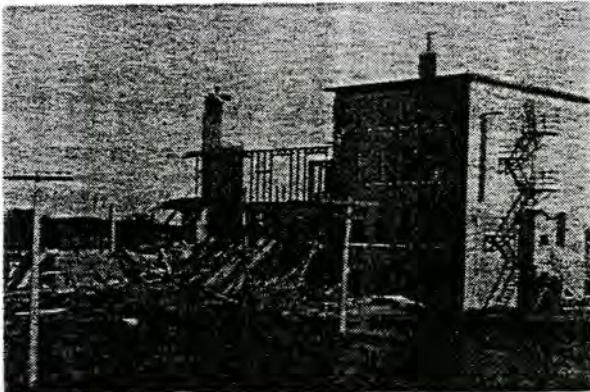
that it would not be practical to try and salvage a few thousand dollars worth of building materials toward the hospital unit . By March 1st, the Village Council had advertised the sale of the School buildings, by tender. By April all nineteen buildings plus 22 acres of land had been sold for a total of \$18,218.00. Most of the buildings were moved to other locations.

There were still 44 acres lying within the village limits, including the driveway, approaches, tennis court and netting, the cannon and several subdivided lots; these were eventually sold.

The main building, purchased by Williams, Schlorff and Graham of Rivers for \$5,100.00 was to be dismantled. These contractors, as part of their tender, promised to construct three houses in the village on property proposed by the town or by potential buyers.

On May 1, 1951 demolition of the main building was undertaken by members of the Plainsview Hutterite Colony.

Claude and Sybil Tutthill, the caretakers of the property, moved out of the residence on May 3rd and by May 31st it was reported that great progress was being made in demolishing the School.



While the School property in the R.M. of Wallace was sold in 1951, the Village of Elkhorn retained control of the property within its jurisdiction. At one point it was thought that the hospital might be constructed on the land.

As there appeared no clause in the demolition contract for the cleaning up the School site, the rubble and debris, including large portions of the cement walls of the main building, stand out like a sore thumb upon the landscape to-day.



FROM THIS



TO THIS



AND THIS

A startling reminder of the great loss to the community as a whole. For almost half a century, this pile of broken bricks, stone, lath, plaster and cement has been the only sign that Elkhorn, Manitoba was once the centre that pioneered Indian education. This is the only visible indication of the importance that the existence of the Washakada and Anglican Indian Residential Schools once held in the advancement of Indian Industrial, Farming, Home-making and Academic education in Western Canada; and in particular in the Province of Manitoba.

THE SPIRIT LIVES ON

TO HAVE OR TO LACK A VISION

The pictures on this page would seem to reveal the two factors so prevalent to the rise and fall of the Residential School.



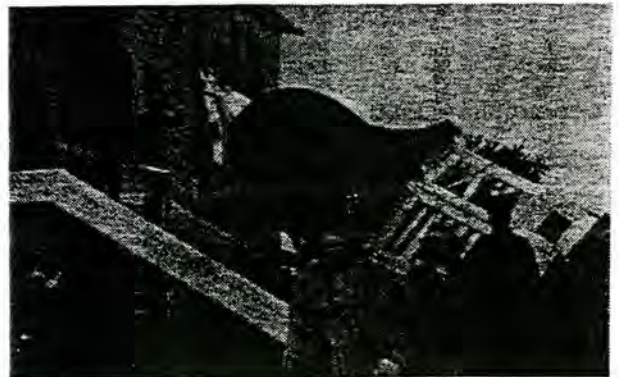
TO HAVE A VISION

Pictured to the left the Cross of Love and Sacrifice crowns the bell tower as, raised on high, it overlooks the School and all that dwell therein. Symbolically, the tower here depicts the following:

1. The vision and sacrifice of the Rev'd E.F. Wilson and the generosity of Mr. George Rowswell as they strove to establish a pioneer centre for Indian education in Western Canada.
2. The vision and sacrifice behind the life of the Rev'd F. Eley who, in 1923, piloted the re-established School and set as its motto "Low Aim Not Failure Is Crime". A motto that inspired many a young person to strive long and hard to achieve the goal he or she had set in life.
3. The vision and sacrifice of so many of the young people (here represented by Annabelle Stranger standing in the highest point of the School) who, down through the years of the School's existence and beyond, have striven, by hard work and determination, to successfully attain the goal that each had set for his or her life.

TO LACK A VISION

Pictured to the right is the tower at its lowest point. When this grand old building was pronounced no longer suitable for Indian education, there could be found no one with either the ability to envision any further use of its historical values or to ascertain any further value in it, other than to tear it down for a few paltry dollars.



BUT - THE SPIRIT LIVES ON

M

The Spirit Lives On



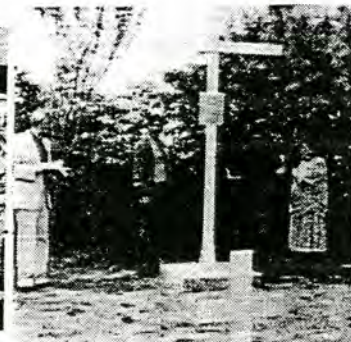


The Reunion

The Spirit Lives On

July 20-22 1990





The Reunion Story

Proof that: The Spirit does Live On.



and.....WHAT A CELEBRATION IT WAS!

How It All Began

*

As this story is a supplement to the original publication of this history the author has undertaken to retell the events that led up to the reunion of the former staff and students Elkhorn Indian Residential School.

In Elkhorn, Manitoba, on October 31, 1989, there occurred the death of Sybil, wife of a former Residential School staff member Claude Tutthill. The family requested the Reverend Canon Daniel Umpherville, a former student at the Residential School and friend of the family, to conduct the Burial Service.

Following the service, Daniel, with Bernard Tutthill and Ernest (Flett) Hall accompanying him, decided to visit some of the former schoolmates living on the Sioux Valley Reserve at Griswold, Manitoba. During the visit, someone in the group suggested that it might be a good idea to hold a reunion of

former students and staff members of the Residential School. A committee was formed consisting of: Doris (Dowan) Pratt, Ernest (Flett) Hall, Canon Daniel Umpherville, Ina (Pratt) Whitecloud, Kathleen (Dowan) Stevenson, and Etta and Bernard Tutthill.

In March, 1990, the author of this story, the Reverend Harry Miller, learned of the committee's plans and offered his services in the advertising and the promotion and planning of the reunion. He also offered to write a history of the Residential School, something that he had wanted to do down through the years following his time spent as a Church Army officer in charge of the Parish of Elkhorn and as a Residential School staff member 1944-1946.

The Preparations



ELKHORN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Student-Staff

REUNION

ELKHORN MAN.

JULY 20, 21, 22-1990

Preparations to celebrate began with Doris Pratt sending a notice to be placed through the various native news media notifying the various communities that a reunion was being planned. Daniel Umpherville and the other members of the committee started to notify former students and classmates with an invitation to attend. When he entered the picture, Harry Miller started to research the school history and to develop information and publicity brochures and posters. These were then sent to Band offices and Friendship Centres throughout the province. Former staff

members were also sought out, notified and invited to attend. The provincial government was notified, and their help sought in having the forlorn and neglected cemetery area restored. The R.M. of Wallace resurfaced the road that leads to the cemetery site. The Council of the Village of Elkhorn gave their permission for the reunion to take place on the old school grounds; and they had the grass cut along the roadway leading to the site. Bernard Tutthill also arranged to see that the playground and sports area was trim and neat. Portable toilets, for the use of those camping on the school grounds, were set up.

The Royal Canadian Legion was contacted and arrangements were made to use the Legion Hall as Reunion Headquarters. Both the Legion Auxiliary and the Royal Purple agreed to provide the Saturday Banquet and the Sunday Luncheon. Bernard Tutthill undertook to have the Memorial Cross constructed. Harry Miller arranged for the engraving of the memorial and commemorative plaques. He had also requested Bishop Conlin to be present. The vestry of St. Mark's Church invited the committee to hold a commemorative Service of Praise and Thanksgiving in the church. Kay Stevenson arranged to have her daughter Kathy McKay look after Registrations. The School History called *The Spirit Lives On* was completed: and all was set for 3 great days of Reunion and Celebration.

The Arrivals



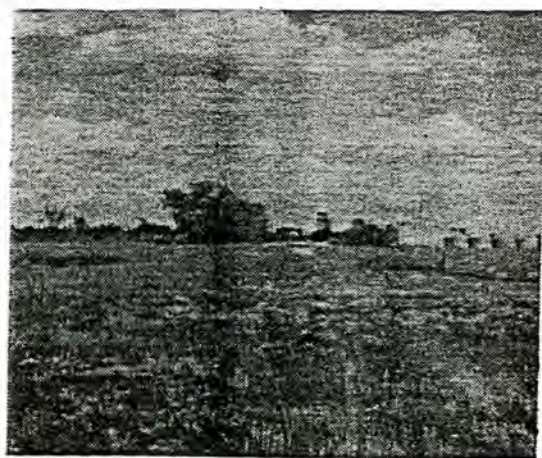
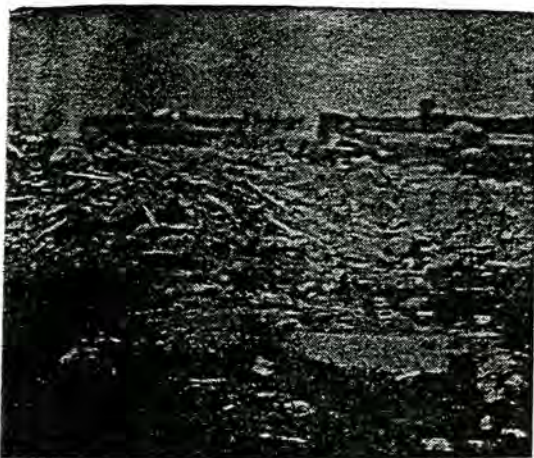
The Sun shone brightly, the morning of Friday, July 20th, as it would continue to shine throughout the three days of the Reunion. It was as if it heralded the Good Lord's Blessing upon our gathering. And so they came, former students and staff members of the late 1920's, the '30's, and the '40's. Eagerly they returned to the little village of Elkhorn, there to relive the past, rejoice in the present and look forward to a joyful celebration..

They came from as far West as Calgary, Alberta and Saskatoon and Melville in Saskatchewan; and as far East as Ennismore, Ontario. Former students, now all grown up, many of them parents and grandparents, some with grandchildren to accompany them, they came from all over Manitoba; North from Split Lake, The Pas, Easterville, Neepawa and Gypsumville; West from Solsgirth; East from Winnipeg, Portage, Brandon, Sioux Valley, Virden and Elkhorn itself. It soon became quite apparent that the Reunion would be a success in every way.



These eager and happy people came back to Elkhorn for one purpose and that was to once again meet with old school friends, after so many years of separation. They found that the bonds of friendship and experiences were still there. As someone in the crowd of well wishers said, "It's just wonderful to be together again, after so many years of being apart; and just look around.... Why it is just like one big happy family once again". So it was. With shouts of welcome, tears of joy, hugs of happiness, handshakes, backslaps, and kisses a-plenty the glorious Reunion was underway.

The first order of the day, following all the excitement of seeing old school friends and fellow students, was varied. For some, it was to register at Reunion headquarters and pick up one of the history books. For others it was a journey to the old school site.



For those who had not been on the grounds since they had left school over forty years before, it was a heart-rending and tear-producing sight that they were to behold. However, as memory restored to the mind's eye, the school as

it had always been remembered returned to light along with the many glad and happy days spent there. The joy of reunion soon dulled the pangs of sadness and the other emotions of that experience and so there was laughter, smiles and the sounds of joy and happiness once more.



Some of the group made a pilgrimage to the restored cemetery where a loved brother or sister had been buried, There they spent a time of meditation and remembrance and prayer for the sacred spot of ground had become a beautiful and quiet sanctuary in which remembrances and an act of worship became just a natural part of being there.

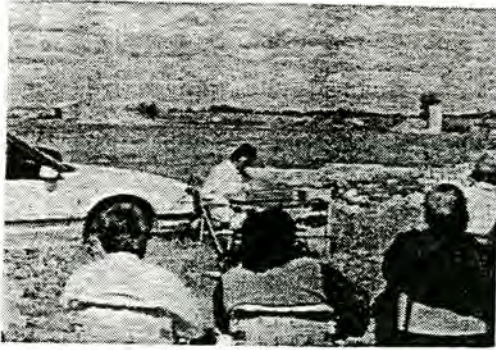
Back at Reunion Headquarters many had picked up a copy of the history book with its stories and pictures to be viewed and remembered. The walls were lined with pictures, past and present, to be viewed and commented upon. These all brought back many memories and the reminiscing blossomed forth into all its fullness. "Remember when?", "Oh, I remember her/him", "Whatever became of?", "How many children did/do you have?", "Do you ever see?", "Boy! you sure have changed", "Why, the last time I saw you", and on, and on, and on, and on it went, far into the afternoon, and even late into the night. It was wonderful.

On The Old School Grounds



Saturday morning, July 21, the Lord continued to bless the gathering, both with His Presence and a bright and sunshining day. At the school site, on the spot where the front steps had once been, a centre of worship, constructed out of school bricks and boards, was erected.

A small cross was placed on the now Holy Table, and behind it was placed the school Cross and Motto, the only remnant left of school furnishings.



At 10 a.m., the group of reunion celebrants began to gather around the pile of debris that is all that remains of their beloved school. And in their presence, that forlorn mound of brick and stone, lath and plaster began to take on a new light; for they had come here, not to shed tears of sorrow, but to praise God and to give Him thanks for the years of education and companionship that had been their privilege to experience in that school and on these very grounds.

Someone produced an old portable organ. A number had brought along lawn chairs which were set in place in front of the newly-constructed worship centre. Canon Daniel Umpherville took his place as service leader. And at 10:30 all was in readiness for an inspiring hour of worship, song and sermon.

The opening hymn was announced. Lillian (Chaske) Ironman touched the keys of the organ and, to the tune of Holy, Holy, Holy, the service began.



And so, for the first time in 41 years, the sounds of worship, praise and thanksgiving were lifted heavenward from that residential school site. Although the physical part of that grand old building had been destroyed, yet nothing had ever destroyed the spirit of those meeting here this day; for many had here experienced the care of a heavenly Father and the blessings of their Saviour's love.



It was a beautiful sunny morning ,with a cool gentle breeze blowing from the West. Based on the theme,"Give God The Glory - Sing Praises To Him",the service that day proved to be both thought-provoking and inspiring to all.Jesus said,"Where two or three are gathered together in my Name,there am I in the midst of them". He was truly there in spirit.

The hymns chosen,especially for the service,were ones that were often sung at school gatherings and services. "Holy,Holy,Holy", and "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". The 103rd Psalm was read in unison and from it Daniel chose the first two verses on which to base his sermon for that occasion.

- 1.Praise the Lord,O my soul, and all that
is within me,praise his holy Name.
- 2.Praise the Lord,O my soul, and forget not
all his benefits.

In his sermon,Daniel emphasized the loving kindness that God provides us with each day. He illustrated such loving kindness by relating his own true life story.

Daniel told how God had cared for he and his older brother Percy. The dreaded disease of Tuberculosis had taken many of their loved ones,including their mother, and they were left in the care of their grandmother.Both Daniel and Percy had been in the Prince Albert Sanatarium .When they were ready to be discharged, the grandmother was advised by medical authorities that if the boys were to return to the Reserve they would be in danger of suffering a relapse. The grandmother asked the missionary on the Reserve if there wasn't someplace the boys could reside where they would get the care and attention they required.

It was suggested that the two boys be sent to the Elkhorn Residential School where such care and attention could be both given and received, as the school had both a hospital ward and a solarium attached to it, the school matron was a registered nurse, and the local medical doctor was on call and sympathetic to the native children.

In school, both Daniel and Percy received the loving care and attention that they required. Percy, however, had a relapse a few years later and passed away while in the Ninette, Manitoba Sanatorium. Daniel, on the other hand, was to continue to be in good health, and to grow, as Jesus did when he was a youngster, "In wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man". For 13 years, the Elkhorn Residential School was home to Daniel, the staff were his care-parents, and the boys and girls who resided there were, to him, his "adopted" brothers and sisters. *A fact that became truly evident during the entire three days of the reunion.

Instances of the care given and received in the case of other children, orphans, sickly, homeless and so forth, brought to the school and nurtured there, were also described. The fondness and love given to the children by members of the staff, some such as Principal Minchin, Nurse Long, teacher Mrs. Hamilton, and others, was brought to mind as they were mentioned by name.

Daniel also spoke of the manner and means by which God had showered his blessings upon, not only the people, but the world around; and the loving-kindness that he provides for us day by day. To many his words brought back memories of the love and care that they too had received while attending the school. It was, indeed, a message of Praise and Thanksgiving to God for all of his benefits.

The service concluded with a prayer of Thanksgiving and the Benediction. All those present then joined in singing that well-known and contemporary hymn, so suited to express both the theme and message of the day, "How Great Thou Art".

Yes! It truly was both a beautiful service and a fitting way to begin the Reunion Celebrations.



The service over, Harry Miller then told the people how Claude Tutthill had rescued the school Cross and Motto from being destroyed; and how, when he was priested in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in 1953, the Cross was presented to him both as an ordination gift and a reminder of the days that Claude and

he had spent working together at the Elkhorn Residential School. Mr. Miller stated that he had carried the Cross with him all through his ministry. He told how the motto "Low Aim Not Failure Is Crime", and the story behind it (see pages E 21,22) had inspired other native boys and girls in the two residential schools that he was principal of and the reserves on which he had ministered. Now that he was retired, and to commemorate the reunion of former students, he would be, the next day, having the Bishop dedicate the Cross and Motto, and it would then find a permanent place of honour on the walls of St. Mark's Church, where the children of the residential school had worshipped from 1888 to 1949.



With the worship service over, it was time for the cameras to come out and pictures, both group and individual, to be taken. Then, for some, it was time to wander around the old school grounds reliving past events, experiences and escapades, greeting old friends, finding out where each lived, what they had done down through the years since leaving school; and simply rejoicing in being together once again.



Some of the men paid a visit to the barns where, as boys, they had been taught and experienced the basic skills of farming. Stories and experiences, centred around their farm days, were exchanged, some being very humorous.

especially those that centred around their former farm instructor, Mr. Povey, a man whom they had all respected and admired, and who had taught them a great deal about the skills of farming. How they beamed as an old piece of farm equipment and the ,now ruined, root cellar was discovered and around which many incidents were related. One of the group even found an old pocket knife that, in the distant past, one of them might have lost.

Then it was back to the school site and into the cars for a return trip to Reunion Headquarters. However, before they left, each had one last touch of sentiment to perform. For each one of those reunion celebrants went over to that pile of rubble that forms the last remnants of their old school and from it each gathered either a brick or a coloured stone to take back home as a souvenir and memorial both of the reunion and of the school itself.

Reminiscing



On returning to the Legion Hall, headquarters for the reunion, it was discovered that several more people had arrived to join in the celebrations. So once again it was a time for reminiscing. One could not help but notice the funny expressions as old friends were recognized or names given, take in the stories as they were related, hear the laughter, see the tears of joy that flowed so freely, and the smiles that made radiant the faces of the people that were gathered there. It was a scene to behold.

The history book with its stories and many pictures, the photos that lined the walls of the hall, these became focal points, bringing to mind former fellow students and staff members, with events and experiences of school life being recalled.

"This is a time to reunite once again", one of the celebrants was heard to say. "After all, we've been separated for forty-one years. We must do it again".

Some of the celebrants also took the opportunity throughout the afternoon to visit business establishments to eat lunch and to shop for souvenirs of Elkhorn. One could not help but be impressed with the welcome and hospitality that the people of Elkhorn offered their returning guests.

The Reunion Banquet



The Reunion Banquet was held in the Legion Hall on Saturday night with the Legion Ladies Auxiliary catering a delicious meal. Several guests from the community were present, including representatives of St. Mark's Church and the Village Council. It was also a great pleasure to have present several wives, husbands, children and grandchildren of former students.

Harry Miller, acting as chairperson, called upon the Reverend Donald Pratt of the Sioux Valley Reserve, and a former Residential School pupil, to lead in asking the Lord's blessing upon the meal, and upon those gathered there. To the delight of all present, it was suggested that perhaps they would like to once again sing the grace that had daily sounded throughout the dining room of the old Residential School during its many years of existence. And so, together voices were raised in Praise and Thanksgiving with the words:

Be present at our table, Lord,

Be here, and everywhere, adored.

These creatures bless, and grant that we

May feast in Paradise with thee.

Grace over, it was time to settle down to partaking of the delicious meal, and to enjoy the fellowship that accompanied it. Like all the other events associated with it, the banquet was one of the highlights of the Reunion, for it too was reminiscent of the meals that together they had shared so many years before.

The Speeches



Following the Banquet, greetings were brought to the assembly by Betty Zazulak and Agnes Smith on behalf of St. Mark's congregation; by Mr. Poston on behalf of the council and community of the village of Elkhorn; and by Jack Tivy, of Calgary. Mr. Tivy stated that he and Mrs. Tivy had heard of the reunion through Bert Hartley, and they had decided that as this was their fiftieth wedding anniversary, and they had been married by Canon Minchin in the school Chapel, they would like to join the former staff and students in these celebrations. Mr. Tivy also video-taped the reunion celebrations.

Canon Daniel Umpherville welcomed all to the Reunion. He spoke of his happiness at seeing so many of his "old buddies" who had returned to join him for this time of celebration. Relating some of his schoolday experiences, both in class and on the farm, Daniel brought to the minds of many their own experiences, including days spent at the "old swimming hole", competitions with the "white boys", herding cattle, the yearly Field Days and carrying the school banner as they proudly marched through the streets of Elkhorn.

Henry Ironman, who along with his wife had travelled all the way from Ennismore, Ontario, spoke of his happiness at once again seeing and meeting his old school "chummies", and how thankful he was that someone had thought up the idea of this reunion. To the delight of all, Henry, still the fascinating story-teller that he had been in his school days, was persuaded to relate some of the "adventures" that he was involved in while attending the Residential School. These stories brought back many hilarious memories, including "fresh-baked bread" and "the day I rang the school bell". He had the people in the proverbial "stitches". It was great.

Highlight of the evening's speeches was the one that was delivered, unrehearsed and from the heart, by Lawrence Whitehead. In this speech, Lawrence told of how much the Elkhorn Residential School had contributed to the enrichment of his life. The full text is on the next two pages.



A Tribute to "Our School"

LAWRENCE WHITEHEAD in an emotional and thought-provoking message, expressed the sentiments of the former Residential School students as they had voiced them during the first two days of the School Reunion. The speech was delivered during a period of reminiscing and entertainment following the Saturday night Banquet in the Legion Hall.

*The bracketed words are included by the author.

Thank you "Captain" Miller and the ladies (of the Legion Auxilliary) who arranged our delicious banquet. Ladies and gentlemen and students: fellow students for I know that I have gone to school with some who are here, and guests: I know there are several honoured guests here as well. I would much like to bring some fond memories to our reunion. We should like to remember those who are unable to be with us tonight, for they were a part of us and I know they are part of us even today. And for those who have gone on to the Happy Hunting Ground, as we might say, they had a full life and were a contributing part of our society. I know that they, and you and I, have a great respect for that (educational) movement that came out of Elkhorn. The "Elkhorn Radicals" as we called ourselves and that were there. I say this because I have seen a lot of movements that have occurred from that establishment that was over there (the old school site) and the many changes in Indian life that were occurring when we were finishing our schooling; and they continue to occur. I was very sorry that it (the old school establishment) had to come down. I suppose that in many ways it had to come down for it was the end of an era, but I would like to have had it left standing for us to see once again; and for a memorial, or a heritage site, perhaps to those who have gone on to major accomplishments and achievements both on reserves and in the world and who have contributed so much to our history; for it is truly a vital and enriching part of our native history. I guess I felt a little sorry, as I feel most of you did, when we saw those bricks and rubble that was our old school building; and some of the roads that we used to walk up and down, no longer visible. But I do hope that the various levels of government would preserve the place. I feel that our children and grandchildren and our great great grandchildren will be wanting to honour the site because it has made such a great contribution to our lives and to our society. I say that because in my own experience, and I know a lot of you feel the same way, as the result of coming to Elkhorn and leaving

Elkhorn realize that when we were out "in the trenches" and travelling life's "fields" of endeavour, as we made and still make our way in life, we have become quite independent and quite strong in our own way. Therefore we have been able to make a lot of contributions to our present way of life and our recognition as an emerging peoples in our own rights.

In my time, when I was at school, I was emotional, very emotional, but then again perhaps the Great Spirit was looking after us because, you see, we didn't "quit". We were there, staunch and quite strong. We came back and forth. We knew that we would be lonesome when we left home and loved-ones for the school; but then we were lonesome when we left the residential school and our friends and companions to go back home again. We felt that we had left something behind when we left school for the last time. When we came back here today, I started to have all those emotional feelings again. Then I say I looked at the whole picture of the people who came here (to the Elkhorn Residential School and to the Reunion) and who have made such great contributions to our native society. I realize the appreciation that I have to express here today for our stalwarts who were out there pioneering our way and paving our path to independence; at least in some respects anyway. In my own life I have experienced a great deal of progress.

In my early years I was an administrator in the Pas Band, a councillor, an executive director of a Friendship Centre. I became vice-president for an Indian organization and a provincial leader of an Indian organization.

So, you see, just to illustrate a portion of my life, there was a great contributing factor in creating strength for my life to be found in my formative years here in the Elkhorn Residential School. And I believe the same to be the case with all those, and incidentally all of you, who have gone through life, some to become nurses, teachers, counsellors, politicians, professionals, leaders and home-makers, paving the road of life for native people to travel after us.

So it is that with that brief message I would like to express my own appreciation for meeting my fellow students once again. I hope that as you go back home, you will travel safely so that when your friends see you once again at home they will be happy to see you back. And that is what I came to contribute to this reunion and I hope you have a great deal of fun while you are at it. Thank you.



The Entertainment



The entertainment section of the evening's celebrations started off on a very inspiring note with the Pratt sisters, daughters of the Reverend Donald and Mrs Pratt, singing Gospel songs. With one playing the guitar, these young ladies delighted an appreciative audience by dedicating their first number to their father. It was "My Daddy is an Oldtime Preacher MAn". This was followed up with "Will the Circle be Unbroken", and "Precious Memories".

The next person to appear on stage was "The oldtime preacher man" himself. Mr. Pratt first told of his time spent, four years, in residence at the school, and the fact that he had only been able to receive a Grade 4 education. But, that in that time he had been able to learn three main things that he had treasured all his life. They were 1. A disciplined way of life, 2. The skills of farming. 3. How to become a Christian and to live the Christian life. He also paid tribute to his mother who had played the church organ on the Reserve for seventyfive years and who had taught him Gospel songs. Then, to the delight of the crowd he sang the songs, "For You I am Praying", and "Showers of Blessing". At the conclusion, the chairperson was moved to say, "Sir, you may have had only a Grade 4 formal education, but, believe me, you have a University voice and a University heart". And the audience gave their approval and agreement with a hearty applause.

The participants in the Reunion had been requested to bring along any musical instruments that they might play. So, the next person to perform was Lawrence Whitehead, who had brought along his violin. Lawrence entertained the audience with two selections, one a reel and the other a jig. In the jig, he was accompanied by Harry Miller playing, or strumming, the washboard. The people seemed to get quite a "kick" out of that combination of violin and washboard.

Daniel Umpherville, feeling that the audience had sat long enough, then suggested that they stand for a little exercise. He reminded the former students that when they left the school dining room, they always marched out as someone played the piano; and so saying, he brought out his tape recorder, out of which issued the music of "Under The Double Eagle". So everyone moved their arms and legs as if marching; and as they did so they once again could picture their days in the old school.



The evenings entertainment concluded with Harry Miller playing music on some of his home-made instruments accompanied by tape recorded Oldtime and Western music. There was the jug, a one-gallon one which he blows into and makes the sound of a Tuba. The washboard was strummed, using thimbles. A snare drum, made out of a five-gallon washtub was played, using fly swatters and egg turners as beaters. Mr. Miller also played on several other instruments that would be hard to describe.

To close off his performance, the entertainer reminded the people how he had been a tap dancer during the days spent at the school, and how he had often performed during school functions. Then he proved he could still "trip the light fantastic" by tap dancing once again.

A very enjoyable evening of togetherness and reminiscing was brought to a close with an appeal to the men to help erect the memorial Cross on the cemetery grounds the next day.

A Beautiful Sunday



Sunday, July 22nd witnessed a bright warm day with the Sun shining in all its radiant splendour, as if heralding a fitting beginning to, and God's blessing upon, the last day of the Reunion.

At 8.30, Bernard Tutthill and some of the men loaded up the memorial Cross and its cement foundation. They then proceeded to the school cemetery and there, with the foundation in place, they erected the Cross, making it ready for the afternoon dedication ceremony. Then it was back to the village to prepare for the Reunion Church Service in St. Mark's Anglican Church.

The pupils and staff members of both the Washakada Industrial School and the Residential School were always closely associated with St. Mark's Church. Here they would be found, Sunday by Sunday, worshipping together with village and district members of the congregation. It was because of this interaction that the Reunion Service of Thanksgiving was held in the church that had stored within it many happy memories for the returning celebrants.



The service form for Reunion Sunday was Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer, so familiar to all in attendance.

The Celebrant : The Rt. Rev. John Conlin of the Diocese of Brandon

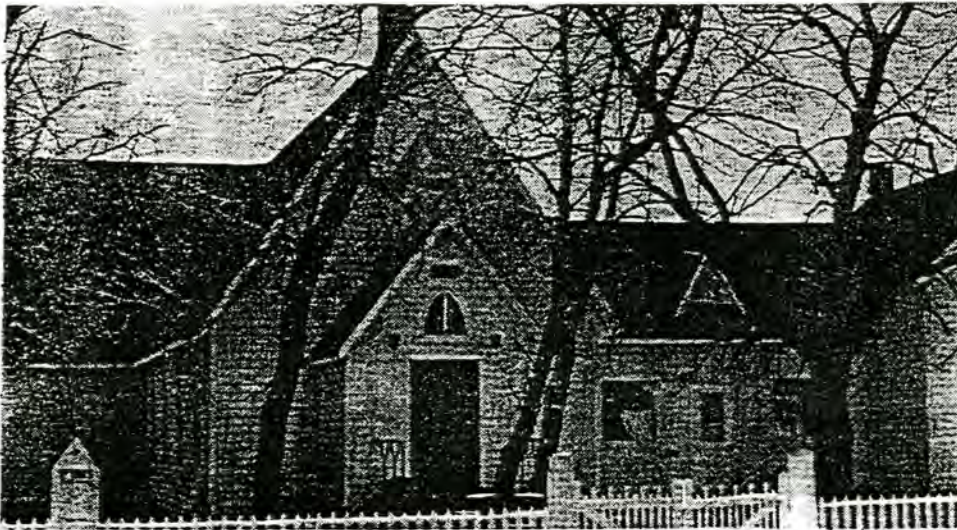
Service Leader: The Rev. Canon Daniel Umpherville - A former student and priest in the Diocese of Saskatchewan.

Gospeller: The Rev. Donald Pratt: A former student and priest in charge of the Parish of Sioux Valley.

Preacher: The Rev. Harry Miller: Church Army officer, Parish of Elkhorn and former staff member '44-'46, retired priest Diocese of Qu'Appelle.

Organist: Mrs. Agnes Smith: Elkhorn librarian and St. Mark's organist.

Sidespersons: Members of St. Mark's congregation.

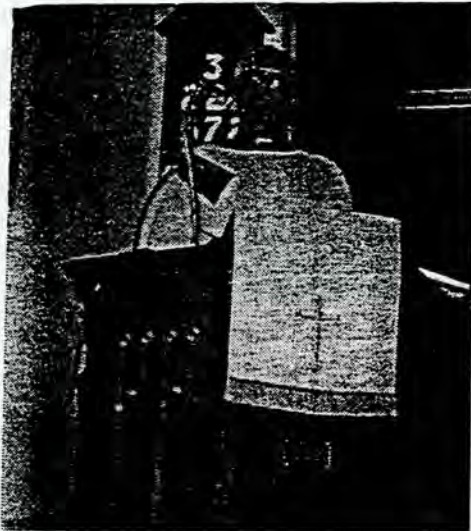


Written words cannot do justice to the sense of beauty and mixed emotions that were experienced by all who were present in St. Mark's Church that Reunion morning. A congregation made up of both Elkhorn residents and returning ex-students and staff members gathered together to offer their combined thanksgiving to an all-loving and all-caring Heavenly Father, so fittingly rendered through the Holy Eucharist. The scripture lessons, read by Daniel, Donald and Harry were most appropriate both for the reunion and for relating to the present strivings of the native peoples for rightful recognition as a people deserving of equal rights and opportunities in this country that they hold so dear.

The hymns sung that day were all reminiscent of those that had been sung both in school and in church so many years before. "New every morning is the love our waking and uprising prove". "My God, and is thy table spread, and doth thy cup with love o'erflow?" "O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end". "God be with you 'till we meet again".

Of the service, Canon Umpherville wrote, "On Sunday morning at 10:30 we came together to gather around the Table of the Lord and to partake of that most holy of all meals The Lord's Supper. Bishop Conlin was the officiant and Rev. Harry Miller, a former staff member, gave a heart-warming sermon on "Lord, keep my memory green".

Lord, Keep My Memory Green



Friends, just before this service began Bishop Conlin commented on the historical nature of our Reunion. This being the first time since the old Residential School was closed down and the last children brought to this church to be Confirmed and to worship here that there has been such a gathering as we see today.

This is an historical occasion for me as well. In 1944, I stood in this very pulpit, with the same assortment of people before me, as I delivered my first sermon. I retired from the full-time ministry on June 30th. Today I have come full circle. Here I am again standing in this same pulpit, preaching my first sermon in retirement, with the same assortment of people in front of me. It pleases me a great deal to see so many of you who were in that congregation 46 years ago.

I have just finished writing the history of the Elkhorn Indian Residential Schools from 1888 to 1949. In fact, after I return home, I shall be adding a chapter on the Reunion. It will then be the history of the school from 1888 to 1990. I have entitled the book "The Spirit Lives On". I deliberately chose that title for from the first day that I stood in this pulpit, then went to work at the Residential School, and all the years since there have been native people involved in my life. I have found, as the native people say, "The Spirit does live on".

We were talking yesterday and I discovered that several of the Reunion celebrants had lived in the Residential School almost all of their life, from age three to sixteen. Some were there even longer than that. To some it was the only home they had ever known; to others it was their "second" home. This grand old church was an integral part of that home life. One person said to me "You know, when I came into church today, after so many years, I had the feeling that, for the first time in my life, I had come home".

As a result of these statements, I am entitling my talk today:

LORD, KEEP MY MEMORY GREEN with the sub-title "It's Just Like Coming Home".

LORD, KEEP MY MEMORY GREEN.

For some of you, that memory may involve St. Mark's Church as the place of spiritual rebirth and Baptism. Strengthening, as Daniel said, in Confirmation. Feeding on the Word of God. Binding in Holy Matrimony, as some where here in this church and others in the school chapel. Growth in Service and in Faith and Hope in the departure of a loved one.

For some others, St. Mark's has been, not only a place in which we paused for a while to gain spiritual nourishment and refreshment before moving on to further service but, like the Residential School, it has been a "home" in which we were adopted and grew as members of a loving, caring and sharing family. And through that experience of Christian love and fellowship, we have moved on stronger of spirit, and with a greater desire to pass on to others with whom we come in contact, the love and experience that we found here.

If the walls of this beautiful building, and the bricks and stones of the old school, could only speak, what volumes they would relate, what wonderful memories of service, song and sermon, of humour and sadness, of joy and thanksgiving. Like me, you will have many splendid memories stored up in your heart. Some of these I have placed in my book. The beauty of the sight and sound of Christmas Candle-lit services, when both the school and church choirs participated. The joyful proclamation of the Easter message, and the assurance it has brought of an even greater celebration to come. Then there was the night that the World War 2 Memorial Tablet was unveiled and dedicated. How our hearts went out to those serving their country in the air and on land and sea.



How we rejoiced, the whole town, the district and up at the school, the day that war ceased in Europe. We gathered together, here in this little church. It was packed to the rafters. Even the north annex was filled to capacity. The church and school choirs were together that day. We raised our voices in thanksgiving, song and prayer for God's blessing.

Then there have been all those other celebrations and events, many recorded in the history book, However, to each and everyone, the most precious memories are those that we have experienced and hold so dear.

Lord, Keep My Memory Green.

But the beauty of St. Mark's and of the Residential School does not lie only within hallowed walls. Even greater beauty lies within the hearts and souls and spirits of the many who for over one hundred years worshipped in both establishments. Those who caught the fire of God's love and forgiveness and then carried that spirit into the community and country round about. As the Apostle St. James states, "... as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without actions is dead." James 2:26 GNB.

I am told that when a stone is dropped into a body of water the resultant little circles begin to move from the center until, gradually becoming larger and larger, they reach the other shore. Even so, when Christ's Gospel of love and forgiveness touches the human heart, that love gradually spreads out to touch the lives of others in an ever-widening circle.

I think of the young Indian boys and girls who, having worshipped here in this church and in the school, have returned to their homes in almost every corner of this great province to influence the lives of others they meet with the fruit of a Saviour's love, inspiration and fellowship that they experienced here.

I want to especially point to the two native clergy who are leading in this service today. These two men were filled with the love that was shared here. I know that there are others here today who have served as lay ministers, lay readers, church wardens, choir members, as well as in other church-related positions. Then there are others who have carried the Saviour's love into other fields of life, both family and community, and as a result other lives have been enriched through your faith and actions.

I think also of the clergy, C.A. officers, student ministers, Bishop's messengers, lay readers, school principals, teachers and other staff members who have stopped here for awhile and then carried on their work in other places, enriched in mind and spirit. And so the spirit of St. Mark's and the Residential School lives on in other lives and in other places.

We have returned today to revive those precious memories that live so deeply and dearly in our hearts.

Lord, Keep My Memory Green
The Spirit Lives On



There are other memories that we would keep as well. Memories of those with whom we laughed, found joy and happiness, shed tears for and cared and shared. We look for their familiar faces. We long to hear them call our name. But we seek in vain. They are the ones who have moved on to an even more beautiful life and now are residents in God's mansion above. For them we pray, "Lord, keep my memory green." For they cannot help but be, in spirit, a most important part of this great and wonderful Reunion.

To help us realize how this can be, here is a true story. In his autobiography, Lord Haldane tells of how and when he was a young man, for six weeks he was engaged to a beautiful girl. During that six weeks, his happiness was absolutely perfect and he looked forward to years of happiness. Then a strange thing happened. Suddenly, without warning the woman he adored broke off the engagement. She gave no explanation whatever, and one infers that he never saw her again. He never knew the reason for her act. Fifty years later the only comment he made was, "I was then, nor have I ever been anything but profoundly grateful to her for that perfect six weeks." There was no word of blame or bitterness, only gratitude. The glory of that radiant interlude had lived in his heart, a vivid memory, through all the years. It was his forever; nothing could rob him of it. He was an old man but there was something young singing in his heart.

How closely that story relates to an experience I had a few years ago. Some of you may recall that my life here in Elkhorn was closely inter-twined with both St. Mark's Church and the Residential School in which I lived and worked during my last fourteen months in the community. My memories of the school, as well as St. Mark's, are only beautiful. That is why I undertook to write the history of the schools and to entitle it "The Spirit Lives On".

Always in my memory and in my mind's eye I have been able to picture the school, the staff and the children as I last saw them in 1946. Though I had heard that the school had been torn down, I would never let my mind dwell on what it might look like. Then one day, a few years ago, while passing through on the highway I said to Margaret my wife, "I would like to go in and have a look at the old school grounds."

What a terrific shock was in store for me. The same shock that many of you former students and staff received yesterday and today. When my eyes fell on that pile of rubble that had once been the school at which I worked and

found so much joy, happiness and companionship, I was struck numb and tears welled up in my eyes. At first, I wanted to get away from there just as fast as I possibly could.



Then the truth began to dawn on me; the truth that is for all of us. Nothing can take away from us the beautiful experiences we have had in the past. They are ours to keep eternally, if we would but have it so.



And so once again, through that pile of rubble, I could feel the spirits of the children and of the staff rise up. I could hear their voices, see their smiles, join in their songs and laughter, and so I became young of heart once more.

And, my former boys and girls, that same thing happened yesterday. It was the same pile of rubble but oh! the voices, the smiles, the songs and the laughter were real. They were yours. Many were the same voices that I knew so long ago. What a wonderful experience that has been for me. I imagine that many of you feel the same way as I do.

So it is the same with all the beautiful memories that are ours today. And so it is with those whom we have "loved long since and lost awhile."

Lord, keep our memories green.

Last May, I attended a conference on native ministry and leadership that was held in The Pas and centered around the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Devon Mission by the native clergyman, Henry Budd. I took with me some pictures of former Elkhorn students who had come from The Pas. It was my hope that I would meet them. However, I was to learn that many have passed away. Lord, keep my memory green, we pray. And in that memory live those who once walked with us, worshipped with us, and shared Christ's love with us. They are no longer with us. We must know that "they who love God never meet for the last time." For memory, the mother of faith, hope and love, we give thanks.

The writer to the Hebrew Christians states that we are surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses; those who have gone before. We must not think of

our friends and loved ones as dead, but as living, growing, yes and even today rejoicing with us on this wonderful occasion. For them also the Residential School and St. Mark's Church is "Just like coming home."

Lord, keep our memories green.

But my friends St. Mark's is more than just a memory. Look around you. Today it is still a vibrant house of worship. The message of the love of God is still bearing fruit. Today it is on the faces and in the hearts of everyone here. We thank God that this church in which, as children and young people, we worshipped so long ago, is still here for us to meet and worship in today. God still cares, and this grand old building is still a guiding light to many, many people. As someone said "It is just like coming home."

As this time of reunion and celebration draws to a close, some of you will remain here to carry on Christ's work in this community, sending little waves of love, caring and sharing throughout the land.

Then there are those of us who will be returning to our present places of abode. Our spirits shall be strengthened by our visit and fellowship. We shall have been enriched, heartened and encouraged by a new vision of our worth and value to our blessed Saviour and to the Family of God to which each now belongs.

Tomorrow this day, this Reunion will be but a beautiful addition to our treasure chest of memories. We have all "come home". We are a family once again. And isn't it wonderful?

It may be that some of us shall not meet again in this life. So today we rejoice in things past and present. But let us look forward to even greater days to come; to that day when we shall all have been called by God to the life above where for each one he has prepared a dwelling place that shall be ours for eternity. Let us, as St. Paul writes, "Run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above."

And when together we meet on that distant shore, in that perfect and permanent Residential Home that he has prepared for us, we shall once again greet each other with "It's just like coming home". And what a Reunion that will be. So it is that today we pray:

LORD, KEEP MY MEMORY GREEN



Canon Umpherville continues, "The message brought back happy memories of our days at the Boarding School. It was like coming home again. Even coming back for worship in the old church was, for many students including myself, a very special time of spiritual renewal and refreshment. There was something beautiful and sacred about coming into the church, as if we were not alone. And we weren't for we could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit all around us."

Following the sermon, Bishop Conlin received and dedicated two plaques which were to be placed on the walls of St. Mark's Church to commemorate the Reunion.



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The wording on the first plaque is as follows. "A Thanksgiving to The Glory of God. Commemorating the close relationship that existed between St. Mark's Church and the Washakada and Anglican Indian Residential Schools 1888-1949. Dedicated during the Reunion of former Staff and Students July 22, 1990. Presented by the Tutthill Family in memory of Claude and Sybil Tutthill.

The second plaque is, of course, the old school Cross and Motto being returned to Elkhorn by Harry Miller after it had been rescued from destruction by Claude Tutthill in 1953 when the school was torn down and presented to Harry at the time of his ordination to the priesthood. He felt that the Reunion and his retirement signified the time when the Cross and Motto should be returned to Elkhorn where it might find a permanent resting place on the walls of St. Mark's Church.

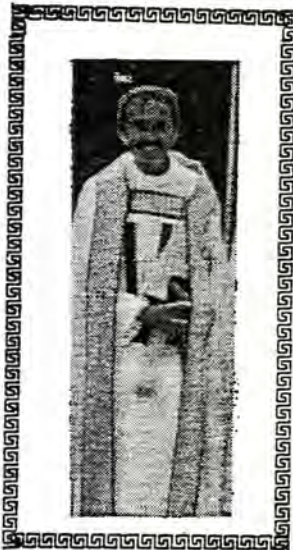
Following the Dedications, the hymn "My God, and is thy table spread", was sung. With the exchange of The Peace", a beautiful and touching part of the service, the Bishop proceeded with the consecration of the bread and wine.

Of this part of the service, Canon Umpherville writes, "It was a beautiful memorable Communion and everyone came forward to share in the Sacrament with our Lord. Once again the service brought back fond memories.

One former student said to me after the Communion, "You know, Daniel, when I knelt before the altar and received Communion I couldn't help but shed tears in those few moments, because it brought back the days when I attended Church and Communion services at the Boarding School and in this Church. Oh, if we could only relive the past."

Bishop Conlin, following the Communion Service, spoke to the congregation. In his "off-the-cuff", as he called it, speech, the Bishop told of his interest in the Church's work amongst the native people, and of the tremendous growth in native Ministry and Leadership.

Residential Schools - Native Leadership



At the close of the Reunion Service of Praise and Thanksgiving, Bishop Conlin delivered the following message.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be with you today on this great and historic occasion. I became a Bishop sixteen years ago last May. I have been very much taken with, and committed to the development of work amongst our native people. In a sense, I can look back at the work at the Elkhorn school, and some other schools in the Diocese as well, and recognize that for their time and in their day they did a

tremendous job in training people for the future. This is not a day, I realize, when some favourable comments are directed toward residential schools. In fact, sometimes one hears a lot of negative things. But your presence here today, and this particular Celebration (the 1990 reunion of former students and staff) is an indication that, indeed, there was a lot of good that came out of those residential schools. And this is what we are celebrating here today.

A great deal of leadership, particularly, came out of that residential system. Sure, it was not perfect; no system is perfect. So this is a time to remember, and to celebrate the good things; and we can thank God for that. As some of you may know, when I became Bishop sixteen years ago one of the things that concerned me greatly was that there was not enough native leadership in the Church. I resolved then that I would try to discover a means to develop more native leadership in ministry in the Church. (Bishop Conlin was instrum-

ental in the establishment of the Henry Budd Training Centre in The Pas, Manitoba) For instance, Harry mentioned, a short time ago, Gordon Lathlin (A former Elkhorn Residential School student and a Chief of The Pas Band). I remember sitting with Gordon in the living room of the Mission House on The Pas Reserve and talking to him about leadership. He said to me, "You know, Bishop, we must develop and hold on to material things for my people; but one thing we must never forget is their spiritual life". I can hear Gordon say that now. Gordon was a great leader, as is indicated by the many memories of him that are today on The Pas Reserve. It was unfortunate that he passed away at such an early age.

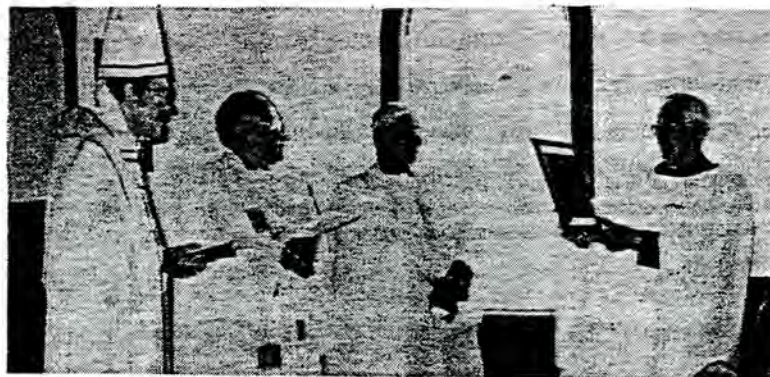
Today, everywhere I go both amongst the Cree people in the North and the Sioux people in the South, I come across great leadership amongst the native church people. This is due, I know, to the early beginnings. What we are hoping for now is that, since we have raised up many deacons, priests and lay leaders, the leadership will go on developing. Then we shall see, amongst our native people, a much stronger people than ever before; and we can thank God for that.

I really am very moved when I can be here with you and take part in this historic service of Reunion and Thanksgiving. It is wonderful to see the people come back to Elkhorn from the various parts of the Diocese that you represent. here to celebrate a time of Remembrance, to thank God for the past, and to make commitment for the future. May God bless you as you continue in your celebrations today.



With the singing of the hymn, "God Be With You, 'Till We Meet Again" the beautiful service of worship, inspiration, fellowship and thanksgiving was concluded.

But... THE SPIRIT LIVES ON



The Reunion Luncheon

Just down the street from St. Mark's Anglican Church, stands the Elk's Hall which is located in the same area as was the old Elkhorn Stadium. The Stadium being the place where in 1945 so many of the Reunion celebrants had either participated in or attended the Residential School students public performance of the ballet "The Moon Goddess". * see page I 7-10.

The Reunion luncheon was held in the Elk's Hall. It was a delicious meal that was superbly catered by the ladies of the Royal Purple Lodge. Bishop Conlin asked God's blessing upon both the meal and those present, with the added prayer that those in attendance might have a safe journey back to their homes following the celebrations. Then it was down to eating and more reminiscing and fellowship



Daniel Umpherville; as Master of Ceremonies, gave a short talk on how the Reunion had originated, and how much it pleased the organizing committee to have such an excellent turnout on so short a notice. He then asked a surprised Harry Miller to come forward. He then presented Harry with an engraved silver tray in recognition of the work done in advertising and co-ordinating the Reunion. Also, as a token of their years of friendship, he presented a beaded cross stating that it matched the cross he wears.

The highlight of the luncheon took place when Daniel called Henry Ironman to come front and centre. Then, to Henry's surprise and the delight of all those in attendance, Daniel presented him with a hand-painted picture, crafted by Mrs A.L. Hamilton, depicting Henry standing near a railroad boxcar when he was a student and Mrs. Hamilton a teacher some forty-seven years previous. The picture had been placed in Daniel's care for presentation to Henry at the first opportunity. And what an opportunity the Reunion presented for this to be done.

