

AT any rate, once I was back home, I became aware of things that I had never bothered to notice before, or may be they were not there before. In any case, I seemed to notice that the people stared with their hawk-like eyes, trying to decide whether city life and education had changed me for the better or the worse. Some hesitated to talk to me. From a few, there were even accusations of denying my own background and trying to be one of the white people. I was not sure, by this time, just where, if anywhere, I really belonged.

On my third year, I moved again to another boarding home. This time I shared a room with a Sioux girl. The couple we lived with were understanding, patient, very

kind and hospitable. We all got along fine. I felt as if a heavy load which I had been carrying around for so long was lifted from my back. The future appeared rosy and happy; and it was.

To start with I joined a few of the clubs through the school. The meetings and the projects we did kept me occupied, which gave me a sense of belonging or contributing to something. This gave me the incentive to explore and reach out for things outside my own little world. In addition, I went on a trip which was sponsored by the Centennial Commission to one of the Maritime provinces along with a group of students mostly from Winnipeg. The trip to the Atlantic province and our visit there was simply super! Every-

one of us had a great time. It was then I began to discover, or rather realize, how beautiful life is, how nice other people can be, and that "everyone smiles in the same language".

Right now I just need two more subjects to complete my Grade 12. Next year I hope to start training either as a registered nurse or a dental hygienist.

I am glad now that I resisted the temptation to yield to my pessimistic tendencies to drop out of school and go back home. I know that there are many other Indian students who feel now as I did a few years ago. I hope that they, too, will find the kind of people who are willing to help, understand and accept them. □

Where Iona lived: map on back cover shows corner of eastern Manitoba with Oxford House Indian Reservation indicated by eastern arm of compass bearing. Scale: 14 miles to 1 inch app.