

# Indian Reservation Boasts Largest Empire Wheat Field

By DAVID OANCIA  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
CARDSTON, Alta. (AP) — The 353,000-acre Blood Indian reservation in southwestern Alberta boasts the largest wheat field and one of the biggest piles of wheat in the British Commonwealth, but farming operations among the Indians are not described as a success.

Almost 1,000,000 bushels of wheat and coarse grains jam all available storage space on the reserve. Most of it is the result of efforts by the Bloods' white neighbors.

A Blood who wants to start farming or ranching under the band's assistance program is required to make almost no contribution of time, money or effort.

**ON CUSTOM BASIS**  
Practically everything is done for him. The first thing he must do is to pick out land and have the location approved by the band's council of chiefs. The council, working with Indian agency superintendent Larry Hunter, then arranges to have the farm work done for him on a custom basis.

The novice farmer is not even required to help with the work or pay to get the land tilled, seeded and the crop harvested. The cost is advanced from the band's government-held \$700,000 trust fund.

The farmer, however, gets no return on his "farming operations" until the cost of producing the crop has been paid and all grain harvested is stored in supervised bins at the reserve's farm headquarters.

So far Indians who started farming in this way have amassed a \$150,000 debt to the trust fund. Many of them also have bought machinery on credit but few have kept up the payments.

## MANY FAILURES

In recent years about 200 Bloods were assisted to start farming in this way. About 20 are described as successful.

This is the record, despite the fact that treaty Indians are not hampered by income or land taxes, succession duties or school taxes. There also is plenty of room for a Blood to expand his farming operations, since much of the reservation still is virgin prairie.

One official attributed the poor showing on the assistance venture

to high operation costs. It was also reported that many Indian would-be farmers were "taken for a ride" by unscrupulous machinery dealers who sold them equipment which could not be sold to other farmers.

The biggest grain field in the Commonwealth is part of the 61,000 acres of reservation land leased to white farmers seven years ago. The operators turn over to the band a share of the crop produced and pay the band a yearly bonus on the acreage, whether the land is producing or not.

## BETTER WITH CATTLE

Indians who turned from raising horses to raising cattle have on the whole been more successful. It has been estimated that individual Bloods will net a total of about \$100,000 from the sale of cattle this year.

Mr. Hunter described the reservation land as more suitable for ranching than farming. He felt grain farming should not be expanded and that an effort should be made to expand ranching operations.

About 4,000 cattle now graze on the reserve, but experts estimate it could support three to four times the number.

It's just as easy for a Blood to start ranching as it is to start farming. Each year the band council decides how many bred cows can be spared from the band herd and donates them in groups of five to prospective ranchers.

Repayment is easy—the rancher returns to the band herd one steer calf for every bred cow he has received until the five animals have been repaid. The cattle are allowed to graze anywhere on the reservation, but usually when his herd gets bigger, the rancher fences off a section for his range.

## SHOULD LEAVE TOWNS

"The Blood Indians will never become ranchers or farmers if they continue to live close to town," said Rev. M. LaFrance, an Oblate missionary who has worked among Indians for about 15 years.

"The government and the band council should adopt a policy of building houses on the reserves where the Indians claim to have their land."

## IN MEMORIAM

MRS. ANGUS R. MACKENZIE

The angel of death visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Phair, of Seal River, Cardigan North and called Emma (Mrs. Angus R. MacKenzie), who was beloved by all, to her eternal rest.

Always had the right advice, the right answer, the right smile and that right something so few people possess, just to be in her presence lifted one's burden.

She has many rewards waiting for her. When there was illness Emma was called. When, death, accident, want or need arose, she was always there. Emma attended the sick and prepared the dead for burial. She bound up the wounds of many and fed the hungry while her right hand knew not what her left hand did.

Truly, she fulfilled the statement of her Saviour "As much as ye do it unto one of the least of these my children, ye do it unto me." It was fitting for the younger men of the settlement to be her pall bearers as she was always interested in the welfare of the young. This was proven by her fifteen years teaching in the district schools and her many years devotion to her task of superintending the Sunday School. Many young grown old can look back to the lessons taught by Emma in the Little Church.

Emma was a great lover of flowers and her garden was a haven to many. Could she have spoken, she would have been happy to agree to the sending of the baskets of flowers to the hospital for the living to enjoy since her grave could hold no more of the beautiful floral tributes.

She was born August 2, 1868, in New Perth, daughter of James and Ann (Richards) McLean. Her husband, Angus R. MacKenzie, predeceased her by three years. She leaves to mourn two daughters, Christy, Mrs. Fred Keegan, Dorchester, Mass., and Anna, Mrs. Claude Phair, Cardigan North, also two sons, Cotter and Arthur both of Dorchester, Mass., seven grandchildren, four great grandchildren, a brother, Thomas R. McLean, Kinross, a sister Anne, Mrs. Sydney Whidden, San Francisco, California, and a nephew Joseph Allen, who resided with her.

## Nixon First Republican Choice After Eisenhower

By GEORGE KITCHEN  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
WASHINGTON (CP)—Vice-President Richard M. Nixon is regarded as the man to beat for the Republican presidential nomination if Dwight D. Eisenhower steps down from the presidency.

Despite a hard core of opposition to him existing within his own party the boyish-looking and ambitious Nixon appears to be firmly entrenched as the party's first choice — after Eisenhower — when the Republicans select their candidate in San Francisco next August.

While there are strong arguments for and against Nixon as the party standard-bearer, he does enjoy high esteem among some of the main Republican leaders and has enhanced his prestige in recent months through his conduct during President Eisenhower's illness.

Furthermore, he is well liked by Eisenhower, who personally selected Nixon as his running mate in 1952, and this will carry some weight with the rank and file of party delegates. During the last year or so, Eisenhower has given Nixon more and more jobs of the "prestige" type, such as assigning him to preside over the federal cabinet and the national security council, which is a sort of super-cabinet in the Eisenhower administration.

One disadvantage cited by some Republicans is Nixon's comparative youth—he has just turned 43. They say a man so young just isn't good presidential timber. But others say that Nixon has displayed a lot of political wisdom in his life. Of those 10 years, he spent six in Congress—four in the House of Representatives and two in the Senate.

Some elements in the party also have expressed doubt as to the sincerity of Nixon's political convictions. His public career, they say, is full of contradictions. At times, he has been for isolationism; at other times, internationalism has been his viewpoint. On domestic issues, he has ranged from conservatism to liberalism.

## HOSTILITY AT HOME

Another problem facing the party managers is the hostility towards Nixon among party leaders in his home state of California. Both California Governor Goodwin J. Knight and Senator William F. Knowland, the state's senior senator, have made no secret of their distaste of the vice-president.

## PERSONAL PREFERENCE

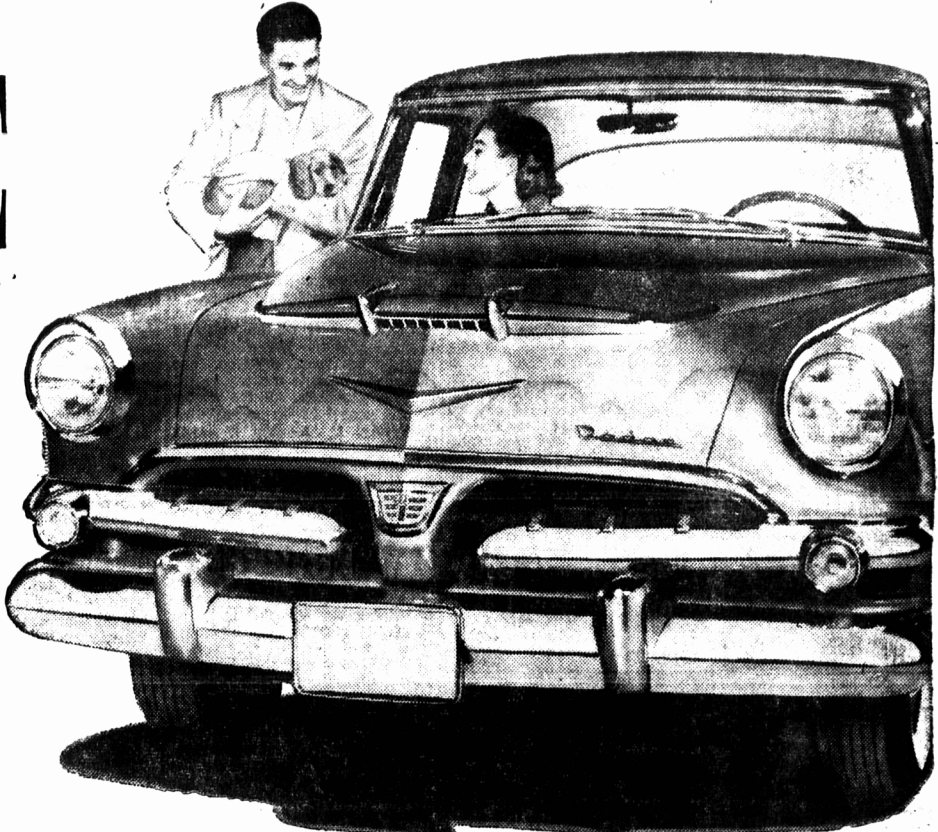
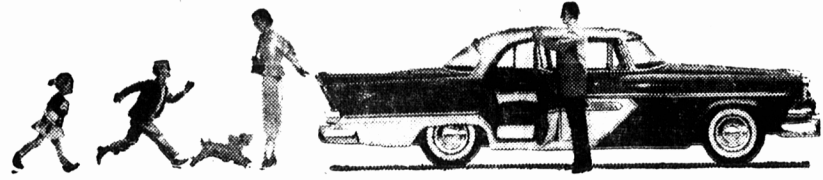
There have been some suggestions that Eisenhower, if he decides not to run for a second term, might indicate his personal preference for a successor. Should that happen, there is a good chance that Nixon will get the presidential nod.

However, there is no middle-of-the-road feeling toward the smiling Californian. Politicians — and people — either like him or they

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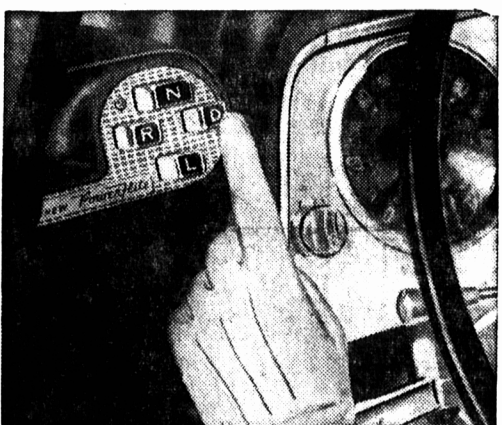
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## Pair Remanded On Rape Charges

HAMILTON, Ont. (CP)—Two Hamilton men charged with four counts of rape and one of breaking and entering Tuesday were remanded to Feb. 13 at the request of their defence counsel.

The men, arrested two weeks ago in Saint John, N.B., are charged with four assaults on Hamilton women between Dec. 4 and Jan. 13, and with breaking and theft of \$100 at a Hamilton glass company.

## CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Mrs. Angus MacKenzie wish to thank Rev. Mr. Campbell, their neighbors, friends and relatives who so kindly helped them in their recent bereavement, also all those who sent cards and letters of sympathy.

**HOCKEY STAMP**  
KITCHENER (CP) — Envelopes and stamps publicizing the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen hockey club and Canada's national winter sport left here Tuesday for many parts of world. Stamp wickets were busy filling orders for the new five-cent hockey stamp, which went on sale Monday to commemorate the winter Olympics at Cortina d'Ampezzo. Waterloo Dutchmen are out to defend Canada's hockey title.