

Grey Nuns - Cardston, Alberta
Chronicles of the Immaculate Conception Indian Residential School
January 1915 to December 1922 (second notebook)

PAA - PR 1971.0220/2464 (This file covers the years 1915 to 1919 in the 2nd notebook.)

April 30, 1915 - page 8

Treaty for all Indians. Each Indian receives \$5.00. This is said to be the money from the animals sold.

May 1, 1915 - page 9

On this day also, Mr. Agent comes to distribute the money to the students, each one receiving \$5.00. All are very happy and propose to make many purchases with this money.

May 3, 1915 - page 9

Trip to Cardston. Big picnic at Cardston. Reverend Fathers Ruaux, Lépine, Sisters St. Patrice, St. Gertrude, St. Pierre, St. Marie and Beliveau, the boys and girls form a merry caravan of five wagons. Tom Eagle Child and Good Dagger come with their wagons. The students gave \$4.00 to the Sisters to buy clothes, and kept \$1.00 each for their own pleasure. Everyone was delighted with the trip.

June 15, 1915 - page 12

This year, contrary to the usual practice, the boys do not leave immediately for the holidays, they have to help Rev. Father to make hay for the mission and the school. They start today.

July 25, 1915 - page 13

During the night, around two o'clock, two boys from the reserve, Peter Rabbit Tail and Peter Black Rabbit, broke into the girls' dormitory by means of a ladder. Sister Béliveau, who slept in the dormitory, woke up to the noise and chased them away. The same day, the Reverend Father denounced them to the police and they were sentenced to one month in prison.

October 4, 1915 - page 17

The Reverend Father, the Sisters and the children begin the harvest of potatoes on the piece of land that the Agent had prepare for us in the spring. The work continues until Friday and the harvest is 195 bushels.

24 November 1915 - page 20

It is the Treaty. It is the happy day of each year which returns again; also, everyone is happy. At 4 p.m. Mr. Agent comes to distribute the money to our students and immediately afterwards the boys go to their families for three days off and the girls begin preparations for the trip to Macleod. Almost all of them gave \$4.00 to the Sisters to buy clothes and kept \$1.00 for themselves.

January 1, 1916 - page 24

At mass we had the pleasure of hearing the instruments of the band, which had been silent for some time. In the evening, after supper, some former students came to play some music for the Sisters and the children.

January 7, 1916 - page 24

The cold is as bad this winter as we have had in a long time, so the flu is worse than usual; several children and even some Sisters are affected.

January 24, 1916 - page 26

We find this morning that our horses were taken during the night. The fence wires have been cut; it is obvious that someone has been there. We notify the police immediately. An Indian who left the reserve that night is suspected of having taken them to the station and leaving them there. The following Sunday, an Indian brought them back to us, saying he had found them near Cardston. We gave him \$10.00 as a reward.

January 25, 1916 - page 27

Arrival of a little orphan girl, Suzie Blood, child of Charlie Blood. Her mother died some time ago. She is only three years old. We welcome her with happiness.

March 16, 1916 - page 28

Today at 1:00 p.m., the Rev. Father Principal gathered the Sisters in the Community and told them that, for the greater good of the school, and so that the Catholic school would not be too much surpassed by the Protestant School, especially in English, he wished that the Sisters always speak only English among themselves, and also do the exercises of piety in that language, if possible. He did not want to impose anything on anyone, it was only a desire that he expressed, but he, on his part, proposed to visit the classes more often and to speak to the Sisters only in English in the school.

All the Sisters understand the advantages that should result from the realization of this desire and are willing to do their utmost to enter into the views of the Rev. Father Principal. Therefore, it has been decided that in the future all readings will be in English and that at table, in recreation and at all times as far as possible, the Sisters will speak only English among themselves.

May 2, 1916 - page 33

In the evening the students of the Piegan reserve school give us a grand concert and the next day, May 4, it is back to Blood reserve, on a picnic. We arrive at the school at 4:30 hrs.

July 14, 1916 - page 36

Great traditional picnic. Rev. Fathers, Sisters from the school and hospital, the two Sisters from Piegan reserve, boys and girls take part. The guardians are Sisters St. Gertrude, Fafard and Hardy.

July 27, 1916 - page 37

We hoped in vain to be saved from measles. Eight little girls and a little boy are affected. We isolate them from the others.

August 2, 1916 - page 38

The haying is over and the boys can go home. How happy they are, these children! They have a five-week vacation.

September 1, 1916 - page 41

Sisters St. Gertrude's, Marie des Martyrs, and some girls went to Mr. Maloney's to weed our turnip field.

September 6, 1916 - page 41

Visit of Dr. Graham accompanied by the Agent and our doctor. He visited all the schools to see if everything was hygienic and favorable for the health of the children.

October 9, 1916 - page 44

Monday. We have no class this week, but everyone is at work. It is the potato harvest and laundry at the same time. The Rev. Father and some of the students and Sisters go to the potato field; the other group does the laundry first and then puts the potatoes in the cellar. We finish the following Friday and we have a beautiful harvest of 400 bushels of potatoes and we also have a nice little field of turnips at Mr. Maloney's.

October 22, 1916 - pages 44-45

Two of our students, Jack Bad Name and Willie Single Rider who have been sick in the hospital since August and whose condition seems to be getting worse and worse, made their first communion in the hospital this morning at 8 o'clock. Several Sisters were present as well as some students, parents of the little patients.

November 18, 1916 - page 46

Burial of Willie Single Rider, one of our little pupils who died in the hospital on the 14th. The few relatives left on the reserve wanted to buy a coffin for him and this is what delayed his burial.

November 29, 1916 - page 47

It is the happy day of the Treaty. Mr. Agent gives the money to the students early in the afternoon and we prepare for the trip the next day.

November 30, 1916 - page 47

Trip to Macleod. The Rev. Father, the Sisters Superior, St. Patrice, St. Marie and Beliveau and the girls except for the smallest who are sick with whooping cough. The trip went well.

February 18, 1917 - pages 50-51

One of our students, Paula Standing at the Door, who has been admitted here for a long time, but who has never stayed much because of the weakness of her health, had been back at the school for a few months when, as usual, her health became much weaker. Then her father wanted to take her home. They made her take her first communion before leaving.

April 15, 1917 - page 55

Srs. St. Patrice and St. Gertrude went to the Kootenay with Rev. Father and went to Mr. Maloney's house to thank him for the services he had rendered us and to tell him that this year we have enough land near the school for our potatoes and turnips, we will not go to his place.

April 23, 1917 - page 55

Marriage of Emile Small Face and Augustine Young Pine. Emile Small Face is an alumnus of this school, he spent several years at the Dunbow Industrial School and Augustine is still at present one of our students.

May 8, 1917 - page 58

That same day, under the direction of the good Brother Kliener, the Sisters and boys began to plant potatoes and other vegetables. They work for three days.

July 2, 1917 - pages 63-64

On this same day, the students receive their Treaty money and go to the Agency for a big Treaty Sports event for the benefit of the Red Cross.

The students all went except for the older girls who could not go until late in the afternoon because Bobtail Shore, who had promised to drive them in the morning, did not show up, which was a great disappointment for them.

Rev. Father Ruaux, Sisters St. Patrice, St. Gertrude, Beliveau and Marie de la Visitation accompanied the students. There was an exhibition of writing, drawing, and baking for the Catholic and Protestant Schools, as well as sports for both schools, and our students won a great number of prizes.

The sports lasted two days. On the first day of the sports, we had a visit from the Flock family; they spent the night here, but returned home the next morning.

July 8, 1917 - page 64

The boys have eight days off for the Treaty and are very faithful to return on the day indicated.

July 22, 1917 - page 65

The boys begin haying under the direction of the good Brother Kliener. The Sisters begin painting the rooms.

August 11, 1917 - pages 66-67

[Description of a special outing and picnic].

September 16, 1917 - page 68

The start of the school day for the boys; the older boys do not come right away because they making hay.

October 22, 1917 - page 70

There is a lot of sickness among the children this fall. Three boys and five girls went to the hospital (pneumonia, appendicitis, liver disease, and another disease similar to meningitis). We are doing a novena to Sister Therese of the Child Jesus. May this good little Saint protect and preserve our dear students.

March 17, 1918 - pages 78-79

[St. Patrick Day.] At 5 o'clock, six former students, Stephen Fox, Joe Devine, Francis Eagle Child, Johnny Pace, Jim Rainy Chief and Joe Crazy Crow were kind enough to come and play four pieces of brass band on the occasion of Sister Superior's feast day, which was very appreciated by her, and she had them served a good supper.

April 1, 1918 - page 80

Easter vacation for the children. The weather is not favorable either for walks or for playing outside; the snow and the cold force them to spend the day in their recreation room. When the weather is less gloomy, a nice picnic will compensate them.

April 4, 1918 - page 80

Finally, today is the picnic day, and how impatiently the children have been waiting for this beautiful day when the weather will allow them to go and have their romp in the prairie. All the boys, except the three smallest, have horses. Five Sisters and the girls are in wagons. The merry caravan heads a few miles from the mission. The weather is quite pleasant, which is surprising after the snow and cold of the past few days. The Sisters make a fire in the prairie and the girls make pancakes. After dinner, the phonograph plays its joyful songs and at 3:00 p.m. it's sports and prizes... Back at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is delighted with the first picnic of the year.

April 12, 1918 - page 81

Service in our chapel for the repose of the soul of David Mills, who died at Macleod on the 9th. He is buried in the Blood reserve cemetery.

In this month several boys are going to the reserve to help their Parents on the farm.

April 19, 1918 - pages 81-82

Big Sorrel Horse is camped here with his family. He has a little boy who is sick (scrofula in one foot). They are staying here so that the hospital Sisters can bandage him more easily. Today, the grandmother of the little boy, an old Indian woman, finds that the foot does not heal fast enough and asks Sr. Superior to give her a crucifix so that the Good Lord will do good to her little boy. They always have a little faith, our dear Indians.

May 1, 1918 - page 84

The students begin to attend mass every morning and sing a hymn to the Blessed Virgin every day. May our Good Mother in heaven bless the Sisters and the students and cover us all with her motherly protection. This is our ardent prayer at the beginning of the month dedicated to her.

May 4, 1918 - page 84

Service at the Church at 6:15 for the repose of the soul of Minnie Good Dagger, one of our former students, who died in the hospital on May 2. The Sisters who assisted her in her last moments state that she showed herself to be a good Christian and died with the best sentiments of faith and hope.

June 2, 1918 - page 86

All Indians receive \$6.00 each, products of the leased land and today Mr. Agent comes to distribute the money to the students.

June 4, 1918 - page 86

Happy trip to Macleod. Rev. Father Ruaux, Sr. Superior and the Sisters in charge of the children and all the children. For the first time, the Sisters took the students to the "moving pictures" which made everyone very happy. Returned at 9 p.m.

June 11, 1918 - page 87

[Long list of farm animals.] We can say that we have "School and farm combined".

July 2, 1918 - page 88

The Treaty. The Agent comes to give the money to the children and the next day the Sisters St. Gertrude and Ange Gardien and the girls go to Cardston with Tom Eagle child; fortunately, they have a man with them, for the Rev. Father's horses give trouble and one of the wheels of a wagon breaks down. Tom is forced to drive the wagon to the blacksmith. What would we have done by ourselves?

We have rain, wind, snow and hail and in spite of all this, we return delighted with our trip.

August 6, 1918 - page 91

The boys are leaving for the vacations. They have been working hard for the past few weeks. They made two stacks of hay for the school and as much for the mission. Their return is set for September 23.

August 18, 1918 - pages 92-94

[25th anniversary of the hospital.] Sr. St. Germain is still at her post of dedication. Of these 25 years, she spent only 2 years in Nicolet, the rest of the time was and is spent as a nurse and friend of the Indians.

The other two Sisters returned to the Mother House. An old woman, "Celina", who came with the founders, is still there and still renders them many services.

God only knows the obscure and often heroic devotion that our dear Sisters had to show to these Indians who had no idea of gratitude and civilization, but God only could tell us how many of these poor children and Indians of the prairies are in Heaven today, thanks to their stay at the hospital.

August 26, 1918 - page 95

The Rev. Father, the Superior, Sisters St. Gertrude, M. Martyrs, Ange Gardien, Parenteau and the girls left to camp near Mrs. Murphy on the Kootenay. It was a week of happy vacations for everyone: mass in the tent every morning, cherry picking, sports, a little rain for diversion, nothing missing. Return on August 31. We had barely returned when the rain started and lasted until the next evening. We were better off camping in the house than in the tent.

September 5, 1918 - page 96

The Sisters St. Gertrude, Marie des Martyrs, Ange Gardien, Marie de la Visitation and all the girls went to pick cherries, without permission, at Running Wolf's wood. The old women make a little trouble for us, but they do not prevent us from filling our barrel and this is the second time, because five Sisters and little girls have already been picking in their woods before. The old women must find the holy women a bit daring, but aren't they also a bit too stingy?

September 24, 1918 - page 98

Classes start again this morning. The little boys are gradually coming back; the older ones are still working on the reserve for some time.

October 20, 1918 - page 100

The Sisters and students are harvesting vegetables at the mission and here. We have a good supply of cabbages and carrots for the winter.

October 28, 1918 - page 101

A large number of Indians with influenza are in the hospital. The hospital is under quarantine. [...] This terrible disease has just arrived on the reserve. There are no cases yet in the school. We pray the Lord to spare us.

November 4, 1918 - pages 103-104

This same day, around 1 p.m., Celina Maillet died in the hospital. She succumbed to influenza, because she had a heart disease.

In our modest annals, we wish to pay tribute to the devotion of this woman who arrived here at the same time as the first Sisters and who, for 25 years, devoted herself to the poor Indians as a perfect Christian.

November 9, 1918 - page 104

The influenza has reached us, despite all the precautions taken. We cannot escape it. We must pay our tribute to it.

This evening, three boys are sick and are going to the hospital. The Sisters hope to save the others by taking the first ones who are sick to the hospital, but it is not working. The next evening, only three of the 15 boys were still up and they soon followed the others (the older boys were still with their families). So, the boys' dormitory was transformed into an infirmary and Sisters Richard and Parenteau were appointed as nurses.

November 10, 1918 - page 105

The girls are sick, almost all in one day. Their dormitory was also transformed into an infirmary. Srs. l'Ange Gardien and St. Edmond are the nurses.

November 16, 1918 - page 106

The Good Lord chooses a victim among our girls. Maud Short Man, 17 years old, weak for a long time and suffering from a heart disease, succumbed to influenza this morning at 9:00 a.m., happy to go to Heaven, she told Rev. Father Cozanet who administered the last Sacraments to her. The Rev. Brother makes her casket and digs her grave himself in the Cemetery.

20 November 1918 - page 107

The Children do not come out of the dormitory yet, but they all seem out of danger.

December 2, 1918 - page 108

All the Sisters have resumed their respective services and classes are starting again today. All the children look well except for Rosy Wolf, who is still languishing. The dear child, all upset, is going to the hospital.

December 25, 1918 - page 110

This year, because of the illness on the reserve, we have no midnight mass, nor a big dinner for the Indians; they come in great numbers to do their religious obligations. The students have their Christmas tree as usual.

December 30, 1918 - page 110

Marriage in our chapel of Antoinette Small Face to Walter Singer.

January 13, 1919 - page 111-112

We have a wedding today in our chapel. Joe Devine, a former Dunbow student who had been staying for some time with Mary Running Crane, a reserve Indian girl who never went to the school. Joe Devine is glad to be married in the Church and to be able to practice his religion. He said that one thing made him very happy, while he was not following the rules of the Church, it was that neither the Fathers nor the Sisters were always reproaching him for his conduct. He added that he knew what he was doing, but was waiting for the right moment.

February 11, 1919 - pages 112-113

We have the honor of receiving a visit today from Mr. Cromby, Inspector General of Reserves. He is accompanied by our new Agent, Mr. Astrander, who has just taken over from Mr. Dilworth.

February 15, 1919 - page 113

Since last August, the Sisters in charge of the boys and their students have been busy raising money to buy a phonograph to entertain these dear children. The Rev. Father was kind enough to contribute to their collection the handsome sum of \$5.00. Finally, they have the necessary sum and are buying today a phonograph for \$50.00 from Mr. Russell of Macleod.

February 16, 1919 - pages 113-114

Alec Stevens came to the mission today and left his two little boys at the school. He came back two days later saying that he and his wife had spent Sunday night crying. Monday morning, he went to get his horses on the prairie. He came home at 5:00 p.m. and found his wife still crying. In spite of the bad weather, he had to give in to her pleas and come to drive her to the school the same evening. They are at a distance of 12 miles.

To give them the advantage of seeing their children for a few days, my Sister Superior lends them one of our tents and employs Alec to make ice for our cooler.

March 4, 1919 - page 115-116

For some years now there has been a custom in the house that the students are careful not to let go - it is to have Shrove Tuesday off with a taffy party in the afternoon. This year, the influenza took up so much of their time in class that we wished they wouldn't think of it; but no, they are smarter than you think, our Blood children. February was not far off when we saw them checking the calendar for the date of Ash Wednesday and at the exact time, they asked Sister Superior for their day off. There was no way to refuse; so, my Sister Superior, in agreement with Rev. Father, gave them a day off and taffy.

At 3 p.m., they invited Rev. Father to come and eat taffy with them and he condescended to sit down with them and eat their taffy, which they found to be to their liking and which gave them great pleasure. Mr. McNeil, informed of the party, by the sugar and syrup buyers of the morning, sent them 5 lbs. of cookies. At last, it was a real Shrove Tuesday party.

March 18, 1919 - page 117-118

Mr. Ostrander, our new Agent, is coming to visit our classes today. The teachers had to make their pupils read and count on the board in his presence and that of Mr. H. Baker who accompanied him. The Agent expressed his satisfaction with his first visit to our classes. He finds that the little we get from these poor prairie children is a lot for what it could be. It is an encouragement to the teachers to meet someone who seems to understand our work here, and who does not demand too much of our dear Indians.

March 27, 1919 - pages 119-120

The girls received their phonograph today which they had repaired at Mr. Russell's of Macleod for the sum of \$10.00. Every recreation room has a phonograph now. What a great amusement for winter evenings and rainy days!

Today we have a visit from Dr. Steel, the doctor of our reserve, who is causing us much concern. Without further preamble, he asked my Sister Superior to take him to the rooms. He examines the students and says that he has orders from the Agent to remove all the children with scrofula from the schools and that this order has already been carried out at the Protestant School. We have 4 boys and 4 girls, 2 of whom are older, who have scrofula. It is embarrassing and the doctor absolutely wants us to see these children again in their families immediately. My Sister Superior insisted, offering to put them in the hospital until she could come to an agreement with the Agent. The doctor wanted only one thing, that they be sent back to the reserve immediately. Finally, after much discussion, he agreed to put them in the hospital while waiting for the visit of the Agent who was to come the next day.

March 29, 1919 - pages 120-121

The Agent's visit. He seems surprised by this story. He denies having given such an order and makes the children return from the hospital saying that it is enough that they go to be bandaged every day. He sent for the doctor and asked him to explain the matter. The doctor stated that an Indian, Young Pine, had been to his house the day before and had told him on behalf of the Agent to send all children with scrofula back to their families. This Indian has a little boy with scrofula at the school. That explains a little, but why the doctor gave credence to an Indian in this way; why he did not wait for a verbal order or at least a letter from the Agent to do so. It is astonishing...

After a few days, however, we have the full explanation of the riddle. Someone had told Dr. Steel that Dr. Grane, Inspector of Health of the Schools of the Department, had been at the Protestant School and had sent the scrofulous children back to their families and that the same doctor was to come here soon.

Dr. Steel, who remains close to the Catholic School, wants to show the visitors of the Department that, thanks to him, nothing is left to be desired in terms of health; thus, he would not have liked Dr. Grane to find scrofula patients here. Can you believe it? So, we have to admit it, our old doctor has many qualities, but wouldn't he be too credulous? and wouldn't he have a touch of vain glory?

March 31, 1919 - page 122

Visit of Rev. Father Demers, Principal of the Industrial School of Dunbow. He is very zealous for his school; he would like to recruit children. We would be ready to give him four older boys and one older girl, but it was impossible to get her to go. Another time, the Rev. Father may be luckier.

April 5, 1919 - pages 123-124

When our new Agent, Mr. Ostrander, began his duties, several of the pupils were on the reserve; the parents refused to take them back to school for one reason or another, which is a great disorder in a house, for naturally these children like their freedom and when one of them is fortunate enough to be able to stay at home, several others try to do the same, which becomes very annoying. So, our Agent, to whom the situation was hastily made known, sent stern orders to their parents to bring them back to the school at once, and, indeed, they almost all return. But Tommy Standing at the Door, with his fierce nature, could only stay at the school for two weeks. He returned home; then his father, seeing that his boy could not stay at the school, went to ask the Agent to keep his boy at home and to put his little 8-year-old sister at the school in his place. The Agent replied that if the girl was healthy and could be admitted to the school, he would agree to the change. The next day, Standing at the Door arrived with her little girl. She was taken to see the doctor who found her healthy. So, the deal was made; the little girl stayed at the school and Tommy was discharged.

April 19, 1919 - page 125-126

Another consolation is given to us on this holy and joyful Easter day. Jane Bad Name, one of our former students, who has been ill in the hospital for some months, passed away at 1 p.m. in the most edifying of dispositions. The Rev. Father, who has visited her several times, says that he does not desire a better end for himself. In her long illness and especially in the last 15 days of her life, she offered to God, in expiation for her sins, the sufferings she was enduring. She prayed aloud, telling God that she had not always been faithful to his law, but that she had prayed to him every day and asked him to have mercy on her.

She urged her parents to become Catholics, to marry in the Church and then to live according to Christian laws or she would come back and remind them of their duty. Her Protestant father studied catechism near her deathbed, and the day after her death, he became a Catholic and had his marriage blessed by Rev. Father.

It is remarkable for our Indians that whatever their life, they almost all make a good death, we like to say that they put the religious teachings given to them in a small corner of their

heart to be used only at their last moments. During their lives they seem to forget all sense of faith and at death their faith awakens and they edify us.

Is not God very merciful to these poor Indians.

May 7, 1919 - page 129

All Indians receive \$6.00 each for the part of the reserve they have leased. Mr. Agent comes to give the money to the students here, this time they do not go to town, but to Mr. McNeil's.

For three consecutive days the Indians go shopping at a short distance from here. The students go there every day. The Sisters have their tent there and keep a small restaurant which brings them a good deal of money.

May 12, 1919 - pages 129-130

This morning, service in Church for the repose of the soul of Mary Big Wolf, one of our girls who left the school a month ago, sick with influenza and who died on May 11 after having received the last Sacraments in a very good state of mind.

That same day, the Sisters Ange Gardien and Marie de la Visitation went to Macleod to do some shopping for the children with the money they had received last week. They returned the next day. They bought boots which the children, both boys and girls, were very happy with.

May 16, 1919 - page 130

We have a visit today from Harold Mooney, an Indian from the reserve who has returned from the war. He spent two years at the front, in the trenches. He has a wound in his shoulder and his throat is quite sick. He is being treated in a military hospital in Calgary and has been given a 15-day pass to come to the reserve. In his visit to the recreation rooms, he told the boys that he hoped they would never be soldiers.

May 23, 1919 - page 130-131

The students are taking today, Friday, the "Victoria Day" holiday. This holiday falls on a Saturday this year. They spent the afternoon in the woods and enjoyed their break.

May 30, 1919 - page 131

The cost of provisions always increasing, in order to be able to harvest enough wheat for our flour and thus exempt us from buying some, we ask the Agent to take a piece of land on the reserve to sow wheat. The Agent allows us to take 100 acres. Tom Eagle Child is preparing the land with the boys and we will sow next spring. Let us hope that God will favor us with a good crop.

June 9, 1919 - page 132

Big picnic today for the Sisters and students. All the boys have horses and we are going a good distance from the mission. Rev. Father comes to have dinner with us. Everything goes well until 3:00 p.m., but when everyone is ready for sports, a heavy rainstorm changes all our plans and forces everyone to return to the school. The interrupted races are resumed after supper. Nice picnic with variations.

June 27, 1919 - page 134

As it is the treaty today and Mr. Agent has to come to distribute the money to the students, we have the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament only during mass.

June 28, 1919 - page 135

Due to some inconvenience, Mr. Agent could not come yesterday to give the money to the students, he is coming today. On the occasion of the Treaty, the boys have a four-day vacation.

As usual, the Indians have races on the hill and the Sisters have a small restaurant there which brings in \$60.00.

June 30, 1919 - page 135

Rev. Father Lépine, the Sisters Ange Gardien, St. Lucien, St. Isidore and St. Edmond and the girls went to Cardston. Returned the same day, all were delighted with their trip.

July 7, 1919 - page 136

The saskatoons are plentiful this year, so the Sisters and children begin picking today. We want to make a good supply for the children who are very fond of these small fruits.

July 11, 1919 - pages 136-137

The boys are beginning the haying today under the direction of Tom Eagle Child. The drought is so great this summer that there is no hay around the mission; they are obliged to go ten miles from here to make some. They will sleep there in tents and two Sisters will go every day to bring them provisions and prepare their meals.

July 12, 1919 - page 137

Eve of the patronal feast of the Reverend Father Principal. Stage performance by the children, songs and drills. Address read by John Fox. The Reverend Father was very happy, but he told them that this year, since they had to hurry to make the hay, the traditional picnic would not be held.

July 14, 1919 - page 138

Today, the Sisters, on their way to picking up fruit with the boys, were warned by an Indian (Henry Skipper) that the day before, during the march, the boys, while having fun, had set fire to the woods. They worked for a couple of hours with the boys, threw water and left the woods thinking that it was over, but it was not; the next day it was worse. So, the Sisters, Jack Sitting Bull (the hospital employee) and some of the boys went again and this time put two pictures of our Venerable Mother Youville to stop the fire and it was not until 10 o'clock in the evening that they managed to put it out completely. It is an event that could have had considerable consequences without the kindness of this Indian to warn us in time.

July 15, 1919 - page 139

This same day we receive a letter from the Department announcing that in the future we will have \$10 more per child per year; this is granted because of the expensive cost of living.

July 18, 1919 - page 139

Visit of Rev. Father Demers. He returned the same day, taking with him Kate Wolf Sitting Down, a student of our school and Katie Shield, a girl from the reserve.

July 30, 1919 - pages 139-140

We receive a letter today from the Department, announcing the admission of our little orphans David Melting Tallow (5 years old) and his sister Josette (3 years old) also of Frank and Willie Mills, Metis Negroes, who were not of the Treaty during the lifetime of their father, David Mills, but are now that their mother is remarried to Many White Horses.

August 6, 1919 - page 140

Although the rain has disturbed the boys at the haying grounds and they have not finished the Rev. Father's haying, he thinks it proper to send them on a vacation immediately anyway; they almost all leave us after supper.

August 25, 1919 - page 142

As last year, in order to compensate the girls for staying at the school during the holidays, a camp was organized for them; they went to Mrs. Murphy's on the Kootenay. The caravan left after dinner. Rev. Father Lépine in the lead, the Sisters Ange Gardien, Ste Marie, Sylvestre, Hardy and the girls.

August 30, 1919 - page 143

Returning of the camp caravan, everyone had a good week. The Sisters and girls went to Yarrow with Rev. Father Lépine, and spent a night there, which made the girls very happy.

October 14, 1919 - page 146

Srs. St. Gertrude, Ste Marie and some of the boys went to Mr. F. Killoran's who, having to spend the winter in Spokane, gave us his crop of turnips. It is a useful gift to give us since we have no crop this year.

October 15, 1919 - page 146

The boys not being all back yet after the vacations, Mr. Agent sends the police to look for them and in two days they are all back.

October 19, 1919 - pages 146-147

Visit of Rev. Father Demers, Principal of Dunbow Industrial School. We were hoping that our older boys would decide to go with him, but they all like to stay here.

October 25, 1919 - page 147

Nick Striped Wolf is not back yet in spite of warnings from the olice. So, they go to his home to take him immediately to the Dunbow Industrial School. He was taken to Macleod where Father Demers came to meet him.

December 5, 1919 - page 150

One of our girls, Jane Chief Moon died in the hospital from influenza. She had been out of school about a month.

December 8, 1919 - page 152

As the weather is quite cold, and it is very inviting to skate and slide, Sister Superior does not wait for the visit of Santa Claus to provide the students with winter amusements. After lunch, the boys are presented with skates and the girls with sleds.

“Long live the ice! Long live the snow!” the children said, but we said, "Thank God we have coal and wood to heat our homes!”

December 25, 1919 - pages 153-154

Christmas, the greatest feast for the Indians. This year we have Midnight Mass. Last year we did not have one because of the influenza which was then raging on the reserve. The attendance was quite large, especially the Catholics. Mike Blood and his wife came from the St. Mary's River, at the far end of the reserve, a distance of about 15 miles to attend Midnight Mass and perform their religious duties. They were obliged to leave immediately after Mass, as the care of their farm required them. They brought gifts to their children, Alfred and Genevieve who are here at the school. Isn't this conduct Catholic and civilized?

[... ..]

The traditional dinner decreases a little each year. It is a custom that is being lost, because the Indians are now used to eating like white people. They do not need to come to the "Holy Women" for that. This year we had only 145 guests at the dinner. We usually have 200 to 250.

After the Benediction, Santa Claus came to the fireplace that was set up in the classroom to hand out presents to the students. The boys each received a new shirt, purchased ready-made, a tie and a toy. The girls had asked Santa Claus to bring them a phonograph and a few toys only; they each received a toy and Santa Claus told them that the phonograph had arrived in bad condition and that it had to be returned, but they should not worry, they will certainly have it; they lose nothing by waiting.

After this distribution, all the Indians dispersed and the students were very busy with their toys, so the Sisters could rest a little. Everything went on in the most perfect order this year.

December 26, 1919 - page 156

Departure of one of our students, Ben Calf Robe, for the Industrial School at Dunbow.

PAA - PR 1971.0220/2465 (This file covers the years 1920 to 1922 of the 2nd notebook)

January 5, 1920 - page 157

Great commotion in the house today. Agent's visit. Examination in the classes. The pupils have been on vacation since Christmas and those who know the Indian children know that they forget very quickly, our dear pupils, and that the first day of school after the vacations is not a good day for exams. So, how anxious the teachers are! They ask Sr. Superior to put candles at all the statues of saints in the chapel.

At 2:30 pm everything is finished and Mr. Agent gives a good report. Deo Gratias!

January 7, 1920 - page 158

As there are several Sisters who do not speak English, Rev. Father Lépine has the charity to come and give them an hour's class every evening. All appreciate this act of kindness on the part of Father Lépine and take advantage of it as best they can.

January 25, 1920 - page 158

Visit of Rev. Father Demers; he returns the same day taking with him one of our big boys Ambrose Howling in the Middle.

February 6, 1920 - page 159

Three little orphans (Lewis Knife, 5 years old, Gertrude Low Horn, 3 years old, Emma Mills, 3 years old) are admitted by the benevolence of the Department although they are under age.

March 2, 1920 - pages 161-162

We have been hard hit by illness in the girls this year and there have been deaths. Since the influenza, six girls have died: Maud Short Man, Annie Black Forehead, Mary Big Wolf, Jane Chief Moon, Annie Fox and today Annie Running Crane just died at home after a few days illness in the hospital. Rosy Wolf Feather is also at home with tuberculosis. Josette Aberdeen was so dangerously ill that her dress to bury her was made. She is at home now and is better without being well. Sophia Coming Singing and Suza Riding at the Door are very sick in the hospital.

Among the boys, only Joe Bear Shin Bone is sick at the hospital. We must resign ourselves to God's will, but it is a great trial for the school.

March 7, 1920 - pages 162-163

Several children are also sick on the reserve; this afternoon, Sunday, Rev. Father Ruaux goes to visit the little girl of Bruised Head who is very sick and he asks for Sisters to go with him, Sisters St. Gertrude, Sylvestre, Hardy and St. Edmond are appointed to accompany him. On their way out, Father said that this little girl was not baptized and that it was very likely that her parents would not allow her to be baptized and that it was up to the Sisters to baptize her without the parents noticing. Bruised Head was outside when the Sisters arrived and, indeed, he did not allow the Rev. Father to baptize his child, but remained outside; then, before entering the house, Sr. St. Gertrude took the little bottle of holy water from the Rev. Father's bag and hid it under her coat.

The little sick girl was alone with her mother, so Father told the Sisters to hurry while he spoke with the woman. The Sisters all knelt around the child's bed with their backs to her mother, and Sister St. Gertrude baptized the little girl. As she wiped her with her handkerchief, the father came in and stood with the Sisters, a minute later it would have been impossible to perform the act that will now open the gates of Heaven to this poor little Indian girl. The dear child died the next night.

March 19, 1920 - pages 166-167

... this morning, in our little church in Blood Reserve, a ceremony of religious profession presided over by Rev. Father Lépine. He explained to the children, in English, the ceremony of the day and told them that if we had not consented to come to the North-West, the poor children

of this reserve would never have been able to learn to know the Good God and would have remained ignorant of everything; that the Sisters were not ordinary women, but holy women and that consequently the children should love us, respect us and obey us always.

April 5, 1920 - page 170

Easter vacation. The snow is falling in flakes and it is very cold. Great disappointment for the children who are always used to have a picnic on Easter Monday.

April 19, 1920 - page 170-171

Meeting here at the Blood Reserve Mission of Reverend Fathers Doucet, Riou and Levern, who with Reverend Fathers Ruau and Lépine, are going to correct a new catechism for the Blackfoot. They will be helped in this work by Joe Devine, Harry Big Throat, Charlie Good Rider and Tom Eagle Child. This work lasted one week.

April 22, 1920 - pages 171-172

Service at the church, this morning at 10:30 for the repose of the soul of His Grace the late Most Rev. Emile J. Legal, Archbishop of Edmonton. [... ...]

And the Indians, therefore, the Church was full, there were several communions this morning, they were arriving even before 7 o'clock, saying that they had come to do religion for Sportsetapi (the Indian name of Bishop Legal) their great friend of old. Melting Tallow told us yesterday, "I am going to come tomorrow to religion for 'Sportsetapi,' I knew him when I was a little boy and he has always been my friend."

April 29, 1920 - page 173

The poor Indians are having a hard time living; there is no work for them, they can't make money and their horses are almost all dead of misery; hay is so scarce and the spring seasons so long. Today, George Vielle came on foot to ask Sister Superior to borrow money to buy some hay for his horse. He said he gave the horse his mattress to eat before he left to keep it from dying of starvation. Isn't it sad to see so much misery among these poor Indians! Let us hope for better times for them.

May 5, 1920 - pages 174-175

It is with sorrow that we record here that Mr. Ostrander, our Agent, has been dismissed by the Department. He was very good to the school, to the classes, etc. He was the only Agent whose work was of a very high standard. He is the only Agent of whom the Indians have not complained. Mr. Faunt, his secretary, has been appointed Acting Agent pending the appointment of another Agent, and he comes today to give the money to the Indians (\$6.00 each, being the money for the leased land) right in the school house. He is accompanied by Mr. Hilliard, two police men and an interpreter. They take dinner here and return in the evening at 6:30.

May 7, 1920 - page 176

The Sisters and children begin their gardens today.

June 15, 1920 - pages 177-178

The Indians are meeting as usual at this time of year at the Sun Dance Camp, and the older ones still believe in the superstitions of the Sacred Horn and Pipe Societies. They urge Charlie Good

Rider to join the Horn and Pipe Society. Charlie told them that he was a Catholic now, that he was a student of the schools and that he did not believe in their superstitions, his parents still insisted, telling him that he would be unlucky if he refused to take part in these societies, but Charlie still refused.

He was also offered to cleanse himself of his sins in one of their sweat lodges, but he told them that in the Catholic religion, there is the Sacrament of Penance to cleanse oneself of one's sins and that anyone who feels guilty need only go to the priest to recover the peace of his soul.

Charlie Good Rider is a converted Protestant; let us hope he will persevere in his good disposition.

June 25, 1920 - pages 178-179

Mr. Faunt, Acting Agent, comes to give the Treaty money to the Indians and students in the school. The boys leave with their parents for a 5-day vacation.

June 26, 1920 - page 179

The girls went to Cardston with the Rev. Father, the Sisters Ange Gardien, St. Lucien, Parenteau and St. Isidore.

July 12, 1920 - page 180-181

Father's patronal feast day. The students pay their respects and give him a gift of \$15.00 in money.

The next day, the vacation was the day after, a picnic at the St. Mary's River. The Reverend Father, the Superior, Sisters Ange Gardien, Vignault, Ste Marie, M. de la Visitation, St. Lucien, Parenteau and St. Edmond, the girls, all the boys on horseback. It was a magnificent vacation.

That same day, Mr. Faunt visited us; at his request, we sent objects made in the classroom and sewing to the Regina Exhibition.

July 16, 1920 - page 181

In June we sent some articles made in school to the Calgary Exhibition; this evening we received \$25.50 worth of prizes.

August 6, 1920 - page 182

That same day, Rev. Father Lépine, the Sisters Ange Gardien, Sylvestre, St. Lucien and St. Isidore went camping with the girls at Fishburn, at the home of a good Canadian.

August 14, 1920 - page 182

Return of the caravan from camp. All are very happy with their week.

August 20, 1920 - page 183

We received today the sum of \$9.50 for prizes obtained at the Provincial Exhibition in Regina.

September 14, 1920 - page 186

The Sisters and the children go often to pick berries and make a good supply for the winter.

October 27, 1920 - page 190-191

As the weather is very nice today, the Sisters and the students go on the hill for dinner. Rev. Father Ruaux came with us, and at the end of the dinner, he asked for the Sisters to go with him to baptize an old Indian, Goose Chief, the father of Eustelle, one of our ex-girls. As the students had not had any time off since the beginning of the year, they were given the rest of the afternoon off. Then, the two teachers, Sisters Sylvestre and St. Severin, had the privilege of accompanying the Rev. Father. The old Indian agreed to be baptized immediately and was given the name of Pierre.

Here is another one who will go to Heaven to sing the mercies of the good God towards the poor Indians.

December 14, 1920 - page 198

Marriage in our chapel of Peter Black Rabbit and Lucille Stevens. Two former students of our school.

December 25, 1920 - pages 199-200

The halls are filled with Indians and Indian women, 52 made Holy Communion last night. Those who could not come for Christmas will come on the following days. At the traditional dinner, we had 250 guests. The Christmas tree at 3 o'clock and everyone retired saying that we had a Merry Xmas.

January 1, 1921 - page 205

In union with Mary, let us pray, work and suffer; this good Mother will help us, protect us and know how to make our work fruitful and use our poor merits for the greater glory of God, the greater good of our souls and also that of our dear Indians to whom we so much desire to do good.

January 20, 1921 - page 208

At their meeting last spring, the Reverend Fathers corrected a new catechism for the Blackfoot and the Sisters and students now have copies. On Sundays, at high mass, the Reverend Father always translates some questions and answers, which is very interesting and instructive.

March 1, 1921 - page 209-210

Opening of the month of St. Joseph. It is always with piety that we do the exercises of this month. Is not St. Joseph the spiritual and temporal provider of religious communities? Every year we obtain favors from this great saint during the month dedicated to him. Let us pray with more confidence this year, among other favors, we wish to receive new students and there are Indians (Long Time Squirrel and Crazy Bull) who have children of age to come to the school and the Protestant Minister offers them all sorts of presents in order to win them for his school. We, our means do not allow us to buy the Indians with presents, let us pray to St. Joseph to direct them to the Catholic school where they will learn the way to Heaven.

March 21, 1921 - pages 212-213

We are visited today by Mr. Christianson, Government Inspector of Indian Schools. He had dinner with the Reverend Fathers and was very kind to us. The students sang a song to him in the reception room and he spoke some good words to them. He is not making a detailed tour of

the house today; he prefers to wait for Mr. W. M. Graham, Commissioner of Indian Affairs - who is to come next week.

March 24, 1921 - page 214

Holy Saturday. We have no service today; Rev. Father does the holy water and then proceeds to bless the houses. In the afternoon, in the senior class, the Indians have an assembly presided over by Inspector Christianson.

That same day, one of our boys, Rob Tall Man, had the misfortune to break his collar bone while carting water. Dr. Kennedy comes to give him his care immediately.

March 31, 1921 - page 215

Today we have a visit from Mr. W. M. Graham, accompanied by Inspector Christianson. He sees the students in the reception room and then takes a tour of the house. Both are deferential to the Reverend Fathers and Sisters.

The Commissioner says that we need a new school, but he cannot provide one for another five years; he will send a workman for the most urgent repairs.

April 14, 1921 - page 219

The Indians are going to the Agency today to receive their \$6.00 which is given to them for the rent of the land. This year the Agent is giving the money of the students of the school to their parents, some are giving it to their children, but most are keeping it for themselves, which makes many of our students very sad.

April 17, 1921 - page 219

The Indians are racing on the hill. The Sisters and the students go there and sell ice cream.

April 18, 1921 - page 219-220

Rev. Father Lepine and Sisters St. Gertrude, Houde, M. de la Visitation and St. Lucien go to Macleod with the boys and girls who had at least \$5 from their parents. They are "24". They spend their money as they please and are well satisfied with their trip.

May 10, 1921 - pages 222-223

"Arbor Day". Leave of absence from class, but not from work. This is the day for planting trees or working in the gardens. That is what the Sisters and children are busy with today. Sisters St. Gertrude and Sylvestre go to work to repair and beautify the grave of Sister St. Joseph in the Indian cemetery.

May 31, 1921 - pages 223-224

Great holiday of May 24. Rev. Father Doucet, the Sisters, the girls and the boys go 6 miles from the mission. The boys have 30 horses, they have sports and prizes in the afternoon. They return very late in the evening, and are very happy with their first picnic.

June 29, 1921 - page 228

That same day, in the hospital, almost sudden death of Paul Going Slow, a former student of our school.

July 6, 1921 - page 229

From the Kootenay Church, Mr. J. Maloney was kind enough to take Srs. Superior and Houde to his house first for dinner and then to Macleod where they are to take the 3 p.m. train for Calgary. They will see the Exhibition and bring back the craft that our school exhibited there.

They return on the 9th and bring us the good news that we have a large number of prizes. Our school was in competition with the Protestant schools of Blood Reserve, Piegan reserve and Sarcee Reserve and the Catholic school of Piegan reserve and came in first. Encouragement for the teachers and students.

July 10, 1921 - page 230-231

My Sister Superior is conducting the examination of the classes this week, each grade takes a turn, the examination lasts 3 days and ends with the solemn distribution of the prizes, presided over by Mr. Agent. The latter is accompanied by his lady and two young ladies, all the Sisters also attend. The teachers read the notes and the Agent gives the prizes to each one, saying a good word. After the distribution of the prizes, the Agent expresses the desire to hear the students read in class; he also has them write and count on the board. Then he got up and addressed the students in terms that surprised us all. He told them that they would all (boys and girls) go on vacation. This is the first time that the girls go on vacation on July 15 and return on September 1. He urged them to continue to work well in class, but above all never to hurt the Sisters who were sacrificing their lives for them, etc. This Protestant speaks like a priest, we said to ourselves after his departure.

July 4, 1921 - pages 231-232

At 1 o'clock, the house is deserted, all our students have left, boys and girls. In the evening, at 7:30, one of our little girls returns, Rosine Two Flags. Her mother does not want to keep her, she sends her back to us. Isn't it sad to be rejected by her mother? So, we welcome her with a big heart and we will do our best to compensate her during the vacations.

It is the Treaty and the Indians have races on the hill as usual and asking the Sisters to sell ice cream, etc. The Sisters have a small restaurant for 3 days and make \$180.00.

July 16, 1921 - page 232

The Hon. W. M. Graham, Indian Commissioner at Regina wishes to have some of our school's craft for the Provincial Exhibition at Regina. Sr. St. Gertrude and Rosine are going to Macleod today to send two parcels by the Express. Mr. D. Gillen is kind enough to drive them.

July 30, 1921 - page 234

This same day we received our prizes from the Calgary Exhibition. \$56.00. We are well rewarded for our work.

August 28, 1921 - page 236

Today we received a visit from a Government Inspector, Mr. Ferrier, accompanied by the Agent. They visited the house together and were very kind to the Sisters.

29 August 1921 - page 236

We received in this evening's mail, from the Hon. W. M. Graham, Indian Commissioner, a cheque for \$35.00, the amount of the prizes which our students won at the Regina Exhibition.

September 1, 1921 - page 237

Today is the first day of school and a large number of boys and girls have arrived and seem happy to be back.

October 19, 1921 - page 249

With the money from the Exhibition, Sr. Superior bought a camera (\$35.00).

October 21, 1921 - pages 249-250

17 of our students (boys) have smallpox and the doctor demands that they be isolated from the others. They were placed in St. Rock's Hospice and a Sister from the hospital took care of them. On this occasion, the doctor vaccinated all the students.

November 9, 1921 - page 251

By order of the doctor, we disinfect all the apartments of the house, one after the other. This is a precaution against smallpox.

November 26, 1921 - page 253

It has been decided that in the future there will be classes on Saturday mornings and, in the refectory during meals, the students will have to speak English or remain silent. These measures are taken to help the students speak English.

November 28, 1921 - page 253

The children who were ill with chicken pox at the hospital are coming back to us today. It was my Sister Bourret who devoted herself to caring for them. She has all our gratitude.

December 23, 1921 - page 255

This evening, at 4 o'clock, the quarterly examinations are closed with the reading of the marks, in the presence of the Reverend Father Principal and Sister Superior, and two prizes are awarded to each grade. We hope that these examinations and prizes will help to stimulate the students in the study of English.

December 25, 1921 - page 256

The traditional dinner is held as usual and we have nearly 300 Guests. We have no Christmas tree this year. After the Benediction, Santa Claus himself comes to distribute the presents to the students. Joe Devine fulfilled this role to the satisfaction of all. He made a speech, etc. The day is over and we have only to thank the Lord for the consolations he has granted us during this day.

December 27, 1921 - page 256

A "Nurse" sent by the Government comes to examine all the students. She visited the house and attended a meal of the students. She was well satisfied.

February 8, 1922 - pages 259-260

Mr. J. Leadbetter, the workman employed by the Government to make repairs to the school, leaves us today. He has repaired the roof of the school, installed a bathroom in each of the students' dormitories and made other necessary repairs to the cellar and well. At our expense, he

completed the bakery and made a large cabinet for the kitchen. These repairs and improvements were much needed and have caused great satisfaction to all the staff of the school.

February 20, 1922 - page 260

We have a visit from Madame La Grippe in the school. Four Sisters and all the students were affected. Teaching is stopped for 8 days.

June 9, 1922 - page 271

Visit of the Honorable W. M. Graham, Indian Commissioner. He is very kind to us; he gives us new floors for the recreation rooms and paint for the whole house besides a new stove for the kitchen and many articles from the Regina Military Hospital.

Mr. W. M. Graham is accompanied by a doctor who examines the students and removes the tonsils from many of them.

July 12, 1922 - page 274

The Treaty. Mr. Faunt and his assistant gave the money at the mission. The next two days the Indians have sports. Sisters sell ice cream, etc., for \$206.00.

July 18, 1922 - page 274

We have today the results of the Calgary Exhibition. Our School won 32 prizes: 17 first, 7 second and 8 third. In all \$48.50.

July 30, 1922 - page 277

This week the Sisters and girls are picking saskatoons.

September 3, 1922 - page 282

Today is the date for the return of the students. The girls are more faithful to return than the boys, because the latter are retained by their parents to help with the harvest.

September 6, 1922 - page 283

Last June, the Department decided that the public school curriculum should be adopted in the Indian schools and that the public schools Inspector would also visit our schools. Consequently, the teachers, having obtained the required curriculum and the necessary books, are now beginning to teach according to the new method.

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