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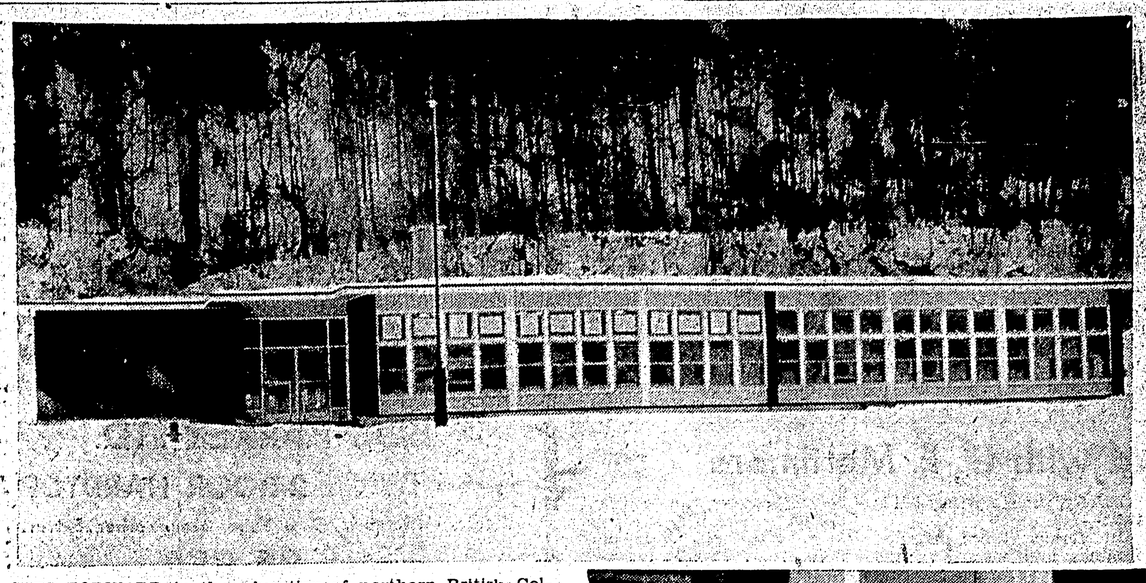

A STEP FORWARD in the education of northern British Columbia Indian children was taken Tuesday night with the official opening of a $150,000 three-room school at Aiyansh Village. The school, which also has a staff room and store room as well as two 25 kilowatt diesel electric engines for power, is now occupied by some 90 students ranging from grades 1 to 8.
—Staff photos by Charles E. Giordano.

Opening of new school at Aiyansh worth wait

$150,000 building handed to village

By CHARLES E. GIORDANO
Daily News Staff Writer

An event "worth waiting for and the answer to our many pleas for better educational facilities" was the way that Aiyansh Village Councillor Roderick Robinson described the opening Tuesday of a modern three room school for children of the Nass River Indian community.

Chief Councillor Robinson voiced his gratitude to the federal government at an impressive ceremonies held Tuesday evening at the entrance of the new $150,000 building, located at the southwest end of the village.

Standing in about a foot of snow as dusk descended on the village, 200 village residents, Department of Indian Affairs, federal and provincial government representatives, watched intently as Frank E. Anfield, assistant Indian Commissioner for British Columbia turned the key of the school's front door.

"I declare this school officially open on behalf of the Government of Canada," said Mr. Anfield on swinging open the glass doors.

The assistant commissioner then handed the key to Mr. Robinson who in turn passed it onto school principal Earl Allen.

"I wish to pay tribute to our guardians for answering our many pleas for a new school. Our wish of many years has now become a reality," Chief Councillor Robinson said.

Turning to the villagers, Mr. Robinson said, "We must take very good care of this school as we are the only ones to benefit by it."

The ceremony at the school ended with a brief talk by Anthony Adams, a leading citizen of Aiyansh, who spoke to the villagers in his Native tongue.

Following a tour of inspection of the up to date school officials and villagers adjourned to Victory Hall, in the centre of the village, for a well-organized banquet.

Guests treated to band concert

Prior to the dinner, to which they were welcomed by Mr. Robinson as master of ceremonies, guests and villagers were treated to a brief concert by the Aiyansh Silver Harmonic Band under the direction of Conductor H. P. MacMillan.

Played by the band were "The Poet and Peasant" overture, a selection from the Broadway musical "My Fair Lady" and several marches.

Following the band concert guests enjoyed a turkey dinner.

At the head table were assistant commissioner Mr. Anfield, Mr. Lloyd Slind of the music faculty of the University of British Columbia; Rev. Paul Mercer and Mrs. Mercer; Conductor H. P. MacMillan; Victor Janzen, district superintendent of Indian Schools; R. H. Sampson, superintendent of the Skeena River Indian agency; J. M. Phillipson, superintendent of schools for District 52; R. H. Biddle, superintendent of Terrace Indian agency, Walter Easton, assistant superintendent of Terrace agency; Henry Azak, chief councillor of Canyon City; Mr. Robinson, teachers Mr. and Mrs. Earl Allen, Hilde Huber, Oscar Mercer and Charles E. Giordano of The Daily News.

All of the evening's festivities were prepared and arranged by members of the village council and their wives.

Oscar Mercer, who teaches some 30 students at the old two-room school at the north end of the village, expressed his appreciation to the Indian department "for making it possible to have this new school."

"We must go along with the teachers. The government has gone to great expense to build this school, now it's up to us to make good use of it," Mr. Mercer said.

"A new school alone doesn't make better students" he added.

In a short but effective speech, Mr. Sampson, wished the villagers "good luck."

Drive, ability assures progress

"With your drive and ability I know you will go ahead favorably," Mr. Sampson said.

School superintendent J. M. Phillipson urged the people of Aiyansh to assist the teachers in every way they can.

"You have the four finest people you can get for teachers" he said.

"Do your best to hold on to them," he added.

Dr. Slind, who concentrated on the band music, told the musicians their work was "of excellent quality."

He suggested that a group of musicians from various Native bands attend a music conference to be held in the near future in Winnipeg.

At the dinner assistant commissioner Anfield, conveyed congratulations from B.C. Indian Commissioner W. S. Arneil.

Mr. Anfield told the villagers that "you can quite easily produce your own teachers.

"The University of British Columbia would like to see more of you people on it's campus."

Mr. Anfield also announced that an Aiyansh resident, Rod Tait, has won the Tom Longboat Award for being B.C.'s Most Outstanding Indian Athlete of 1958.

Mr. Tait, who was chosen by the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada, will be presented with the award shortly.

Also providing entertainment was the St. Bartholamew Church Choir of Aiyansh under the direction of Gregory Russ, conductor.

The choir, made of young and old alike, was well-received in its singing of choruses from Handel's "Messiah."

Other speakers during the evening were: James Gosnell; Henry Azak; George Martin, representing the village of Greenville; Herbert Morven, chairman of the Aiyansh Parent-Teachers Association; Earl Allen and Victor Janzen and Mr. Biddle.

Acting as MC at the school opening was Oscar Mercer.

A prayer by Rev. Paul Mercer ended a big day in the memories of the people of Aiyansh.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen and Miss Huber, who live in a modern residence adjacent to the school, each have approximately 30 students in each of their classes.

Oscar Mercer lives in a residence at the side of the old school.

Students range from Grades 1 to 8.

F. E. ANFIELD, assistant Indian Commissioner for British Columbia, (left) turns over the key of the Aiyansh Village school to Roderick Robinson, chief village councillor. Mr. Anfield declared the school officially open Tuesday night at a ceremony attended by more than 200 villagers, department of Indian Affairs officials, teachers and government of Canada representatives. After accepting the key Mr. Robinson then passed it on to Earl Allen, principal of the new school.

RODNEY TAIT, 26, of Aiyansh Village is the winner of the Tom Longboat award for being "B.C.'s most outstanding Indian athlete" in 1958, it was announced Tuesday night by F. E. Anfield, assistant commissioner of Indian affairs for B.C. A graduate of Booth Memorial High school, Mr. Tait plays basketball for the Empress Vikings of the Senior Men's League, is a promising boxer and also plays soccer. Presentation of the award will be made shortly.
—Staff photo by Charles E. Giordano.

B.C. ROUNDUP

Police say logger admitted killing

NEW WESTMINSTER (CP)—An RCMP sergeant told a murder trial court Wednesday that Chilliwack logger Clifford John Dolan, 26, admitted hitting the woman he is accused of killing.

Sgt. Norman Gibbon said Dolan told him it was not a fight he had with Regina Kelly March 29 but he "just slapped her around a bit."

Mrs. Kelly's body was found in Dolan's Chilliwack cabin April 11.

Medical evidence showed she died of blood pressure on the brain one or two weeks before the discovery.

Sgt. Gibbon said Dolan said Mrs. Kelly fell in the kitchen of the cabin "and her head may have hit the floor."

Injured man dies

VANCOUVER (CP)—Plant superintendent C. L. Hunt, 56, of Shalath died in a Vancouver hospital Tuesday night following an explosion at the B.C. Electric Company's Bridge River plant.

PGE gets land

VICTORIA (CP)—A free grant of crown land to be used as a Pacific Great Eastern Railway waystop townsite was turned over to the government-owned railway today by cabinet order.

It is located at the junction of Hasler Creek and the Pine River, west of Dawson Creek.

Seven storey fall

VANCOUVER (CP)—A woman who fell to her death from the seventh floor of a west End apartment Wednesday has been identified as Mrs. Mary Cook, 72. The manager of the block told police she asked to see an apartment with a view. And when he went downstairs she fell from a window.

Civic band plans concert for Sunday

The Prince Rupert Civic Band will present its third public concert Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Civic Centre auditorium.

The band under the baton of director Joseph G. Arduini, will present a varied program including marches, Christmas carols and selections from "My Fair Lady."

An interlude will feature "a band within a band" playing popular dance music.

Proceeds from a silver collection will go toward buying band equipment.

Water bylaw forum set for tonight

A public foram for the purpose of answering questions on the waterworks supply and distribution improvements By-law Number 1400, will be held 8 p.m. tonight in the Civic Centre auditorium.

Written questions will be answered by the City's Consulting engineer D. A. Whalen and treasurer Derrick Ratcliffe. Question forms will be available at the meeting.

Alderman R. G. Large will be chairman for the meeting.

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LCB ensures good supply

VICTORIA (CP)—Th B.C. Liquor Control Board is adding to its wares in anticipation of the Christmas rush.

An order-in-council passed today notes the inclusion in the price list of six additional brands of Canadian whisky, six rums, three wines and two liquers.

But there was still no addition of vodka by the bottle, sale of which is made only by the case.

Three injured as blast hits Montreal hospital

MONTREAL (CP)—An explosion shook St. Luke Hospital here Wednesday, injuring two doctors and an orderly and forcing evacuation of 178 patients.

One man died half an hour after the explosion but hospital officials said his death was not directly attributable to the blast.

Dr. Marcel Dusseault, 43, a surgeon, suffered a fractured skull and was reported in serious condition in Montreal Neurological Institute.

Dr. Louis Bernard, 57, surgeon-in-chief, and Emile Oulmet, 55, the orderly, suffered less serious injuries.

The blast, apparently in the basement of the hospital's south-west wing, shattered equipment on the first floor emergency rooms and shook down plaster from ceilings as far away as the fourth floor of the wing.

A small fire followed the explosion. Firemen put it out in 20 minutes.

Firemen and inspectors of the Quebec Natural Gas Company began an immediate investigation to determine the cause.

World News Briefs

NEW YORK (AP)—Povl Bang-Jensen, former Danish diplomat, was found dead of a gunshot wound in a New York City park today. Police tentatively listed the death as a suicide.

Detectives said a gun was found in his hand.

Bang-Jensen, 50, had been missing from his nearby Lake Success home since Monday.

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BELLEVILLE, Ont. (CP)—A royal commission inquiry has infected this city with a civic election enthusiasm which may make some ballot papers seem like voting lists.

At Wednesday night's nomination meeting, seven men were named to contest the mayoralty and 42 for 14 council seats. The mayoralty was decided by acclamation last year.

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HALIFAX (CP)—Transport Minister Hees said here Wednesday night that the operation of the Jacques Cartier Bridge in Montreal will be thrown "wide open" to investigation by a parliamentary committee.

The bridge operation and threats against two senior national harbors board officials would be put before the railways and canals committee as soon as possible after Parliament opens.

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ROME (AP)—Eight persons were known drowned and many others were missing today as more than a week of unbroken rains flooded the Calabrian Toe of Italy, isolating whole villages.

✦ ✦ ✦

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The most powerful rocket ever developed by the United States failed on its maiden flight early today and ruined the American attempt to put the first satellite around the moon.

The giant Atlas-Able rocket thundered aloft exactly on schedule at 2:26 a.m. EST 12:26 a.m. mst. Perched atop it was a 372-pound payload designed for the lunar orbit.

✦ ✦ ✦

QUEBEC (CP)—Abolition of capital punishment will be debated by Parliament during the session opening January 14, Justice Minister Davie Fulton said Wednesday night.

At a press conference following his address to members of the Quebec Women's Conservative Association, Mr. Fulton said there will be further debate on a bill presented during the last session asking for an end to capital punishment.

Red Shield fund drive nets $5,351

This year's Salvation Army "Red Shield" campaign topped last year's by $148 with a total of $5,351 being collected in the Prince Rupert district it was Campaign chairman George reported today.

W. Cook, in announcing the close of the fund drive, said the amount is the most ever collected for the work of The Salvation Army in Prince Rupert.

He said the residential "blitz" of September 21 under the chairmanship of his wife, brought in $2,062, almost half the total.

"This is truly an outstanding amount and is mainly due to the hard-working team captains, canvassers and wonderful response of thoughtful citizens," Mr. Cook said.

Funds have been sent by campaign treasurer K. S. Freeman to The Salvation Army's national headquarters in Toronto and that monthly allocations will be sent to the Prince Rupert district throughout the coming year.

He said that pre-winter predictions indicate "that a rather heavy relief program may be in store."

Island Indian poverty under investigation

VICTORIA (CP)—Professor Charles S. Burchill, president of the Indian Arts and Welfare Society here said Wednesday the society has received reports of "extreme poverty" among Indians on the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

Prof. Burchill, of the Royal Roads Tri-Services College, was commenting on statements by a Vancouver fisherman Tuesday that the Indians are destitute and some are reduced to eating clams and dried bread.

The federal Indian department pays Indians $14 a month in relief for food, Prof. Burchill said.

"I ask you can any white man subsist on $14 a month. I'm quite sure some are hungry."

CLOTHING NEEDED

He said there is also need for clothing.

W. A. Arneil, Indian commissioner for British Columbia, Tuesday denied the story of fisherman Alec Anderson. However, it was known that the Indians had a poor fishing season and relief was being provided. His department would investigate Mr. Anderson's report.

Mrs. Helen Hunt, niece of Chief Mungo Martin, well-known totem pole carver here, said the chief received a letter recently from the west coast which said conditions were bad and that there was no employment.

She said winter hardship among Indians is so common "Christian people no longer bother about it."

SEARCH BEACHES

"I've seen a woman with children whose husband was ill search beaches for food. I have often cried for people who were unable to give their children anything for Christmas because they were absolutely destitute."

The only help offered by white people was clothing but "clothing does not help the stomach."

Indians were too proud to make a direct appeal for assistance.

Lt.-Col. G. Howland, treasurer of the welfare society said the society had received a request from the wife of Rev. Reginald Bennett, a United Church of Canada missionary on the west coast, for clothing.

But Mr. Bennett was quoted Tuesday as saying he did not know of any real need.

$600 ALREADY CONTRIBUTED IN ANNUAL TB SEAL CAMPAIGN

More than $600 has already been received for the 1959 TB Christmas seal campaign in Prince Rupert and district, by Miss Adelaine Milewski, chairman of the sponsoring Order of the Royal Purple Lodge No. 8, reported today.

She said that since November 16, 1,955 envelopes, each containing 200 brightly colored nativity scenes, have been mailed to homes in the area.

Proceeds from last year's local TB seal campaign amounted to $2,600 while $255,000 was collected throughout the province.

Money raised through the annual sale of Christmas seals is used in the B.C. Tuberculosis Society's TB-prevention program.

Of the many projects made possible through the sale of Christmas seals, "Operation Door-Step" last year discovered at least 10 new cases of TB, of which a large percentage was reported from the Prince Rupert district.

The Miller Bay Indian Hospital has also received immediate benefits from the proceeds of the campaign.

Miss Milewski today urged that Prince Rupert residents send in their money "as soon as possible, to make the 1959 campaign the best yet."

Prince Rupert has now gone 314 days without a fatal traffic accident.

WEATHER—

Rain tonight. Milder Friday. Winds southeast 30. Low tonight and high Friday 38 and 48.

TIDES—

Friday, Nov. 27, 1959
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	10:40	21.3 feet
	23:25	19.8 feet
Low	04:24	6.7 feet
	17:13	4.1 feet