

The Native Press began in 1971 as the Brotherhood Report. Since then it graduated to the Native Press, covering a variety of issues and events involving Native people along the Mackenzie Valley.

In the coming issues we will present some of the issues and topics covered, in review, during those past days, leading to the present chain of events Native people are involved with in the North today.

August 28, 1971

Agreement signed

The story that headlined the August 28th issue of Native Press told about an agreement signed between the Rae-Edzo School Society and John Parker, "for a school and a hostel."



John Parker of the government of the N.W.T. signs agreement with Chief Jimmy Bruneau as Ernie Camsell looks on.

QUOTE: "The Rae-Edzo School Hostel complex cost the Territorial government \$2.8 million for the building and the supplies for both the school and the residence. While the school is operating through the school year, the Territorial government pays for the operation and the cost of the school."

"The administration of the hostel is under the principal of the school, which is similar to the Sir John Franklin and Akaitcho Hall system in Yellowknife. But unlike Akaitcho Hall, the Rae-Edzo resident school can only take a limited number of students."

"The school can only take pupils to a grade eight level."

"The administrator of the Rae-Edzo residence is Bob Baetz. This is his first year as acting administrator. He will be responsible for some 100 resident students." UNQUOTE.

The story says Chief Jimmy Bruneau first thought about the idea ten years previous and Charlie Charlo confirmed what Chief Bruneau had said: "This school was worked upon for over a year and all the credits go to old Chief, Jimmy Bruneau."

"I think this is the first school of its kind in Canada North where the

Dogrib people were given the opportunity to control Chief Jimmy Bruneau school, the operation of the school and the hostel."

Whereas previously when students attended hostels they had "supervisors," they were now called "dorm or resident parents." Fourteen teachers began teaching in what is now known as "open-area teaching," and pupils were graded on levels instead of the regular grade system.

Teachers also taught and teach today, the basic subjects of arithmetic, reading and music although social studies and physical education were replaced with cultural teaching whereby students participate in hunting, trapping and fishing, and are taught by local hunters and trappers.

Forest fires

Forest fires were also in the news. In August 1971, 86 forest fires were

recorded with the more serious forest fire in the Stagg and Snare River area. A total of 3,000 square miles burned while Mackenzie Forest Services employed 290 people to fight the fires.

During this time, Rae-Edzo men reported the loss of dogs: "The dogs are important to the people of Rae for the reason that they are used most extensively in the winter to visit nets or getting wood."