

Oblates of Mary Immaculate - Peigan Reserve, Brocket
School of the Sacred Heart and Mission of the Conversion of St. Paul
Codex (volume III), 1952 to 1957

PAA - PR1971.0220/2005

September 15, 1952 - page 4

Entrance of the students. Because of the polio (child fever), the school year started only today. From the first day, only a part of the children arrived. I suppose that the others will arrive little by little. The weather is very nice, which is to the advantage of the harvest. All the grain is cut, it is now a question of threshing it and bringing it into storage.

September 21, 1952 - page 5

Father M. Michaud, Principal of the school, went to take four girls from the school to the Sisters of Providence boarding school in Midnapore where they will continue their studies by taking grade VIII. Another girl went to the Grey Nuns' boarding school in Legal.

September 23, 1952 - page 5

Today, Father Principal went to take one child to the hospital in Pincher Creek and three or four others to the doctor for examination since they are newcomers. We have ideal weather for the harvest.

September 29, 1952 - page 6

Today all the school children were taken to the mobile clinic in the village for tuberculosis. There were doctors and nurses there to do this work.

September 29, 1952 - page 6

Visitors. We had for dinner, Mr. Colonel Fortier and his wife, who is Deputy Minister in the Indian Department, Mr. Gooderham, Inspector of Indian Affairs, Mr. Waller, School Inspector, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter, Reserve Officer. After dinner they all visited the house and classrooms. All seemed delighted with their visit to Brocket.

October 11, 1952 - page 7

Today, the two teachers of the school, Sr. C. Frolich and Sr. G. Laforest, went by train to the teachers' convention in Lethbridge and returned that evening.

2nd convention of the principals and teachers in Cluny, which is to last three days, that is, October 15, 16 and 17. Father M. Michaud and the two teachers left on October 14 to return probably on the evening of the 17th.

This gives a rather long vacation to the school children. The fact is that they left on the evening of October 10 to return on October 20.

October 23, 1952 - page 7

Today we had a visit from Mr. A. C. Wiley of Calgary, who came to audit the books for the year 1951-52; he spent all day doing this work. This Mr. Wiley is a nice young man who gave good advice to Father Principal in his bookkeeping.

November 12, 1952 - page 9

Annual retreat. Today is the opening of the annual retreat for the children of the school. It is the Rev. Labonté, pastor of Pincher Creek, who preaches this three-day retreat, two sermons a day.

November 16, 1952 - page 9

Supervisor. Arrival of Mr. Aubin from Pincher Creek, coming to supervise the boys of the school. Hopefully he will be diligent in his work.

December 21, 1952 - page 13

Christmas tree. Concert. On the occasion of Christmas, the school children gave a lovely concert at the [illegible word] at 2:00 p.m. The concert was attended by all the staff of the house, 7 or 8 Nuns from Cardston as well as Brother J. Dussault, the Indian Chiefs with their advisers, most of the parents of the children, the village schoolmaster, etc. After the concert, everyone went to the offertory [refectory] to have a good Christmas meal. The students were happy to receive their parents. This is a big chore for the house staff, but this reunion makes people happy.

February 3, 1953 - page 15

Drowning. A 5-year-old child drowned in the Oldman River on February 3. His name was Wallace Brian Goodrider, child of Samuel Goodrider. Accidental death. Burial took place on February 5 in the Brocket church. Father M. Michaud officiated.

February 12, 1953 - page 16

Recreational performance. This evening, the children organized a little performance in honor of St. Valentine. There was singing, bingo, snacks, etc.

February 13, 1953 - page 16

Today, the children are taking their day off of the month. They left about three o'clock in the afternoon with orders to return Sunday afternoon, February 15. These are good days for the children.

24 May 1953 - page 18

Today, the feast of Pentecost, twelve children had the joy of making their First Communion. Here are their names: John Little Mustache, Eileen Black Water, Vincent Wolf Tail, Annie May Provost, Garry Good Rider, Cecilia Ann B. Weasel, Vera Yellow Horn, Angeline Pard, Ronald Four Horns, Lina Little Plume, Percy Smith, Victoria English.

They made their communion at the community mass at 7.00 am.
In the afternoon, they consecrated themselves to the Blessed Virgin.
The next day, they received the scapular of Mount Carmel.

March 31, 1953 - pages 20-21

Mr. Waller, a federal visitor to Indian schools, came to spend the day here. He visited each of the classes, went through the different apartments, even the outbuildings. It was a proper visit that he made. I am not sure what report he made of his visit.

May 15, 1953 - page 22

Today, the children all went to their families for the month's holiday. They are supposed to return Monday night, May 18. That will be the last monthly break for the school year.

June 2, 1953 - pages 22-23

Coronation of the Queen. Today is the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in England. It is a day of jubilation throughout the Commonwealth. It is a civil holiday; unfortunately, because of the rain, there are few demonstrations outside. Here, there was a high mass of the Holy Spirit at 9.00 am. The children found a way to have fun inside by playing bingo and cards. Also, we were able to follow the different programs abroad by listening to the radio. It was a beautiful day, very nice programs.

19 June 1953 - page 24

Hail. To make matters worse, in the course of the afternoon, there was a hailstorm which gave a lot of water and caused a lot of damage. Several windows were broken, the garden was massacred, as were the trees, the flowers and the harvest. Unfortunately, all the girls and two Nuns were on a picnic 3 or 4 miles from here; they caught this storm. Father M. Michaud went to pick them up by truck through the storm. It was sad to see those poor children all wet.

June 19, 1953 - page 24

Mr. McKaie, Inspector of Schools for Alberta, came for his annual visit. He spent the morning in the junior class and the afternoon in the senior class. He seemed very satisfied with the progress of the students and the work of the teachers. He was very kind.

June 26, 1953 - pages 24-25

Departure of the children. Today, the school year ends. At a special performance, in the presence of the whole community, the grades were read for each student and the promotion of the students who are moving up in their studies.

Also, there was the distribution of prizes for the most deserving in each class. Father Principal addressed the students to give them some recommendations for the vacation season and congratulate them for their good spirit during the year.

Afterwards, all went to the chapel to recite the rosary and attend the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

They all went back to their homes during the day. So, it will be two beautiful months of rest and enjoyment.

July 4, 1953 - page 26

Today, four Nuns left for a three-week course at St. John's College, then to St. Albert where they will make their annual retreat. There are only four who are here doing the service of the house.

October 25, 1953 - page 30

Parents' meeting at the school. Speech by Rev. Father Principal on the future of the boarding school - should it disappear to make way for the day school? Do parents have the right to have their children educated by them or is it up to the government to force parents to follow the kind and manner of education and school that the government wants to impose? These points were

very well clarified by a famous and beautiful speech of Rev. Father Michaud, Principal. The parents were all very interested since they asked many questions.

November 10, 1953 - page 31

Feast day of Reverend Martin Michaud, Principal of the school. Small party given by the students. Everything was a success.

Mr. Indian Agent and his lady, Mr. Miller, schoolmaster and Miss Pomerleau, teacher at the day school in Brocket, Mr. and Mrs. Gélinas, station agent of Brocket and the employees of the school were present at the party.

November 12, 1953 - page 32

The Principal's day off which had been requested by the students begins at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Permission was given for the students to spend this vacation with their families. The students will return to us Sunday evening.

December 20, 1953 - page 33

The children receive their parents. It is a real banquet. Afterwards, the distribution of Christmas presents.

December 22, 1953 - page 33

The children go to Brocket where they will have to give a small concert with the pupils of the day school. The Christmas vacations begin.

December 25, 1953 - page 33

It is Christmas. The midnight mass was good. The singing was done by the Sisters and some of the students. Without the good Sisters, I don't know how the singing would be performed.

April 26, 1954 - page 36

It snowed all night by the looks of it; a lot of snow. The children are just about all back from their Easter vacation. Only ten are missing.

May 15, 1954 - page 37

The Cardston School children came to give a basketball exhibition in the gym.

September 6, 1954 - pages 40-41

The entrance of the students - what a plow!

The government wants to limit the number to 65, thus forcing the children to attend day school. Many disagree, but what to do, the space is limited.

December 19, 1954 - page 43

At 2:30 p.m., Christmas concert by the children of our school and the day school. Nice success. We served supper after the concert - about 350 meals.

Mr. & Mrs. Hunter, Agent, Mr. & Mrs. L. Gélinas, Mr. & Mrs. T. Matil, and some members of the St. Cyprian School staff were present.

January 19, 1955 - page 44

A visit from an inspector of physics [gymnastics?] classes; she came from Red Deer. She returned satisfied.

January 31, 1955 - page 44

Mr. Hunter, Indian Agent for 2 1/2 years, came to make a farewell visit before his departure. He has been promoted to Agent at the Cardston reserve.

March 1, 1955 - page 45

The anti-tuberculosis association is sending the results of the drawings sent in December to take part in the "contest" between the Indian schools. We received \$9.00 in prizes. The lucky winners are: Mavis Good Rider: \$6.00; Francis Provost: \$1.50; May Provost: \$1.50.

May 25, 1955 - page 46

Inspector Mr. McKay appeared and spent the afternoon in the older children's class. He seems pleased.

May 30, 1955 - page 46

For the first time, our girls met with the girls from St. Cyprien School for a ball game.

June 1, 1955 - page 46

Ball game between the boys of the Anglican school and ours; the victory goes to the latter.

June 6, 1955 - page 46

A wave of influenza invades the house; about 15 students are sick.

June 9, 1955 - page 46

A village nurse comes to inject the 2nd round of polio vaccine.

June 11, 1955 - page 46

A rodeo or "Stampede" having been organized on the Blood reserve, all our children go there with the teaching staff. The weather is good. They are all back by 8 o'clock.

June 24, 1955 - page 47

End of the school year. The Agent decides to let the students go this Friday evening. So, at the agreed time, reading of the promotions, distribution of the prizes, exhibition of the manual work of the pupils, etc., collation, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in which the parents are present.

July 25, 1955 - page 47

Today is the 60th anniversary of the priesthood of Rev. Fr. Lavern at St. Mary's School in Cardston. This gallant missionary spent many years at Brocket. Many of our Indians made it a point to attend the celebration presided over by the Bishop of Calgary, accompanied by a large number of priests, as a token of the esteem and veneration in which the jubilarian is held in the diocese.

August 29, 1955 - page 49

The number of students entering the school is increasing. A third class is being considered for the gymnasium; two labourers are working on making the place suitable.

September 6, 1955 - page 49

Tonight, parents are beginning to bring their children. Several of them had to fight against the agent who, in order to open a third class in the village, wants to take from here the pupils of the village district, and this against the will of the parents and the Principal.

September 7, 1955 - page 49

Mr. Battle, Superintendent of Agencies, and Mr. Waller, Regional Inspector, spent the day in deliberation with the Agent.

September 15, 1955 - page 49

To handle a 3rd class, Inspector Waller, sends a certain George Kefory, Syrian-American, (religion uncertain) who will be used until better.

September 19, 1955 - page 50

The students in grades 2-3-4 move to the gymnasium where the new class is set up. The X-ray examination mobilizes the whole household, young and old.

September 28, 1955 - page 50

Visit from the Agent, Mr. Woodworth. He notes that we are quite cramped. He finds the 3rd class very appropriate.

September 30, 1955 - page 50

Big meeting of the Indians to deliberate about their school, and without ever reaching a conclusion. They are only delaying the execution of the Department's projects. We have 94 students at present, really a bit crowded.

October 7, 1955 - page 50

The students are leaving for a 10-day vacation during which the teachers will go to Edmonton for the conventions which will take place on 11-12-13. Fr. Principal drove them there by car.

October 18, 1955 - page 51

The expected people, Mr. Dewey from Ottawa and Mr. Waller, are in the village attending a meeting to solve the school problem. They come to visit, recognize the need for 3 classes, note the exiguity of the establishment, listen to the representations of the Principal, but no solution... It is necessary to wait.

October 24, 1955 - page 51

Miss Margaret Doherty, a Social Service employee on the reserve, came to "inject" the students against tuberculosis.

November 1, 1955 - page 51

The Agent, Mr. Woodsworth, under the pretext of having the consent of 2 families in the village, comes to pick up their children to bring them to the day school. They are the three Provost boys and the three Small Legs girls.

November 7, 1955 - page 51

The nurse came to immunize the students against diphtheria.

December 18, 1955 - page 53

Sunday: Christmas concert given by the children; their parents were present. Traditional supper for about 350 people. Fr. Renaud was kind enough to return to attend this celebration. The children feel at ease with him.

December 24, 1955 - page 53

Marriage of Catherine Plain Eagle and Benedict Many Guns, two former students.

March 14, 1956 - page 55

Four visitors, sent from Ottawa by the Indian Dept., come to visit our school.

May 18, 1956 - page 59

The children go home for three days because of the Pentecost holiday.

May 22, 1956 - page 59

The children faithfully return from their weekend and classes resume as usual.

September 9-10, 1956 - page 61

All sorts of unexpected things happened to the Principal and the children. The children in grades 7-8 had to be picked up at Brocket and brought to class here. Father Michaud travels them morning and evening.

December 11, 1956 - page 65

Still trouble with the water.

December 19, 1956 - page 65

Children out because of the water system. Vacation.

January 21, 1957 - page 66

Organization M. A. M. I. at girls and boys.

[Almost nothing about the school; only notes on the activities in the community of the Oblate Fathers].

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