

Grey Nuns - Cardston, Alberta
Chronicles of the Immaculate Conception Indian Residential School
July 1940 to November 1946 (fourth notebook)

PAA - PR 1971.0220/2469 (This file covers the years 1940 to 1944 in the fourth notebook.)

July 25, 1940 - page 4

The students' work at the Calgary and Edmonton exhibitions is returned to us. Over one hundred awards have been given.

September 20, 1940 - page 9

A School Fair is being held today in Cardston. At the request of the authorities, Father Principal has agreed to exhibit the work done by our Indian children. This afternoon, Sister Superior and our Sisters St. Dominique, Simard and Lévesque, will visit the exhibition which is certainly of a nature to encourage the children.

October 3, 1940 - page 9

During these last three days, our dear children have not only benefited from the graces of the Forty Hours, but also from those so precious of a good retreat. It was preached to them by the Reverend Father Augustin Bergin, O.M.I., of Lethbridge. We pray that little Therese, whose feast day we are celebrating today, will keep our students in the good spirits that animate them.

October 4, 1940 - page 10

The students from Cardston School come to play with our students. The girls play "Soft Ball" and ours lose with 19 points against 27. The boys play "Foot Ball" and the boys from here win with points 3-0.

October 21, 1940 - page 10

Dr. McMullen, from Calgary, comes to examine the children for lungs. A few days ago, all our students had X-rays taken at the hospital.

December 25, 1940 - pages 19-20

Glory to God in the highest! This is the refrain that rises from all hearts on this beautiful solemnity which is celebrated here as usual with midnight mass, the high mass of the day and the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

A large dinner was served to all the Indians who had come in great numbers, although not as many as in previous years, because many of them work outside the reserve. After the stripping of the Christmas tree of its gifts, all the children, without exception, went to their father's home for an eight-day vacation. This was the first time in the history of the school that this permission was granted to the older girls. They were so proud that their conduct in the last days was beyond reproach. They had foresight by warning the supervisors when a few kids approached the windows. At four o'clock in the afternoon, the house is deserted.

January 5, 1941 - page 23

For some time, the well has been failing. [... ..] After three days of hard work, could not find the cause of the malfunction and we lack water altogether. The children, who were to return today, are sent back to their families for an indefinite time.

February 15, 1941 - page 24

Rev. Father P. A. Charron, O. M. I., sings the funeral service this morning for Lawrence Red Crow, child of Francis Red Crow. He was seven years old, but had not attended school because of infirmity.

February 23, 1941 - page 26

Thanks to a temporary installation, the well is working enough for us to receive the children today. Two months off in the middle of a school year is a lot! May Heaven help us!

March 8, 1941 - page 27

Father P. A. Charron, O.M.I., sings the funeral service of William Russell, child of Paul Russell, who died at the age of 12. He attended school for some time, but tuberculosis took him to the hospital where he died after much suffering.

March 18, 1941 - page 28

Mr. Thomas Hamilton, School Inspector, visited the classes. He says he is very satisfied, which is an encouragement to those concerned.

March 27, 1941 - page 28

The entire staff turned out for the burial prayers for the child of Mr. Paul White Quill.

April 7, 1941 - page 29

We have a few cases of measles among the girls. The quarantine law must therefore be observed.

May 2, 1941 - page 29

Our children are all better. We see the end of the quarantine.

May 7, 1941 - page 30

Doctor Wall makes his annual visit today. After examining the children's eyes, he says that the health of the children is followed closely and carefully by the hospitaliers.

May 9, 1941 - page 30

As announced by the Department of Indian Affairs in Ottawa, Mr. Alphonse Doucet came here on May 3. The purpose of his visit is to inquire into the organization of the Indian schools in order to improve things later if need be. There is talk of a curriculum being adopted for the Indian schools which, if all goes well, will be put on the same footing as the technical schools. Mr. Doucet is a strong advocate of the "half-day system". During the week he visited the classrooms at length and expressed his satisfaction with the work done by the sisters under the present conditions. In leaving us today, Mr. Doucet, a French-Canadian and a fervent Catholic, leaves an edifying memory by his great piety and his attendance at religious services.

May 18, 1941 - page 31

Because of the quarantine, the recreational performance organized for Easter could not be carried out that day. The parents of the pupils are happy to see that it was postponed and not omitted and to be able to see the progress of those who are so dear to them.

19 May 1941 - page 31

Rev. P. A. Charron, O. M. I. sings the service of one of our students, George Good Rider, son of Emil Good Rider, who died yesterday in the hospital. He succumbed to double pneumonia.

June 18, 1941 - page 35

Within a month, five of our children received Holy Baptism. They are: Bertha Plain Woman, Regis Across the Mountain, Arthur Calling Last, Cecile Black Plume and Mary Eagle Speaker. We pray for them that they will never lose their right to the inheritance of heaven in spite of the traps that Satan will not fail to set for them during their lives.

June 24, 1941 - page 36

The classes have been strongly affected by the two months of absence of the children during the winter. For this reason, it is difficult to grant promotions from one grade to another. Nevertheless, we wanted to reward the successes and the good will of the children with a prize distribution. However, the session was held privately that afternoon, with Sister Superior presiding. Afterwards, several students hurried to their homes.

June 30, 1941 - page 36

Rev. J. L. Levern, O.M.I., presided at the funeral of Mrs. Joe Devine, mother of one of our students, Mary Owl Boy.

September 1, 1941 - page 39

Two epidemics, infantile paralysis and sleeping sickness, are raging in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. For this reason, the entry of students was postponed.

September 23, 1941 - page 40

This day has been fixed by the Board of Hygiene for the opening of classes. Our students have not arrived in large numbers, but we expect that by the end of the week, all will be present.

October 2, 1941 - page 40

During the vacations, the District School Inspector, Mr. T. F. Hamilton, enlisted in the army. He was replaced by Mr. A. B. Evenson, who is making a short visit today to acquaint himself with people and things.

October 28, 1941 - page 41

On the occasion of the death of the child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Many Fingers, the Mass of Angels is being sung this morning. Rev. Father Principal officiates.

November 8, 1941 - page 42

An old heathen, "Two Guns", converted just recently, is buried this morning. Rev. G. Crépeau officiated.

December 12, 1941 - page 43

Mr. C. P. Schmidt, Inspector of Indian Agencies, makes an official visit to the school and takes note of the statistics.

December 25, 1941 - page 44

This afternoon, before Santa distributes the gifts to the children, the reverend Father Principal says a few words. This is followed by a few speeches in Blackfoot given by Stephen Fox, Sr., Frank Red Cros, Frank Good Striker and Wille Scripping White. In a short time, the house was empty; the children were happy to have a few days off with their family.

March 13, 1942 - page 48

Inspector A. B. Evenson visited the classes. He said that he had no remarks to make about the teachers as they were so devoted and knowledgeable.

April 5, 1942 - page 48

Easter. The Indians came today in great numbers to fulfill their Easter duty.

During the afternoon, the children performed in a pleasant dramatic and musical performance. In the front row of the audience were, besides the reverend Fathers, Mr. & Mrs. A. MacMillan, Mr. & Mrs. M. McLeod and Mr. & Mrs. G. Golley, all of the Agency. The room was filled with Indians happy to applaud the success of their beloved children.

April 15, 1942 - page 49

Mr. Inspector A. B. Evenson is pleased to come and introduce the Doctor [name withheld] of the Calgary Normal School. They are particularly interested in visiting the classes.

April 21, 1942 - page 49

Our children are very happy with the time off for the "Treaty" they received yesterday.

June 5, 1942 - page 55

Mr. C. P. Schmidt, Inspector of Indian Agencies, and Mr. J. Alphonse Doucet of Ottawa are visiting.

June 23, 1942 - pages 55-56

The distribution of the prizes is done in the greatest simplicity. In the absence of Reverend Fathers Charron and Crépeau who were going to Edmonton for their annual retreat, Messrs. MacMullan and A. Coady distributed to the children the promotion certificates and prizes awarded to the most deserving. Then it was time for the children to be free.

June 29, 1942 - page 56

Earl Watson, who was admitted here at the age of three or four, leaves the school which is like his father's home. It is with emotion that he says "goodbye" to the Fathers and Sisters who have

watched over him with tender solicitude. He is now 18 years old and is enrolling in the army. May the Immaculate Virgin guard and protect him!

June 29, 1942 - page 56

At seven o'clock, p. m. the burial prayers were sung for May Big Wolf, a student in the beginners' class. Besides her father, George Big Wolf, and two other Indians, the sisters are the only ones interested in her as they accompany her remains to the cemetery. How pitiful!

September 13, 1942 - page 60

Reception in the music room on the occasion of the departure of Miss Flora Shade, one of our students, who has completed her eighth grade and is heading for Midnapore to pursue her ninth grade. Tea was served to her and her parents and a gift was presented to her by her companions. Rev. Father Charron, O.M.I. took the opportunity to encourage the students to work hard to follow her example. We wish her health and success.

December 8, 1942 - page 67

The beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception is completed by the solemn entry of twenty-four girls and twelve boys into the Eucharistic Crusade.

December 25, 1942 - page 67

Christmas is a beautiful feast for us with the good joys that the presence of many of our dear Indians brings us, some of whom come from very far away. The chapel is filled to capacity and that is our consolation.

January 12, 1943 - pages 69-70

Good times mark this day for our students and a cheerful recreation brings animation to all jobs and seems to lighten the laborious preparations for a banquet to be given this evening in the music room on the occasion of the forthcoming departure of three of our students for Calgary. Miss Mollie Sweet Grass, Anne Scout and Isabelle Bruised Head. These family gatherings brought together about fifteen guests and were presided over by Reverend Father Crépeau, who wanted to make the absence of Reverend Father P. A. Charron, who was held up in Lethbridge on business, a little less sensitive. A musical program and a game of bingo ended the day very pleasantly. Beautiful crucifixes, donated by Rev. Father Charron, were presented to the heroines of the day, while Sister Laforest, Superior, offered each one a rosary and a pair of stockings. All of them left enchanted, taking with them an imperishable memory and the Sisters were happy to have done a little good for these poor souls entrusted to us.

January 19, 1943 - page 70

Misses Mollie Sweet Grass, Annie Scout and Isabelle Bruised Head are leaving us for good this morning to go to work in Calgary. Reverend Father Charron, O.M.I. is driving them.

April 1, 1943 - page 74

The class inspector, Mr. Evansen, makes his annual visit. He greatly appreciates the work done by our teachers.

May 24, 1943 - page 76

On the occasion of Queen Victoria's Day, all the children, without exception, go to their father's home and enjoy all the amusements prepared for this occasion.

June 25, 1943 - pages 80-81

Solemn distribution of prizes under the presidency of Reverend Father P. A. Charron, O.M.I., Principal, and Mr. Anthony McMillan. They distributed to the children the certificates of promotion and the prizes awarded to the most deserving.

September 1, 1943 - page 85

Today we open the doors of our classrooms to give to the minds the bread of science and to the souls the bread of grace. This is a vast field of action and a delicate task whose development Jesus is watching with interest. May we have some consolation in seeing at least the seed we are sowing germinate.

September 14, 1943 - page 86

Mr. & Mrs. P. Schmidt, Inspector of Indian Reserves, are pleased to spend the day with us.

October 15, 1943 - page 87

Our softball boys go to play at the Protestant school and bring home a win, thirty to three.

October 29, 1943 - pages 87-88

Mr. Anthony McMillan, Agent, comes to give a lecture to our students concerning the war economy stamp and, after giving the necessary encouragement in this cause, he gives the amount that each teacher should strive to collect.

Sister Alice Houle, \$14.00

Sister Catherine Frohlich, \$7.00

Sister Gabrielle Simard, \$9.00

Mr. Arthur Coady, \$10.00

It may be difficult to reach this maximum, but any amount, however small, will require an effort on the part of our Indians and will be appreciated.

November 1, 1943 - page 88

Reverend Father Adrien Charron is giving his first physical training lesson to thirty of our boys today. It will be a great benefit to them. They are proud of this benefit which is being given to them absolutely free.

Mary Good Striker, who has been employed in the dining halls since September, leaves us today to go to Winnipeg to work. Margaret Eagle Child is taking her place.

November 6, 1943 - page 88

Rev. J. L. Levern goes to Stand Off to officiate at the funeral of a little Indian girl, Mr. Ida Tall Man.

November 15, 1943 - page 91

The Calgary Clinic favors us with their fine organization regarding the examination of the lungs and comes here to take X-rays of all the staff.

November 27, 1943 - page 91

At one o'clock we welcome one of our former students, Earl Watson, who is doing his naval training in Newfoundland. After a year there he has been given twenty-one days leave which he wishes to spend under our roof. We are glad to see that he has good memories of us and we are doing everything in our power to make his stay pleasant.

December 2, 1943 - page 92

The sale of thrift stamps has brought much competition among the class teachers and among the students as a photograph of Churchill and Roosevelt is to be presented to the class which obtains the highest percentage. In addition, an airplane will come and carry a national flag to the class that achieves the highest percentage of all the schools in the southern district of the province. The students of my Sister Frohlich, Grade I, purchased for \$19 and earned the photograph which was presented to them this afternoon by the Reserve Officer and the Mayor of the City. Teacher and students receive our heartfelt congratulations. In addition, our school being victorious, at three o'clock this afternoon there is a grand demonstration. Eighteen Rotarians from the city of Cardston want to be here to see the plane fly over and drop the flag, etc., then accompany Father Principal who will raise the flag in the presence of all the staff. The students lined up at the front of the school are enjoying themselves very much and are determined to continue their dedication to this good cause.

December 25, 1943 - page 93

We have the pleasure of attending midnight mass in our beautiful church. The furnace and the electricity were installed especially for the circumstance and we enjoy them, since we can lodge all the Indians who came in very great number. After the mass of the day, we have the usual demonstrations, banquet to the Indians and distribution of the Christmas gifts to the pupils of the school and the children of the reserve, then it is the holiday.

January 28, 1944 - page 98

Mr. McMillan, agent, and Mr. D..... make the monthly visit to the classrooms to ascertain the amount reported for the war stamp. Mr. Coady and his students receive the photograph awarded to the class that brought in the highest percentage. Congratulations and encouragement are offered to the lucky ones who donated \$25.00.

30 January 1944 - page 98

Each year the Cardston Rotarians of different religions are required to meet in a church. It was decided that they would all come here. On this occasion we had a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, deacon and subdeacon, and a sermon given by Rev. Father Griffin, O.M.I., pastor of Lethbridge. The preacher elaborated on the rights and powers of the Catholic Church and was of great interest to his listeners. Our students enjoyed the singing which impressed our visitors, especially with the singing of a Blackfoot hymn.

March 27, 1944 - page 101

Mr. Morris of the Indian Department and Mr. Schmidt, Inspector of Alberta Agencies, are spending the week here. They are well satisfied with the work we are doing with our Indians. A special note is given for the good use we have made of the airmen's clothing sent to us. We

currently have sixty skirts and several pairs of pants that are being remade and look like fine new clothes.

May 12, 1944 - page 103

Inspector Evanson is visiting the classes and is very satisfied with the work of each teacher.

May 21, 1944 - page 103

Our older girls, having formed a team for the softball league, are playing the Glenwood girls this evening. They had their first success.

May 24, 1944 - page 103

Queen Victoria's Day is celebrated with enthusiasm by all the Indians on the reserve. The weather is fine and invites to the amusements of the day. A large outdoor dinner followed by a fine game of softball between the Anglican School and our school. The two teams were tied last year, so we are anxious to know who will win, as there is a lot of competition between the two schools. The game is very exciting. In the end, ours were victorious. Our little Indians are proud of their success and we share their joy.

June 22, 1944 - page 105

My sister Sainte-Gertrude, feeling her health declining, asks to be recalled to the East and today she leaves for Nicolet. The sacrifice is great since she has worked with the Indians for forty years. She makes her sacrifice generously.

June 23, 1944 - page 105

We proceeded to the distribution of the prizes and our students left us today for a two-month vacation.

July 13, 1944 - page 106

Our sisters Alice Houle and C. Frohlich went to Calgary. The first one to follow teaching courses and the last one to visit the exhibits we have sent.

August 14, 1944 - page 109

We are visited today by Mr. & Mrs. Pantalion Schmith, Inspector of Indian Agencies in Alberta, Rev. Schmith, O.M.I. of Hobbema and Mrs. Doctor Saucier of Saskatoon.

September 13, 1944 - page 111

Rev. Father Charron, principal, changes the service of one of our students, Wallace Across The Mountain.

September 21, 1944 - page 111

We regret to learn of the death of one of our students, Stella Shade, age eight, who is now undergoing treatment in Edmonton.

September 25, 1944 - page 111

Reverend Father Principal sings Stella Shade's service.

October 9, 1944 - pages 111-112

The fine weather favors our students to take the Thanksgiving vacation, so we are devoted to trying to make it as pleasant as possible for our students. Reverend Father Duhaime takes charge of entertaining eighteen of the older boys. They dressed up as "Cowboys" and each one had a horse and went in a caravan to visit and parade to the center of the reserve to have their romp. Sister Superior took charge of organizing an outdoor dinner and it was decided that the girls would invite the boys to come eat pancakes. Seven hearths are prepared and four older girls will do the work at each hearth. The Sisters pass out the pancakes and distribute them to each student. It is not until two o'clock that we are finished enjoying the good pancakes covered with good syrup. The games are organized and we have a lot of fun until four o'clock.

November 13, 1944 - page 113

All our students are going to the hospital for X-rays. Hopefully they will all be found well enough.

December 17, 1944 - page 117

In order to please the Indians and let them see the progress of their children, we have organized a concert. We are delighted to have with us Mr. & Mrs. Pugh, Reserve Agent. He has been away for four years and has seen first hand the change that has taken place since his departure. Indeed, our students have done very well and our teachers are to be congratulated.

December 25, 1944 - page 117

The holy joy of Christmas fills our hearts. Beautiful celebration that brings our Indians together and they are many. Santa Claus distributes the gifts to the children after dinner and in a short time our recreation rooms are empty and we are happy to have a few days off.

December 30, 1944 - page 117

Mr. and Mrs. A. Many Fingers are saddened by the loss of a three year old daughter. The funeral took place at 2 p.m.

January 2, 1945 - page 118

Entrance of the students. Some are missing, but the number of "regulars" gives us consolation.

January 6, 1945 - page 118

Another grave is closing today. Albert Wells' baby dies in the hospital. Burial will be at eleven o'clock tomorrow.

PAA - PR 1971.0220/2470 (This file covers the year 1945 from the 4th notebook.)

January 20, 1945 - page 120

Jimmy Wells is in pain over the loss of his baby boy. The funeral will be held tomorrow.

January 27, 1945 - page 120

Miss Albertine Big Throat has measles and is being taken to the hospital tonight. We still have to comply with the quarantine law.

January 28, 1945 - page 120

Notwithstanding the quarantine, we are receiving Jimmy Eagle Child tonight who is coming to have his marriage to Sylvia Healy validated.

January 30, 1945 - page 121

It is Leo Red Crow's turn to come and have his marriage validated with Virginia Yellow of Cluny. Hopefully they will be a happy couple.

We also have to record tonight the death of Coming Singer, which occurred this morning in the hospital.

February 10, 1945 - page 122

I hear that hockey and skating are worth all the pills. We are trying it out this year. No sick people in the dormitories and the boys and girls are replacing each other on the skating rink. The amateurs from the neighboring places come to try their strength, but they always let us win. The reverend Fathers give their encouragement, either as players or as interested spectators.

February 19, 1945 - page 123

Wishing to reward some of our students who have made a great effort in favor of English conversation, Sister Germaine Laforest, Superior, organized a trip to Macleod to attend a game of hockey between the students there and our boy students. All the privileged girls, fifteen in number, were very happy. They appreciate this great favor and thank Sister Superior for her great devotion to this good cause, so dear to all the staff. Every Sunday, we have a party to reward all those who did not speak in Blackfoot during the week. The success crowns our efforts and we are certain that the result obtained is due more to the trusting prayers than to the secondary means we used.

February 19, 1945 - page 123

Louisa Shouting, rushed to the hospital where she was operated on immediately for appendicitis.

March 4, 1945 - page 124

One of our students, Miss Harriet Wells, was rushed to the hospital where she was operated on immediately for appendicitis.

The Pincher Creek hockey players practiced their skills with our students, but were defeated. At 5 o'clock, a snack is served and everyone expresses their thanks.

March 11, 1945 - page 125

Our students are going to sing mass at the Stand Off mission as a reward for their efforts in English. This greatly pleases their parents.

April 1, 1945 - page 125

Easter. Alleluia. Our Indians are out in great numbers today to attend the beautiful ceremonies of the day. We spend it in the peace of the Lord. The choir performs the Easter Mass which has

been very well prepared by the director of singing, Sister Gabrielle Simard. A dinner was served to all the Indians present and immediately afterwards our students left with their parents for a few days with their families.

April 18, 1945 - page 126

It was the turn of the class inspector, Mr. A. B. Evenson to come and examine the ability of our students. Half a day per class is much more than our sister teachers want, but it is enough to show that success is due to their good methods and dedication.

May 8, 1945 - page 128

My Sister Dorilla Simard is going to Pincher Creek today to do the chemistry experiments for Grade XII. She is well received by the Daughters of Jesus. Miss Albertine Big Throat is her traveling companion.

May 24, 1945 - page 129

The day so impatiently awaited by our students has arrived. Queen Victoria's big holiday. First, at nine o'clock, the truck and car are at the disposal of the sisters and children to go to Stand Off, twelve miles from the school, the place where the picnic will be held this year. The weather is perfect and our students are happy to have dinner under the tent. They take part in all the fun organized for the occasion and the time of departure rings too early for our liking.

May 29, 1945 - page 129

The big girls' team went to play ball at Macleod against the school team. They were defeated and the score was twenty-seven to twelve. However, resigned, they went to meet their companions and went down to the river to have supper. They returned happy.

June 20, 1945 - pages 129-136

[Golden Jubilee of Father Jean-Louis Levern]

[Page 133] Two large classrooms transformed into banquet rooms now bring together more than one hundred guests. We wanted to invite in a special way first, the seven former students present at the school when Father Levern arrived. They are: Messrs. Harry Big Throat, Tom Russell, Julius Iron Horn, Johnny Pace, Morris Many Fingers, Aloysius Crop Eared Wolf, Francis Red Crow.

Six big girls, dressed in black dresses, princess style, covered by a small white organza apron, are in each room doing the table service. Everything leads us to believe that they do their job well because some guests thank them saying that they had a "lovely service".

At the end of the banquet, all the guests went to the reception room. At the piano, Misses Agnes Shade and Lina Heavy Shield played the joyful duet "Bright as a Button".

Then came the cantata to the venerable jubilarian, followed by the offering of flowers. Two little girls, one of whom, Miss Agnes Shade, dressed all in white, presented the lilies of Douce France. The other Miss, Annie Black Water, in Indian costume, offers the roses of the prairie. The orchestra then shows the beautiful talent of our little musicians. [... ...]

The Indians want to take an active part in the celebration. A nice address, composed by Joe Devine, and read by Mr. Harry Big Throat. As a token of their gratitude, they have contributed to the purchase of a beautiful chalice which is presented by Chris Shade. [... ...]

September 3, 1945 - page 143

We open our doors wide to all our dear students who come to receive the bread of material and spiritual science.

September 21, 1945 - page 144

Reverend Father Plourde, Superintendent General of Indian Affairs in Ottawa, comes to visit us. He takes a list of everything we need and promises to be our eloquent intermediary to obtain what we ask for.

October 17, 1945 - page 145

Dr. Key and his nurse Mrs. Creighen visit the children.

October 26, 1945 - page 146

We have a very short visit today from Mr. Allan of Indian Affairs in Ottawa and Mr. P. Schmidt of Calgary, Inspector of agencies. Mr. Allan's visit has nothing to do with schools, but as he is to hold a meeting of the reserve Indians at Stand Off, he was anxious not to pass so near an Indian school without visiting it.

October 26, 1945 - page 148

We are applying today for a scholarship of 200.00 given to students who wish to continue their education after being discharged. We are requesting this financial aid for Miss Albertine Big Throat who will be going to continue her grade nine with the Sisters of Providence at Midnapore.

November 7, 1945 - page 149

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Shade and his two daughters, Flora and Agnes, are having dinner here with the Rev. One of the two girls, Flora, a pupil of our school until she was fifteen years old, and since then a student of the Sisters of Providence at Midnapore, comes with her family to greet the Sisters, her former teachers and to say hello to her companions before she entered the Sisters of Providence. She is 19 years old. Her father, one of our good Catholics, is also one of the most prosperous farmers on the reserve and enjoys a good income. He had promised to pay the balance of the cost of the chalice presented to Rev. Father Levern, at his jubilee. He has just fulfilled his promise by paying the sum of \$40.00.

This act of generosity, added to our prayers, will help his daughter to persevere in her vocation.

November 12, 1945 - page 150

At ten o'clock in our chapel the service of Kenneth Eagle Plume, son of Willie Eagle Plume, was sung.

November 28, 1945 - page 151

The children held a session in honor of Father Charron, Principal of the school. They performed a rather short program, but made up of small, well-chosen pieces. The offering of the bouquet was a very ingenious piece which the younger children rendered in a remarkable manner. Father Principal, in his speech, thanked very warmly all those who, in one way or another, had some role to play. He rightly emphasized the English pronunciation, which is noteworthy. Present at

the performance were Rev. Mother Mann, Prov. Sup., Mr. Pugh, Reserve Officer and Mrs. Pugh, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Coady.

December 14, 1945 - pages 154-155

The school boys are going to play a game of hockey at Pincher Creek. Up to the last period of the game, our little Indians had the one-point advantage. But, thanks to a moment of inattention by our team's goalkeeper, the opponents managed to tie the score. The overtime period was fatal for our students who had to admit their defeat. In spite of their disappointment, they were proud to put on for the first time the beautiful black and yellow uniforms that we provided them.

In keeping with a custom that is already a few years old, sixteen members of the Cardston Rotary Club, with one of their own dressed as Santa Claus in their midst, came out this evening to distribute candy to the children. The event is always eagerly awaited. The children want the candies and the sight of the old Santa Claus amuses them a lot. The little box that is given to each one may not be a cornucopia, but it nevertheless shows an interest that we are touched by. A small sketch of about twenty minutes, given by the children, and during which the members of the Club made hear some of their songs, accompanied this distribution.

December 23, 1945 - page 155

Concert for parents of children at two o'clock this afternoon. The Indians were very few in number, but those who were present appreciated what the school is doing for the education of Indian youth.

December 25, 1945 - pages 156-157

The Indians came in greater numbers than ever to the midnight mass. Rev. Father Charron congratulated them warmly and we were able to see for ourselves by the coordination that had to be made to place everyone in a rather large church. Almost everyone took Holy Communion at midnight mass, a credit to our Catholics. Everything was done in the most perfect order. No cases of drunkenness were noted. Almost everyone also spent the night at the school with the intention of hearing the day's mass, but also to be able to bring their children, whose vacation begins immediately with the stripping of the Christmas tree of its presents and the distribution of gifts. At one o'clock everyone was in the recreation room. The Reverend Father Principal had the thoughtfulness to invite a few notables to speak. Some spoke in their own language, others in English. The chatter and shouts of the children overpowered the speakers' voices so well that we had difficulty understanding everything. However, they expressed their appreciation for the school staff dedicated to the education of the children.

January 25, 1946 - page 159

Mary White Man Sleeps, a child of the school and now fourteen years old, is giving up her soul to God. At home for the past year, she has had tuberculosis and has been in great pain for several weeks.

January 31, 1946 - page 160

As a reward for their efforts to speak English, the girls were allowed to go to the hockey game being played at Macleod between the Blood and Blackfoot teams. The boys, who seemed to show little interest in mastering English and were even refractory to the efforts they were asked to make, had to stay home, much to their regret. Will the lesson help them?

February 13, 1946 - page 161

Sister Dorilla Simard has just returned from Edmonton where she successfully passed her Normal School exams. She will replace Sister Gabrielle Simard in the beginners' class.

February 26, 1946 - page 162

Sister Superior organized this evening what could be called a "reward evening" for those who, during the last few weeks, have shown the most docility in the English conversation campaign. Our Sisters Alice Houle, Aurée Corriveau and Françoise Côté lent a hand. Card games, songs and music were on the program. Ice cream and cake were served and all retired enchanted.

February 22, 1946 - page 163

Rose Big Head having reached the age of dismissal, leaves this afternoon for Glenwood where her parents reside.

April 12, 1946 - page 166

Agnes Black Rabbit is discharged and is going to her mother's house today.

April 18, 1946 - page 167

At today's Mass, Holy Thursday, there was the First Communion of 26 of the children of the school; twelve little boys and fourteen little girls. Prepared for a long time by Fr. Levern, these children must have received Christ in a pure soul and well aware of the great act that is a first communion. According to the custom, they are served a banquet in their classroom decorated for the occasion. Everything is done so that they will remember for a long time the great day when they received communion for the first time.

May 3, 1946 - page 168

Mr. Pugh brings in Mr. Gooderham, the new inspector of Indian agencies. Mr. Gooderham has been replacing Mr. Schmidt since the early days of March, when the latter was retired.

May 12, 1946 - page 170

Mother's Day. In order to give a certain glow to this feast, and to root more deeply in the hearts of our students the love of their mothers, it was thought appropriate to repeat for the Indians the concert given in honor of Sister Superior. The Indians came in great numbers for this occasion.

May 14, 1946 - pages 170-171

Mr. Yule, Inspector of Schools for the St. Mary's River District, who has succeeded Mr. Evenson, begins today the examination of the classes in our school.

The all-Catholic film "The Bells of St. Mary's" being played at the Cardston Theatre, Rev. Father Charron, Principal, had reserved the room for the school staff this afternoon. More than seventy-five students, the Rev. Father, Brothers, and a dozen Sisters went to see this play, which despite this staging of priests, nuns, religion, remains on the screen for a week in an almost entirely Mormon environment. Apart from this religious character, the play is worth seeing. Many good lessons to be learned. In any case, it is all pure, and it is from this purity that the public tires least.

May 21, 1946 - page 171

Ball game between the Cardston team and the school team. As the teams are about equal in value, there was no victory. Points, 2 to 2.

May 24, 1946 - page 172

Victoria Day. In order to make the children enjoy themselves, a beautiful program was organized for the day. There was a lot of cooperation among the Sisters and each one had a part in the program. First, dinner was taken at the pond, then games of all kinds in the afternoon where Father Principal had to give thirteen dollars as prizes. Finally, in the evening, there was a ball game between the girls and the middle school boys. It was an ideal day off.

June 3, 1946 - page 173

The holiday promised by Father Principal on the occasion of Sister Superior's feast day on May 10 was taken today. The day was splendid, warm enough and quite calm. This afternoon there was a game of softball between the girls' club and the boys' club. There could be no jealousy, for there was no victor. The score was 13 to 13. After supper, a good game of "bingo" ended the day.

June 13, 1946 - pages 173-174

Our two Sister Corriveau's students who have been prepared to take an examination for music, Miss Lina Heavy Sheild and Ruth Beebe, are going to Lethbridge today where the examiner from the Toronto Conservatory will receive them at Southminster United Church Hall.

June 26, 1946 - page 174

The awards were distributed and the parents were here in large numbers to attend and then to bring their children so happy to return for two months to their father's house. By eleven o'clock, with few exceptions, all have left.

July 21, 1946 - page 175

We are visited today by Dr. Stone from Ottawa and his son and a nurse from Edmonton, Mrs. O'Sullivan.

August 27, 1946 - page 184

Sister Dorilla Simard has returned from Edmonton. She was there from July 3 to August 13 attending summer school at the university. When she finished her courses, she made the last retreat at St. Albert, the one that could be called the students' retreat.

September 1, 1946 - page 186

Sunday! It is the day set for the return of the students to school. In the evening, very few of them answered the call: seven boys and eighteen girls. No one is surprised by this; it is the custom. Generally speaking, the entries are spread out until October. It is believed, however, that this year most of the children will be in school by the end of this week. The agent has threatened parents with the withdrawal of child allowances for school-aged children who will not be in school by the end of the first week. It is hoped that the threat will have its effect.

September 3, 1946 - page 186

Classes began this morning with about forty girls and twenty-two boys.

September 15, 1946 - page 188

A cherry-picking excursion is organized [1 word missing]. The "guides" of the girls' room are happy and now under the direction of my Sister Françoise Côté. Two Sisters accompanied them and they returned to us in the evening, all delighted with their delightful trip. The girls were very kind and the picking was also profitable.

September 16, 1946 - page 188

Father Girard began his physical training classes today. The young girls are fired with enthusiasm, as they are the first to benefit from the lessons. Father Principal, who likes to encourage all good initiatives, does not hesitate to buy slacks for the girls, at our request, in order to promote the various exercises of gymnastics. The older girls and boys will also have their two weekly teaching periods.

September 22, 1946 - pages 188-189

To stimulate English conversation among the students and to encourage them in this practice so fruitful for their future, a party was organized this evening in which only the girls took part. Whist was the beautiful pastime of the evening, followed by a small snack. Before saying good night and going to sleep with a happy heart, each one chose a song according to her taste, which all the voices enjoyed harmonizing.

October 14, 1946 - page 191

To celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, the boys, in spite of the snowstorm that was almost blinding them, did not refuse to go on an adventure on the prairie, riding their horses. Father Girard accompanied them. In the evening, they went to Cardston to enjoy a beautiful and lively film. Some of the girls also went there, but for the "ladies" the green car was put at their disposal.

November 3, 1946 - page 193

Our Indians are important today. The Chiefs, councillors and interested parties are meeting to make their suggestions and present their requests to the government through Rev. Father Charron, Principal, who is called to Ottawa to deal with the question of improvement and progress in the administration of Indian affairs.

Here is an outline of their requests:

- (1) To add an extension so that all the children can come to school
- (2) To establish a High School
- (3) To have graduated teachers
- (4) That our children be allowed to go on leave twice a month in addition to any leave granted by the Alberta Department of Education.
- (5) That the ex-students be provided with the essential necessities to start a career.

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

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