

P.O. Box 223
Houlton, Maine
04730

THE

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AROOSTOOK INDIAN

Volume # 1. No. 1

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AROOSTOOK INDIANS ORGANIZE: PLAN EDUCATION PROGRAM ON LEADERSHIP AMONG OFF-RESERVATION INDIANS

The Indians of Aroostook County, Maine have formed an association. This is made up of both Malicite and Micmac Indians. This association meets once a week at Ricker College, Potter Hall, Room 302. Any Indian residing in Aroostook County who wishes to join is invited to attend every Wednesday night at 7:30.

There is an education program entitled Education for Leadership Among Off-Reservation Indians in Aroostook County. This is financed in part by the federal government. This program is the first ever offered to Aroostook Indians as a group. We hope this is only the beginning of many more opportu-

nities for the Aroostook Indians.

I feel the only way we can accomplish things. is for all of us Indians in Aroostook to unite and work together, because as a group we will be stronger and more easily heard. Again I ask you to join the Association, so that we can learn each others needs, and work together to remedy these needs. Thank you.

Terrance Polchies,
Chairman of the
Association of
Aroostook Indians

A HINT FROM SHIRLEY LEVASSEUR

If your kids won't use the clear colored Karo syrup from surplus foods, heat the bottle and put in a few drops

of Maple extract and shake it up and PRESTO!!

Maple Syrup!!!

EDUCATION CONFERENCE AT MEHREMCOOK:
JULY 13th, 1969

We arrived Sunday about 5:00. The first thing we did was to register, then we were assigned a room and a meal ticket. We freshened up then went to supper. After supper we had a planning meeting for the following day. This meeting started about 6:30 and lasted until approximately 8:30. We were shown video tapes of the planning meeting which they had made while the meeting was in session and slides of various tribes which were explained by Richard Laughing.

Monday July 14th

We got up about 8:00 and went to breakfast. The activities didn't begin until 10:00. The first speaker was Andy Nicholas. He thanked all who were able to attend the conference. By the way, Andy is Vice-President of the Union of New Brunswick Indians. The next speaker was Loretta Barlow. She welcomed the students and asked them all to take part in the conference. Ask questions and find out what it's all about. The principal speaker and whom I consider to be the best was Ray Fadden. He spoke on Indian Culture and their History. This took us up to

lunch time.

After lunch we were split into small groups and assigned different rooms where we could discuss Mr. Fadden's talk. After the discussion we wrote up questions that Mr. Fadden would answer. This question and answer period rounded out the afternoon. About 9:00 P.M. they held a dance for the students. The music was played by an Indian band known as the Golden Eagles. The dance ended about 11:30 P.M.

The meeting on Tuesday started at approximately 9:00 A.M. The speaker for the morning was Jim Gillis. He spoke on education, the importance of it and such. Then he told us about forming a new school. The problems we would have in raising enough money to build it. Following this we had a question and answer period that took us until noon. After dinner the students were separated from the adults because it was thought they were dominating the conference which was basically meant for them. I was selected along with Richard Laughing to be with this group. The group was directed by Greg Buesing. The students then were asked how they thought the school should be set up and how it

should be run and by whom. The following

are some of the topics of discussion:

1. Teachers - old fashioned
2. Teachers who take sides and have
pets
3. Children are afraid to ask what some-
thing means.
4. Teachers try to make Indians think
white.
5. Indian children can't speak their own
language in school.
6. Should have more than one teacher
teaching one subject.
7. School should be for the students' con-
venience and not the teachers'.
8. Should students be able to consult
teachers?
9. Do you need teachers?
10. Should you have a definite schedule?
11. If you want your education, you will
learn. You will pay any price (even your
pride).
12. Is your teacher your equal or your
superior?
13. Should have respect for teachers.
14. The school should teach your own
Indian culture.
15. Is integration a reason (OR cause) for
Indians dropping out of school?

Indian Language, Culture and History

1. Indian culture should be respected by
whites.
2. Education is necessary to a certain
degree.
3. Burn false history books and tell truth
about Indians.
4. Stress to improve television and movies
about Indians.
5. Protest against television and movies
that would hurt an Indian's pride.
6. Indian language should be taught at
home as well as in grade schools.
7. Obtain Indian teachers to teach Indian
languages.
8. Indian legends should be taught in the
Indian school.
9. Each individual tribe should learn its
own culture.

Indian Rights

1. Should Indian rights be taught in this
school?
2. Learn about the treaty rights.
3. Find out where we stand as Indians.
4. Should we abolish the Indian act?

These topics were discussed all through the
conference.

On Wednesday the speaker was Gerry
Gambill who spoke on some of the problems
of setting up the all-Indian school. Then
there was a long discussion about this.

Thursday the speaker was Ernest:

Benedict of the North American Indian
traveling college. He spoke on the kinds
of education that should be taught at the
all Indian school, we had a discussion on
this.

Friday the last day of the conference
the speaker was Dillon Platero, Navajo
director of the rough rock Demonstration
School, located on the Navajo Reservation
in Arizona. This school is operated by an
all-Navajo school board and includes
Navajo history, culture and language as
part of the curriculum. He explained how
they set this school up and the problems
they had in setting it up. This was
followed by a question and answer period.
Then after dinner everyone started to head
home.

On the final day the following resolu-
tion was passed:

" Our culture, history, language and pride are in jeopardy with the present high school system. Since nobody has tried to stop sort of going on, we the Indian students, have decided to take the first step to revive our history, language and culture which have been rejected by the white society."

We fully support an Indian-controlled, Indian-directed educational program. We have watched, too long, our people who have attended public, government, and church schools. A few of the students have graduated; most have dropped away, disillusioned, dis-spirited and unable to make their way in the non-Indian world, and often are of no value to their own people."

"We are determined to operate a program which will enable our people to hold their own with pride and dignity everywhere, and to be valuable members of their own community."

"We intend this school to be different from existing schools. We intend this school to be unique. We will use new ideas new methods and new information. We still have much to do in our planning. We want to talk and visit with different

people and think about what is best. But we say now that this is what we want and this is what we will do."

Terrance Polchies, Chairman
Association of Aroostook
Indians

ONLY ONE OUT OF TWO RECIEVED DONATED
FOOD THIS MONTH !!!!!!!

Did you know that only 300 out of 600 people in the Houlton area received Donated Commodity Foods this month? Did any of you miss getting your food this month???? Could we help??? If so, be sure to call 532-6840 after 6:00 P.M.

EDUCATION COURSE OFFERED TO OFF-RESERVATION
AROOSTOOK INDIANS

I am pleased to announce that the Ricker College continuing education program called Education for Leadership Among The Off-Reservation Indians of Aroostook County has begun this fall. It is open to any Aroostook Indian over twenty-one years of age.

The class is meeting every Wednesday night from 7:30 to 9:30 in Room 302 in Potter Hall at Ricker College, Houlton, Maine. The first day of class was September 11, 1969. The course is being offered at no cost...it's free.

The objectives of the program are as

follows:

1. To develop leadership skills among the adult members of the off-reservation Indian population of Aroostook County. This general objective will be accomplished by equipping the student with a working knowledge of community organization techniques, basic group dynamics, and practical problem-solving skills.
2. To acquaint the student with the value structure of the white society so that the student may be better equipped to function in that society without giving up his Indian identity.
3. To develop communication skills among the students.
4. To establish regular, effective lines of communication among the Indians of Aroostook County. Effective communication development can only take place after the realization of this goal.

This program is financed in part by a federal grant under provisions of Title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Signed,
Mr. Robert Burns

GET WELL SOON!!!

Mr. Roy Paul of Houlton was in an automobile accident two Saturdays ago. He was in Madigan Hospital for a few days and he is now recovering at home. Hope you are up and around soon.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President: Terrance Polchies
Vice President: Gloria Tomah
Treasurer: Tommy Batiste
Secretary: Brenda Polchies

INCORPORATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association wants to incorporate as a non-profit corporation so that they will be able to receive funds to develop programs in housing, employment, and youth opportunities. We have to be a legal organization before we can apply for grants and other sources of revenue. We have sent incorporation papers to Pine Tree Legal Assistance. Mr. Dunleavy assures us that if he can do the legal work, he will. We hope to hear from him soon.

BASKET MAKING

The Polchies and Tomah families have been very busy making and selling potato baskets. Jim, Aubrey, and Leo Tomah along with Maynard, Terry, and Sam (Alex) Polchies have made several trips to the woods in order to get the brown ash that is the first step in a long, hard process. Business has been very good this year. In fact, the farmers are still coming back for more potato baskets. Both families hope to make basket-making a year-around business, making potato baskets in the summer, and pack and fancy baskets during the rest of the year.

TWO VISTAS WORKING WITH ASSOCIATION

Two Volunteers in Service to America are presently working with the Association of Aroostook Indians. They are "Rick" Richter and "Obe" Dupree. Rick is from Detroit, Michigan and Obe is from Fort Covington, New York. Rick graduated from Michigan State University and Obe has his B. S. from Brown University.

Currently they are setting up the tutorial program for the Indian children and their long range work with the Association will be in the areas of self-help housing, job opportunities, and youth opportunities.

TUTORIAL PROGRAM

The Association and Ricker College are sponsoring a tutorial program for Indian children in the Houlton area. This program is not only for children who are having a hard time in school, but can help any child to learn to enjoy school and schoolwork.

The tutors will be students from the college who will be assigned to one child for a few hours every week. We have plenty of tutors, so if you have a child who would like to have a tutor,

please contact Rick Richter or Obe Dupree, Box 223, Houlton, Maine, 04730. If you want to call, the number is 532-6840. Please call after 6:00P.M.

THE POTATO HARVEST

The potato harvest has been going badly both for the farmers and the many pickers that are working in the local fields. Due to much rain, the farmers are worried about getting their crop in before the real cold weather arrives and potatoes begin to rot in the fields. Several farmers have two more weeks of digging left, but the children have to go back to school before then so the labor shortage is another problem. Many farmers are even working Sundays in an effort to save their crop.

Pickers are complaining about the small potatoes and the fact that the tops killed poorly which makes picking especially difficult.

If you have any news items, things to sell, services to offer, old Indian tales to tell, or anything else that you would like to see in the AROOSTOOK INDIAN, send it to:
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