



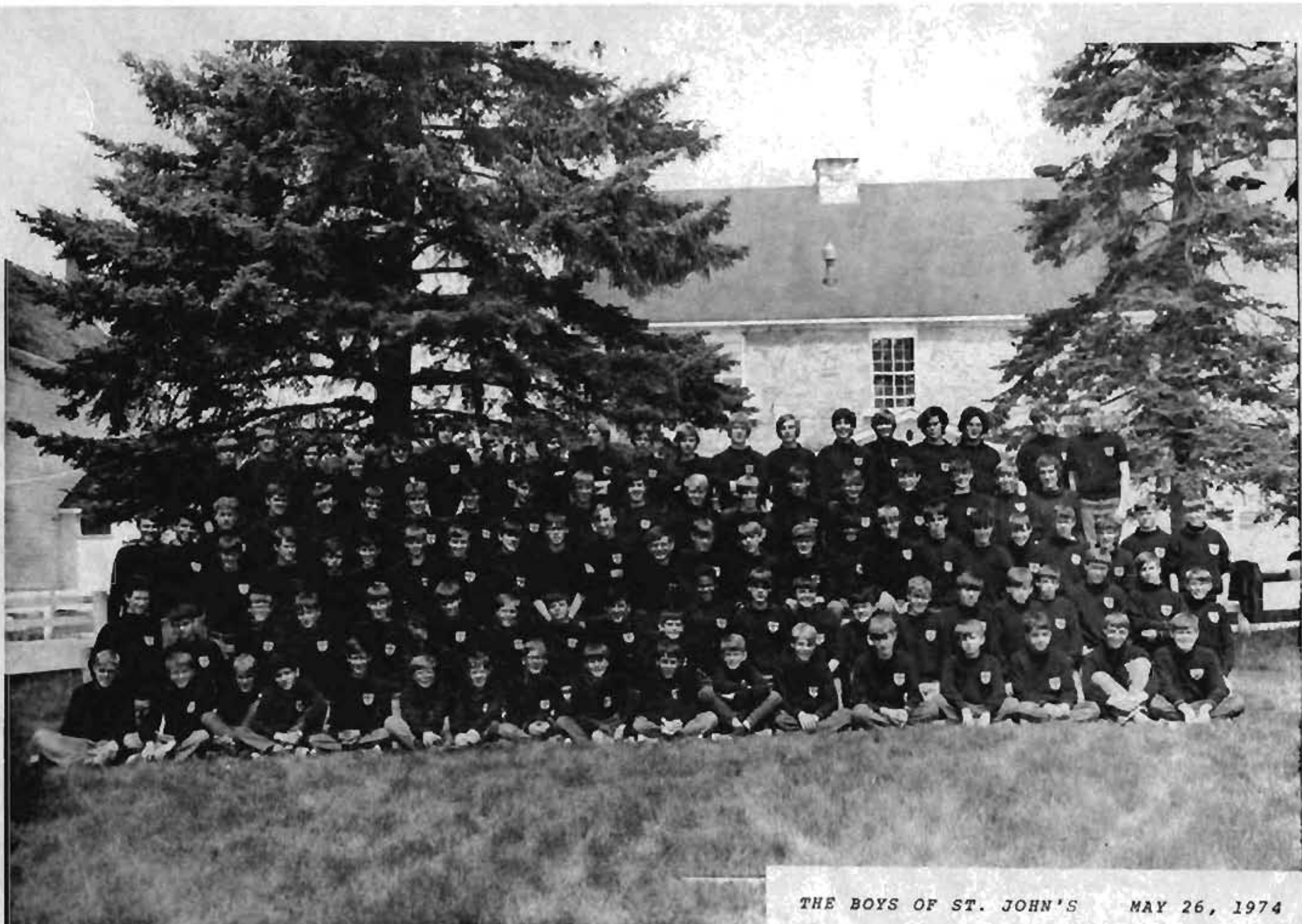
ST. JOHN'S

'74

THE GRADE 12 CLASS OF '74

Grolimond, Dill, MacLean, Goodwin, Rizzuto, Cruickshank, Kleeer, Paust
Thompson, Bundy, Flanagan, Grenkow, Hardy, Vidricaire, Davis





THE BOYS OF ST. JOHN'S MAY 26, 1974

EDITOR'S NOTE

It is almost axiomatic among the staff of St. John's that when someone makes a suggestion concerning something he feels to be worthwhile, it then becomes his responsibility to see that it is implemented and carried through to completion. This practice was also applied to Grade eleven student, David Robertson, who suggested that an album of the Camera Club's snapshots should be made available to the students. It was simple to expand this idea into a yearbook and to involve the entire Grade eleven upper class in the process.

The final term's English classes were set aside for the production of this book. Every member of the class had a specific assignment either as writer, photographer, artist, typist or layout man. For many the Term's English mark would reflect things other than a knowledge of the English language.

The creative production was done at the school by the boys, but then, in order to achieve good quality reproduction, professional help was needed. One Winnipeg firm agreed to do the typesetting, another the printing. Still others gave necessary advice to solve problems in photography. Without their help this book would not have been possible.

Through stories and pictures the boys have tried to present an objective impression of St. John's '74, to preserve memories and to inform strangers about the school. But more than this its completion confirms their acceptance of responsibility and the attitude of not giving up or relaxing until the job is done.



From October to January.....



....to May. Another job completed.



THE COMPANY OF THE CROSS

The Company of the Cross was started by a group of people with the same ideas; to build the character and moral fibre of St. John's students through a strenuous program of academic and outdoor activities. It was founded in 1961 by an act of the Manitoba Legislature, by Mr. Frank Wiens and Mr. E. (Ted) Byfield.

The members of the Company of the Cross belong to the Anglican Church. They work for a dollar a day plus necessities. Every day they attend a church service at 6:15 A.M. and another service at 8:30 P.M., the end of the day. Between those times, they may do a number of duties from working in the school's barn to cooking the meals, not to mention teaching classes.

Presently the Company of the Cross has responsibilities for the Manitoba school in Selkirk and the Alberta school in Stonyplain, as well as the St. John's press.

The St. John's press publishes THE EDMONTON REPORT, a weekly magazine of about thirty to forty pages dealing with events of interest to the people of Edmonton. St. John's decided to publish the magazine because there was only one other newspaper that dealt specifically with Edmonton. The magazine has become fairly successful with an ever increasing rate of subscriptions.



Headmaster: Mr. Frank Wiens

RELIGION AT ST. JOHN'S

St. John's has provided an introduction to the Christian world for its boys since it started as a weekend school for St. John's Cathedral choir boys. At that time there was a rigorous schedule of academics and great stress on religion. When the school moved to Selkirk it kept up the policy and began busing the whole school to St. John's Cathedral each Sunday. Recently the school stopped going to Winnipeg as it proved too costly and proved of little benefit. However, today religion is still an important part of the school.

There is an optional communion service in the school's chapel every Sunday morning and compline services are held every evening. Each Sunday night the headmaster holds a compulsory service in the chapel consisting of songs, prayers, and a short lesson about a relevant topic. During twice weekly Religious Study classes, such things as your beliefs, Christianity, faith and other topics are discussed and heartily debated. These help develop different ideas on religion.

Besides all this and probably more important is the actual benefit of the Christian surroundings at St. John's. The masters have to be Christians and must attend a chapel service twice a day and communion twice a week. Their commitment is to help the students in any way they can—in religion, academics and life in general. This helpful atmosphere rubs off on the students who must cooperate and help each other to do all the work around the school and to live with each other for the year. Aside from helping each other, the students this year have voluntarily helped some flooded Winnipeg families, worked at a fair to raise relief money for the Underprivileged Children in the Middle East, as well as helping several others in the community who needed some manpower.

Because all the work around the school is done by the students they are trusted with great responsibilities. These examples of being able to live with, work with, and trust each other are good Christian qualities which are learnt early at St. John's and then added to.

The time when many people first learn to appreciate God is on canoe trips or snowshoe runs. On either of these, many people call on God, even if they have never believed in Him, because he is the only one to call to in tough situations. Such instances might be while going down a rapid backwards, or while caught in a storm on Lake Winnipeg with a canoe half-full of water, or when plain exhausted at the end of the day. These instances might bring unconscious prayers of 'Oh God get me out of here,' or 'God get me through this.' At night around a campfire compline service, you would really realize what relief, thankfulness, and safety are for the first time. As you say compline that night, you wouldn't remind yourself that you didn't believe in a God.

St. John's efforts in religion can build a helpful, trustworthy person who values others, and these are definitely Christian qualities.





EASTER PLAY

A play at St. John's is a rare thing indeed. Between the demands of the academic and outdoor programs there is little time for anything else. Nevertheless, the grade eleven upper class pulled it off.

Perhaps a good name for the play might be 'improvise.' Since there was no play that had the theme they wanted to put across, they wrote one themselves. Every part of the play was created by the students even down to the script. As many English classes as possible were spent prodding the actors to create lines according to the scenes which they imagined. Alan York would tape-record all that was said by the actors. Scene after scene was done this way, lines copied down on paper, reviewed and approved by the entire class.

Of course there were the people who weren't on the stage. Since the only place large enough to accommodate an audience of the entire school was the gym, the boys had a staging problem. Sure enough they solved it in grand style. By centering the production in a corner of the gym, using scaffolding and a basketball hoop, floor hockey nets, and lights, a setting was created to look like a tavern in Palestine at the time of Jesus. All was ready. It was then the actors' turn.

The actual performance went well, having its funny and serious moments. The theme centered around the guilt Judas felt for betraying Jesus. At one point, some Roman soldiers come into the tavern, talking about the brutality of the Jews and Romans towards Jesus. A rebel provokes the people to set Jesus against the Romans by using Judas to betray him hoping that Jesus in turn will incite the Jewish people to free him. He sees that Jesus is not this kind of man and runs, leaving Judas to deal with his mistakes. Two strangers come, asking questions, and delivering the news of Jesus' crucifixion.

The play gives the audience a look at Judas, filled with hate for betraying Christ. There is one thing that comes to mind though, I don't think that they ever gave the play a name.



Robertson as Judas and Jemson as Thomas. "His love will get us farther than your hatred."



LIFE AT SCHOOL

It's seven a.m. The first day at St. John's for many new boys.

'Okay, let's go. Out of those beds! I want to see Howe, Kusic, Robertson III, Jones and Davis down in the kitchen in fifteen minutes. You are now on kitchen crew. The rest of you, have your dorms ready for inspection in twenty minutes.'

Breakfast is soon over, and every boy finds himself assigned to a work crew. On many of these crews he will be doing jobs he had always left for his Mum or someone else. New boys are usually assigned to housekeeping jobs where error is not too serious.

For the new boys these are probably the most discouraging hours of their lives. Most are only used to cutting the grass and cleaning their rooms once a week. To them St. John's seems like a slave camp. Most get no more than two hours of homework a week let alone in a single day. And worst of all, they now get only an average of two hours free time a day. The amazing thing is that most of these boys will finish the year and voluntarily come back the next.

There are several things at St. John's which could make people return. Snowshoeing, canoeing, dog runs might be the reason, but these alone would not be enough.

At this school everyone works, lives and goes to classes with his friends. The fact that he can no longer rely on his parents to do things or to control him makes it necessary to get things done on his own and with the help of his friends. He learns to get along with others above and below him; he learns to accept responsibility and be a leader. But above all he finds the key to success, 'Don't give up and don't relax before you're done, and you'll be able to do a hell of a lot more than you thought you could.'

WATER PROBLEMS

A dishevelled, tired figure approaches the showers, whips off his towel, and proceeds toward the handle. He snaps it to the on position and awaits a luxurious flow of preset, hot water to soothe him. After thirty seconds of waiting he peers upward at the shower head in disgust. Suddenly he is struck on the forehead with a freezing cold drop of water which awakens him to the truth—no water.

This is not an unusual scene at the school. Not only is there no water in the showers most of the time, but the meatroom is constantly out of water, the kitchen is occasionally left high and dry, the sewage system is periodically backed up, and at least half of the toilets are always stopped up on a rotation basis.

The battle of the water problems is being waged daily by our maintenance crew lead by Mr. Anthony. He spends most of his time repairing the heater or pump, or erecting a new maze of pipes. When his problems get out of hand he resorts to 'Roto-Rooter', specialists in clogged drains and pipes. One member of the maintenance crew who spends his duty periods using a plunger to clear the toilets is Gerard Kaye. He has often threatened, "One of these days I'm not going to unplug any of these toilets and then see what happens."

When the water if off or the drains are clogged the maintenance crew gets on the job. They usually have the problem solved within a day, but in the next two another problem arises. Whose fault are these problems? As far as we can trace back, the problems seem to stem from the time when the new building was built by the amateur carpenters, plumbers and electricians, namely, the St. John's boys of that time.

So when you walk down the hall in the morning to take a shower and you step in a puddle of water flowing from the toilets, don't blame Mr. Anthony or Kaye, but rather the amateurs of earlier years. No, don't blame them, thank them. Their work, such as it was, was a great improvement over previous conditions.



Kaye: "One of these days..."



VEHICLES AT ST. JOHN'S

In May of 1971, St. John's bought two new vans and a used station wagon. In the course of two years they travelled more miles than most cars would in eight years. When they were finally sold last summer, the school was able to get only about one-tenth of the original purchase price.

In September 1973, a new set of vehicles was purchased. Under the care of Mr. Jackson there have been only a couple of small accidents. Probably the worst accident this year was when one of the drivers backed into a tree. Considering what the vehicles go through at the school, this isn't too bad.

Each day a St. John's vehicle is driven into Selkirk three or four times, usually with a different driver each time. At four o'clock each weekday afternoon they each take ten students to Winnipeg to sell meat for about five hours. On the average each van does over one hundred miles a day. Then there are the extra chores like going to the beginning of a dog run or taking students eight hundred miles to the start of a canoe trip.

It should be said that with what they go through these vans are in good shape. Maybe with a bit of care and a lot of luck, these vehicles might survive for three years.

Like most stories, there is a moral to this one. At the time when this story was being written, the school's station wagon was in Winnipeg. Mr. Felletti was driving along Lagimodiere Boulevard when the hood suddenly flew off. It took him two hours to drive back to the school at a speed of about twenty miles an hour. Well, so much for luck.



Austin: Considering what they go through they're quite good



LAUNDRY

The St. John's laundry crew of 1973-74 decided that they would both show up the construction crew and keep the process of shrinking a secret by building a wall, installing a door and relocating a few dozen laundry cubicles. All this was done under the pretext of keeping the laundry room safe from those people who 'borrow' other people's clothes.

The real reason for the door and wall of course was to keep the secret. Yes, St. John's has preserved the ancient art of shrinking. The laundry crew can change large size ski toques into excellent cloth thimbles or extra large sweaters so that they fit little brothers G.J. Joe doll perfectly. Our laundry can shrink anything.

Well, needless to say, the door and wall were a flop when it came to keeping things from being stolen or borrowed. After several mornings of waking up to find someone just out of the shower screaming in his ear, 'Nance,

if you don't open that _____ door, I'll _____ kick your head in.' Crew leaders Nance and Polack left the door open.

People, however, are always asking them why they keep the door locked when they do laundry. But what can they say? We don't want to give away the secret now do we?



Polack at the 'shrink'machine



Nance and a customer: "They used to fit!"

CATALOGUE DELIVERING

For the past two years we have delivered catalogues for Eaton's. One of the boys has described it in this way:

'The morning of catalogue delivering is normally begun at five accompanied by moans, groans and many phrases indicating displeasure. Next there is a quick meal, a hurried giving out of lunches and pocket money, and then the bus cram where we usually get eighty people into a sixty passenger bus. At Eaton's there is a mad dash to be the first to get a delivery van. As the calmer people try to form a line, the crowd of black jackets flows around them and begins to cut off light and air from the Eaton's man who tries to scribble down names in a flurry of shouting and pushing. Once you're assigned a van and have left, you strike up a conversation with the driver and remember his good points and forget the bad. You're put on the street with catalogues and a stack of name slips and go to work delivering. Each has his own style; underhand, overhand, fast or slow throws.'

Aside from the possible fun and the change of pace that catalogue delivering provides for the students, it has other essential advantages. It helps to pay for their French trips, the new gym and some of their tuition. Catalogue delivering provides the school with up to \$20,000.00 a year and has helped keep our fees down.



The boys of St. John's at the Eifel tower.

A gym for the school--delivering catalogues helped to make it a reality



MEAT SELLING

At St. John's the students run a small meat plant which produces pork sausage, roasting chickens and back bacon. These products are sold door to door in Winnipeg from October to May.

A telephone survey of some customers picked at random to determine the effect of our meat sales got a variety of answers. Everyone called was co-operative. They all seemed to agree that the boys were very polite, not too aggressive; in fact, nothing like the average door to door salesman. When asked if they were given enough time to inspect the products the general reaction was that the boys let them look over the meat and didn't make them feel obligated to buy. All the customers called did buy, mainly because the proceeds were going to a worthy cause. One lady commented that she found her conversations with the boys were very interesting and entertaining. When asked if they could think of any criticism the only reply came from three of the seven people was that we didn't come around often enough and that the salesmen weren't aggressive enough.

People thought our sausages were very good, 'not fatty like in the stores, had good flavour,' and 'were not too spicy.' The chickens were not as popular overall, 'about the same as in the stores,' but most persons said that they had more meat on them. Everyone who had bought bacon loved it because of its fresh taste and leanness.

All in all the people of Winnipeg seemed pleased with our meat sales and were encouraging us to carry on.



Barritt, Anderson, Vidricaire and Dill. The products were good but the salesmen were not aggressive.

Meat crew leaders, Colin Cruickshank and Michael Vidricaire sum up the meat plant operation in this way:

'We receive chickens, pork trimmings and pork backs which we process, package and prepare for the meat sellers. Our vans are loaded, and along with ten to twelve meat-sellers are sent out to different districts in Winnipeg. The master in charge of the van distributes the meat to each seller and leaves him in a shower of pebbles and a cloud of blue smoke. At the end of the night the money is brought back to the school and counted.'

The purpose in having a meat selling program is to keep the tuition fees down. In years past the meat selling profits have been used in such projects as the new gym, barn, and the French trip in which thirty boys went to France to pick grapes on farms and learn the language. It is paying for more of our tuition since the cost of living has gone up. More important, it helps the students get out into Winnipeg and talk to people. Being able to carry on sensible conversations with strangers becomes an important factor in developing an individual's character. As one boy says: 'I feel, in the past three years of meat-selling, my ability to talk with people I don't know has increased.' Another says: 'Meat selling gives you a chance to make tips on the side if you are a good salesman and polite at the door.'

Each boy has his own story. Mungo Treilhard:

'Benckhuysen and I were selling together one night with only a chicken or two in each basket and some sausage and bacon. No one would buy, so we both sold together and used both our pitches on the customer. After some persuading we convinced a guy to buy some back bacon for 99¢. He left and his Dad came down and bought out both our baskets—about \$16.00 worth. We got picked up and went to Macdonalds and split the \$1.00 tip between us.'

Grade 12 veteran, Donald Hardy:

'Although I've never actually cracked a hundred dollars while meat selling, I still consider myself an average seller. But I'll never forget the time when I went meat selling in May of my first year. I sold exactly 1 lb. of pork sausage or cash-wise, 99¢. I don't know why; possibly the area of selling, possibly my attitude that night, but I just didn't have the knack.'

Alan York describes what happened once on the way to Winnipeg:

'We were meat selling a week before Christmas break, and it was a contest. We were all in the van talking when we felt the van lurch to one side and someone shouted, and the van was on its side in about six feet of snow. We tried to push it out but to no avail. We froze while waiting for the tow truck, but in fifteen minutes we were on our way again.'



FARM

One of the least mentioned and most dreaded of the St. John's work crew is the chicken barn crew. It is not mentioned often because of the barn's location—a fair distance from the main buildings, and it is dreaded because the crew must work every day, rather than every other day like most crews. The four crew members must raise six flocks of 1,500 chickens annually. When the day-old flocks of chicks arrive, they are worth a total of \$450.00; but by the time they leave, they have increased in value to about \$4.50 each.

Like other crews, barn crew members must be trusted to work thoroughly and well. They must decide many things by themselves: when the chicks need more room, if they need more food or water, if the temperature is too high or too low. And there always seems to be repair work to be done or something to be cleaned or adjusted. If the student feels that the feed will last only three more days, he must order more. A flock goes through thirteen tons of grain in twelve weeks, and even one day without food can cause problems.

After twelve weeks the capons are ready for packaging. They are sent to a government inspected plant in Steinabach where they are eviscerated and graded, and then are packaged by our meat crew. Meat selling is an infamous part of St. John's curriculum, and the chickens are popular throughout Winnipeg. Last year during a meat selling competition an entire flock was sold in twelve nights. This year the entire school will attempt to sell a flock in one night.



Recent new developments have risen in the barn. Two hundred turkeys have suddenly appeared; and in the new small barn/garage there are two hundred laying hens. A pen must be built for the turkeys who will be moved outside in June, and the hens need roosts and nests. Next year we will be having pigs again. The farm is adapting in an attempt to cut rising food costs. The pigs and turkeys will supplement the students' diet and the hens will provide eggs thus cutting their cost. The school uses about eighty dozen eggs per week. Through it all the boys learn a lot while helping the school and themselves.



INTER SCHOOL SNOWSHOE RACE

Each year since the forming of the Alberta school in 1968 there has been an annual interschool snowshoe race. So far both schools have split the honours, with Alberta winning for the first three years and Manitoba for the rest. Each race is held in the midst of excitement and speculation. There is a lot of fanfare surrounding the race. Parents and relatives come to see it and many old boys return to join the fun.

The story begins in December when any boy in the school may volunteer to try out for the team. Usually it begins with forty eager faces, but it is soon cut down to ten or so die-hards fighting for the seven positions on the team. They do short runs before Christmas, and then longer runs— up to forty miles—after Christmas. Finally after many runs the trainer, this year it was Mr. Felletti, chooses the boys he feels will run the best.

This year the race was held in Manitoba again since we had won last year. The course covered thirty-six miles, beginning and ending at the school.

The day of the race was March 2. The five racers for Manitoba were Colin Cruickshank, Barry McLean, Wayne Leatherdale, David Robertson and Robert Butcher. Alternates were Doug Austen and Fred Lysak. Both teams began with a fast pace despite the wet snow. By lunch time Manitoba was a few minutes ahead, and by supper time they had built up a fifteen minute lead. The Albertans put up a valiant fight, but couldn't catch the Manitobans paced by Leatherdale. Finally, when it was all over, Manitoba had won by thirty minutes. The racers relaxed, tired but happy.





The team from Alberta



Manitoba--A strong steady pace



SCHOOL SNOWSHOE RACE

This year's snowshoe races were held in perfect weather. It was cold and the sun was out—a totally beautiful day. The senior race with twelve teams in the competition started at the break of dawn in a staggered start. The teams were started at thirty second intervals to prevent bunching at the beginning on a narrow trail.

The race went smoothly with a one hour spread between the first and last teams at the lunch stop. Here the thirty second stagger was corrected and many teams found themselves in completely different positions. At the supper stop the time spread had increased to three and a half hours.

Dill's team won the race in a time of eleven hours and sixteen minutes. Rizzuto's team brought up the rear with a finish that ended the race at eleven-twenty p.m.

The Junior race of twenty-nine miles, compared with the senior fifty, was covered by a good group of boys. Their race started at nine in the morning in the traditional lineup, one team beside the other. There were only six teams, so the competition was very keen.

As the teams reached the Red River, and with only nine miles left to go, Denny II's team possibly lost the race when they went to look for a checkpoint that was accidentally marked on their map, wasting valuable time. The team fell well back into second place allowing Mackay's team to get the victory. The span between the first and the last team was two hours.

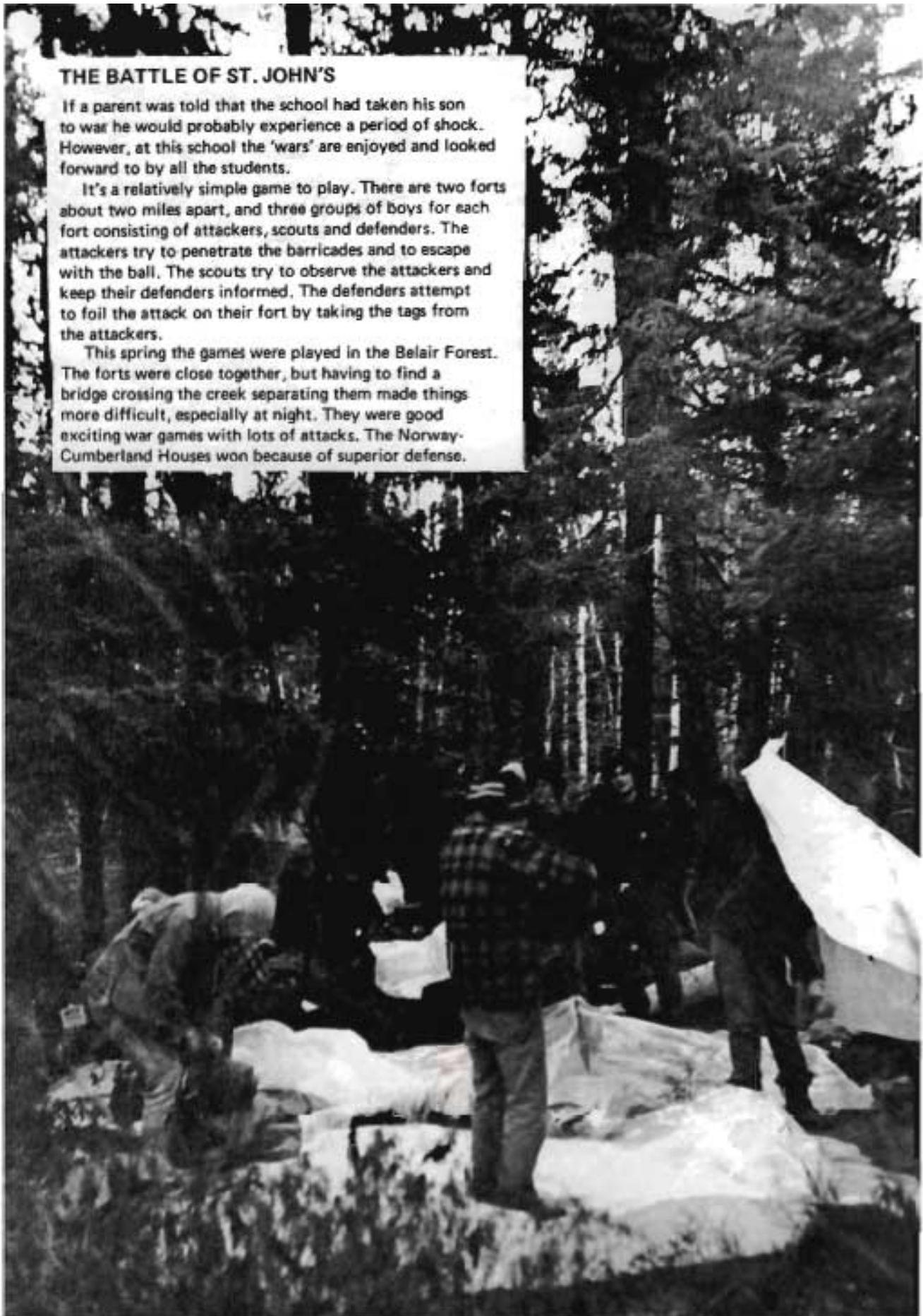


THE BATTLE OF ST. JOHN'S

If a parent was told that the school had taken his son to war he would probably experience a period of shock. However, at this school the 'wars' are enjoyed and looked forward to by all the students.

It's a relatively simple game to play. There are two forts about two miles apart, and three groups of boys for each fort consisting of attackers, scouts and defenders. The attackers try to penetrate the barricades and to escape with the ball. The scouts try to observe the attackers and keep their defenders informed. The defenders attempt to foil the attack on their fort by taking the tags from the attackers.

This spring the games were played in the Belair Forest. The forts were close together, but having to find a bridge crossing the creek separating them made things more difficult, especially at night. They were good exciting war games with lots of attacks. The Norway-Cumberland Houses won because of superior defense.



FRENCH TRIP

The highlight of the 1973-74 year for forty students was a September trip to France. Mr. Brooks originated the trip for the students so that they would get a better grasp of the French language. To qualify boys had to have gone to the school for two years.

The trip began at Montreal International Airport on September ninth. All the boys met there and then flew to France. Three days were spent touring Paris; from there they took a train to Southern France. Here they were placed in groups of three on various farms around a little village called Quincie. They would live and work with the French families for the next two weeks picking grapes.

Grape picking was a very strenuous job. The day would start at six in the morning. Work would start at seven. At noon they would stop for lunch for an hour and then continue working until six-thirty in the evening. The work was very hard on a person's back, and the boys were usually so tired at the end of the day that they were in bed by nine. Although the work was very tiring, the boys liked it a lot better than all the touring in Paris and Southern France.

The trip was such a success that another one is planned for next September in which more time will be spent on the farms rather than in touring.



*The vineyards at Quincie
"The hardest work we'd
ever done."*



Next year the boys want more days on the farms and fewer on tours

NATIONAL FILM BOARD AT ST. JOHN'S

Television came to St. John's, with the actors being the new boys of the last school year. The fall canoe trip started a little differently with a man from the National Film Board as steersman on one of the brigades. All aspects of the canoe trip were filmed and used in a half-hour television program. It showed canoes fighting rapids and paddling across one of the many lakes that the trip crosses each year. Behind the lights were the faces of the new boys, straining not to take a quick look at the camera.

People who saw the television program had various reactions. Most remarked on the hard work the boys go through in a canoe program. One person said, 'It was quite good; a different approach to schooling.' Another, 'You guys must work quite hard.' Others thought that perhaps the public school system should start a similar canoeing program before its school year.



After nearly two weeks of paddling and portaging, the new boys are in sight of the school. The first of many significant hurdles has been overcome successfully.

CANOE TRIPS

One of the most rigorous of St. John's outdoor activities are the canoe trips. Each year brings more speculations as to how long the trips will take and who will go on them.



In the fifteen years of its existence, St. John's brigades have traversed Canada from East to West. The brigades follow the old fur trade routes which open up much of the west. These trips are not easy either. Brigades rise at five A.M. and paddle often until 9:30 P.M. Paddling is hard work and dreary and miserable. If it rains, well you get wet, if it's cold you are cold, and if there is a blazing sun, you burn and are thirsty. But all your efforts are put into getting back to the school as fast as is possible.

Each trip is like a novel and each day is like a chapter. Some chapters are boring, some are exciting, it all depends upon circumstances beyond human control. But despite the exhaustion, blisters, and sunburn, not to mention hunger, canoe trips are like most other things, 'They're hell while you're doing them, but richly rewarding when you think back and remember them.'



Steersmen MacKay, Felletti and Brooks check their bearings on the Albany R.

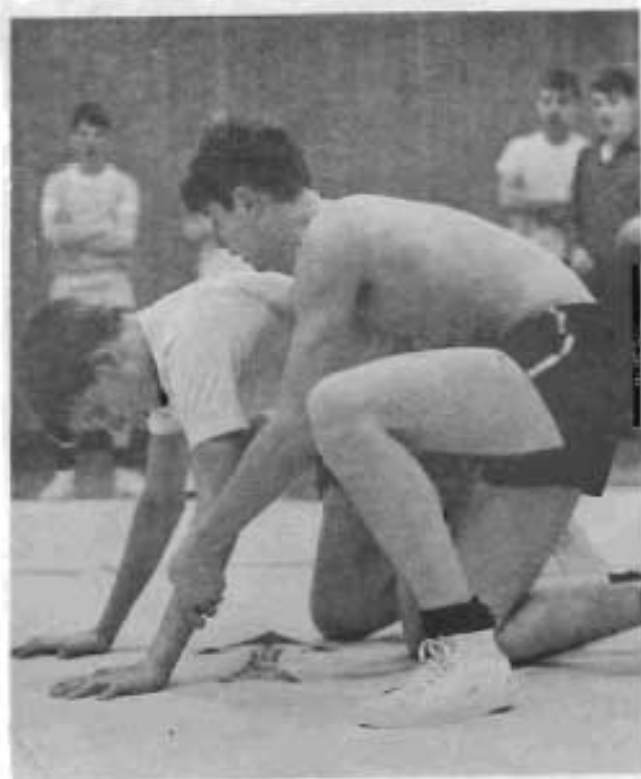


THE GYM

The building of the gym at St. John's was one of the biggest events to happen in its history. For many years, it was just a thought, some thing passed between the boys when talking about things in general. Then came Michael Kelleher, and the graduating class of '73 who proved to be the leading force in getting the construction going. The foundations were laid in the summer and fall of 1972 and after that many a winter night and day would see the grade twelves working on the walls during their spare time. Much of the building materials were donated by various companier in Winnipeg. What couldn't be scrounged was bought at the best possible prices. Although the year ended, construction continued with different students working towards its completion. This last fall finally saw Kelleher's dream come true. The gym is used now and enjoyed by all.

Gymn periods were set up and all through the winter, a game of floor hockey, basketball, or king's court could be found in progress. The new facility was quickly accepted and filled with various activities new to the school's way of life.

The gym also served in other ways. When the grade eleven uppers put on a play, the gym proved to be the only area large enough to seat the entire school. The canoe crew has also set up shop for the rest of the year while completing the annual preparations for the St. Adolphe race and the spring canoe-trip. There is no way that anyone can say that the gym has not helped the school.



Kelleher--Hard work made his dream a reality

SKIING

At every session of the school's parliament the upcoming events are discussed and decisions are made. During one such session the opposition and the government debated what should take place in the coming day set aside for the entire student body to 'do what they want.' Suggestions were made, eleven proposals written down and left for the next session of parliament.

Usually a day would be spent swimming at the Pan-Am pool in Winnipeg, or perhaps in a field day with the four houses competing against each other. Opinion was against these, so we tried something new—skiing.

The bus rolled out promptly at seven o'clock to carry its cargo of St. John's students to the Birch ski area. Within an hour after our arrival all those who chose to go skiing were outfitted with all the necessary equipment. The rest went tobogganning on some of the unused slopes.

Although some had skied before, others, from the South and the prairies were not acquainted with the slopes. From one point of view it was interesting to see some of the beginners getting used to flying down the various runs, falling, getting up again and giving it another try. Some trouble originated at the tow rope. A person might get his skis crossed and end up scrambling to the side in order to get out of the way of those behind. Or perhaps you'd see one or two carrying skis on their way to get their bindings adjusted.

It was surprising to see how quickly some of the beginners passed from the easier runs to tackle others ordinarily used by the more experienced skiers. For the pros it was another day to brush up on old techniques and try some new tricks. Paul Jemson from Glenboro, Manitoba thought 'it was really great' and would like to try it again next year. Robert Ramsay from Winnipeg said, 'It was a riot; I had a really good time.'

Next year will surely see the boys of St. John's anxious to put on skis again.



THE RED RIVER FLOOD

In the winter of 1973-74, a large amount of snow fell on the Winnipeg area. It was a problem for the snowshoers at the school because each week they would have to break a fresh trail. The snow stayed on the ground until the middle of April; then the Red River broke.

Each year the Red River run-off can cause flooding in some areas. This winter, because of the extra amount of snow, a flood was predicted for most areas. When the Red River finally broke on April 15th, each succeeding day for the next week and a half, the flood waters continued to rise. The school was in no danger because it was situated high on the banks of the river; but the house of one of the students at the school was in danger of flooding.

Wayne Leatherdale, a Grade II student at the school, lives on the banks of the Red in the St. Norbert area, a few miles upstream of the Winnipeg floodway. On Saturday, April 20th, the Grade IZ class went to the Leatherdales' and removed all the furniture from their basement. The next day, the Grade II class went to one of their neighbours' houses and cleared out their basement. Leatherdale himself stayed at home for a week to make sure that any water that came into the house was quickly pumped out. Unfortunately, some of his neighbours weren't as lucky.

The Winnipeg Floodway probably saved Winnipeg from a flood that would have been worse than the disaster of 1950. For the people of St. Norbert who lived just south of the floodway, it was probably just as bad. A good number of homes were flooded and their occupants were forced to evacuate. The Leatherdales' was one of the few homes that was able to beat the Red.



MUSIC

The boys who returned in September noticed that something was missing. During duty periods and at meal times there was a strange silence, for the amplifier and record player were broken.

An immediate proposal was put forth by the cabinet of the new government under Prime Minister, Wayne Leatherdale, to replace the faulty equipment.

At this point the staff intervened; records could only be played, they insisted, if a strict schedule was followed. This included a 50-50 split between modern and classical music. In the beginning, there was a lot of grumbling over this, but by and by it was grudgingly accepted. Now amazingly enough, many students find they accept and, sin of all sins, even enjoy classical music.

The music system provides a backdrop to every day life. It brightens the otherwise tomblike dorms and provides a relaxing atmosphere during meals. Most students feel that the music system is worth every penny it takes to keep it in good shape.



HAM RADIO

A new subject has come to St. John's, under the direction of Mr. Doolan, once an instructor at Red River Community College. Ham Radio has had a successful initiation into the academic program of the school.

Stuart Truba, one of the six members of that new class, says that he is taking the course in order to be able to participate in the world of communications and hopes to see the facilities of the Ham Radio class used to help the students, here at school.

Ham Radio is a popular hobby with 15,000 licensed operators in Canada alone. It is not easy to get a license. There are many things that one must learn besides how to communicate with other operators. The basic topics in the course are: Morse code, a basic knowledge of electronics, and its theory and operation. Once a person has reached a firm understanding of the principles of the course, he must then get a recommendation from another operator in order to write the exam. An exam such as this is tough in order to ensure that a person inexperienced in this type of communication doesn't get on the air and ruin the broadcasting of another operator. The exams themselves are made up and taken at the bureau of the Department of Communications. After the successful completion of the first exam, the new operator can only use Morse code for the first year when broadcasting. He then must return and take a second exam, after which he will be able to communicate by voice.

The 'club' has already been of use to the school. At various check points, in both the school and the inter-school snowshoe races, they gave up to the minute reports on the progress of the various teams. If trouble had come along, news would have been spread quickly, making it easier and quicker for race officials to correct it.

The members of the course have made it a success. Since the school is a fully operating station, Mr. Doolan can look forward to good years ahead. It is a growing hobby in Canada and it is thought that the class next year will see some new students as well as the old students continuing on in the course, becoming fully licensed operators. With the help of the other teachers and students, there is no doubt that Ham Radio will become a permanent part of the school.



RIVER LEVEL

Any casual passerby could not help but notice that there is a steady stream of boys heading to or returning from the riverbank. 'What's going on?' they ask. 'Oh, those are just the boys going down fro a smoke.' 'But smoking's not allowed here, is it?'

No, smoking is not allowed here. So why are the boys going down there? Well, it's to keep away from the school so that it won't burn down. There has always been a controversy as to whether or not the boys should be allowed to smoke. The official answer is no, but still the masters turn a blind eye to the river provided that the boys only go there during their spare time. The river is the accepted place, and if not there, well, there's always the two miles of bush behind the school.

But why smoke in the first place? One grade twelve student says, 'The river is a place to relax. Usually you always have to worry about school work and chore duty. But when you come down here you can relax, talk with friends, and recall past happenings. It's really a good break.' That seems to be the chief reason for it—socializing. At the river decisions are made, rumours are affirmed or rejected, and students can discuss their points of view without interference. But above all they can relax and take a break from the hectic day to day life at the school.



CANOE TRIPS-SPRING 74

St. John's has four canoe trips lined up for the spring of 1974. They are the North Saskatchewan, Churchill River, Grand Portage and the Quetico Park trips.

The North Saskatchewan is being done by the Grade 8's. This trip begins at Fort Carlton and goes down the North Saskatchewan River, over to Lake Winnipegosis, and to Lake Manitoba. From there, the canoes will travel along the Dauphin River and on to Lake Winnipeg. They will finish at the school. The trip is expected to be more than 850 miles long with a possible ten mile portage between Cedar Lake and Lake Winnipegosis. Mr. Kleinhuis will be in charge of the expedition.

Mr. Wiens will be heading the Grand Portage Group. This route is done every year by the new students in Grades nine and ten. There is a rugged nine mile portage at the fort of Grand Portage. This is an old fur trading route that commences at Thunder Bay and ends up at the school. It is an 850 mile long canoe trip and is expected to take between fifteen and twenty days.

The Churchill River Trip is a new trip for the school. It will begin at Buffalo Narrows, Saskatchewan and will end at Thompson. The exact mileage is not known but is estimated at 750 miles. Mr. Brooks is in charge of the expedition. The group will be made up of Grade ten boys and some Grade elevens who have done the Grand Portage. This group will probably be forced to buy their food at Hudson Bay posts along the way because food drops cannot be taken in to this remote area by the school.

The fourth canoe trip is made up of Grade elevens who have done the Grand Portage and the Albany River trips. There will be eight students doing the trip which is 150 miles long. The group will do the trip in two-man

canoes without supervision. This trip could be considered more of a holiday than a canoe trip. The group will be out on the waters for a week. The trip will start on Northern Lights Lake on the edge of Quetico Park and will finish at Highway 11. This trip was done three years ago by the Grade 12 class.

Due to a late spring, the rivers should be very fast, which will provide for some exciting canoe trips off the brigades.



Getting ready for another season



Start of the St. Adolphe Race, 1974

DEBATING

It was easy to see that St. John's of Manitoba would have a lot of trouble winning the debating trophy this year. For some reason the practice debates were not started until a month before the big debate. Perhaps we were still resting our laurels after winning last year.

About a week after the practice debates were started, a big group of would-be debaters were cut. From then on fewer cuts were made, and those grudgingly so. The teams so far had been debating on the topic 'Is the energy crisis really a blessing in disguise?' This topic was thoroughly picked apart and if it had been the topic for the inter-school debate, we may have won. But then, with a week to go, the subject was changed to: 'Is the U.S.A. still the leader of the free world?' This topic was then debated by the remaining four debaters, each man having a chance to work with everyone else. Although this may have helped with the teamwork, it brought out only the information and ideas of four people where as it could have been that of twenty or thirty would-be debaters.

Albert's obvious training and extensive research won them the debate. Their arguments were new and so far unheard of to Manitoba. Manitoba's rebuttal suffered, while Alberta, seeing our plight, squeaked out a narrow victory. But just wait until next year.



A winning point for Alberta



McCombie

Wait til next year!



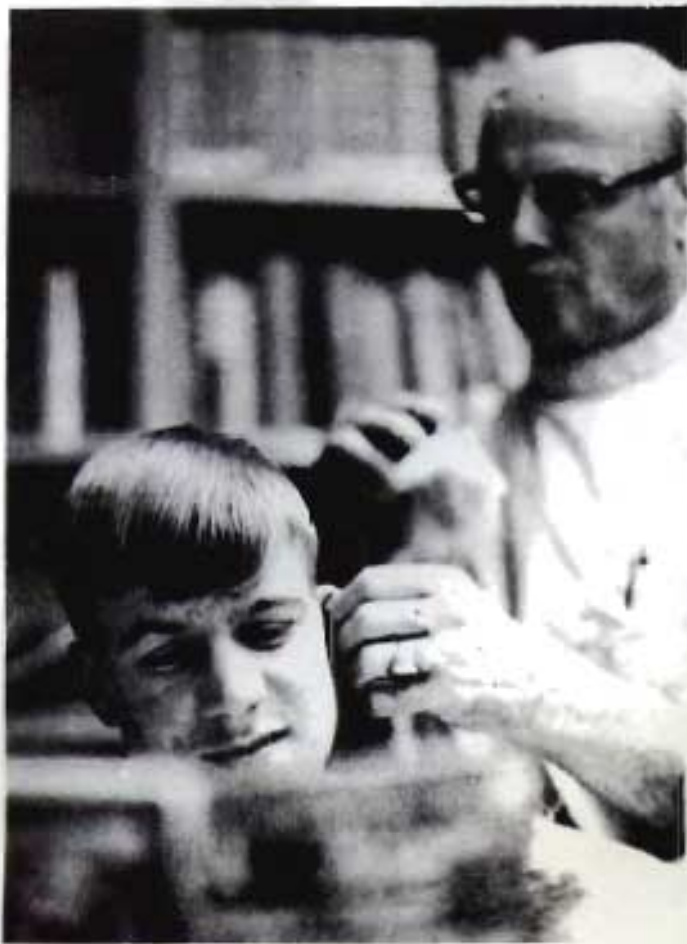
McMorran



Geoffroy swats Mr. Arthur



Lacrosse: Pre-game warm-up



Davis and 'Uncle Steve' the barber



A Christmas present for Mr. Wiens



Half-way point on the year's first
dog run. Forty-six miles to go.



CANOE ROUTES

