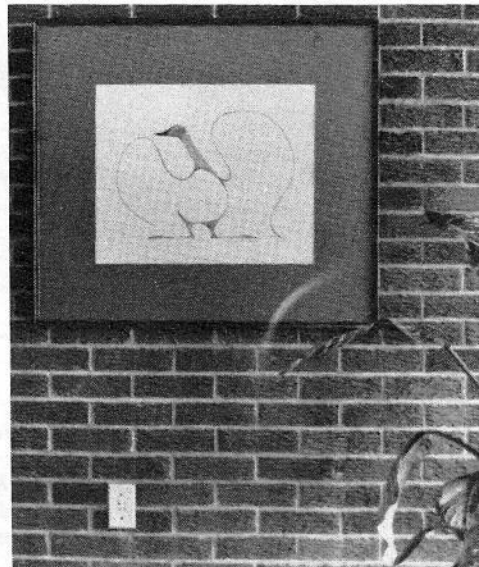
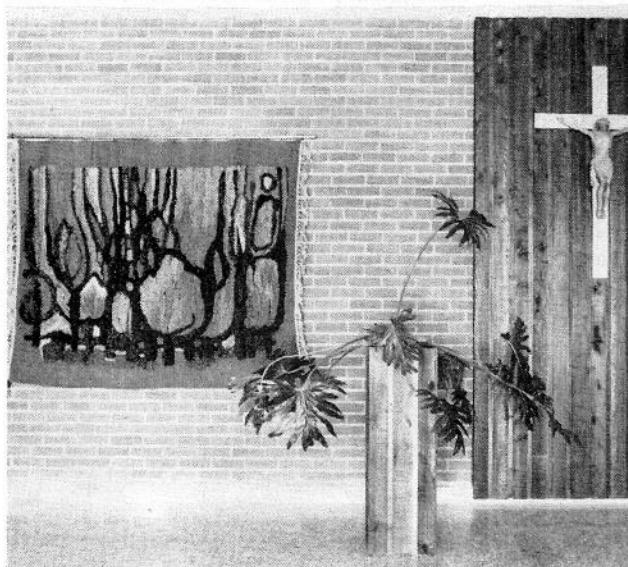


ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

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Members of the St. Peter's Benedictine Jubilee Committee (from left: Fathers Maurice Weber, Peter Novecosky and Martin Brodner) plan the jubilee calendar of events for the coming year.

1,500th anniversary celebration

1980 is a year of celebration for Benedictines throughout the world. It marks the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of St. Benedict of Nursia, named the Father of Europe by Pope Paul VI in 1963.

Born in Italy in 480, Benedict began a tradition of prayer, work and community life which became the foundation of monastic life in the Western church. His rule is known for its moderation, its charity, its emphasis on a balanced life of praise, study and work, and its adaptability to local conditions.

COVER

The abbey main entrance was recently renovated with cedar wood paneling and some art work. Shown in detail are a tapestry entitled *The Maples* by Maria Kantor Lizuniec of Krakow, Poland and a stencil print of a goose by B.C. Cree artist Benjamin Chee Chee.

Various celebrations are planned for this year, including a symposium in Rome, Sept. 17 - 21, involving superiors of men and women Benedictine, Trappist and Cistercian houses throughout the world. Abbot Jerome plans to attend.

Locally, the St. Peter's Abbey Benedictine Jubilee Committee has approved the following special events for the jubilee year at St. Peter's:

March 21 — St. Benedict's Day, community meeting

April 23 — Talk on Desert Mothers by Margot King

May 4 - 10 — Live-in at abbey

July 10 — Investiture of novices; Community Day for Oblates

July 11 — Solemnity of St. Benedict; anniversaries to celebrate; visit with Apostolic Pro-Nuncio Archbishop Angelo Palmas

July 28 — Community Day for religious of abbacy and Benedictine sisters from Winnipeg

Aug. 3 — Re-union with former abbey members and families

Aug. 18 — Community Day for Saskatchewan hierarchy and clergy, alumni clergy, male religious

Aug. 18 - 22 — Week-long workshop on *lectio divina* by Father Hugh Tasch, OSB, Conception Abbey; Canadian Bishops' Art Collection on display here

Aug. 24 - 30 — Live in at abbey

Dec. 26 — Community Day for relatives

Other projects to note: the abbey has commissioned Albert Gerritsen of Calgary to make a four-foot statue of St. Benedict; a half-hour Benedictine slide-tape program entitled "Journey in the Spirit" has been purchased and could be shown in local parishes and schools; two Benedictine bulletin inserts for abbacy parishes are planned for this Lent; Abbot Jerome and Father Maurice Weber will attend the general chapter at St. Vincent's Archabbey, June 8 - 15; and several monks will attend the Benedictine Congress at St. John's Abbey from June 19 - 21.



This home-grown Christmas tree in the main entrance was considered one the best ever displayed at St. Peter's.

Personnel notes

Abbot Jerome Weber took part in several bishops' meetings: the national meeting in Ottawa, Nov. 19 - 23; a provincial meeting on Dec. 4, followed by a joint meeting with the Anglican bishops of Saskatchewan, to discuss marriage; a meeting of the bishops of Western Canada in Edmonton, Feb. 9 - 11, followed by a joint meeting between the bishops and religious superiors of Western Canada. This winter Abbot Jerome resumed his weekly talks to the community on the Rule of St. Benedict. He also plans to leave for Brazil on April 8 to visit the abbacy mission team for two weeks.

Father Edward Benning celebrated the first Sunday Mass in the new church in Englefeld on Feb. 17.

Father Paul Kuehne, along with Fathers Werner Renneberg and Daniel Muyres, took part in the annual Western Conference of Priests meeting in Edmonton, Jan. 28 - 31.

Father Alphonse Ludwig went to St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, in February for an operation to improve the blood circulation to his head. He returned to his parish in Naicam after two weeks in the city.

Father Florian Renneberg took part in a charismatic renewal Pastoral Training Weekend in Saskatoon, Feb. 22 - 24.

Father Maurice Weber travelled to Swift Current Nov. 22 to speak about Benedictine community life to the Mennonite students at the Bible Institute there. He was also the main speaker at this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Carmel, Jan. 27. In mid-February he and Father Andrew Britz were busy visiting high schools in the area to promote the St. Peter's College program to the graduates.

Father Rudolph Novecosky, feeling much better after receiving new medication during his visit to the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minn., has resumed his parish ministry and is teaching a class to the postulants. He also feels more secure travelling alone in winter since he had a CB radio installed in his car.

Father Lawrence DeMong went to Daly Centre, Regina, Jan. 29 - Feb. 1, to help the National Office of Religious Education team revise the home program for the grade 4 Canadian Catechism program.

Father Andrew Britz gave a workshop on lay ministries at the Saskatoon Church Days, Oct. 27.

Father Sylvester Vredegoor bought a new house in Maceio, Brazil closer to the sisters' house this January. He plans to return to Canada for a visit in late June.

Brother Stanley Vindevoghel returned to the abbey from studies at the University of Saskatchewan for the Christmas and February mid-term breaks.



Taking part in an early January workshop on worship at St. Peter's was this group of Mennonite students from the Swift Current Bible Institute, from left (seated): Anita Hiebert, Nola Dyck, Hilda Schroeder and Tannis Dietz; (standing): Peggy Bell, Marlene Driediger, Norma Jean Derksen, Karen Heinrichs, Melvin Siemens, John W. Sprunger (teacher) and Marilyn Driediger.

The guestmaster's report

The guest facilities had a slack period again in the early months of the year, but were busier last fall.

October began with two groups using the facilities the first week: a personnel training workshop given by Saskatchewan Social Services; and about 50 Quakers who came here from across Western Canada for their annual meeting during the Thanksgiving Day weekend.

The second week saw another two groups here: the Saskatchewan Council of the Anglican

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund met here the second weekend; and six actors from the touring Globe theatre made St. Peter's their headquarters while playing at schools in the area.

An engaged encounter sponsored by the Saskatoon diocese booked in with a full house the final weekend of October. Individual visitors during October included Grant Maxwell of Ottawa, a secular Oblate of the abbey; Irene Larkin from Bishop F. O'Grady's Frontier Apostolate; and Bob Dettle of Edmonton, a former candidate.

A few guests stayed here and about 250

people all together took part in this year's Christian Faith Conference, Nov. 2 - 4. Father Barry Glendinning spoke on liturgy in four main talks; some people came especially for the closing liturgy on Sunday afternoon. The same weekend a small group of librarians of Catholic colleges met here under the direction of Brother Bede Hubbard.

The Saskatchewan Inter-Church Energy Committee met here the second weekend of November; they were accused of calling attention to their topic of concern when the power went off that evening and they had to continue their meeting under candle power.

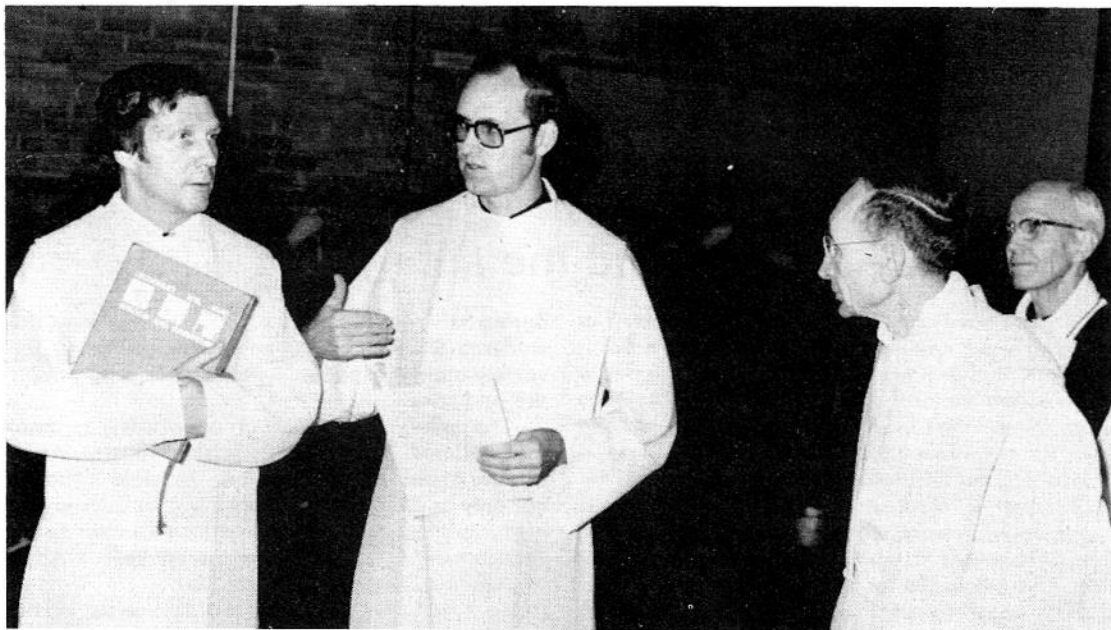
A dozen people took part in a Nov. 16 - 18 Newman Centre retreat, with SPC alumnus Claude Lange helping to lead the proceedings. Several other individuals also were here on retreat during the month.

December was relatively free, after a full house for WorldWide Marriage Encounter, Dec. 7 - 9, with Father Werner Renneberg making arrangements and being part of the team. The only other

event was the abbacy Search program Dec. 28-30, with Father Lawrence DeMong as a director. Abbey members taking part were Father Peter Novecosky, Brothers Mark Hunt and Clement McSheffery and Vince Lalonde. They joined about 40 young people from the area. A half-dozen sisters came for individual retreats or rest during December.

John W. Sprunger, Old Testament professor at the Swift Current Bible Institute, brought 10 lively and liturgically minded Mennonite students here for a five-day experience and study of worship at St. Peter's. They plan to return again next year.

The only other groups to book in the first months of 1980 were Driving Without Impairment, Jan. 11 - 13, and Saskatchewan Serena workshop, Feb. 8 - 10, which several SPC alumni took part in. Other February visitors included David Hofman, Bill Randall and Larry Scott, three United Church ministers who came for a few days of reflection and reading.



Father Peter Novecosky explains the procedure for the closing CFC Mass, Nov. 4, to Father Barry Glendinning, as Father Norbert Schwinghammer and Abbot Jerome Weber look on.



Several abbey artists pooled their talents in making this Christmas mural for the abbey chapel, an enlarged reproduction of *The Nativity*, 12th century, by *The Master of Jativa*.

Around the abbey

Several abbey members have been involved in teaching non-credit classes in the St. Peter's Adult Religious Studies program this winter. Going out to teach in the various abbacy parishes, sometimes up to three times a week, were Fathers Andrew Britz, Peter Novocosky, Lawrence DeMong, Joseph Ackerman and Brother Bede Hubbard.

Another development in the college program is a proposal to re-organize the college administration. Discussions are being held on setting up an executive council to be in charge of the university classes; another council would be in charge of the non-credit religious program.

The college students had their chance to put the college dean, Father Maurice Weber, in his place

during a "roast" on Nov. 30. In addition, the students displayed many other talents during the variety night and put on an enjoyable program for the audience.

The college faculty had an opportunity to meet the students' parents at a student-faculty-parent pre-Christmas supper, Dec. 14. They had a chance not only to enjoy a good meal but also to enjoy an evening of culture at a Christmas concert in St. Peter's Cathedral put on by the St. Peter's Adult Chorus and the Regina Treble Clef.

As Christmas drew nearer, confreres in the parishes and at the abbey became busier with Christmas and penance services. The community observed a day of prayer and quiet on Dec. 8. Just

before Christmas Brother Mark Hunt oversaw the setting up of the outdoor Christmas crib while Brothers Clement McSheffery and Patrick Genoia and Vince Lalonde painted a Christmas mural for the abbey chapel. Other monks got involved in putting up Christmas trees and decorations the day before Christmas.

The juniors and several other monks surprised the hermits and some abbey employees with Christmas carolling on Christmas Eve; the chapel was quite full for Midnight Mass as several visitors joined us. More socializing took place the day after Christmas when relatives of monks came for an afternoon of skating, gym sports, lunch and visiting.

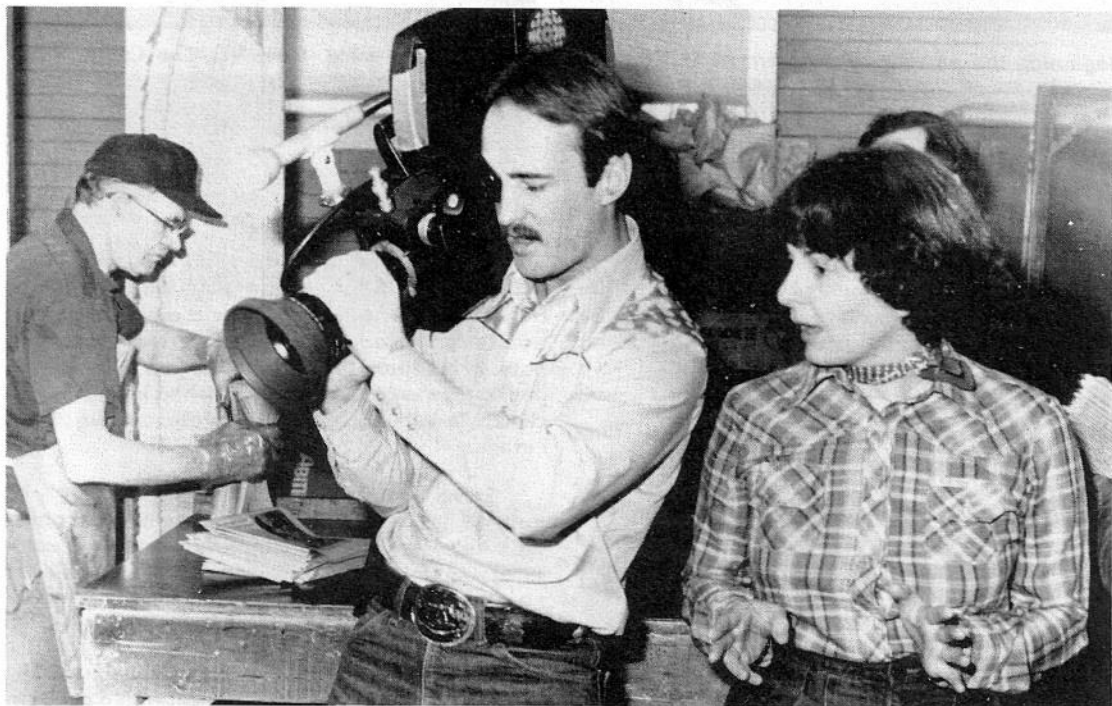
Several large retreat groups joined the monastic community for Vespers: about 70 catechists on Oct. 5, 40 Searchers the last weekend of December, and 60 teachers during a twilight retreat on Jan. 28.

In mid-January Msgr. Prosper Askew, pastor of Holy Cross parish, Regina, spent several enjoyable days at St. Peter's making acquaintances with

community members. Msgr. Askew is an Oblate of Monte Olivette Abbey in Italy. He has considerable international experience and wrote several articles for the *Prairie Messenger*.

Sometime this spring two Eritrean young men should be arriving at the abbey. They are being sponsored by the abbey through the refugee program. They have spent the past several years at Sant' Anselmo in Rome where Father Maurice Weber made their acquaintance.

An Abbey Art and Architecture Committee was established this year. It is to be consulted by the pastor and his parish council whenever there is a plan to build a new church, renew or remodel a church in existence, build a new rectory or other parish building in the abbacy. The committee must approve the plans. It is also available to be consulted on the "proper ordering of sacred images, embellishments and vestments." Members of the committee are: Fathers Martin Brodner, Leo Hinz, Andrew Britz and Damian Yaskowich. The committee will develop a resource file on art and architecture.



CBC National News reporter Eve Savory gives directions to cameraman Robb Douglas as they film the *Prairie Messenger* being printed. The news item was broadcast nationally on Feb. 20.



Beginning the postulancy program at St. Peter's in early February were, from left: Leo Collin, Vince Lalonde, Steve Carthy, Al Thurmeier and Steven Moorman.

Five new candidates

Five candidates began the postulancy program at St. Peter's at the beginning of February. It is the largest postulancy class in quite a few years. The five are: Vince Lalonde, Leo Collin, Al Thurmeier, Steve Carthy and Steven Moorman.

Vince Lalonde, 40 was born in Cornwall, Ont. After seven years in the army he went to London, Ont., where he has worked as a cook and baker for the last 13 years. He came to the community in October and since then he has become proficient at making altar candles and has resumed his hobby of painting.

Leo Collin, 53, was born in Holland. He trained as a cook and worked in the Dutch navy. In 1963 he came to Canada and has worked in various hotels and restaurants in Western Canada. He also has an interest in painting.

Al Thurmeier, 24, though born in Saskatoon, had moved to Albuquerque, N.M. with his family. He studied electronics and has a diploma in electronics technology. He also plays the organ and flute. In his spare time during the last six years he built a pipe organ, which he finished installing in a church in Albuquerque just before coming to St. Peter's.

Steve Carthy, 29, is from Cambridge, Ont. He quit his job as supervisor of assembling control monitor systems for Candu power stations to come to the monastery. Besides having studied electricity, machine shop, sheet metal work and wood working, he enjoys playing the classical guitar.

Steven Moorman, 22, is from Ottawa. He has taken two years of arts and science, with a major in philosophy, at Carlton University. His hobby is long-distance running.

Deceased brethren, relatives

Father Richard Wilbrod Gregoire, 80, St. Bede Abbey, Peru, Illinois, died Oct. 16.

Father Timothy J. Pelletier, 84 and senior member of St. Anselm's Abbey, Manchester, N. H., died Oct. 20.

Father Damian Paul Gusmus, 68, St. Bernard Abbey, St. Bernard, Alabama, died Oct. 22.

Father Eugene Richard Schwarz, 55, Saint Mary's Abbey, Morristown, N.J., died Oct. 22, 15 years after falling victim to multiple sclerosis.

Father Leo Thomas Gourde, 64, Assumption Abbey, Richardton, N.D., died Nov. 2, after months of excruciating pain caused by multiple myeloma.

Father Louis Lawrence Pfaller, 56, Assumption Abbey, died Nov. 2, of cancer.

Brother Martin Heier, 68, Assumption Abbey, died Nov. 17.

Father Alan James Steichen, 33, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., died Nov. 26.

Brother Marion L. Bosco, 57, St. Mark's Priory, South Union, Kentucky, died Dec. 15.

Father Othmar Leo Hohmann, 79, St. John's Abbey, died Jan. 24.

Father Leonard Leo Feeney, 71, Saint Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Wash., died Jan. 25.

Mrs. Anna Lange, 79, mother of Brother Bernard, died Dec. 2 after suffering a stroke.

Roger DeMong, 36, brother of Father Lawrence and SPC alumnus, was killed along with his wife Marion and three children in a head-on collision near Victoria, B.C., Feb. 3.



Father Andrew Britz, left, college principal, visits with some students and teachers during the St. Peter's College open house for grade 12 students, Feb. 13.



One of the Halloween "treats" Sister Miriam Spennath, OSU, discovered in her office in the St. Peter's Pre-Vocational program was this untitled, look-alike sculpture made by an anonymous monk!

Dates to circle

June 22: 50th anniversary of monastic profession for Father Edward Benning

June 23 - 27: Bishop Adam Exner, OMI, Kamloops, will preach the annual monastic retreat

July 8: 50th anniversary of monastic profession for Brother Dominic Distel

July 10: Investiture of novices

July 11: 25th anniversary of monastic profession for Fathers Daniel Muyres and Maurice Weber; St. Benedict's day and visit by Apostolic Pro-Nuncio Archbishop Angelo Palmas

Aug. 18 - 22: Workshop on lectio divina by Father Hugh Tasch, OSB, Conception Abbey

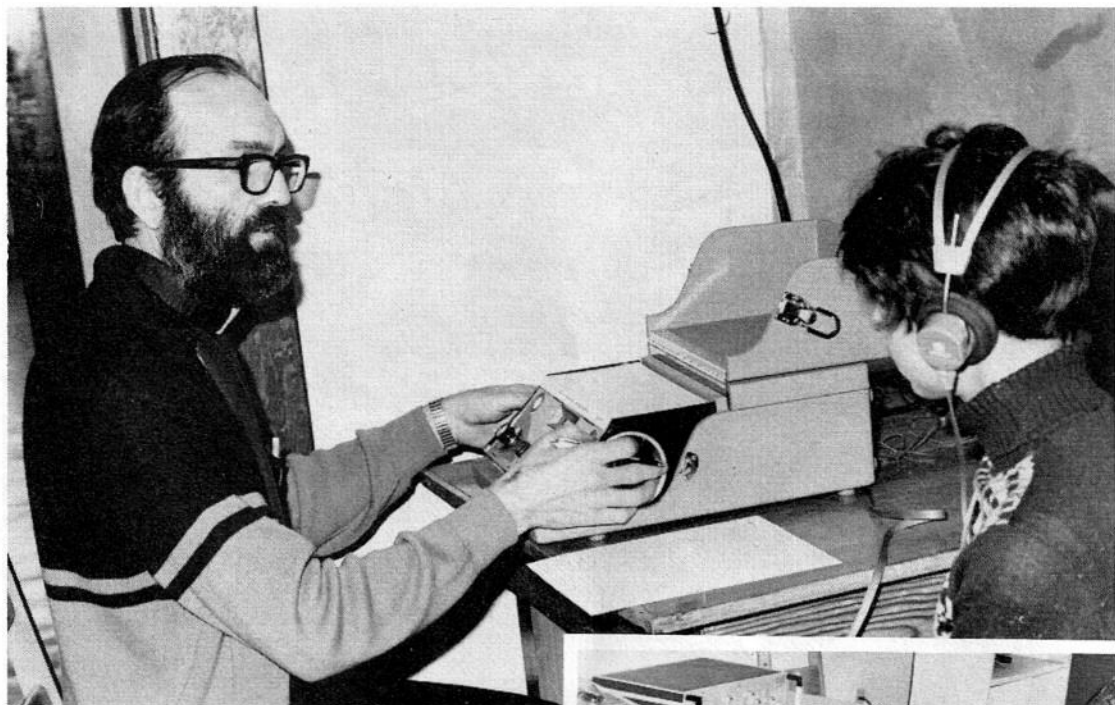
Nov. 7 - 8: CFC on the family

Tomatis program

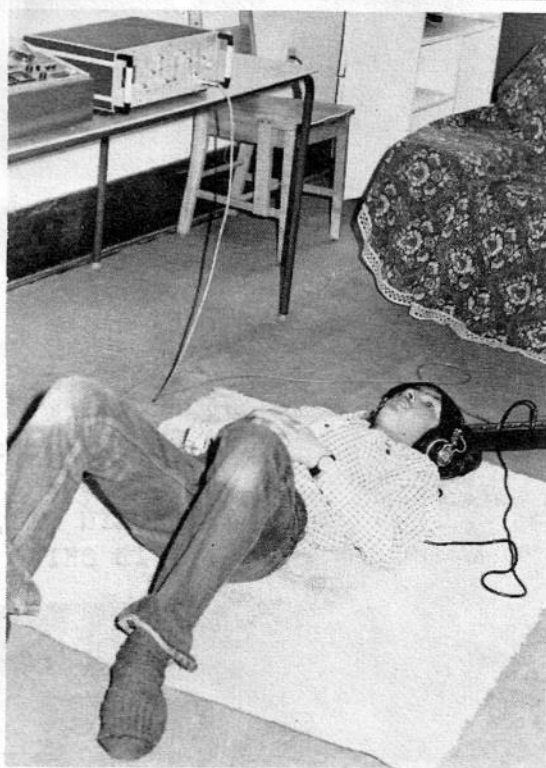
Early in the new year St. Peter's College received most of its equipment for listening therapy.

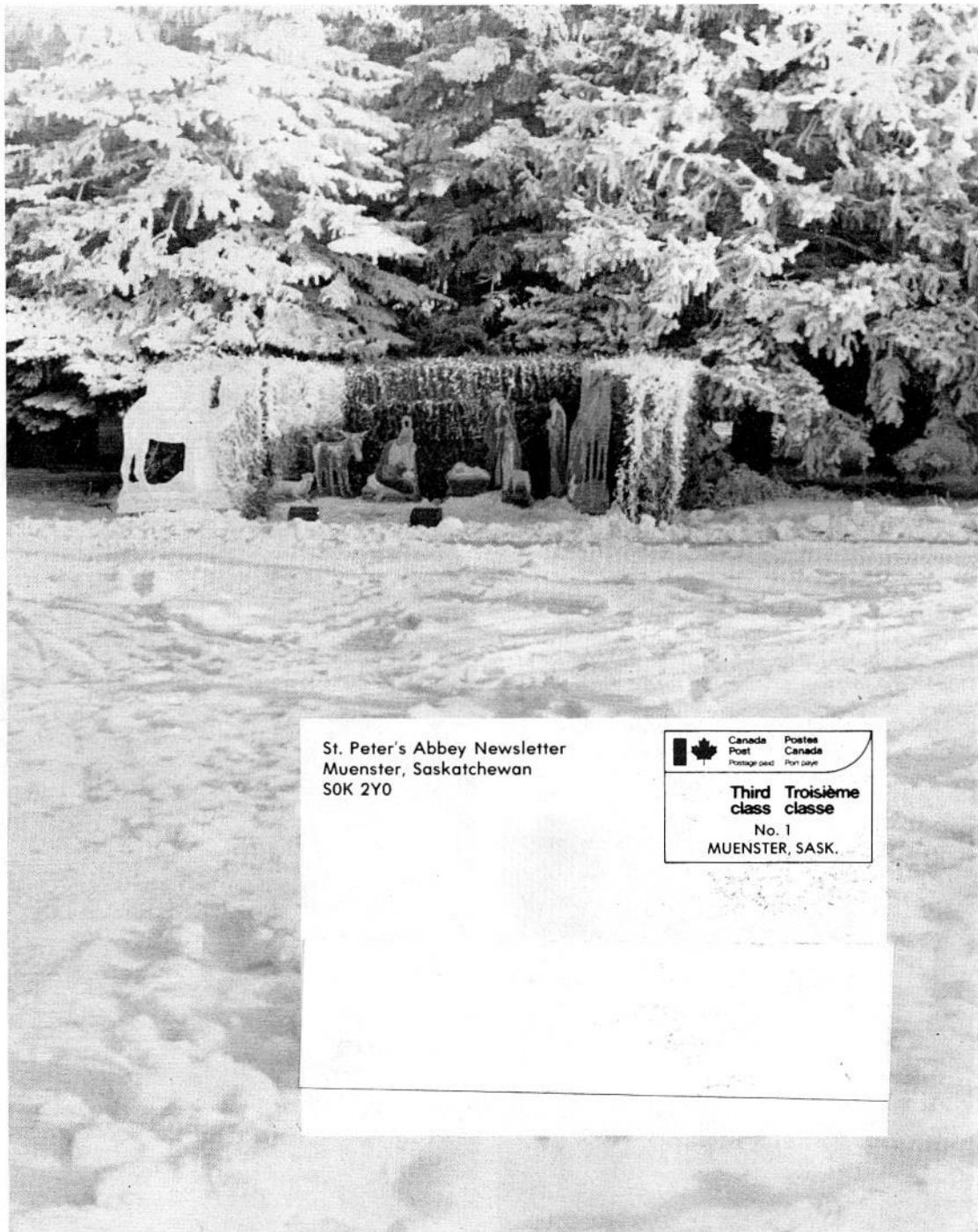
Several community members have been trying to improve their hearing and singing as well as their general well-being by using the electronic ear. Most of the use however, is directed toward members of the Pre-Vocational class. One of the most widely acclaimed advantages of the electronic ear is the help it can give to dyslexics, people with reading difficulties.

The gift of language is the normal consequence of one person entering into communication with another. A person's environment from square one either aids entry into communication or hinders it. Reading and writing are tied directly to body awareness and movement, to talking and singing, even to babbling and having someone encourage it by babbling back and playing with the tiny baby.



Father Lawrence DeMong begins the therapy program with a listening test on an audiometer (top). The mother's voice is taped (below) and filtered to resemble the sound that would reach the unborn child through the amniotic fluid. The students spend many hours listening to their mother's voice or to filtered music (right).





St. Peter's Abbey Newsletter
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