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'T' I I I E A R O O S T O O K I N D I A N

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CONCLUSION OF SUMMER CAMP

The Association of Aroostook Indians and the Quebec-Labrador Mission Foundation recently concluded the first summer camp for Indian boys and girls from Aroostook County.

From all reports, the camp was a success of which the boys and girls enjoyed for twenty days. The only complaint heard was that there was too much to do in too little time. The program which was conducted at the camp consisted of a detail swimming program with instruction from qualified instructors, with emphasis on water-front safety. Instructions was given in arts and crafts which included Indian beadwork and weaving. Drama classes were held of which skits were produced and directed. Instruction and demonstration projects were given in clay and woodworking and also music which included guitar lessons and also Indian songs and dancing were included. Photography classes were held, of which most of the children were able to develop their own films at the end of the

camp. Archery and boating instruction was taught and finally, a detailed sports program was offered. In all, the camp was structured in a way where children were introduced to many activities to broaden their interest.

The success of the camp was attributed to many people and organizations in Aroostook County but credit must be given to the counselors, both Indian and non-Indian. It was the dedication of these young people who made a success of the camp.

There are two individuals who have to be mentioned and that is Miss Marcia Nichols, the camp director, and Dickie Laughing, a Mohawk Indian who with his knowledge of Indian songs, dancing, and Indian lore had both attributed immensely to the success of the camp.

Although this was our first camp and also the first of its kind in the state, the A.A.I. will be looking for funds for next year's camp, but we cannot be definitely certain there will be another
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camp next year. The A.A.I. is a non-profit organization with no definite revenue source. The A.A.I. relies on grants from specific proposals from private foundations and when applicable, the federal government. The A.A.I. is presently involved in trying to achieve recognition from state and federal governments of which funds could be secured for specific projects. This has to be one of our main projects for the coming year.

THE EDITOR

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TOBIQUE INDIAN CELEBRATIONS

Dennis Nicholas, chief of the Maliseet Reserve at Tobique, New Brunswick has extended an invitation to all Native People in Aroostook County to attend their Tobique Indian Celebrations beginning September 4th - 6th.

There will be an Indian Princess Pageant, canoe races, and other Indian events.

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"Let no one forget it. We are a people with special rights guaranteed us by promises and treaties. We do not beg for these rights, nor do we thank you. We do not thank you for them because we paid for them, and God help us, the price we paid was exorbitant. We paid for them with our culture, our dignity, our pride and self-respect. We paid, we paid and we paid until we became a beaten race, poverty stricken and conquered."

Chief Dan George

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There is another off-reservation Indian group in Maine, known as the Bangor Indian Council which is attempting to organize the more than 100 North American Indians who are permanent residents of the Greater Bangor area. They have been established since the spring of 1971.

Their goals are similar to those of the Association of Aroostook Indians, the main ones being that of securing state and federal recognition and establish self-help programs.

Further information about the Council and its programs can be obtained by writing or calling:

Elwin Sapiel
183 Main St.
Bangor, Maine
Tel. 945-5086

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LET US PUT OUR MINDS TOGETHER AND SEE WHAT LIFE WE WILL MAKE FOR OUR CHILDREN.

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I have lived in Boston for a while. I am from New Brunswick and I am a Micmac. This story is about the Indians from the Maritimes. Most of the Indians that I know of that have come to Boston did not make it. Some of them did. What I mean is - its about liquor. How I wish all the Micmacs had the power to overcome liquor, but not many of them have the power. As the years go by the Indian doesn't walk proud like he used to - he walks in shame; I know as I walk along the city streets and see some of the Indians lying on the park benches passed out from the liquor they have been drinking, and they are so dirty I am ashamed to call myself an Indian. I keep telling myself I should not be ashamed - I should be proud.

They will learn someday liquor is not everything in the whiteman's world. So please listen to me and get up on your feet and show the whiteman what you are made of and show the Great Gluskap too, so he will be proud of his people.

Submitted by Gilbert Sanipass of Boston, Massachusetts

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Miss Marcia Nichols, who was camp director for the Aroostook Indian summer camp this summer, was recently hospitalized at a Fort Kent hospital following a car accident during a severe thunderstorm. She suffered some minor cuts and bruises and a possible rib fracture.

We wish her a speedy recovery.

The STAFF of the A.A.I.

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An Indian went to buy a television set. The clerk asked him if he wanted black and white and the Indian replied, "No! I like a brown one."

Submitted by David Sanipass, age 13 Mapleton, Maine.

MOST MAINE INDIANS LIVE OFF RESERVATIONS

AUGUSTA, Maine (UPI) - A survey of Maine Indians living off reservations released Thursday (August 5, 1971) showed more than half of all Indian families are unemployed or under employed, and two out of five Indian families have incomes of under \$3,000 a year.

The survey, done for the Department of Indian Affairs under a federal grant, also showed that nearly half of Indian families live in substandard housing.

In a statement, Gov. Kenneth M. Curtis said the study "focuses public attention on the unacceptable and often inhumane living conditions which far too many of Maine's off-reservation Indians must tolerate."

He said the survey "documents an unquestionable public neglect of . . . essential human needs."

The study recommended the addition of one or two coordinators under the Indian Affairs Department to aid off-reservation Indians develop programs, and to make sure they are aware of available local, state, and federal programs.

The survey found there were some 1,450 Indians living outside of reservations in Maine, 60 per cent of them in Aroostook, Penobscot and Washington counties.

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In order to continue publishing our newsletter, we must ask for the cooperation of the Indian people in Aroostook County, Maine. If you have any comments (criticisms or otherwise), old Indian tales or legends, recipes, poems, cartoons, current news, or anything else you would like to see printed in the AROOSTOOK INDIAN. Write them down and send them to P.O. Box 223, Houlton, Maine. We want to hear from all the Indians in Aroostook County and the rest of Maine.

Anglo Saxon pride becomes ruffled when they realize the Native Americans prefer their own way of life, poor as it is, to the civilization white society has longed to confer on us. In the Native American way of life each man has respect for his brother's dream. Real American history has not yet been written. The history that was written by the scribes of the conquerors, tells only the story of European conquest. It's still appalling to white society that Native Americans say "we" instead of "I" and "this is ours" rather than "this is mine." The political ideals of American life emerged from American Indian's democratic tradition, namely the great Iroquois Confederacy, there was nothing in the 15th Century Europe to parallel the democratic constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy. The Europe that Columbus sailed from was less civilized than the vast land that lay before him. In the Europe of Columbus, bathing was a sinful indulgence.

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One of Queen Isabella's first orders to civilize the Native Americans in 1502 was "They (Native Americans) are not to bathe as frequently as hitherto:" Even the sports of pre-Columbian Europe were revolved chiefly about killing. The killing of stags, bears, birds, bulls, foxes, and human beings, with or without armor. A sportsman in Europe killed for pleasure rather than for need. It remains so even today! Acculturation unlike assimilation, is not a one-way street, the Native American has learned much from his white teacher, but does not every great teacher carry away from his students more than he brought to them?" No one knows enough about another man's culture to have a right to erase it! We are not gods to make other men in our own image!

Submitted by Erne Yarmal of
Pleasant Point, Perry, Maine

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