

Oblates of Mary Immaculate - Piegan Reserve, Brocket  
School of the Sacred Heart and Mission of the Conversion of St. Paul  
Codex (Volume II), 1945 to 1952

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**PAA - PR1971.0220/2004**

**July 1, 1945** - page 1

To the great surprise and joy of all, although it was "Stampede" at Macleod, about forty Indians, including 12 or 13 of our children, came to mass.

**July 3, 1945** - page 1

Tonight the 4th well is at or near 100 feet. There is a little more water than in the others and the formation is better. The drillers will thus go a little deeper and one will see soon with which result.

**July 13, 1945** - page 3

We move to a 6th well southwest of the school.

**July 14, 1945** - page 3

We also had to take back to school the little Catherine Stump - 4 years old - who had gone home and fell ill almost immediately.

**July 15, 1945** - page 3

Sunday. Only about ten Indians at the mass (4 of our children). The others, in good number at least, must be at the sun dance camp! It is a pity!

**July 28, 1945** - page 4

The well is pumped for 12 hours and it gives 8-10 gallons per minute without interruption. We thus have water in quantity. Now we have to test it to see if it is good, then install the pipe to bring it to the house - from there to the barn, the chicken coop, the pigsty...

**August 10, 1945** - page 6

Mr. Butchart, government accountant, comes to check the school accounts. He dines here and leaves in the afternoon.

**August 13, 1945** - page 6

The water is fresh and drinkable.

**August 28, 1945** - page 7

We are beginning to wonder how we will accommodate new students and there are 14 on the reserve who are old enough to come to school. We decide to turn the sewing room into a dormitory for the girls, to buy a few more beds and 18 desks for the classrooms - if Father Provincial will allow it.

**August 31, 1945** - page 7

Today we are furnishing the new girls' dormitory. This will make the Sisters feel cramped, but they were the ones who suggested it. Let us hope that the Government will finally open its eyes and enlarge our obviously insufficient school.

**September 3, 1945** - page 7

First day of school. At bedtime, 34 students arrived, including two new ones.

**September 6, 1945** - page 8

Thursday. We are still missing some children, but we have three new ones to date and the others should arrive during the day, or at least by Sunday.

**September 16, 1945** - page 9

Sunday. Poor attendance here and yet almost all of our children are going home this afternoon. All are returning tonight, even one who ran away three days ago.

**September 24, 1945** - page 10

Monday. Unsuccessful attempt to catch Jim Plain Eagle who ran away last night for the 2nd time since returning to school.

**October 2, 1945** - page 12

Three new children take the medical examination for admission to school. We have two more, but the parents have not yet signed for them.

**October 7, 1945** - page 12

Sunday. Good attendance. The children, except for half a dozen, are going home until tomorrow night.

**October 8, 1945** - page 12

Thanksgiving Day. At the time of the return, 4 are missing and another one which was wounded somewhat.

**October 30, 1945** - page 13

We put the school in quarantine. There are some cases of whooping cough. There are also some on the reserve and two babies die. No one is very sick here, fortunately.

**November 12, 1945** - page 13

The whole week is spent in unprecedented misery. No way to get water. The pump does not work yet. We do not wash; we do not bathe the children. We melt snow for the toilets...

**November 19, 1945** - page 14

This morning we are driving the children to Pincher Creek for x-rays. Our truck is broken down so the Agent has to have us driven in an animal truck.

**November 22, 1945** - page 14

The quarantine is lifted.

**December 6, 1945** - page 14

Finally, we are pumping water from our new well! And the water line is also installed for the barn. Deo Gratias! Let's hope it lasts.

We also got the news that we will now be paid for 65 children instead of 50 - which will do good to our finance.

**December 9, 1945** - page 15

Sunday. Our pump is blocked and the Brother has started to take it out of the well. More setbacks and delays!

Only a few children go home - some without asking permission. Two of our girls are not coming back tonight.

**December 10, 1945** - page 15

Our two latecomers are coming in today.

**December 13, 1945** - page 16

At 1 o'clock this afternoon, the pump is working again.

This afternoon, Mr. Jim Plain Eagle runs away again and takes Eddy Muggins with him. Father Crépeau tries to join them, but in vain.

**December 14, 1945** - page 16

New attempt to join our two escapees. The police are on their heels. Tom Little Plume brings back Eddy Muggins. Let us hope that the other will return tomorrow as agreed.

**December 15, 1945** - page 16

No Jim Plain Eagle.

**December 16, 1945** - page 17

Jim Plain Eagle returns tonight, brought back by Willie Little Plume.

**December 23, 1945** - pages 17-18

Sunday. Only a few individuals for mass and a good number for the Christmas performance we are giving at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Here is the program.

- 1 - Rhythm Band
- 2 - Opening Address (Frances Smith)
- 3 - Rhythm Band
- 4 - Christmas riddles (some large ones)
- 5 - Half an apple (3 small ones)
- 6 - The message of the Bells (7 small)
- 7 - The night before Christmas (Sr class)
- 8 - Do you see that star (small & small)
- 9 - Christmas giving (Bridget Crow Eagle)
- 10 - The first Indian Xmas Carol (Sr class)
- 11 - Christmas Pudding (some medium)
- 12 - Away in a manger (Sr class)

13 - The blue vase (Sr class)

All quite successful given the circumstances. Charlie Crow Eagle thanks on behalf of the Indians.

**December 25, 1945** - page 18

At 10:30 a.m., mass of the day with Christmas carols followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, then dinner, then the stripping of the Christmas tree. The crowd is growing. Then all the children leave us until next Sunday.

**December 29, 1945** - page 18

We bring back Doris Rabbit after a long absence and a stay of a few months at the Protestant school. Let us hope that this time we will keep her for good.

**December 30, 1945** - page 19

Sunday. The children were supposed to come home for mass, but of course that would have been too good. This evening, two are still missing. Average attendance at mass.

**January 1, 1946** - page 19

My God, bless the New Year! A dozen Indians come to Communion and a number come to Mass. About two third of the children will spend the afternoon at home.

A new one: Leita Little Mustache.

**January 6, 1946** - page 19

About 40 of our children will spend the afternoon at home. A new one: Jim Knowlton. That makes 61 children, plus 2 who are enrolled, but still in the United States, and 1 who has not yet come.

**January 8, 1946** - page 20

The flu is running rampant on the reserve and even here at the school. There are enough cases of it to prevent class today. Another futile attempt to get Isidor Pard, Albert's boy who is already 10 and not yet in school.

**January 11, 1946** - page 20

Fr. Ruau accompanies Fr. Crépeau as he picks up two new students: Dennis Muggins & Mary Wolf Tail.

**January 13, 1946** - page 20

Very few Indians at mass and very few of our children, for the flu shows no sign of abating. We are keeping them here for today.

**17 January 1946** - page 21

Father Crépeau went to get the already famous Isidor Pard from Macleod. He is ten years old and we have been trying for 2 ½ years to get his parents to finally put him in school.

**January 19, 1946** - page 21

The flu is over. All the children are coming down from the dormitories, except two girls, but they have no temperature. Let us hope that the illness will not start again at least for a while.

**February 6, 1946** - page 23

Little Larry Provost broke a thigh bone while slipping. Really bad luck!

**February 10, 1946** - page 23

Only about 15 of our children are going home this afternoon. Peter Crow Eagle is discharged, having reached his 16th birthday.

**February 12, 1946** - page 24

Fr. Crépeau takes half a dozen children to the dentist - 17 teeth extracted. Then he took Dennis Muggins to see the doctor. This young newcomer is far from well, let's hope he will recover.

**February 23, 1946** - page 25

Joseph & Rosaline Yellow Wings return from the United States. This brings our number to 65 - the number for which we are now being paid by Ottawa.

**April 1, 1946** - page 28

A new one: George Yellow Horn.

**April 13, 1946** - page 29

Sister Superior begins planting vegetables in the garden. She is helped by four of the older boys.

**April 14, 1946** - page 29

We have to take Dave Small Legs to the hospital with a high fever. Hopefully it won't be another attack of pneumonia.

[... ..]

We have since Tuesday Joe Scott's two daughters, Dolores, 9 and Helen, 7.

**April 15, 1946** - page 30

We have to get Dave Small Legs back here. It is measles. We isolate him and get permission not to change anything in the program for Holy Week and Easter. We will then see whether or not to impose quarantine.

**April 21, 1946** - page 31

[Principal's Day. Program]

**April 23, 1946** - page 31

Easter Tuesday - and the feast of St. George - hymns at mass. The children are returning this evening. Eight are missing, but five have permission or good reason.

**April 28, 1946** - page 32

Another ordeal: a measles epidemic. We had avoided it before Easter, but no way this time. There are already half a dozen sick boys. Our children cannot go home this afternoon.

**May 1, 1946** - page 33

At supper Mr. Gooderham, Inspector of Indian Agencies in Alberta, and A. MacMillan, our Agent. They visit the house and see what we need. As this is the Inspector's first visit, he gives the children the day off.

**May 2, 1946** - page 33

Holiday. The children take the opportunity to go and have dinner in the open air.

**May 4, 1946** - page 33

Another accident tonight. Raymond Bad Eagle broke his arm while running; he fell into a gopher hole and while trying to protect himself broke both bones of his right arm. The doctor fixed it immediately.

**May 5, 1946** - page 33

Sunday. Not quite as many people at mass this morning. It is true that our children are not going out. Let's hope there won't be any new cases. Then we can probably let them out next Sunday.

**May 8, 1946** - page 34

Today little George Yellow Horn is having a big temperature attack -- 104° most of the day. We are trying in vain to reach the doctor. His mother is coming to see him tonight. There is no danger yet, at least not immediately, but no need to take any chances.

**May 9, 1946** - page 34

Our little patient is much better this morning, thank God.

**May 16, 1946** - page 35

It was fifty years ago today that the Grey Nuns arrived on the Piegan Reserve. To mark this anniversary, we have hymns at mass - and it's a holiday! The children have their two meals in the open air and have fun in the open air.

**26 mai 1946** – page 37

Dimanche. A l'heure du coucher, il ne manque que le trop fameux Isidor Pard, chez lui depuis Pâques.

**4 juin 1946** – page 38

Catherine Crow Eagle, affligée d'une maladie de peau, s'en va chez elle après avoir vu le docteur.

**June 17, 1946** - page 40

Monday. At school time, 7 children are still missing. All are arriving today, however, except for the two Bob Crow Eagle girls.

**June 22, 1946** - page 41

Something has been not working well in the well for some time and Brother has to go back to carting water to finish the year. He made 4 trips in threatening weather. It starts to rain this afternoon.

**June 26, 1946** - page 42

[Distribution of awards. Long list of recipients].

**July 10, 1946** - page 45

Fathers Crépeau and Girard and three of our Sisters went to see the Calgary Exhibition. The drawings sent by our children won about fifteen prizes.

**August 11, 1946** - page 47

Sunday. Good attendance at mass. About thirty of our children. This is still only half, but it is a little better than the other Sundays.

**August 21, 1946** - page 49

Tonight, we have Ann Mary Weasel Bear who has "run away" from home. She has only adoptive parents (Indian style - not legal adoption). Her "father" comes to pick her up a few hours later.

**September 3, 1946** - page 51

Today was the day our children were to return home. At the appointed time, 4 p.m., there were still only a few guests. At bedtime, there were 50, including 2 new ones. There are still about 18 missing.

**September 4, 1946** - page 51

Only 8 children are still missing.

**September 8, 1946** - page 52

It is still raining & despite the impassable roads, the Indians come to see their children & even bring them home.

**December 22, 1946** - page 57

Christmas concert & distribution of the Christmas tree. The children go home again because of the lack of water.

**December 24, 1946** - page 57

Tonight, midnight mass. Our Indians arrive in droves. They have supper here after almost everyone has gone to confession. After mass, our Indians are served Christmas Eve (supper) and then invited to return to their homes. All of them do so, with a few exceptions...

**January 12, 1947** - page 58

The storm is coming back today with more fury. What will we do if we have to haul water in such weather?

**February 5, 1947** - page 58

Painful and hurried trip to Pincher Creek in order to take a student to the hospital. God is obviously protecting us, however, because we have not yet had an epidemic.

**March 11, 1947** - page 59

Our school is in the spotlight. One of our students, Andrew Small Legs, wins the national drawing prize for Indian schools. Our school is the poorest. Could it be the richest in talent?

**March 13, 1947** - page 60

Mr. Maughan, hired by the government, begins digging a new well. Will we be luckier?

**March 29, 1947** - page 60

The well is 229 feet deep & as dry as a Lenten prayer!

**April 10, 1947** - page 61

Mr. Maughan leaves without finding water.

**April 15, 1947** - page 61

We have to drive the newly arrived children for x-ray.

**May 6, 1947** - page 61

Miss McCready, a dietitian, arrives. She will attend the meal & spend most of her time in the kitchen.

**May 24, 1947** - page 62

Holiday. Father Principal drives the children in a truck to the dam. After a beautiful day, we return happy.

**16 June 1947** - page 63

The Inspector, Mr. McKay, who had been expected for a long time, paid us a visit. He leaves me a very good report.

**September 2, 1947** - page 64

Entrance of the students. All answer the call, except for 4. That's good!

**September 6, 1947** - page 64

Dr. Stone's visit.

**October 17, 1947** - page 66

First mixed performance for children of the highest grades. It is a success. If only these dear children could learn to recreate themselves honestly. That is the goal. In addition, there will be a talk on a religious subject, answering questions. In short, without them knowing it, they should be made solid Christians & leaders. There are so few of them and so many are needed!



**October 19, 1947** - page 66

Five of our older children are returning home. Their studies are finished. This is necessary because of the lack of space. If only Ottawa would expand! There are at least 30 students who cannot come to school because of lack of space.

**October 20, 1947** - page 66

Death of Anne Mary Weasel Bear's mother. She will return to continue her studies.

**November 13, 1947** - page 68

Death of a school boy in Pincher Creek Hospital, Aloysius Macdougall. His body is to be viewed in the school parlor Saturday and Sunday.

**November 19, 1947** - page 68

Children leaving for weekend; some children staying at school, their parents not being at home.

[NOTE: In the margin of the date on page 68, we read: "1948, according to the codex of the Sisters". So, we need to add a year to the years that follow].

**November 21, 1947** - page 69

Children's arrival at school; evening of moving pictures for parents and school children.

**November 25, 1947** - page 69

Father Forestier goes to Pincher Creek to bring Dolores Scott who is having surgery for appendicitis.

**December 5, 1947** - page 70

Little Dolly Scott who was in the Pincher Creek Hospital returned to the Brocket Hospital to recover from her operation.

**February 7, 1948** - page 72

Father Forestier went to Macleod to pick up a new little girl for school (Vivian Small Legs).

**February 13, 1948** - page 73

Valentine's Day celebration by the older students, bingo game, singing by the students.

**February 19, 1948** - page 73

[Fire at school during the night. Fire controlled.]

**February 23, 1948** - page 73

Departure of the children for twelve days. Officer's decision until the school is repaired.

**March 19, 1948** - page 74

We are receiving films from the far north, from the Mackenzie missions. These films were taken by Rev. Father Loysing who is in charge of promotion for the missions and vocations. The film was very instructive and the Indians appreciated it.

**March 23, 1948** - page 74

Visit of Dr. Cooper from Edmonton, oculist, sixteen girls need glasses.

**April 8, 1948** - page 75

Visit of Miss Murphy from Edmonton, who works for the Health Department.

**June 2, 1948** - page 77

Picnic for big boys and girls at Waterton Lakes.

**June 9, 1948** - page 77

Picnic for the little ones near the Brocket River.

**June 19, 1948** - page 77

Visit of the Pincher Creek Inspector, Mr. Mackay.

**September 6, 1948** - page 79

Children return to school; in the evening, at seven o'clock, moving pictures for parents and students.

**September 9, 1948** - page 79

Departure of Violet Blood, a student of the school, for the convent of Legal. Father Ruaux drove her to Macleod to take the train.

**October 1, 1948** - page 80

Visit from Dr. Stone, [??? ], and Mr. Macmillan, Indian Agent.

**November 9, 1948** - page 81

Visit of Mr. Clark, Inspector of Education, and Mr. Battle, Assistant to Mr. Gooderham in Calgary and Mr. Macmillan, Agent in Brocket.

**January 5, 1950** - page 82

[See note, page 10.]

Big windstorm and school roads blocked; children who were to enter on January 8 were not accepted because of lack of water.

**January 15, 1950** - page 82

Entry of children after the holiday that had been delayed for a week.

**May 5, 1950** - page 85

First Friday of the month. Children go home for the weekend.

**May 21, 1950** - page 85

Children leave for four days vacation because of the treaty and the Macleod Stampede.

**September 5, 1950** - page 87

The children enter to begin the school year; there were a few latecomers.

**October 6, 1950** - page 87

Children go home for the 1st Friday of the month.

**October 26, 1950** - page 88

The children go to the village for X-Ray and from there they go home for a few days because of the lack of electricity; the motor is broken and we are waiting to hear from Ottawa for repairs. We wish to have the power coming in from Calgary.

**November 16, 1950** - page 88

Our engine is fixed and we have light at last; for three weeks we had to wait.

**November 19, 1950** - page 89

The children's entrance after a three-week absence.

**November 27, 1950** - page 89

We are still without electricity; this time it is the generator that burns out. Father Forestier and Brother Albert go to Lethbridge to have it repaired.

**November 29, 1950** - page 89

We received our generator and once again, we have light; meanwhile, we were using kerosene lamps.

**December 17, 1950** - page 90

The Christmas performance given by the children of the school, as well as a big supper given to the parents of the children after the presentation. 170 guests, everyone went home happy.

**January 7, 1951** - page 90

The children's entrance to start the year. We have a few latecomers.

**January 14, 1951** - page 90

Card game by the senior class in honor of Father Forestier's birthday.

**January 23, 1951** - page 91

We have a visit from Dr. Stone and Mr. Macmillan.

**January 23, 1951** - page 91

We have a visit from Dr. Stone of the Camsell Hospital in Edmonton.

**February 6, 1951** - page 91

We have a visit from Miss Murphy, a nurse at the Camsell Hospital in Edmonton. She is coming in to vaccinate the children for tuberculosis.

**February 10, 1951** - page 91

Dr. Carley, from Edmonton, dentist, is here to fix the children's teeth. He will be here for a week.

**February 19, 1951** - page 91

Valentine's Day party for the older children in the classroom. Card game, singing and then prize giving for the winners and snack. Everyone had a great time.

**April 1, 1951** - page 92

The children came home after spending ten days with their families.

**June 14, 1951** - page 94

We had a visit from Mr. Macmillan, Superintendent of the reserve, and Mr. Albanson, Chief Superintendent of Indian Schools.

**September 11, 1951** - page 97

School opening was delayed from September 4 to 11 because of bad roads and rain.

**November 14, 1951** - page 98

The nurse comes to inoculate the children against typhoid.

**November 22, 1951** - page 99

The nurse comes to inoculate the children for the second time.

**November 27, 1951** - page 99

The nurse returns for the last time to vaccinate the children against typhoid.

We have a visit from Miss Broderick who is the social welfare worker for the Indian department.

**November 29, 1951** - page 99

We have a visit from Mr. Robertson from Calgary who is in charge of the Indians as well as the Agent himself; both are staying for dinner.

**December 16, 1951** - page 100

Christmas concert given by the school children; large attendance of parents and a big supper for all after the concert.

**January 7, 1952** - page 101

Children returned to school after two weeks of vacation; Christmas gifts were distributed the same evening.

**January 14, 1952** - page 101

Evening of card games in honor of Father Forestier's birthday, Principal. Prizes distributed to winners and Father Forestier sang a few songs for the children as well as mouth music. Snack and bedtime.

**February 9, 1952** - page 102

Mr. Norton from Calgary, tax auditor, came to the school to review the accounts so that the school could be reimbursed for the purchases made in 1951.

**March 2, 1952** - page 103

Father Michaud and Father Forestier went to Cardston for a softball game against the students of the school. Father Mercure returns with us to Brocket for the M. A. M. I. [Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate] initiation to be held Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday.

**March 5, 1952** - page 103

We have a visit from Father Poulin of Cardston, accompanied by four students from Cardston who are going for the initiation of the M. A. M. I.

**March 7, 1952** - page 103

We have the dentist, Doctor Carley from Edmonton who comes to fix the children's teeth.

**May 1, 1952** - page 104

Mr. Swinet from Macleod has started to fix our road. We finally got permission from the department after four years of asking to fix our road from here to Brocket.

**May 28, 1952** - page 105

Miss Mcfarlane, Brocket's nurse, is going to the school to vaccinate the children and give them a T. B. G. test.

♦ Translated by Eloi DeGrâce with [www.DeepL.com/Translator](http://www.DeepL.com/Translator) (free version)  
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