

Please Note: We were unable to decipher all of the handwritten diary. Words and phrases which we could not make out are indicated with "____". Words or phrases of which we are unsure, are in italics. Please refer to the handwritten diary for the full text. Researchers who would like to suggest alterations to this transcript are invited to contact the University Archives.

June 13.

The journey north really started today. Slept the night in Ian's bed, he on the floor. ____ made bkfst - quite willingly. Phoned the girls. Picked up Pinky & off to the Mill House. Can't get in yet but outside marvellous. Right on the sea & obviously everyone v. keen. Flight to Van bumpy. Phil & the boys picked me up & had a swim at Stewart's bet. flights.

Good flight to Edmonton. Met by William *Bowker* and driven to Macdonald hotel. Met Jean¹ & went to his lawyer friend DelaMarche *[sic]*, for brandy & coffee. Early to bed.

June 14, Mon.

Up and away to municipal airport at Edmonton. Big crowd going north. Reminded me of going to the Charlottes - young men going "out" for summer jobs. Council members & staff. Sat by Jean & talked business. Decide our terms of ref. in the o-in-c OK *but dull*. Down in Ft. Smith saw the rapids on the River. Off to Yk. Met by John² & wife & Gordon³. Around noon Yk Hotel. Met till 3 - opening ceremony⁴. Our commission ____ in speeches. Everyone v. generous. Met again 5 - 6. Making good progress. Drinks on Commission. Dinner with John & Helen. Bed at 11 - sun just set - v. light.

June 15. Tues.

Meetings all day. Still getting staff but things looking good. Lunch in d.r. at hotel. Jean & I v. sleepy - must be the climate! Dinner at "Break-up" at Akaitcho Hall, the hostel for Sir John Franklin school. V. well planned. I spoke to students about our work. Long program & v. hot. Tour of bldgs - excellent. Met Fr. Marrec - coming with us to Snowdrift & Ft.

¹ Jean Beetz, Member of the Advisory Commission. From Montreal, Quebec.

² John H. Parker, Member of the Advisory Commission. From Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

³ Commissioner Gordon R. Cameron.

⁴ Opening of the 13th Session of the Northwest Territories Council.

Resolution. V. impressed with Peter Murdoch, Regional Ad^{or}. Told us of differences in concepts. So much of the problem of the north seems to be one of communication - conflict of policies.

Walked to old Yk - Squaw Valley!

June 16 Wed.

Breakfast with Joe Kutz at Akaitcho. He studying hostels.

More meetings & phone calls.

Lunch with press - Excellent.

We were open with them & I think they will be good to us. Attended council. Press wondering where we were! Help from Frank Vallee re sociological study. Dinner on the town. I spoke again. I think they might be beginning to understand what we are doing. Took photos after 10pm. Packed for the am & off to bed c. 11.

June 17.

Away about 9 in chartered Otter. Pilot Pete Fr. Marrec *Breton* Jean 1660 Canadian John Alta and me -- & a girl going home from Akaicho. Land of lakes, & cliffs of geol. faults. Insane shorelines. Some lakes green blue brown. Down in Snowdrift. On point. Church evident. About 200 souls. Summer & nothing is going on. Took hour to organise meeting in school house. Fr. Marrec interpreted in sports shirt. Difficult to know what qs to ask. They do not know where Ottawa is or what the Territories are. Give us good answers but everything is immediate. Want gov't in Yk because it is near. The world belongs to everyone & they should share its riches. People v. friendly, shy & truthful. Have had no matches for weeks! Due HBC - want competition. Need some kind of it. *Zepp Cansaway* spokesman.

Off to Ft. Res. about 1 pm. More lakes than land. Bag lunches - fattening!

Fought headwind into Ft Resolution. Were met at dock by the chief & arranged a meeting in school house for 1½ hours later. HBC man said no notices out. School p^{al}

Mulders gave us the basement hall. Cool. V. hot o/s. At meeting Fr. Marrec was rejected by the Metis because he was the chief's man. The Metis chose their interpreter. Everything went OK till Chief Alexander King moved up & sat with the Com^{ers} Then the Metis quarreled - refused to recognise the Chief and the Chief refused to talk except in front of his own people. I sd OK we will see the Treaty Indians in ½ hour. The Metis left too but returned when I fetched them.

They cld not understand what we meant by dividing the NWT in 2. They want status quo, cap. in HR or Yk.

Treaty Indians also want status quo, cap. in F.S.⁵ Chief from Rocher River v. dissatisfied with gov't. & price of furs. He wants F.S. cap.

Cause of conflict is th the Metis want social status of not being Treaty yet resent special treatment Indian Affairs gives Treaty Indians. Fr. *Gamus* he not in town.

We made major error in sending message to the Treaty Indians only. Badly advised.

On to Hay River via Pine Point. Met Mayor Stewart & some counsellors. Dinner of barbecued lake trout - excellent. ~~Short~~

June 18.

Short tour of HR harbour. On to F.S. Rain on way. Met by Ron Hodgkinson⁶ and *Sam* Dodds, the chm of the council at F.S. Lunch at the Hotel - just us 5. Spent abt 1 hour with H & lined up what he wld do in July. I think he will work out v. well. Short tour of the town. Back to gov't. bldgs for coffee session with town notables. I explained what we intended to do. Complained of inaccuracy of press release from YK after our lunch:

- 1) We open meetings except in the towns & Ottawa
- 2) Cost \$200, 000
- 3) Reporting 1 July 66.

⁵ F.S. = Fort Smith.

⁶ R.A. Hodgkinson, assistance district administrator, Mackenzie district; technical advisor to the Advisory Commission.

4) Geological consultant
leave at 5:15

Meetings at HR and FS quite different. HR a real frontier town. FS quieter but perhaps they know better what we want to hear about.

Flight to Edⁿ uneventful.
_ David Macdonald

June 19.

12:15 am flight to Toronto. TCA service *sloppy*.