

**PAA - PR1971.0220/2503**

[Most of the information recorded in volume III of the codex relates to the ministry of the Oblate Fathers and activities at the mission church. Very little information on the school.]

**November 18, 1940** - page 8

This noon, the authorities realize that there are 4 boys gone. Where are they? Nescio. Desertions have increased since the departure of Fr. Lessard. Last week, it was the girls who escaped. There is certainly a lack of supervision and bad tactics on the part of those in charge.

**November 28, 1940** - page 10

H. Laprise will drive four girls to Bassano.

**December 17, 1940** - page 13

The Agent comes to post that the reserve is in quarantine for the whooping cough. Fr. Riou is happy; there will be no midnight mass for the Indians.

**January 8, 1941** - page 16

The children are still held back at the school because of the flu and measles on the reserve. They return to the classroom, as no one is sick.

**January 13, 1941** - page 17

The flu is in full swing in the parish and on the reserve. There are even cases of measles, among others, Albert Gibeau, juniorist in Edmonton who could not return on Jan. 8 as agreed, the entry being on the 9th.

**January 14, 1941** - page 18

Influenza and measles are in the parish. Almost all the children are sick, and some of the older ones have also caught the flu, e.g., Fr. Riou.

**January 22, 1941** - page 19

Several children in the school have the beginning of the flu.

**13 February 1941** - page 22

There is almost no more illness in the parish. Still some cases of measles on the reserve however.

**April 16, 1941** - page 30

Mr. A. Doucet, official of the Indian Department, arrives at the school. Mr. Gooderham accompanies him. He is to spend the rest of the week with us. His purpose is to give courses in

agriculture and carpentry in order to make education among the Indians more practical. There is certainly a lot to do here, in this respect.

**May 8, 1941** - page 34

The farmer and the children finish planting potatoes.

**May 25, 1942** - page 38

Reunion of the former students of the Indian School. Dinner under the chairmanship of Simon Big-Snake, races under the direction of Fr. Adrien Charron, moving pictures at 4 p.m. and a dance for old and young in the evening - to the sound of drums.

Visit of Mr. Alphonse Doucet with Mons. Shmidt & Gooderham.

**October 4, 1942** - page 39

Retreat for the children of the Indian School by Father O'Dea, pastor of St. Family's parish in Calgary.

**January 11, 1943** - page 39

Adrien Charron inaugurates a "steam bath" at the Indian School. Children and staff enjoy it with profit.

**June 15, 1943** - page 39

Banquet & games organized by the former students.

**June 22, 1943** - page 40

Adrien Charron leaves for his annual retreat and for his new post at Cardston where he will study the Blackfoot language under the direction of Father Levern, OMI. The children and Sisters bid him a fond farewell and thanked him for his dedication to them - especially for the physical exercises for the children.

**May 1, 1944** - 41

With the permission of the Father Principal, Father A. Tétreault organizes the Apostolate of Prayer among the children of the Indian School in the small classroom, under the direction of Sister Kilian.

**October 11, 1944** - page 43

[Father Riou's Golden Jubilee].

At 2:00 p.m., small concert, wishes and song by Indian children, speeches in English by Fr. Principal, in Blackfoot by Simon Big Snake, in Blackfoot and English by the jubilarian and in English by Msgr. Jos Corbeil presented an address and a bursary of \$50.00 and Simon Big Snake a bursary of \$56.00 in the name of the reserve. The Oblates of Cluny and the Sisters offered him a chair. Ten teepees were raised in the boys' yard. About one hundred and fifty Indians attended the little concert. At five o'clock, all the fathers and abbots left us and at dusk the Blackfoot dispersed.

**January 24, 1945** - page 45

Audrey Calf Child and Doreen Running Rabbit began teaching catechism in Blackfoot to about ten children to help prepare them for their first communion.

**July 24, 1945** - page 48

The Indians and school employees along with the Fathers and Sisters gather this afternoon for a farewell session for Father Principal. An address was read by Elizabeth Red Gun, a farewell address was given by Simon Big Snake. This was followed by an afternoon snack for everyone.

**September 22, 1953** - page 68

Most of the children have returned. More than 170 boarders and about 20 day students. The school is filled to capacity.

**December 22, 1953** - page 72

Mr. Waller, Provincial Inspector of Indian Schools, visits the school. The same evening, the children leave for home.

**January 7, 1954** - page 74

Our children return to school after the Christmas vacations. There are 204 children admitted to our school.

**February 28, 1954** - page 74

Three Indian children, who attend the day school in Gleichen, make their first communion in the school chapel.

**April 5 to 8, 1954** - page 75

Federal government Inspector Mr. Waller visited the Indian schools in Alberta. He took note of the work of the children in the woodworking and home economics classes in the village of Cluny.

He recognized the need to expand the school. A new building will be added to the school during the year 1954.

**April 19, 1954** - page 76

Banquet in the afternoon for the winners of the Indian hockey team. They won the trophy over all the teams from the West and the N. W. T. More than 110 Indians attend the party.

**May 19, 1954** - page 77

Feast of our Father Principal. Fr. Charron, omi. The children of the school give an evening of singing. The next day, a day off for the children.

**25 June 1954** - page 78

It is the end of the school year. The children, after the reading of the notes and the distribution of the prizes, leave joyfully for the summer vacations.

**September 7, 1954** - page 79

Classes open. Girls 110; boys 71.

**March 4, 1955** - page 81

Brother Pitre, omi, is coming to live with us and he will be in charge of the older boys. On the occasion of the opening of the new school, the Principal divided the boys into two groups. The little ones will be under the care of the Sisters.

**May 9, 1955** - page 82

The Provincial Inspector of Schools, Mr. Holeman, spent three days at the school to examine the classes.

**May 27, 1955** - page 82

An army officer inspects the cadet corps composed of boys and girls of the school. It is a real success.

**June 28, 1955** - page 83

Reading of the notes and distribution of the prizes. The teacher of the woodworking class sets up an exhibition of the objects made by the boys of the school.

**September 3, 1955** - page 85

The school opens its doors to 210 Indian children for the new school year. There are seven classrooms, a shop to teach the children woodworking and a room for sewing and cooking. Two Sisters, a man and four ladies teach the classes.

**November 15, 1955** - page 86

Reverend Father Renaud, omi, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Ottawa, stays five days with us to give our children exams. He takes advantage of this time to give conferences to the Sisters and teachers.

**January 3, 1956** - page 90

The children returned to school to resume classes.

**April 25, 1956** - page 92

Mr. Holman, Inspector of schools in our district. He says his joy and satisfaction about the school.

**May 8, 1956** - page 93

The school's Cadet Corps receives the army officers. Indian tents erected; the mounted police and a crowd of Indians attend review.

**June 27, 1956** - page 93

Here we are again on summer vacation. At 9 o'clock in the morning, a mass of thanksgiving sung by Father A. Poulin, OMI. During the day, parents and friends visited the domestic science class, the woodwork shop and all the objects on display. At 2 p.m., reading of notes by Rev. Father Adrien Charron, OMI. The reading of the promotions to the higher grades finished, the Reverend Father distributed the prizes to the first of class. The Rev. Father reiterates to the children his sorrow to leave the school. Obedience calls him; he will go, but his heart will remain among his dear Blackfoot.

**March 19, 1957** - page 99

The Rev. Father Principal wanted to make the patronal feast of the school the feast of authority. The day began with a high mass in honor of St. Joseph. The children gave a concert and in the evening a banquet was served by the reverend Sisters. The Indian Agent and all the Indian Councillors of the reserve were invited.

**April 4, 1957** - page 99

C. H. Kester, Federal Inspector of Schools, accompanied by J. R. Wild, toured the classrooms and the school.

**May 15, 1957** - page 99

Visit of the classrooms by Mr. Holman, Provincial Inspector of Schools.

**May 30, 1957** - page 100

Rev. Father Principal leads several contestants from our school to the Morley School Festival.

**June 3, 1957** - page 101

The inspection of the Cadet Corps at our school.

**January 3, 1958** - page 103

Return of the children to school.

**January 21, 1958** - page 103

Rev. Father A. Paradis, omi, preaches the 3-day retreat to our school children.

**February 2, 1958** - page 103

A sad accident happened at the school. A young Indian boy from the school was crushed under the wheels of the truck driven by one of our employees. The family has accepted the ordeal very well.

**March 25, 1958** - page 104

The federal inspectors arrived for the visit of the school.

**May 1, 1958** - page 104

32 children of the school made their first communion. It is a great celebration. The parents of the children come to the holy table and share the joy of their children.

**May 9, 1958** - page 104

Father Fortier, Principal, and Father Poulin, omi, accompanied about fifty children to a festival on the Morley Indian Reserve, near Banff. The children from the school outshined the children from the Protestant schools.

**May 10, 1958** - page 104

"Track Meet" at our school. Our children are less fortunate. Because of the large number of children from our school, the other schools were favored on point count from the beginning of the races.

**June 17, 1958** - page 105

The provincial Inspector of schools, Mr. Holman, spends 3 days with us. It is the visit of the classes.

**5 June 1959** - page 110

The first Friday of the month. 22 children of grade I made their 1st communion. The whole day was organized for an unforgettable celebration for these children.

**June 8-12, 1959** - page 110

Rev. Father M. McMahon, omi, preached the retreat to the children in the higher grades of the school. The children enjoyed the spiritual exercises.

**September 2, 1959** - page 111

The school reopened. 286 children including 200 boarders.

**January 3, 1961** - page 119

Opening of the classes. Few children arrive for the first day.

**January 17, 1961** - page 120

Father Fortier, omi, with a lot of patience and perseverance, finally gathered all the students of the higher grades. After Christmas, they all wanted to drop out of school, saying they were incapable of doing these high studies. One young man and one young girl decided to get married; the others returned to school.

**April 21, 1961** - page 121

The children of our school are participating in the Calgary white school festival. The Fathers went to Calgary to accompany the children. The children won a trophy.

**May 1, 1961** - page 122

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker and feast of the authority. A banquet after high mass was served to all the school personnel and the Blackfoot tribal councillors.

**May 11, 1961** - page 122

Ascension Day: 25 Blackfoot children made their first communion and were received into the brotherhood of the Scapular of Mount Carmel.

**May 21, 1961** - page 122

At the request of Father Couture, omi, the T. V. station received our children for a singing concert. This is an excellent way to make our Indians known.

**March 19, 1962** - page 126

Feast of St. Joseph, patron saint of our school. [...] The children have a class break for the occasion.

**June 14, 1962** - page 128

Great reception at our school. For the first time, we have students who have graduated at grade 12. Second year. Miss Christine Sleigh, Marie Rabbit Carrier, Leonard Good Eagle, Andrew Bear Robe, James Good Eagle.

**June 17, 1962** - page 128

In keeping with Cluny custom, the kindergarteners give a concert and receive their graduation certificates.

**June 28, 1962** - page 128

Distribution of prizes. Rev. Fathers Latour & Couture, omi, give the class notes to the children and distribute their rewards.

Then the Principal gives good advice to the children before they leave for their vacation.

**June 30, 1962** - page 129

All children leave for their homes.

**March 31, 1963** - page 132

Our school girls, after hearing mass, have the reception of those who are part of the Guides. The ceremony takes place in the new room which serves as the girls' gymnasium. Miss Fitzgerald and Mrs. Park are in charge of this group.

We also have the 4-H Club for the older children.

The boys have a scout group and a cadet corps. The inspection took place this spring.

**September 3, 1963** - page 137

Classes opened. 110 boarders, 197 day students.

**May 4, 1964** - page 142

Inspection of the Cadets. Several guests. Successful despite the rain.

**May 8, 1964** - page 142

Parents' Day. Visit of the classes and of the works exhibited. Great success. Meeting in the hall and presentation by Mr. Murray to Fr. Latour of a certificate won by the school in a contest on fire prevention.

**May 10, 1964** - page 142

Banquet for the parents of the students of Grade IX, XII in gratitude for the benefits received, preceded by a mass, etc.

**June 14, 1964** - page 143

Exhibition of various objects made by the students. Many visitors, whites and Indians, admired the talent of our children.

**June 30, 1964** - page 143

The students leave. End of the year. Despite some disappointments, we have reason to see some success.

**September 1, 1964** - page 146

Opening of the classes. Only 120 children.

**December 8, 1964** - page 147

In the evening, a meeting organized by the parents to honor Sister Rose who has been working here for more than twenty years. A very beautiful evening, rich in historical memories.

**December 21, 1964** - page 147

Christmas concert. Much more successful than last year. Large number of parents and guests. This is encouraging.

**January 7, 1965** - page 148

Classes start again. Few students.

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