

CANADA

SASKATCHEWAN

Shacktown College

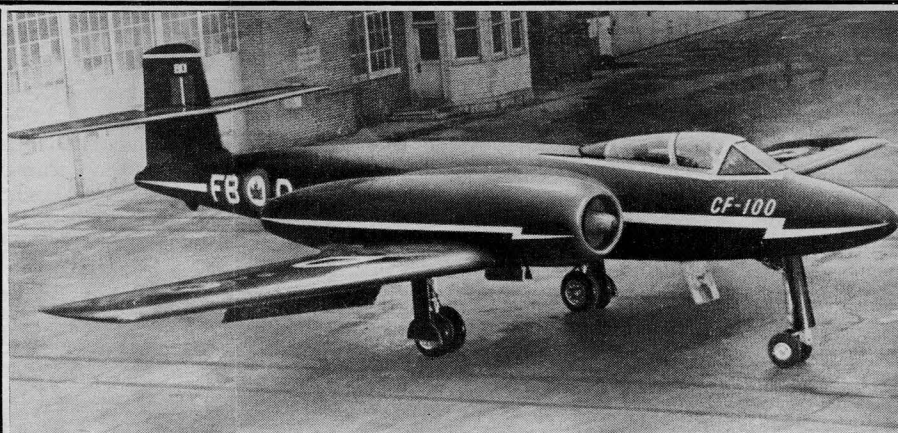
There is a unique college at Wilcox, Saskatchewan. It is young, it is poor, it is crude; it was founded on nothing more than faith, and it exists without visible means of support . . . Its president and founder, Father Athol Murray . . . is as truly a pioneer as those Jesuit Fathers who first explored the Northwest.

In these words, written back in 1937, the late Rex Beach, author and outdoorsman, described a place that had powerfully impressed him. Father Murray's Notre Dame "shacktown" college had been founded just before the depression, right in the heart of Canada's dustbowl country, and was the only school in that part of Canada where a poor farm boy could get higher education. Father Murray's male students lived in four harvest bunk-cars once used by mobile threshing gangs; girl students were quartered in a nearby convent. Father Murray taught his classes in an abandoned furniture factory; his library was housed in a defunct bank.

Tuition payments at Notre Dame were haphazard. Those who could not afford the \$18-a-month fee brought produce from their parents' farms or worked for their keep. Father Murray stressed the humanities, put his students to work studying the great books of the past so that each might learn "to think clearly and imaginatively, to distinguish between what he knows and what is merely his opinion." Though he was pleased to see them graduate, Father Murray did not worry about degrees; he was just as well satisfied if a student left in mid-term because he had found a good job.



L. H. Shaw—The Leader-Post
FATHER MURRAY
Bunk-cars and books.



"MADE IN CANADA"

This sleek, jet-propelled fighter plane, photographed for the first time last week, is the CF-100, which Canada describes as the "most powerful fighter in the world." Powered by two Rolls-Royce Avon engines and designed by A. V. Roe, Canada, Ltd., Toronto, it is the first all-Canadian fighter ever built. The R.C.A.F. calls it a long-range, all-weather type. U.S. aviation publications have unofficially rated its potential top speed at more than 600 m.p.h. Eventually it is scheduled to replace the British Vampire jet in all Canadian interceptor squadrons. The plane is now running taxi tests in preparation for its first flights.

Rex Beach, who had gone to Notre Dame to write a magazine article about Father Murray, became one of the college's biggest boosters. When Beach died last month, he left one-ninth of his \$100,000 estate to Notre Dame. Last week Father Murray was ready to put the money to good use; it was the biggest windfall Notre Dame had ever had. Though the college had grown in size (it has 225 students, and a 10,000-volume library), it has not grown in wealth. Its faculty of 18 includes both Catholic and Protestant laymen, a Catholic priest and five nuns. They draw no salaries.

Though Father Murray has no doubt that as long as he lives, Notre Dame will always squeak through, he thought the time had come to provide for the future. Rex Beach's legacy, he said, would become the nucleus of Notre Dame's endowment fund. As that fund's eventual goal, Father Murray has fixed the modest total of \$100,000.

THE PROVINCES

Across the Land

¶ The army announced that special winter training schools, the first of their kind in Canada, would be established this year in each of its five commands. Men taking the course will get three weeks' work in such subjects as bushcraft, snowshoeing and winter infantry tactics.

¶ In Montreal, Imperial Tobacco Co., Canada's largest cigarette manufacturers, announced a 1¢ increase in cigarette prices, bringing them to a new high of 39¢ for a pack of 20.

¶ When Principal Mae Beckton of the St. George (Ont.) Continuation School charged that Teacher Richard Takimoto would not cooperate with her, the school

board fired him. She resigned during the ensuing clamor, but indignant ratepayers called a protest meeting and Stuart Phoenix, a former assistant of Miss Beckton's, came to defend Takimoto. Phoenix called Miss Beckton "a female dictator" and said that she had required him to: 1) live at her boardinghouse; 2) play bridge with her; 3) escort her to the movies (Miss Beckton bought the tickets). The meeting passed a vote of confidence in Teacher Takimoto.

¶ Mrs. Dennis McNeill, a Brandon, Man. housewife, was somewhat downcast after winning a TV set and an air-conditioning unit in a Minneapolis radio give-away show. Canada has no TV stations; Mrs. McNeill's three-room apartment is too small for the air conditioner.

¶ One man was killed and 68 others injured when two Canadian Pacific Railway trains collided in the darkness at Southesk, Alta. Snowdrifts on surrounding roads delayed the arrival of doctors, the temperature was 23° below zero and the injured had to wait at the scene of the wreck until a special rescue train arrived to take them to hospitals in Calgary, 95 miles away.

¶ In Chicoutimi, Que., where she ran a museum for 30 years and autographed thousands of books for tourists, Eva Bouchard (TIME, Nov. 29, 1948), who claimed to be the model for Louis Hémon's classic Canadian novel *Maria Chapdelaine*, died at the age of 64.

¶ The government's signal service reported that for the first time on record, the 1,000-mi. St. Lawrence River navigation channel from Montreal to the Atlantic Ocean was free of ice at this time of year. Laurentian ski resorts gloomed that the mild winter had cut their business; stores in Montreal were offering ski suits at one-third off.