

Chronicles of Providence St. Joseph
Blackfoot Crossing (Cluny). Alberta
September 1899 to July 1943 (first book)

PAA - PR1971.0220/2582 (this file covers the years 1899 to 1909)

December 25, 1899 - page 4

Christmas Day will forever be a good souvenir in our annals. We had midnight mass. Our little chapel was decorated with its most beautiful flowers to celebrate the coming of the Messiah. We attended the three masses and sang the appropriate carols. The celebration was enhanced by mandolin solos performed by a young lady from Gleichen. Two hundred Indians came to the special invitation extended to them by the Reverend Father. After the mass, we served them an excellent snack that they had been looking forward to since eight o'clock in the evening.

January 10, 1900 - page 4

On January 10, Reverend Father Danis arrived at the head of some Indians who had come to give us their children, as they express themselves, this circumstance is always very solemn; the parents always have many recommendations to make concerning their children. These dear little ones arrived to us all joyful, wrapped in blankets, in spite of their inconceivable uncleanness, we already loved them a lot.

January 25, 1900 - page 5

January 25th will be forever memorable in our annals. We received the visit of His Grace Bishop Emile Legal who came to solemnly open our boarding school and give a special blessing to the apartments intended for the classes. His Grace is accompanied by Reverend Father Leduc from St. Albert and Reverend Father Lemarchand from Calgary. On this magnificent occasion, we had a pontifical mass, a sermon in English and in the Indian language given by His Grace. Immediately after the ceremony, we served a large dinner to the guests who numbered 25 whites and 300 Indians who had come from all the camps to meet Bishop Legal and enjoy the meal that was offered to them.

March 25, 1900 - page 5

On March 25, we received for the first time the visit of the Commissioner. This gentleman, having visited the house, expressed his deep satisfaction at having admired the cleanliness and the most complete order everywhere. What convinced him the most about the good regime we are making the children follow was the good state of their health. A few days after his visit, he sent us the approval to receive twenty-five children, which is a great sign of his complete satisfaction.

July 1900 - pages 11-12

Our little boarding school with 17 students gives us much consolation; the good Lord is willing to bless our efforts, for these dear children are already under the influence of Christian education. They are attached and submissive to us. We have taught them the prayers of the rosary in both languages which they recite aloud every morning during the offering of the holy sacrifice of the mass and several hymns in their language which we make them sing at the Sunday high mass, the assistance being generally numerous, but not always recollected.

September 19, 1900 - pages 12-13

On September 19, the feast of our Reverend and good Father brought a ray of happiness to our dear boarding school. On this occasion, the children held a small performance, consisting of songs, gymnastic exercises, festive wishes, all in English. Nearly 50 people were able to find a place in our small meeting room decorated with several beautiful inscriptions for the occasion. This entertainment enchanted everybody and made us enjoy the esteem and the benevolence of all the inhabitants of this region.

August 1, 1900 - page 13

August 1st. The examination of the class was presided over by Reverend Father Danis, assisted by Reverend Father Lépine and the whole community. These poor children were so seized with the majesty of so many examiners and all the prizes consisting of picture books, devotional books, rosaries, penknives, pins, toys, that we could hardly hear a sigh in answer to the question addressed to them. The examination ended as always with the distribution of the awards, a few words of congratulation, the prizes being valued at 60 cents.

January 19, 1902 - page 18

On January 19, we had the sorrow of losing one of our students, little Stephen, who was about ten years old and belonged to idolatrous parents who had nevertheless entrusted him to our care. One day, the child fell ill and could not get up again, and he had to be brought back to his family where he lived for another two months, not failing, in spite of his extreme weakness, to come to mass every Sunday, even the one before his death. He was [page 19 is missing] ...

July 1902 - page 24

The day after the retreat, our two visitors talk about leaving, but we want to give my Sister Cyr a little pleasure trip, so we make preparations for a picnic. Where we stop is a beautiful wood, and there are cherries in abundance. What was our surprise, when, advancing in the wood, we saw several tents in which were the corpses of Indians and all that had served for their use during their life; we saw others hanging in the trees.

November 2, 1902 - page 26

On November 2, we had the pain of seeing little Joseph die after three days of illness, paralysis of the brain. He was 7 years old and belonged to one of our recently converted Christian families. They seemed quite resigned in spite of the sorrow they had. His father especially, who said to my Sister Superior: "I know how much trouble you have gone through to bring my child back to health, I am satisfied with you; as for him, I know that he is in heaven, that is what consoles me. As a sign of my affection for him, go," he said to the Reverend Father, "to Calgary and buy a beautiful coffin", which cost him 20 dollars. When it was time to take him to the cemetery, his mother asked that the coffin be opened. Grieving, she told my Sister Superior to cut her hair and place her braid over her child's heart. This is the greatest sign that a poor Indian woman can express her deep sorrow; there are those who cut off the tip of their finger, but this one, being a Christian, was forbidden to do so and she obeyed.

December 1902 - pages 27-28

In the month of December, the chicken pox enters the reserve which is quarantined until the month of April. In the middle of January, my Sister Superior was called to go and exercise her zeal in the midst of the children diagnosed with chicken pox who were gathered in the old Protestant school. We regret to see this dear Mother leave, fearing for her too much fatigue.

During her stay, she was very edified by the respect that was shown to her, and especially for the moments that she did her pious exercises, a perfect silence reigned in the room. If the papooses dared to make their little voices heard, immediately they were wrapped in the mother's blanket.

When she finished her exercises, she invited them to pray with her in Blackfoot and to her great surprise, the men would uncover their head and all repeat the prayers after her. Then the little children would gather around her to hear her talk about heaven and they all seemed to take great interest in the few words she could explain to them in their language. [... ...]

During this month, we have the sorrow of seeing one of the little girls, aged six, die after a few days of illness.

April 1903 - page 28

After three weeks of meningitis, we had the pain of seeing one of the little boys die, aged seven. He was the flower of the school, handsome, intelligent, and seemed to have all the qualities. During his illness, his parents wanted to take him home, but he would not leave, and it was only a few days before his death that they were able to bring him. During his illness, he kept repeating these words: "I want to go to heaven, I do not want to return to health, I want to go to heaven." He was anointed on Good Friday and on Holy Saturday his ardent desire was fulfilled and he flew to heaven. Our hearts were a little swollen at the thought that God had chosen, in addition to our little boy, four of our freshest little flowers during the year.

May 1903 - page 29

That same day, in the midst of our rejoicing, we learned that Mr. McKenna, Commissioner of the Department of Ottawa, was in Gleichen and was to visit our school. Immediately, we had to interrupt our holiday to receive him. We gave him the most beautiful reception and he seemed to be in our favor. We hope that his visit will give us good results.

July 1903 - page 31

To dissipate our boredom and to console the children, we went camping for a few weeks. There, we lead the Indian life. We live in tents, we pick wild fruits and make bannock in their way. In the evening, by the fire that lights us, we sing their songs and we show them ours, which amuses them a lot.

October 15, 1903 - pages 35-36

On October 15, we were honored with a visit from Mr. McGibbon, a government employee who seemed delighted with our school and the children. When he left, he promised the little Indians that he would send them some nice things and he kept his word. What they received with applause, shouts of joy, cheers: Hip! Hip! Hurrah!

December 25, 1903 - page 37

Fourteen Indians and two couples of white people attend midnight mass. We sing hymns in French, in English, in Blackfoot. Seven of the children have the pleasure of kneeling at the Holy Table with us. We gave Christmas Eve to the Indians who attended the mass. It was a great joy for them. Especially the next morning, when the children saw the beautiful Christmas tree. Shouts of joy could be heard when the toys were distributed. Never have we heard such noise and seen people happier than they were.

July 1904 - page 41

As in previous years, we went camping with the children during the vacations. Almost every day we made long walks to pick wild fruit and passed through a wood in which the Indians lay many of their dead; some tied to trees, others simply wrapped in their blankets and laid on the ground. They do not bury them.

Christmas 1904 - page 43

We gave a large meal to the Indians who did not fail to come to church. They had been asking my Sister Superior for this favor for a long time, pointing out to her that the Minister grants them this favour every year. She finally gave in to their wishes. Our Agent was kind enough to provide us with meat and flour. We had prepared full bowls of meat, potatoes, turnips and plums and nothing was left.

1905 - page 44

[In the margin: Big Snake Children] We received four girls and one boy; two of them came by necessity and the little boy too. Their father had to go to prison and the Reverend Father promised them that he would intercede for them if they brought us their children; so, they gave them to us.

July 11, 1905 - page 47

The girls being dearer to the Indian parents, for the sad reason that on the occasion of their marriage, they receive a good number of horses from the new son-in-law; because of this, I say, the arrival of one of them at the school is a remarkable event. Lucy [in the margin: Lucy Only Chief Running] who was brought to us today is only 4 years old, she is very small, skinny, scrofulous, but quite intelligent. Since she arrived at the beginning of the year, let us hope that we will have several more.

August 24, 1905 - page 49

Visit of the school by Mr. Inspector Markle. Quite a brilliant examination. Good report in our favor. Mr. Markle is a Protestant.

November 21, 1905 - page 51

... our pretty little Stephen, 4 years old. Having been very ill in danger of losing both legs, he was promised to us if he came back. So, another one more, God be blessed.

Christmas 1905 - page 51

The ceremony of the midnight mass is grandiose. The church is filled, contrary to the usual, because afterwards we give the cookies with tea. Where there is food, there is happiness. Poor Indians! Arrived for the majority around 4 pm, they wait there until the time of the mass.

March 11, 1906 - page 52

Finally, after two years of waiting, here is the beautiful Cecile who arrives to us. Brown-haired, it goes without saying, but very pretty Indian girl, beautiful black eyes, large and brilliant. Out of five children, she is the only girl; that is why her departure from the tent has cost Mr. and Mrs. Big Snake so much.

April 5, 1906 - page 53

Trip to Gleichen. Five wagons leave the school this morning. Why this procession? Ah! we are going to see Prince Arthur, nephew and ambassador of his majesty Edward VII. [... ...]

May 7, 1906 - page 54

A new kind of celebration in a convent: a wedding. We are marrying our two oldest children: Vincent and Emilia. They go to confession, take communion and are married. The ceremony is done in Blackfoot, followed by a sung mass. The Reverend Father Riou is present at the lunch with the head Chief. They do things well, although a little embarrassed...

May 28, 1906 - pages 54-55

[Arrival of Theresa and Albert - photocopy of the text is illegible].

June 28, 1906 - page 55

Visit of the agent Mr. Sibble for the examination which was rather brilliant. A Protestant himself, he tells us that our children are better disciplined than those from the other school. He is most kind and gracious to us.

July 12, 1906 - page 57

This year we are a fortnight ahead of last year. We are leaving to go camping, boys and girls, far away from home and in quite opposite directions. At the boys' camp, they make the hay we will need for our animals next winter, we have as our driver and director, the Reverend Father Lépine, which gives us the advantage of hearing holy mass every day and of taking holy communion when we wish, and that in the open air, it is superb.

July 14, 1906 - pages 57-58

The hay being scarce around the tents, we have to change their place; this is what we do one evening after the work is done. Here we are at 9 o'clock in the evening, packing up to go and set up our tents four miles away. All the babies are asleep, we have six of them, our wagons are too full, we have to walk most of the time and yet we sing and laugh, there is nothing more attractive for the children: a walk in the moonlight, still superb! Besides, what would we have gained by quarrelling?

December 24, 1906 - page 63

This evening, everything looks good. Our Christians arrive early for confession and Holy Communion at midnight mass, 25 communicants. My sister Sophie accompanies the royal mass which is sung by the boys and the girls alternately, it is very pretty. When we left the church, at 2 o'clock, we take the Christmas Eve and after having put the children in bed, who fall asleep very quickly, we make the distribution of the Christmas gifts. Santa Claus had brought to each one a big stocking containing, for the boys, a penknife, mouth music, religious medallion, orange and candies; for the girls, with the sugar was a pair of scissors, loop of ribbon, beads. Imagine if with this we could sleep in the morning. We went to bed at 4 am and had to get up at 6 am because of the noise. The day started so well and continued well. The fact of seeing the children happy made us very happy.

December 27, 1906 - page 63

Big dinner. Including the children, we gave food to 300 Indians. All of us, we join in to help, it is drudgery in the kitchen.

January 1907 - pages 63-64

The cold that began last November does not stop. The children are sick one after the other. They cough, have the chicken pox, four: three boys and a girl have a pleurisy at the same time. They are seriously ill. Henry, 16 years old, also has pneumonia; we think he is going to die. We have to stay with him all the time; he is delirious and wants to go out. This gives us a lot of work; fortunately, we had Reverend Father Riou to help us. He watches over him and stays with him during meals and all the time he can spare.

27 January 1907 - page 64

Great and sad surprise. Rose, whom we knew to be ill, no doubt, but not in danger, leaves us for a better world, let us hope. The Reverend Father Riou, who had anointed her on the 25th, thought he had brought forward the hour of extreme unction by at least two weeks, and now, without being surprised, death has taken her away from the affection of Benedict, who has had her for only two months. She was only seventeen years old. Her parents, who had only her left, were mad with grief. And, poor Indians, no consolation any of those that our holy religion gives; they are pagans.

March 19, 1907 - page 66

[John Drunken Chief, in danger of death, is cured by the care of the sisters] On this occasion Louise, his wife, has sacrificed to us her little 2½ year old Clarisse, and has promised us her baby when she is 2 years old also. We have four of her children in school.

July 2, 1907 - page 69

Right away, at the beginning of the chronicle year, we receive a little Indian boy of 4 years old, Francis Black is half Blackfoot, half Cree.

July 16, 1907 - page 69

Today it is Paulus Good Eagle, 12 years old, who becomes master of himself and comes to school. As always, by the way, the mother must bend to his will, for he has said, "I am

staying"... May he be as firm when it comes to saying, "I am a Christian and I am staying." He is the brother of Joseph whom you already know.

April 5, 1908 - page 74

Still boys, two more today. George and Peter Crowfoot, 7 and 5 years old. Intelligent and pretty children for one who is used to Indians of course.

April 25, 1908 - pages 74-75

Certainly, there are some good souls who pray for the Blackfoot, for they are too generous. Another one gives us his boy and he is still a pagan, so the conquest is greater for us. We will call him Marc when he knows what it is to be baptized, we will have to teach him before, because he is 10 years old. Let us say in passing that he is the brother of little Léontine whom our Mother General and Mother Bénédicte know.

10 June 1908 - page 75

Today we fulfill our promise in honor of St. Mark. After the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the ceremony of the baptism of Marc, for whom my Sister Superior is responsible, takes place in our little chapel. We have received eight of them since last July; isn't that beautiful?

June 29, 1908 - page 75

Why did everyone wake up so cheerful this morning? Yes, but yesterday was the patronal feast of our Reverend Father Superior and today is a holiday. We have fun and rest on the banks of the river with our 40 students who know better than any other civilized people how to have fun.

March 1909 - page 79

We have had a lot of work during the last three months. Fifteen children have had measles, two have died and the others have been slow to recover. A great number of Indians, children and adults, have died this winter, and they are disappearing at a rapid rate.

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July 1909 - page 84

Haying. There is nothing and no one like an Indian. Never excited, never preoccupied, to each day is enough trouble, a perfect model of trust in God. With such thoughts, and such people (not being able to have others), we get to work. Enjoying the camp and therefore the vacation at the same time, we will cut as much hay as we need for the wintering of the animals. Imagine six long weeks to cut fifty hay trips; so, no one is tired and the children think they are important. Slowly, but surely, I hope it will be so with their conversion. Poor Indians, how they are anchored in their superstitions.

July 1909 - page 85

Peter. We hope he has gone to a better world, for in the eight years since he was baptized he has been faithful to our holy beliefs and has been a model and guardian to our school children. I hope that in heaven he will remember his poor blind brothers.

October 1909 - page 86

We already have the cold of winter and according to the children's dispositions, we are in winter for good, they are all in perfect health and able to face six months of snow and wind, sure that they will have something to eat, because we have so many vegetables of all kinds that we don't know where to put them and yet the cellar is very big. I hope that the good Lord will preserve us from illness this winter.

November 25, 1909 - pages 86-87

Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are. We live with beings who believe they were created only for natural pleasures; we do a little like them, though we are very careful to sacrifice our intentions beforehand. We celebrate St. Catherine's Day. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Maynard, our Cluny merchant, we have plenty of taffy and candy, and therefore it is a matchless affair for the children, but for us, our greatest joy is to see them happy; is it not maternal and therefore permissible to amuse ourselves thus. What do you think about it?

December 10, 1909 - page 87

Tenth anniversary of the foundation of the house. What beginnings, but finally, all that has passed and my Sister Superior, who was a foundress, forgets all that she suffered to remind us that the good side of the medal at that time was very bright. The good Lord never lets Himself be defeated in generosity, she tells us, let us thank Him for all that He has done for us. We see little good done, but we always hope, our former students are dissipated, but they are more to be pitied than blamed. They come and confess that they are not what they should be, but you don't know what it is, they add, you have to live, you have to do like the rest of the others! Poor children, if they knew the good parents we had, perhaps they would be better than we are, the good God has loved us more; He will ask much more of us than of them. Let's always hope, there is good in them.

Christmas 1909 - pages 87-88

Christmas! Christmas! is the cry that rings out. Because of the large population of Cluny, we have midnight mass. Few Indians, because the Reverend Father has invited only the Christians. Great solemn mass, general communion, we prayed better than ever. In the afternoon, the Christmas tree is stripped of its gifts, which, thanks to the charity of our Sisters and friends, is always well furnished. Happiness is unmixed, but too short-lived.

January 20, 1910 - pages 88-89

Having received gifts from some friends, my Sister Superior decided to buy a gramophone to entertain the children during the winter evenings, but a gramophone and a few pieces of music are boring; we need others, what shall we do? We'll ask the Indians; they all work, they sell a lot of coal at a high price, they have money. But begging among the Indians, do you think about it? They who believe that we must support them. Let's try. So here we are, not knowing what to expect, perhaps to be badly received, perhaps insulted. But no, instead of all that, we are

received with pleasure, we are led to all the corners of the mine, taking great care to warn us of the danger, so that we believe ourselves to be with others than Indians. We return home in the evening, less satisfied with the \$25 than with the "nice manners" of our Indians. May the good Lord bless them for their charity.

February 11, 1910 - page 89

Always something new at Blackfoot and something important new. This time it is a double wedding that I have to record. Our two great tall girls, Laura Blackface Chief and Pauline Sun Walk are united forever, the former to Joseph Good Eagle and the latter to Henry White Bull, two former students who have been gone two years. We are doing our best to make the celebration bright. We pray a lot for them first, then serve a good lunch and finally see them off perfectly happy. May they always be happy.

August 25, 1910 - pages 94-95

Great visit of the Hon. Mr. Scott, Superintendent of the Indian Department. He is accompanied by his lady, Mr. Inspector, Mr. Gooderham, Agent for the reserve, Dr. Lafferty, doctor of the reserve also. Mr. and Mrs. Scott had only one daughter who died three years ago, far from them, on vacation. Both are crushed under the weight of the ordeal; because of this, no doubt, Mr. Scott looks very cold at first, but one soon conceives a different opinion of him when one has known him. He showed himself most obliging and charmed, he told us, and of the reception and the keeping of the house, and of the dinner, etc. Although he was a Protestant, he admitted that in his many visits to the schools, he noticed that the Catholic schools were far superior to the others in every respect. He promised us the help of his influence in building a new house and more comfort in the meantime. There is a special Providence for the Sisters of Providence.

September 1, 1910 - page 95

Finally, we have to return home for class. Not very pleasant for the children. Long live the camp with its smoke, its bannock, its potatoes cooked under the ashes, but finally, one must make the sacrifice.

Christmas 1910 - page 98

Midnight mass, general communion, richly decorated Christmas tree, it is happiness everywhere, the children say in the evening: "Ah! Christmas is already over!"

January 22, 1911 - pages 98-99

Death of the Head Chief Running Rabbit. Baptized eight days ago, gone to heaven non-stop, lucky Indian, though I long for a better earned crown. Because he was the Head Chief, that is, out of consideration for "royalty," there was high mass, accompaniment, procession to the cemetery. The two surviving wives (he had had five at a time) were all in tears, barefoot, disheveled, calling him and lamenting. The children, wiser, do not follow the old customs; they only let their hair down and throw an old blanket on their shoulders. Three tricolored flags fly on the hillside of the cemetery as a sign of mourning. I hope the good Lord has received him into "our heaven," for he was a good Indian, always in favor of the missionaries.

February 5, 1911 - page 99

Five boys and four girls have the happiness of receiving our good God for the first time. Dear little Indians, they have faith and piety, how can they not live always with good guides, we pray well for each other, always hoping that at least some will be good Christians.

March 31, 1911 - page 99

Return of our Agent, Mr. J. H. Gooderham, from a long trip to Ottawa. In his honor we have a day off tomorrow.

June 20, 1911 - page 101

This evening we attended a nice performance given by the children in honor of the patronal feast of our Reverend Father Superior, Louis Levern; he seemed satisfied, thanked the children sincerely and made them very happy by giving them a treat of extra candy. The vigil goes on until ten o'clock, then everyone falls asleep peacefully while waiting for tomorrow's holiday.

July 16, 1911 - page 104

[The priest is absent: no mass.] In the afternoon, we went to the woods to pick saskatoons, a fruit similar to blueberries and so loved by the Indians. Should I say it? our students prefer a Sunday spent in this way than an employee at the church services, so true is it to say that, in spite of our constant efforts, they have a weak sense of faith.

August 20, 1911 - page 106

Departure of our three oldest pupils, Anthony, Lawrence and Joe. It had been ten years since they were in school, yet, in spite of their long stay, there is little to hope for, unless the good Lord performs some sort of miracle to keep them in His fear. Poor Indians! They seem good in the beginning and promise great hopes, but when they reach a certain age, the devil comes back, a painful change takes place and they often become worse than the others. It seems as if a curse hangs over this lazy and sensual nation. It is unfortunate never to have known the truth; but more unfortunate is he who, having known it, despises it. This is the case with our students. However, they keep a certain memory of the things they have learned and always respect and trust the priests and Sisters. What a strange being an Indian is!

August 1911 - page 106

For the first time, we let our boys go on vacation for two whole weeks. It is on a trial basis, the future will tell us if it is for a gain or a loss. For us, it will be a rest.

September 1911 - pages 106-107

Punctual as clocks. All at home for the opening of classes. Satisfied with their little vacation and happy to return. As for the girls, they cannot have the same privilege; however, a greater freedom to have fun and to be everywhere in the house makes them regret the return of the boys. They all like the new; that is why they are anxious to start their class again to get to know their new teacher, my Sister Ange Gardien.

November 5, 1911 - page 107

Visit of Inspector Mr. McKana, Irish Catholic. A snowstorm kept him here for three days. He is satisfied with everything.

November 16, 1911 - page 107

Payment of treaty to Indians. Our students are compensated like the others, \$5.00 per head; we receive about \$200.00.

December 25, 1911 - page 108

Christmas! Christmas! Enough snow to make beautiful roads. Our few Catholic Indians come to do their duty of confession and communion. Many others attend the feast. After the midnight mass, we serve a Christmas Eve party for the children and the other Indians. This is certainly what attracts them, since the next day some of them told us that we had not received them well, or rather, not paid them well for having come to our church. To come to church is to oblige us and they expect a reward. Look at their narrow-mindedness. My God! what is man without you?

January 2, 1912 - page 108

Visit from our new doctor, Mr. W. Rose.

January 15, 1912 - pages 109-110

Very cold, many sick people in the camp. A 20 year old boy, Alfred, who was dangerously ill at the Protestant school, asked for the favor of coming to the Sisters' school. He is going to die... he is granted it. He has a brother here, it seems to him that he will be better cared for. All the Indian medicines have been exhausted on him, they don't know what to do with him. The rumor comes that he is dead. Poor Alfred! to die so soon after having lived so badly! But, false news, he is not dead, since his brother has come to ask for his admission here. The answer was that we had no place or Sisters to take care of him, but that we would go and see him, which we did two days later. We found him near death and almost unable to carry him. When he saw us, he made a supreme effort to say, "I want to go to your house," and then an expression of confidence lit up his face. But, it is far, it is very cold, you can die on the way, we will send you food and medicine was our answer. He was very disappointed, but he accepted it. We returned to see him two days later. He couldn't take it anymore. "I'm going with you," he said, and while we went to see another patient, he got ready and sat with us in the wagon. He could hardly breathe. It was a Saturday night. Here everything was ready: warm room, good bed, etc. He was extremely tired from the seventeen-mile journey and almost died that evening. We were at his bedside several nights, but his pneumonia, by applying poultices, soon disappeared. His fever was high. He was not deceived; two weeks later, he returned perfectly recovered, with a completely different opinion of us than what he had been told at the Protestant school. He confessed during his illness and promised to be instructed in the truths of our holy religion. Now he preaches against the medicine of the Indians.

As payment for bringing Alfred back to health, we are brought his little niece, Maggie [Maggie Cat Face], whom we would otherwise never have had, because her father had given her to a very pagan uncle who wanted to tamper with her. A stroke of providence for this little one.

August 15, 1912 - page 117

Our boys having finished the haymaking, we let them go to their family for the rest of the holiday. We take advantage of their absence to put our poor clothes in order, which have also

deserved a vacation. Our girls do not have the same privilege, their mothers have not yet learned to watch them enough.

September 1, 1912 - page 118

It is indeed today that our pupils were to return to school, but there is, in Calgary (60 miles from here) an extraordinary exhibition of the Indians of the neighbouring reserves, dressed in their primitive costume, and, because of this, our good Father is granting another fortnight, which allows them to live the good old days. Dear old-timers, they greatly miss the freedom and independence of better times.

September 15, 1912 - page 118

Return of the students. They are more or less satisfied, not with their vacation, but with their return to school. Who would blame them? Is it not true for them, as it is for us, that there is no place like "Home". They are well received.

September 23, 1912 - pages 118-119

Mother Gamelin's feast day. Song at mass: O sweet Providence - I put my trust - English hymn. Everything announces a beautiful and sweet day, shared between prayer and joyful relaxation. But, all of a sudden, the excitement spreads in the house, the fire has been lit in the cellar. How did this happen? One of our older boys, tired of his long stay at school, got three other younger boys, who also missed the freedom of their long vacation, to get out by burning down the house. Fortunately, everything was discovered in time and we were left with a few buckets of water and a bit of fear. Thanks to our Mother Gamelin.

March 7, 1913 - page 122

Our communicant students, 21, also had a retreat preached by a Reverend Oblate Father who came from Winnipeg expressly for them. They showed themselves to be very submissive and well behaved during these three days. All went to confession and received Holy Communion, visibly happy and well with God.

June 24, 1913 - page 125

Today a young man barely twenty years old died, well prepared. He belonged to very superstitious parents and had himself been a child of the Protestant school. [He died of consumption.]

August 18, 1913 - page 127-128

The choice of a state of life is a serious thing for anyone who wants to realize it. The Indians are calm in this matter. It is a matter of this kind; the parents make the choice and the children have only to accept. The girl is usually exchanged for horses. No exception, even for our students. Two of our own, Julia and Jeanne, are engaged to two former students, Joseph (Little Chief) and Cyrille (Old Woman at War). The chapel is artistically decorated. At six o'clock, after being fed with the bread of the strong, the future bride and groom make their solemn promises. A short, but practical speech is given by Reverend Father Levern, after which the Holy Sacrifice is offered. Sisters and children joined in asking for graces and consolations for the couple. When Mass was over, my Sister Superior led them to the refectory where a delicious meal was served.

Then came the departure. Our hearts are clenched as we see them heading for a pagan reserve that is so corrupt.

December 25, 1913 - page 130

Christmas no longer has the enthusiasm of old among our Indians. It is easy to count the worshippers of the Infant God. Our children are present and six of the others. The other fifteen are heading for the dance hall.

April 1914 - page 131 - moving into the new school

April 22, 1914 - pages 131-132

To please the Indians and to get their good graces, we make a special feast for them. Thanks to the generosity of some white friends, our tables are abundantly served. Chickens, roast beef, puddings, gelatin, fruits amaze our Indians and they know how to appreciate the dishes. So much so that after having filled themselves well, they pour the leftovers into boilers and bags taken with them for that purpose. We didn't realize it, hurrying to fill the dishes earlier so that nobody suffers. But we discover their finesse and think that it is better to ration our guests.

A small but successful performance surprises the Indians. The Chiefs make small speeches expressing their satisfaction and assure us of their efforts to increase the number of our students. One of them fulfilled his promise and left us his son Rosario. The next day, three beautiful boys and three baby girls become our heritage.

July 1, 1914 - page 135

The spirit of a fraternal joy welcomes the vacation. We promise ourselves to enjoy it while keeping the children who will go home only at the end of the month, and still, boys only. The paganism and immorality of our Indians do not allow our girls to enjoy this privilege.

February 1, 1915 - pages 137-138

Death, which had respected our school for some years, has come this night to take away a good little Indian, Sophie, daughter of Vincent, a former student. Tuberculosis had been slowly eroding her for two years. The Reverend Father Levern prepared her for her first communion, which she made with great fervor. In her long bouts of suffering, she kept telling us: "I want to go to heaven, I suffer too much." She was anointed and the evening before her death, a final absolution purified her soul. Without agony, she disappeared bringing before her Judge a small career of eight years. In heaven, may she pray for her poor negligent parents.

March 1, 1915 - page 138

Little Vital Martin Rouge, barely eight years old, is in turn a victim of consumption. Less fortunate than Sophie, he died in the camp. The devoted missionary, inspired by God, went to visit him, heard his confession and gave him the last rites. The next night, the dear child was no more. A hemorrhage took him away without the knowledge of his parents who were resting. On a hill, among the pagans, his body rests, but hopefully, his little soul enjoys eternal glory.

April 18, 1915 - pages 138-139

After a long struggle to escape death, Henri [Black Eagle], a former student of the convent, consented to make the sacrifice of his life, leaving to mourn him his young wife and two

beautiful toddlers of three years and one year. Three weeks before he died, he had asked his family to bring him to camp near the school so that he could receive the priest and the sisters more often. He was very grateful for the smallest services, which he accompanied with a benevolent smile. Prayer was his consolation. He expired in this sublime invocation: "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in you."

August 6, 1915 - page 141

Cecile Big Snake, the model of the school by her piety and gentleness, accepts in spite of her repugnance the husband that her parents have chosen for her. With regret, we see her leave; her desire would be to stay with us. What will become of her? Her parents are anchored in superstitions. May the Eucharistic God, whom she received every week, keep her in good health.

November 23, 1915 - page 142

Our Indians, dressed for the occasion, come to receive their annual pay.

It is interesting, especially for our visitors, for whom the treaty is something new. They admire the order and calmness kept by the Indians during the four hours of the distribution.

January 1, 1916 - page 143

The flu has no regard for the vacations. All the children get the flu quite seriously.

February 28, 1916 - page 144

Our students are following the course of a small retreat preached by the Reverend Father G. Simonin, o.m.i. May this new grace find an echo in their hearts.

July 3, 1916 - page 147

Our little Catherine Bear Hat, seven years old, victim of tuberculosis, died while the last echoes of the Visitation resounded. May she pray up there for her Christian but neglected parents.

July 26, 1916 - pages 147-148

Illness is always a trial. It takes on a double character in an Indian school, for the fact of being with the "women of prayer" seems to mean, among the Indians, exemption from illness and death.

One of our oldest, Leontine Running Rabbit, granddaughter of the Grand Chief is suffering from acute meningitis. Medical science might be able to control it, but the alarm of the Indians is such that she must be taken out of the school for sure cure. In less than half an hour, fifteen of these villains arrive. Each one embraces her, feels her pulse while throwing us an accusing eye. An old doctor arrives with a repulsive face. He examines her and promises the parents a complete cure if the girl is placed under his care. As this excitement has exhausted the patient, hope becomes doubtful. Reverend Father LeVern urges us to let her go. At the request of her mother, he allows her to be brought. He warns the suffering woman that the good Lord seems to want to call her to Himself and encourages her. She cannot speak, but she is fully conscious, which she proves by gestures and looks.

Surprised by the ceremonies of the Extreme Unction, the Indians devour with their eyes while the old Indian women whisper in a corner, saying that the Father is praying to kill their

daughter. They take her from her bed and she is taken to the camp despite her complaints and refusals.

A few days later, she got better, her tongue loosened, the Indians claimed victory. The zealous missionary and the Sisters made several visits to her. She is happy and adds: "I did not want to come here, I was brought by force".

The Anglican minister, Canon Stocken, comes to see her, she is indignant and forces her parents never to admit him near her again. She keeps her rosary, prays and sings hymns.

August 1, 1916 - pages 148-149

The missionary, returning from a visit to the camp, is inspired to stop by her house. He found her excited and feverish. He had her recite the act of contrition and absolved her. The mother approached him and said: "You are still praying to kill my daughter, stop, I don't want these signs anymore". An hour after the priest left, she became delirious. She says: "Make way, the father is going to give me my God", she recites the prayers of the communion. The old doctor wants to calm the fever and offers her medicines, she spills them. At about three o'clock, her breathing becomes oppressed, she quietly goes into agony. According to the custom, her parents collect everything that belongs to her. A simple nightgown was until then her only clothing. They dress her in a pink dress, put shoes on her, wrap her in several blankets. There is no doubt that this is the sign of death. What must have been Léontine's thoughts, seeing herself wrapped in a shroud still alive. She died with the last lights of the day and at the moment when the Church opened the treasure of the Porziuncola to pious souls. May Our Lady introduce her without delay into holy bliss.

June 28, 1917 - page 152

The bird cage opened wide, so wide that in less than an hour, our boys all had their romp. What is more precious than freedom?

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August 6, 1917 - page 156

Our humble mission is chosen by His Grace Bishop J. McNally, bishop of Calgary, for the spiritual retreat of the priests of his diocese. This choice honors us while confusing us. What a privilege it is to have God's representatives as our guests for a week.

September 8, 1917 - page 157

Slowly, the students are returning to school. It costs the Indian nature to bow to the monotony of a regular life.

September 25, 1917 - page 157

A visit as rare as it was unexpected took place on this date, that of the Anglican minister of Gleichen, Mr. Canon Stocken, and of the Bishop of England, accompanied by two deacons. At their request, my Sister Superior showed them the house. They were amazed at the beauty of the school and the exquisite cleanliness that reigned there.

January 30, 1918 - page 158

This was a night of trial. The Indians stole from us last night 500 bushels of oats on which we were counting to reduce a little the debt of arrears of annuity that we owe to the Mother House.

March 3, 1918 - page 159

The short visit of Mr. Markle, Inspector of Indian schools, encourages teachers and students by the satisfactory report he gives of our house.

March 21, 1918 - page 159

We deplore the death of Julius Medicine Shield, which occurred before religious relief could prepare him for this action. Having left school seven years ago, the dying man had abandoned all religious practice and had been living for the past year in concubinage. It is not for us to scrutinize the designs of the Lord, but would not the proverb "Such life, such death" be true here. Let us rather hope that he will have obtained mercy.

June 28, 1918 - page 162

At the request of Mr. John Gooderham, Government Agent for the Indian Reserve, we are making a room available for the use of the Registrars.

The Rev. Doucet, chaplain of the mission and Mr. Canon Stocken, Anglican minister, serve as interpreters. 180 Indians were registered. The polygamy that is still practiced in the Blackfoot tribe makes this work more difficult.

June 28, 1918 - page 162

Under the presidency of Reverend Father Doucet, we distribute various articles of clothing and pious objects to our students. These rewards crown their work and prepare them nicely for the vacations.

August 31, 1918 - page 165

Thirteen girl students spent the holiday with us. Before handing them over to regular discipline, my Sister Cyr, our Superior, decides in favor of a vacation. Sisters and children spend a pleasant day in the woods.

October 17, 1918 - page 167

The Spanish flu, which has been reported in several places, reached our dear Sister Veronique du Calvaire this evening with a temperature of 102°. Without really knowing what this illness is, we hope that the patient will be better in a few days.

October 25-26, 1918 - page 167

Four girls are in bed, one of whom, Mary Jane, is dangerously ill. A novena to St. Roch begins this evening to obtain the cessation of the plague.

October 29, 1918 - page 167

Mary Jane, in addition to the flu, declares pneumonia.

November 1, 1918 - page 168

Here is our devoted chaplain, Rev. Father Doucet, O.M.I. and Brother Barreau, his companion, suffering from influenza. It will be difficult to give them the care they need if they remain at home; we are overloaded. My Sister Superior puts the boys' infirmary at their disposal. Our patients have nothing but kind words for this delicate attention.

On the advice of Dr. Rose, we send the boys back to their families. The Indians on the reserve are not yet suffering from the flu. It will be easier for us to give our assiduous care to the sick. We except Rene [Rene Many Meats]. He is a scrofulous boy, shunned even by his own people.

November 11, 1918 - page 169

Rene, this miserable scrofulous boy, whom we kept, has dropsy added to his infirmities. Against his will, he is put to bed. Does he foresee that this illness will lead him to the grave?

November 18, 1918 - page 169

Death is certainly a punishment, for why would it cost René so much to leave this life? He has been plagued by scrofula for four years and few care for him. Nevertheless, when we talk to him about death, he cries and insists that we find a cure for his ailments. No longer hopeful, Reverend Father Doucet, O.M.I., prepares him for the great journey and administers the last sacraments. Tomorrow morning, Jesus will visit his soul and console him.

We are astonished to notice in him an intelligence that did not exist before.

November 29, 1918 - page 170

A week of acute and continuous sufferings completes the purification of René's soul. Yesterday, he asked himself to make the Holy Communion and prepared himself with piety. The agony lasted a day and a half and was painful. He died this evening at half past six under a shower of prayers and absolutions, for the good Father Doucet spent the whole day with him.

René was only eighteen months old when his mother died. Many Meats, his father brought him to the Reverend Father Riou, O.M.I., who was at that time the Principal of the school; he recommended that he take good care of him. The sickly and miserable child was only covered with a piece of blanket. He was entrusted to the care of my sister Louis Zénon. A few days later, the Indian came to see his son. He asked Reverend Father Riou what reward the Sisters would give him in exchange for the gift he had made to the school. The answer was not long in coming and was not in the Indian's favor. Instead, he received a lesson on gratitude.

November 30, 1918 - page 170

This morning the mortal remains of our good student were taken to the chapel and a service was sung for the repose of his soul.

December 5, 1918 - page 171

We recall our boys for the opening of classes. All seem happy to return.

April 18, 1919 - pages 172-173

When an Indian of the Blackfeet tribe dies, if he is baptized, the body is usually taken to the priest and the priest is to provide the casket. If he is a heathen, the savages provide for it themselves, and the burial is made in any place on the prairie. But usually, the Indians do not

bury their dead. They leave them here and there on the hills. No grave markers are seen where these unfortunate people sleep their last sleep, but there are other monuments. Everything that belonged to the deceased personally is given to him, such as clothing, blankets, medicines, tools, utensils, etc. The missionary is obliged to provide the casket for the Christians and he must take measures in proportion to the household. When everything cannot be accommodated, which almost always happens, the rest of the items are to be burned.

As a sign of mourning, the parents put on old clothes, let their hair fall in disorder over their faces and then begin a series of mournful songs, cries and moans. For several weeks, they search for the spirit of the deceased where he spent most of his life.

This scene is repeated in the morning for Cecilia Big Snake, a former student of the school. No sooner are we notified of her death than we hear the customary wailing. Two wagons form the procession. The body is taken to the church where Libera is sung. Outside, her mother, her husband, and some relatives call her and mourn. In front of these two contrasts of belief, the soul animated by faith thanks God for this great gift and is moved by pity for these beings so narrow-minded. Sensitive to a good inspiration, our boys and girls sacrifice a few pennies to pay two masses for the soul of their former companion.

April 25, 1919 - page 173

There are often dark hours in the evangelization of the Blackfoot and we are sometimes tempted to say that our work with them is pretty much useless. We are encouraged today by a little trait. Little Chief (that's the name of the Indian) who has been suffering from pulmonary phthisis for several months is suddenly in the grip of death. His son, Joseph, a former student foresees the danger and the impossibility of having the priest soon enough to baptize him. He tells his dying father about our religion and the holy medicine it can give him to open heaven. The old savage agreed to be baptized and died a few minutes later. The body is brought to the mission, Brother Barreau makes the casket and deposits the mortal remains. Thanks to the faith and charity of the son, the deceased received a Christian burial.

June 29, 1919 - page 175

Under the care of the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, we let the boys go for the holiday. This pleasure is well deserved this year, for the children have been relatively good in every way.

September 1919 - page 180

With the beginning of the school year, the exercises of a three-day retreat for the students, given by Reverend Father Riou, O.M.I., took place. This cannot fail to do some good.

October 20, 1919 - page 181

Marriage of Rosaria Many Guns to Harry Red Gun - October 20. Rosaria has been our pupil since she was three years old. She is in the fifth grade and can do a fair amount of sewing and cooking. Harry is a well-built boy, knows English and is said to have a good nature. We see them off with the hope that they will behave a little better than others who have also gone through the school.

December 30, 1919 - page 183

Meal given to the Indians. Decorations in the children's refectory. Menu: meats, gravy, potatoes and vegetables, pies, donuts and fruit. Afterwards, there are songs and recitations by the

students, followed by the stripping of the trees loaded with toys given by the children's parents at the request of "minaki", Sister Superior. It is a great pleasure to see the faces of all these happy little ones, surrounded by about 150 of their own. Mr. Fred Clark, master farmer of this reserve, distributed the toys in the presence of Reverend Father Riou, Principal of the school and the Sisters of the house.

January 11, 1920 - page 184

Lucy Old Chief Running returns to her parents - January 11 - in the grip of their Indian superstitions. A good child, but without a will, she will be a great pity before long. The missionary, the Sisters have done everything to get this girl out in better conditions, but to no avail.

April 9, 1920 - page 187

Maurice Cut Mane exchanges the sufferings of the earth for the rest of the other life, April 9. This child is a victim of scrofula. For three years, this disease had been developing around the neck in the form of glands that continually suppurated, one after the other, until the patient was exhausted. In spite of this terrible suffering, the little patient wanted to return to health, which was slipping away from him every minute.

April 1920 - page 187

About fifteen big boys have permission to go and help with the seeding for three weeks in order to give them a taste for cultivation and work.

May 1920 - page 188

On different days of this month of May, trees were planted, acacias, lilacs, aspens. The children show a lot of willingness to help us with this rather hard work. The weeding and watering are also done by them.

June 3, 1920 - page 188

Two Sisters go to visit, on June 3, an Indian family whose 10 year old daughter and grandfather were burned by the explosion of a lamp. The little girl is burned from the back to the head, the grandfather has all his fingers blistered by the terrible element. We spend a part of Corpus Christi with the suffering child.

June 3, 1920 - page 188

Doctor Farquarhson is making his first visit to the school today, June 3. He is replacing Dr. W. Rose. The latter is employed as a doctor on a C.P.R. steamer. We miss him, because he was really good for us.

June 6, 1920 -pages 188-189

The little burned girl named Sitting Eagle, was brought to us at the school by Dr. Farquarhson and the Agent, Mr. G. Gooderham, June 6. We are given the task of caring for and dressing this large burn and the grandfather's hands. They are installed in the infirmary and my Sister Marie Gilberte, Superior, is their nurse.

June 22, 1920 - page 189

Examination of the classes, June 22, by the Principal of the school, Reverend Father Riou, O. M. I., the Indian Agent, Mr. G. Gooderham and the personnel of the house.

A few more days and the boys and girls will have a vacation, a day long dreamed of. We entrust them to the care of Divine Providence and their guardian angels, for the parents have no authority over them.

July 2, 1920 - page 191

Extraordinary leave granted to the students, on July 2, at Gleichen, a town ten miles away, with the Sisters in charge, Sister Louis Zénon, André de Valence, Marie de Béthanie and Alphonse de la Croix. The girls were in a carriage, the boys on horseback with pale blouses blowing in the wind. To see them leave is a beautiful sight; the faces are full of smiles, the little hearts are full of joy. In Gleichen, they saw the animals of a circus, animals trained to do thousand different games. For them, these are marvels to be understood.

July 1920 - page 191

After the Sunday duty, it is the holiday with its freedom, the prospect of countless pleasures, the almost complete happiness. In a short time, the little girls, all the boys are dispersed to the four corners of the reserve.

The little Sitting Eagle also leaves today, but will continue to be dressed by my Sister Alype.

July 1920 - page 192

Patronal feast of Reverend Father Jacques Riou, O. M. I. By his authority, he is the Superior of this mission, by his devotion he is a good Father to us, by his interest, he helps to make the work he shares with us prosper. Since his arrival one year ago on May 20, the school has seen the number of its students increase by thirty new students and bring the number of registered children to seventy. We celebrate him inwardly by praying to the good God to bless him, to preserve him for us.

October 1920 - page 194

The whole house is on its feet to go to Gleichen to attend the School Fair, the first of its kind in the district. To please Mr. G. Gooderham, Agent of this Indian reserve, and to encourage the pupils in their class work, we had their best works of writing, drawing, sewing, etc., the finest vegetables from the garden prepared for display for the consideration of judges appointed by a committee. The most advanced students carefully examined the works of the other students from the different schools, ten in number. Finally, we collect the cards marking the prizes, not paying too much attention; it is dark and the time to return must be as early as possible. At home, the cards are counted - we are satisfied with the result. Twelve prizes for handiwork and vegetables, eight prizes for races [sport]. The visitors congratulate the school on its competition. Mr. Gooderham is delighted, lavishing compliments and praise on the students.

November 26, 1920 - pages 195-196

This day, November 26, marks the visit of Mr. W. M. Graham, High Commissioner for the Indians; he resides in Regina. Dr. H. A. Corbet, extraordinary examiner of the health of the students. Mr. G. Gooderham is with them. The sun was already in its decline when these

gentlemen arrived at the school. In the blink of an eye, the apartments are lit up for a tour of the school. The Principal of the school, Reverend Father J. Riou, O.M.I., accompanied them. All had nothing but kind words for the house and its staff. Mr. Graham said he could not understand how it was that the furniture, even in the children's rooms, was so well preserved. The doctor is amazed at the general condition of the students' health.

December 1920 - page 197

As last year, we invite the parents of the students for a meal with their children. It is a pleasure to see them sitting among them, sharing the same table. Before we part, the items hanging on the Christmas trees are distributed to them. All the articles are given by the parents; many are of use rather than fancy in order to teach them to do without a thousand trifles.

January 8, 1921 - page 197

Girl rescued. Last November, a girl of eighteen came to the school asking to be sheltered until she could get a job. Abused by her parents, she does not want to return to her father's house. Daughters of Charity, we receive her, handing over to God whatever may result from this good work. Today, January 8, my Sister Marie-Gilberte, Superior, took her to Calgary, Holy Cross Hospital, where the Grey Nuns will employ her as a secular helper. To encourage the poor child, the school provides her with a small trousseau, for which she is very grateful.

Mid-June 1921 - page 201

The day after the Bishop's visit, Reverend Father Riou performed a lovely ceremony in the celebration of two weddings, all children of the school. Mary Jane Dried Limb was united to Anthony Scalp Lock. Genevieve Sleigh to Francis Conrad. With the witnesses, the group of eight stood at the railing and formed a pretty sight. To these dear children all that can make them good Christians is given, but that perseverance is a rare thing among the Blackfoot. Hope consoles us a little and makes us live in the hope of their complete conversion.

July 1921 - page 204

The word vacation is as pleasant to the ear of the Indian child as to that of the white child, with this difference that the white one dreams of the pleasures of the intimacy of the paternal home, of the tenderness of a mother, of the kindness of a father, of the thousand delicacies with which one will surround him; while the Indian only aspires to the freedom of the prairie to roam, to ride during the day and the land to rest at night with hardly a little meat dried in the sun, some bannock for food, black tea for drink.

September 1921 - pages 208-209

We take part in the second school works exhibition in Gleichen. According to a fixed program, the pupils prepare the articles they want to be exhibited. These consist of classical works: sewing, mending, simple cooking, vegetables, flowers that the pupils have grown in the garden. On the morning of Sept. 23, we organized ourselves to drive our students. We were anxious to know the results. Around three o'clock, the doors were opened to the public. It is a pleasure to see the efforts of the children during the school year. The seals are broken, the prizes marked. The expression of joy is great on the faces of the winners.

The next day, we hasten to collect the items that belong to us as well as the cards that mark the various prizes. Here are the results: 41 prizes for class work, sewing, cooking,

gardening; 7 prizes for races and games; 8 special prizes consisting of a fountain pen, two pairs of shoes, an Ingersoll watch, a pair of spurs, a silver napkin ring, a bronze medal, plus a bronze shield for the best collection of crop-damaging plants donated by the Royal Bank of Gleichen.

A few days later, Mr. Gooderham, the Indian Agent, brought the prize money awarded to the students: \$33.00. The students gave this amount to Sister Superior to contribute to the purchase of a gramophone which they enjoyed very much.

November 1921 - page 210

One of our students, Celine Running Rabbit, who has been sick for a few days, is declared [1 word missing] to have severe appendicitis which requires an immediate operation. She was taken to the hospital in Bassano. The little girl, very scrofulous, could not recover. Father Riou, the Principal, went to her to give her Holy Communion and to administer the last sacraments. On November 12, in the morning, the good Master took her away to decorate his paradise with a little Indian flower.

January 1922 - page 211

Mike Bear Robe, a former student of the school, came at the invitation of Sister Superior for treatment. For a month, she gave him the care that would bring him back to health. Everything was useless. Consumption does its work and leads him to death.

August 28, 1922 - pages 214-215

Mr. Duncan Scott, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and Mr. Graham, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, honoured us with a visit today, August 28.

The Superintendent expressed his intention to have certain necessary repairs made in and around the buildings.

He gives us his appreciation of the good condition of the house and the outbuildings.

August 1922 - page 215

As in the past, our students are working hard to prepare the articles required for the Exhibition. They are well rewarded for their work. Fifty-two prizes are awarded, in addition to a silver medal with a representation of the various agricultural works engraved on it. This medal was given to Edward Old Woman as a prize for excellence in gardening.

November 4, 1922 - page 216

We were informed some time ago, from the Department of Indian Affairs in Ottawa, of the visit of a Provincial Inspector of Schools.

This gentleman, by the name of Mackenzie, arrived this morning, November 4, a little muffled, as he made his entrance through a back door. If it were not for the fact that scaffolding obstructed his path, the Inspector would have entered the second classroom to wait for the teacher and students. But he was forced to wait until the workers could remove the obstacle.

Mr. Mackenzie expressed his complete satisfaction with the classical knowledge of the pupils, but like all inspectors, he put forward some questions about attendance to the Normal Schools. In addition, he subjected the two class teachers to a long series of questions.

December 1922 - pages 216-217

After a nice recreation concert where everyone did their best, the distribution of Christmas presents to the students took place. The parents, who had come in great numbers, enjoyed it very much. Their generosity in providing gifts and the large share that Sister Superior made to reward the children gave a special touch of joy to this year's Christmas celebration.

February 15, 1923 - page 217

Since Christmas, we have been forced to close our classrooms because of the repairs that were being made. Today, February 15, we are resuming our usual work, hoping, by working more diligently, to make up for lost time.

March 1923 - page 218

Mr. Inspector Christenson, Government Inspector for Buildings, made an official visit to our school and its outbuildings. This gentleman was very satisfied with everything. He insists on the point of teaching Agriculture to the boys.

April [??] 1923 - pages 218-219

Once the repairs are finished, we must respond to a great desire of the Indians. For a long time, they have been asking when the "Big Eat" will take place. At last, here it is, that longed-for day. The parents come in droves and, with their children, enjoy to the full the food presented. So great is the happiness of these poor people that we forget the additional fatigue imposed by the preparation of this banquet.

June 29, 1923 - page 219

It is the closing. - June 29 - Great celebration, great rejoicing. As a conclusion to the school year, we had a recreational performance. The program was very full and gave complete satisfaction. Mr. Gooderham, our Agent, who never misses an opportunity to encourage the pupils, gave them a warm speech, congratulating them on the ease with which they performed their parts and the fluency with which they spoke English.

The parents, happy to see their children so skilful, keep repeating: "Ex-o-ka-pew, Ex-o-ka-pew" It's beautiful, it's beautiful.

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August 1, 1923 - page 222

Miss Brandon, a nurse, employed by the Department of Indian Affairs, pays us an official visit. We received her with cold politeness, because these people never do us much good.

November 28, 1923 - page 223

Mr. Wm. Graham, accompanied by Mrs. Graham, pays us an official visit. He goes through the whole house and the outside buildings. This gentleman expresses his complete satisfaction with the way everything is going.

This approval is very sensitive to us, because we know that Mr. Graham is not slow to criticize something that is not according to his ideas. He suggests to Sister Superior that she go to Regina to look for certain articles that he has at her disposal.

November 30, 1923 - page 223

Mr. Boyce, Provincial Inspector of Schools in Alberta, makes a regular visit to the classrooms and the house and outbuildings.

This gentleman expresses his satisfaction with the classical knowledge of the pupils and the keeping of the house and surroundings.

A few days later we receive through our Indian Agent, Mr. Gooderham, the report of Mr. Boyce. This report is very favorable.

December 25, 1923 - page 224

The Christmas celebration is getting quite pious. We have Midnight Mass in our chapel for the staff and parents of the children. Several former students lent themselves for the singing which was well done. Sister Superior enriched the chapel with a beautiful Nativity scene which greatly enhanced the beauty of the celebration.

In the afternoon of Christmas, the tree was stripped. The joy of the children is great. The parents are also very satisfied.

June 26, 1924 - pages 226-227

The examinations presided over by Reverend Father Riou, O.M.I., Principal, accompanied by Reverend Father Doucet and Sister Superior, took place this morning of June 26.

The students did their best to show their knowledge. Also, the Reverend Father shows himself very satisfied with the children, encouraging them with his words and exhorting them to spend the vacations well.

June 27, 1924 - page 227

June 27 was a happy day because it marked the return to the camp for all the boys and fifteen girls.

Five weeks of freedom with their parents, living from their traditional life, what happiness.

The Indians hurried to pick up their children so that by nine o'clock all had left.

July 6, 1924 - page 229

Around four o'clock, Mr. Graham, the Indian commissioner, accompanied by his Lady, arrived. Mr. Graham takes pleasure in surprising Sister Superior waxing the floor with the help of some older girls. The visit of this gentleman is always to the benefit of our school.

September 8, 1924 - page 231

Eight Indian students entered the school. This gives us a total of 69 students. We thank God for this; it is so difficult for these dear children to make the sacrifice of family life.

September 17, 1924 - page 232

This is the first year that we have had the exhibition in Cluny. Our students are happy to see their efforts so well rewarded. In the competition of six schools, our students brought home 64 prizes.

October 15, 1924 - page 232

Mr. Boyle, the provincial inspector, examined our classes. He said he was very satisfied with the progress of the pupils and the teaching methods of the teachers.

December 25, 1924 - page 235

Christmas bears a stamp of sincere piety in our humble chapel. The singing of the midnight mass by our Indian pupils was an occasion of joy for their parents who, unfortunately, enjoy beautiful music more than religious ceremonies.

The distribution of the Christmas gifts took place on the 23rd. There is no need to describe the joy of the students when they saw themselves loaded with gifts provided, for the most part, by their parents.

March 19, 1925 - page 235

Feast of Saint Joseph. A high mass of thanksgiving and a joyful holiday tell our Patron Saint again our gratitude, as well as our ardent desire to continue the work so dear to us of Christianizing our poor Indians.

May 11, 1925 - pages 235-236

A great number of Indians are invading our school today. It is the much desired day of the Treaty. Each member of the reserve receives at two different times during the year the sum of \$15.00. All are entitled to it, the child of a day as well as the old man with only a breath of life.

It is a great event. It is a big event and we talk about it well in advance. Our students have learned to make wise use of this money. Some of them give it in its entirety to the Sisters in charge and others buy well-chosen articles of clothing.

June 28, 1925 - page 236

After an examination presided over by Mr. Graham, Indian Commissioner, and Mr. Gooderham, Indian Agent, our students are happy to learn that from now on they will be granted a six-week vacation. This will also be a well-deserved rest for the Sisters in charge of the various services. The departure is announced for July 1st. All are very happy.

July 1925 - page 240

On the invitation of Mr. Graham, Indian Commissioner in Regina, Sister Superior, M. Gilberte, went to Regina accompanied by Sr. Cyr, Superior at Midnapore. This good Mr. Graham favors us each year with a considerable shipment of clothing for our children. This is a benefit that we appreciate very much, for this gift amounts to five or six hundred dollars. That is a pretty nice item!

September 1, 1925 - page 240

We are opening wide both doors and hearts to receive our chicks who are once again nesting under this blessed roof. May God bless this new school year and grant us the grace to do all possible good to these dear children.

November 9, 1925 - pages 242-243

Desertion. During the retreat, several of our big boys deserted the ranks solely for the pleasure of running around in the woods, at least for a few days. The girls, for their part, encouraged perhaps by the boys, do the same thing and eight big girls disappear one evening at the time of prayer as if by magic. As long as it was just the boys, the parents, while not approving of them, were not overly concerned, but when the news spread that the girls had left, the whole camp was

in an uproar and in less than twenty-four hours, our lost sheep had all returned to the fold. It's a done deal until the next time.

December 4, 1925 - page 243

This Mr. Inspector of Schools, after examination, was well satisfied with the progress of the pupils. Mr. Boyce has been visiting our school for several years and, apart from a few small recommendations for the good of all, has always been very good.

December 25, 1925 - pages 244-246

We have been wandering for a long time in the land of dreams where we glimpse beautiful, delightful things, like those that happened on the first Christmas night. [... ..]

During the three masses celebrated in our humble but pious sanctuary, we also court our divine little King, we offer alternately our hymns, our wishes, our prayers and especially our hearts, our whole persons for the extension of his reign. Many of our poor Indians approach the sacred banquet. After the masses, the delicious Christmas Eve, then each one returns to his little bed, the soul all to the joy. And who could not be happy after the sweet emotions of the holy night?

Now it's daytime... Gathered in the community room, we see spread out on our long table, but what... All sorts of beautiful and good things due to the delicacy of our good Sister Superior. The distribution begins. Really, it would not be easy to give in to sadness in such a company!

The morning passed like lightning, the afternoon also. Our students, in their turn, marvel at the nice gifts given by our Mother Provincial, Mother Rustica, besides those provided by the house and others provided by the parents of these dear little ones. One little one approached his teacher and whispered to her: "I wish there were many Christmases in a year; don't you, sister?" This means that they too had enjoyed Christmas.

May 1, 1926 - page 249

Month dedicated to our heavenly mother, so with what confidence we ask her to watch over us and the children entrusted to our care.

May 13, 1926 - page 249

Ascension. This day of obligation coincides with pay day when the Government gives back to our Indians the price, in money, of their lands taken away to build the railroad and other parts of the reserve sold or leased to the whites. Each member of a family receives ten dollars (\$10.00) and the chiefs more, according to their rank of precedence. It is a gala day, as soon as they receive their money, they all leave (we let the children go with their parents) for the city where the money was quickly transferred to other hands. One of the gentlemen of the city told us that this year they all bought useful things instead of wasting their money on trifles. This shows that they are becoming a little more civilized every year.

June 1926 - pages 250-251

Feast of the Sacred Heart. First Communion. Oh, what a beautiful day and how our hearts are filled with consolation to see 11 of our little ones approaching the holy table to receive for the first time the Living Bread, the God of the Eucharist! These dear little ones seem to be very impressed with the important act they are doing, as their little faces beaming with happiness show.

For the circumstance, our little chapel has put on its most beautiful festive clothes, the altar almost disappears under its nice ornament of natural flowers and under the charm of the day. The choir sang the mass prepared for this purpose. After the thanksgiving, the little privileged ones of the day go down to a gala table copiously furnished and served by two of the older girls. How happy they are, these dear children.

In the afternoon, the renewal of the baptismal promises and the reception of the scapular took place, then an act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin was read by a little communicant. May God (it is our prayer) keep them long in the innocence of this beautiful day.

September 1926 - page 258

One of our older girls, Betsey, eighteen years old, whom her parents wanted to marry as soon as her school days were over, begged so well to be allowed to stay another year that they relented and she stayed. We are very happy, because she is a good child and it is so early to put her in misery!

November 3, 1926 - page 260

One of our older girls, Louisa Spring Chief, united her destiny this morning to Anthony Pretty Young Man, a former student. May God bless this young household and grant them perseverance in the faith.

December 13, 1926 - pages 261-262

This morning, in the classroom, the windows were so full of snow that one could not see anything and, standing on a stepladder, with a shovel and a pail in her hand, the chronicler was removing some of it, when it was announced that the Inspector of classes had arrived. There had to be a storm to make him come, because we had been waiting for him for a month!

I get down from my stepladder and went down to do the honors of my class. He was very pleased and when he left, Rev. Father Smit asked him rather teasingly if he was happy with his inspection. He replied, "Father, three years ago, I would not have thought it possible for the children to make such progress as they have made." We do not take pride in this, for we recognize that if we have been able to make some progress with these children, it is by no means due to our skill, but to God who helps us so powerfully in our not always easy task.

December 14, 1926 - page 262

Good Father Smit, having considered that the roads were impassable and that there would be no one or almost no one at the mission, decided to start with the [1 word missing] from the school, because we had them all on hand. He gave them two instructions a day, to which the class teachers attended, and the whole group did the jubilee exercises. This beautiful retreat did the children a great deal of good; Father used such simple expressions that everyone understood. Several former students followed the exercises. After their retreat confession, the girls, one after the other, came to confide their impressions. "Sister, I'm so happy!" or "Sister, I feel so light, I think I could fly". Thank God, if they were able to enjoy it. It will be a great gain for their souls.

December 25, 1926 - pages 262-263

Christmas! the usual and always so desired holiday! It is very cold and the roads are very bad, but the midnight mass brings together many Indians and all receive the bread of the angels. Our

little chapel is nice under its ornament of lights and flowers. The students sing the mass of "Leonardi".

Our good chaplain, Father Riou, says he has had many consolations this year. It seems that the Blackfoot are becoming more Christian. Deo Gratias!

The next day, Sunday, we had the small traditional concert and the Christmas tree. It was quite successful. After the concert, the items hanging on the Christmas trees are distributed. All these items are donated by the parents and are all rather of use than fancy in order to teach them to do without futility.

February 14, 1927 - page 264

This morning in our chapel a lovely ceremony was performed in the celebration of a double wedding. Two of our girls, Louise Black is united to Mark Spring Chief and our dear Betsey to Spencer Owl Child. The latter is not from the school, but was baptized. With the witnesses, this group of eight at the railing made a pretty sight. These dear children have everything that can make them good Christians, but perseverance is a rare thing among the Blackfoot.

February 27, 1927 - pages 264-265

This afternoon a most touching ceremony took place in our chapel, the abjuration of Protestantism of two boys from the Anglican minister's school. This ceremony took place in the midst of a most contemplative assembly. These dear children have been under instruction for some months and seem to be well aware of the great act they are doing.

February 28, 1927 - page 265

Our two converts of yesterday, Ernest Water Chief united his destiny to one of our girls, Rita Little Ration, the second, Jack Low Horn, to that of Minnie Black Kettle also one of ours. Our little brides were all glowing in their pretty wedding gowns. After the mass sung by the students, we served lunch to the newlyweds and each one took leave of the school where they admitted to have spent happy days, thanking kindly the kindnesses towards them, taking as a souvenir of this memorable day, each one half of the wedding cake which they always make themselves. May God grant them the grace of perseverance in their good feelings.

April 5, 1927 - page 267

One of our girls, aged fifteen, suffering from galloping consumption, in the opinion of the doctor, sent back to her family barely five weeks ago, and her libera was just sung. She died this morning in the most beautiful sentiments of piety, provided with all the sacraments of the Church. Requiescat in pace.

Easter 1927 - page 267

Our former students, especially our newlyweds, are arriving from all over to make their Easter Duty! One of them, Rita, whose husband is a new convert, drove twenty-four miles on not too nice roads, fasting, to come and receive our risen Jesus. This poor girl arrived twenty minutes before mass, frozen almost to the bone. Surely God will bless these sacrifices, for after all, these children are Indians and perhaps there would be many whites who pride themselves on being Catholics who would not do the same.

June 20, 1927 - page 269

One of our big girls, Marguerite Rusher, is uniting her destiny this morning with a former school boy, Peter White Pup. God bless them!

June 30, 1927 - page 269

We open the doors wide so that our chicks can have their romp and finally go and enjoy the freedom so dear to the Indian heart. That the Holy Virgin to whom we entrust them keeps them from all perils!

July 3, 1927 - page 270

We had held back our students until this date in anticipation of the patriotic procession which was to take place in Gleichen and in which they were to take part, but today, we open the doors of our convent wide to them and the joy quickly gives way to the disappointment of the last few days when they see themselves in possession of the freedom so desired.

August 19, 1927 - page 271

Our School is honoured on this date by the visit of the Honorable Duncan C. Scott, M.P. Superintendent of Indian Affairs at Ottawa and Mr. G. Gooderham, Indian Agent of the Cluny Reserve. Both were accompanied by their ladies. These distinguished visitors remained under our roof for scarcely half an hour, however, this short visit seemed to delight and interest them greatly.

September 23, 1927 - page 272

After the conventual mass and the joyful "Deo Gratias" which opened the holiday of our venerated Mother Gamelin, the preparations for a feast of a completely different kind began for our students. It was the unveiling of a beautiful monument erected in honour of Crowfoot, the great Blackfoot Chief who, fifty years ago today, first signed the treaty which gave whites the right to settle the vast prairies of the Canadian West. The ceremony was beautiful. The Honorable R. C. Bennet, M. P., was the principal speaker among several others. All of the present Chiefs of the tribe were present in full regalia and seated with the members of parliament on a large platform erected for the purpose.

Mrs. McLeod, Colonel McLeod's widow, who had been present fifty years ago when the Colonel obtained the Indian signature, unveiled the monument, and then all the attendants, numbering about one thousand, proceeded in procession to the cemetery where Crowfoot's mortal remains lie. There, Colonel McLeod's grandson and one of Crowfoot's daughters, the only one who survives him, laid wreaths on his grave.

October 6, 1927 - page 273

This Exhibition, originally set for September 24, had been postponed indefinitely; we thought Crowfoot's Memorial Day had eclipsed it, but here it is announced for today. We are going to Gleichen, the place of this exhibition, with our modest things. However, as in previous years, our school won a good number of prizes and our students are well encouraged.

November 24, 1927 - page 274

This morning, Mr. Boyce, School Inspector, arrives unexpectedly. However, all our students are a credit to us. At the end of his day of inspection, this gentleman says he is very satisfied with

the progress of the pupils. We ask him to send us the report that he will present to the government for review. He promises to do so with great pleasure.

January 16, 1928 - pages 276-277

To receive six children from the same family at our school is a rare occurrence, so it is quite a remarkable event in our eyes. A Cree family by the name of Salois, who had come to the reserve for a walk, was very much in trouble. The mother, who had been lying around for some time, died suddenly, leaving her little family in complete despair.

The grieving father came to ask us to take his children, three girls and three boys. The eldest is thirteen years old, the baby is three. We welcomed these dear children with joy, happy to be able to do such a charitable deed.

Our devoted principal, Rev. Father Riou, in agreement with the Indian Agent of the reserve, Mr. Gooderham, will take all necessary steps to have these little orphans accepted by the Department, for not being of the Blackfoot tribe, they have no right to the allowance of this reserve.

February 26, 1928 - page 277

The father of the little children we took in our school only three weeks ago died this morning of pneumonia. These poor little children are therefore orphans twice!

February 28, 1928 - page 277

Our Blackfoot are renowned for their big hearts; so, they are rushing today to adopt as their own the little orphans. In the evening, these dear children are sure to have an adoptive father and mother and no doubt they will be well treated. We still hope that the Dept. will decide that we can keep them.

June 20, 1928 - page 280

The news arrives from the Dept. that from the little family of orphans, we can keep the three little boys. As for the three little girls, it has been decided to put them in the Brocket Indian School, on the Blood Tribe reserve. It seems cruel to separate these little children, but we must comply.

June 28, 1928 - page 280

The cage opened wide, so wide that in less than an hour our boys and girls all had their romp. What is more precious than freedom!

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September 1, 1928 - page 282

All our little children are back for the opening of the classes, satisfied with their vacations and happy to come back. As for the big girls, they cannot have the same privilege, however a greater freedom to have fun and to be a little everywhere in the house makes them regret the return of the smallest.

December 11, 1928 - page 284

Our Inspector, Mr. Boyce, arrived this morning without preamble. This gentleman is always so pleased that it is a real pleasure to receive him. In addition, this year two of our girls will be taking the departmental examinations for the eighth grade. This is the first time in the history of the house. This gentleman promises to deal with the authorities to get permission for them to take their exams here in their class. Let's hope he succeeds. It would be a great advantage.

December 25, 1928 - page 285

Christmas! Christmas! That's the cry that goes out. Solemn high mass at midnight in the church for the white population of the place. Mass is at 1:00 a.m. here for the Indians in our chapel decorated for the occasion. A first communion of twelve of our little ones enhances the already beautiful ceremony! General communion of the adults. We prayed better than ever! In the afternoon, a small concert and the stripping of the Christmas tree. The happiness is unmixed, but too short-lived. When will we always enjoy it!

April 12, 1929 - pages 286-287

Visit of the Inspector, Mr. Boyce. This gentleman is getting a taste for coming to Cluny! It is the second time during this school year, something he had not done before. The eighth grade is of great interest to him. He has obtained permission for these dear children to try their exams here under the supervision of their teacher, Sister Jean de Gethsemani. They will be less intimidated than if they went abroad. This Inspector is very kind to us and always compliments us on the progress of the students. That's great! We are very grateful. It's better than if it were the other way around.

June 26, 1929 - page 289

Sr. Jean de Gethsemanie is passing two subjects of the 11th grade preparatory for the Normal School. Today we are confident that this dear Sister has passed, but we will have to wait to know the result.

A few more days and the boys and girls will have a holiday. We entrust them to the care of Divine Providence and their guardian angels, for parents have little authority over them.

July 5, 1929 - page 290

Today our good Principal and chaplain, Rev. Father Riou united in holy matrimony four of our students, Emily Black Water to Rosario Running Rabbit and Albertine Turnupnose to Jack Low Horn. To these young couples we wish much happiness and all the blessings that were implored for them during the nuptial mass.

September 1, 1929 - page 291

With the first days of this month, we have the joy of receiving our school children. Let us hope that the benevolence and devotion shown to them during the year will help to penetrate the rough and pagan bark to make of them good little Christians.

October 9-13, 1929 - page 293

During these three days, we give our students the joy of a little retreat preached by Reverend Father Bideau, O.M.I. With what care this good religious prepares the instructions which he

gives twice a day to the children. He is consoled by his trouble, because our little Indians listen to him with great attention and meditation, which is not an easy thing for them.

November 11, 1929 - page 294

The disease seems to want to take control of our staff. The poster on the door announces to the public that we are under quarantine for smallpox. Almost all of our students have been victims, but nothing serious on this side.

December 23, 1929 - page 295

Mr. Gooderham, the Indian Agent, stopped at our school for a few moments, made the acquaintance of the new teachers, visited the pupils and left us with his best wishes for Christmas.

December 25, 1929 - page 295

Stage performance. On Christmas afternoon, the Indians gathered in the large hall, prepared for the occasion, to attend the small presentation given by the students. Although many of them do not understand English, they are all happy that their children can take part in small public demonstrations. The whole thing ended with the stripping of the traditional tree, which was not the least thing to delight the children.

March 10, 1930 - page 296

What a touching spectacle and what happiness to see a group of children approach the Eucharistic banquet for the first time. It was the privilege of eleven of our little pupils this morning. Joy shone on the faces of these happy children and in the hearts of the witnesses.

March 11, 1930 - page 297

Bishop Kidd has arrived to administer the sacrament of the strong to the Indians of the reserve and to our students. He has the joy of confirming forty of them. In a simple but eloquent sermon he showed them the great necessity of this sacrament, especially in a country like ours where the faith has to suffer strong attacks from Protestantism and even from paganism.

March 21, 1930 - page 297

Teachers and students are in class for the "routine" of the day when we announce the visit of Mr. Boyce, Inspector of schools in our district for the past six years. He left us in the evening after having spent the day in the two classes; he was satisfied with his inspection and the report he gave to Rev. Father Riou, Principal, proved it and was very encouraging for the teachers.

April 4, 1930 - page 297

Unexpected visitors arrived; it was Mr. Graham, Indian Commissioner, Mr. Gooderham, Indian Agent, and Doctors Murry and Windsor. After meeting the staff and visiting the house, they left us promising to help us with the Ottawa government when the time comes.

April 8, 1930 - page 298

It is a time of great rejoicing and a continual coming and going among our Indians, old and young; today they feel very rich as each one has \$25.00 paid by the Indian Dept. for the rent of their land. It is a holiday for our students and they go out with their parents for the day.

May 24, 1930 - page 299

Since eight o'clock this morning, silence and tranquility reign throughout the house, and why? The Reverend Father Principal gave the students a whole day off and they all went out with their parents. They will return to us this evening, quite tired, no doubt, but happy with this day of freedom.

June 22-27, 1930 - pages 299-300

Exams. This is a serious week for the students of the first class. One of them is writing the provincial examinations and the others are busy answering the written questions, the success of which will grant them promotions in their various grades next September.

In the afternoon of the 27th, Mr. Gooderham came to the classes to congratulate the students, make some recommendations and wish all a good vacation.

June 28, 1930 - page 300

Before leaving for good the place where she has spent many happy years, Beatrice Wolf Leg was married to Joe Good Eagle in the convent chapel. At the mass, the student choir was heard in a powerful and harmonious way.

June 29, 1930 - page 300

Faces are animated and radiant and the "good-bye" notes which are seldom joyous, are so today for our little school people, for the vacation with its charms and pleasures is opening at last for them. Forty-three days of freedom, which is dearest to the Indian heart. While telling them to enjoy themselves, we hope that they will remember the lessons received at school.

July 1, 1930 - page 301

With the exception of eight older girls who are staying with us during the vacations, all our other students have left with their parents to enjoy the nomadic life which is always so dear to them. Almost all the Indians of this reserve are going to Calgary to take an active part in the "Stampede" which will take place from the sixth to the eleventh of July: each year, several of them win beautiful prizes, either for the races or for their original skin costumes which the women make and embroider with silk or beads of the most varied colors.

August 8, 1930 - pages 302-303

Payment of the Treaty to the Indians. There is jubilation among the Blackfeet of our reserve on this day, as each man, woman and child of the tribe receives the sum of five dollars which the Government has undertaken to pay them annually in accordance with Treaty No. 7. Mr. Gooderham, Indian Agent, Major Lewis, a Sergeant, a Constable and two other employees of the Department are set up in one of the student recreation rooms and begin the distribution about ten o'clock a.m. In another room, two doctors examine all the children: this means that there is a continual coming and going until about three o'clock p.m.; however, all is done with great order. We serve dinner to the representatives of the Department.

August 11, 1930 - page 303

Examination results. The mail this evening brings us encouraging news for Sister Yvonne de Jesus, teacher of the first class, who has prepared one of her eighth grade students, Nicholas

Black Kettle, for the provincial examination, which he passed. We thank God that he is willing to sow some consolation in the path of those who are selflessly devoted to these poor children of the plains who are so indifferent in matters of education, and yet the missionaries are so anxious to procure for them the benefit of Christian civilization in order to help them secure their eternal happiness.

September 1, 1930 - page 304

Although the Indian Department grants only six weeks' vacation, from July 1 to August 15, to the students of the residential schools, few return before the first of September, and even then, many are still missing and return only at the pleasure of the parents. It is unfortunate that the Department representatives on this reserve should give so little assistance to the school authorities in enforcing this regulation, which would be of great benefit to the staff in charge and to the pupils.

September 29, 1930 - page 304

Mr. Graham, Government Commissioner to the Indians, accompanied by Mrs. Graham and their niece Mrs. Sifton, paid us a short visit. They are returning to Regina today after a long trip to Northern Alberta.

November 17, 1930 - page 307

Father Newman, chaplain of the Lacombe Home, has kindly accepted the invitation extended to him by the Reverend Father Riou, principal of the school, and he arrives this evening to preach a retreat to our students. We trust that the pious instructions of this worthy priest, a sincere and devoted friend of children, will have a happy influence on the souls of these poor children who show so little attraction for piety.

December 25, 1930 - page 309

In the afternoon, at two o'clock, a small concert took place after which the Christmas tree was stripped; parents and children all seemed quite satisfied.

February 12, 1931 - page 310

Mr. Boyce, School Inspector, arrives unannounced at about ten o'clock a.m. and immediately begins the visit in the class of the small ones, then, makes that of the class of the large ones after the dinner. He finished at three o'clock p.m. and said he was very satisfied, which he proved, a few days later, by sending a copy of the favorable report he had sent to the Indian Department. He appreciates the dedication of the two teachers, approves of their method of teaching and finds that the pupils look happy and are making progress.

February 27, 1931 - page 310

Mr. Gooderham, Indian Agent, brought Mr. Raynor, of the Indian Department at Regina, who has been appointed to inspect the books of the Government schools and hospitals, to our office this morning and while he was doing his work Mr. Gooderham visited the classes. Both were very satisfied with their inspection.

April 12, 1931 - page 311

On the occasion of a new payment which the Government is making to the Blackfoot, our students are allowed to go with their parents for the day after having each received the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for rented land. Everything is done in the same order as in the treaty days in one of the school rooms.

June 22 to 26, 1931 - page 313

During the last week of June, the two teachers were very busy getting their pupils to write the Alberta Department of Public Instruction examinations, which, in general, were passed with fairly high marks to the satisfaction of their teachers.

June 27, 1931 - page 313

Distribution of prizes. At seven o'clock p.m., Reverend Father Riou, Principal, Sister Superior (Sr. Cyr) and all the sisters went to the classes to attend the distribution of prizes, after which the good Principal gave the students his blessing and useful advice for the vacation season.

June 28, 1931 - page 313

After Mass, the Indians come to get the children who have to go home for the vacations; the departure is done very quickly and the ten older girls who remain with us, see, with envious eyes, their young companions leaving; we cannot blame these dear children who suffer so much from their captivity, although morally, they are better off here, and even from the material point of view, because a good number of those who are in their families will not always have three meals a day.

August 6, 1931 - page 316-317

The Indians are receiving the treaty money today: the distribution is in the same order as in past years. On this occasion, we give dinner to nine guests, including six employees of the Department and three visitors who accompany them.

October 14, 1931 - page 317

Wedding of two of our students. Helena Many Shots and Philippe Bear Shirt were united in holy matrimony this morning in our chapel before the community mass. The nuptial blessing was given by Reverend Father Riou, Principal of the school.

We implore from heaven the necessary graces for these dear students in their new state of life so that they may understand their duty and be faithful to it.

December 25, 1931 - pages 318-319

The Midnight Mass and two low masses were celebrated by Rev. Father Riou in our chapel for the school staff and the Indians who were few in number at this great religious ceremony this year, for they were drawn near the agency last night by a feast and a dance. On the other hand, in the afternoon, at two o'clock, we had a full house for the little performance given by our students at the end of which the tree was stripped [which] took place at four o'clock.

January 20, 1932 - page 319

Dr. Wall, a specialist in "Trachoma", a contagious eye disease very common among the Indians, examined all our students today in the company of Dr. Windsor, the Department's physician on

the Blackfoot Reserve; several of our students have the beginnings of an infection: seven are already in an advanced stage and will have to undergo, every week, an energetic treatment that Dr. Wall himself gives the first time, initiating a Sister who will continue it in an attempt to heal them.

February 5, 1932 - page 320

Mr. Gooderham, Indian Agent, brings us this morning Mr. Raynor, auditor of the books and the Provincial Inspector of the heating system kettles.

April 20, 1932 - page 322

Mr. Boyce, Inspector of schools, arrived about half past nine and visited the junior class in the morning and the senior class after dinner. He is very satisfied with the teachers and pupils and gives a very encouraging report.

June 30, 1932 - page 323

At ten o'clock this morning, gathered in their respective classrooms, the students received the awards given to them according to the results of the examinations, according to the program of the Department of Education of the Province, which lasted two weeks for the students of the first class; two boys, Steven Many Fires and Dominic Yellow Old Woman wrote the examinations of Grade VIII and we are confident that they passed.

The Reverend Fathers, Sister Superior and all the Sisters were present at this prize-giving, and all the children seemed satisfied.

Reverend Father Riou, Principal, gives them some advice for the vacation season and blesses them, then tomorrow, after having heard Holy Mass, taken Communion and done an hour of adoration at the Blessed Sacrament exposed for the first Friday of the month, they will take off to the sweet family nest where they will enjoy six weeks.

We entrust them to the care of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Virgin Mary and the Holy Angels so that they do not taint their souls too much by continuous contact with pagan parents who are so attached to their many superstitions.

July 15, 1932 – page 325

Our sixteen big girls who remain with us during vacation were happy when they heard they were to go to the Stampede at Calgary. Accompanied by Sisters Pulcheria and Jean Raymond, they left at 7 a.m. by train and returned at 7 p.m. having enjoyed the day.

October 21, 1932 – page 329

This afternoon, Doctor McGill who has been named Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs, visits the school before leaving for Ottawa. He was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. McGill, Mr. Gooderham, Indian Agent, Mr. Christianson, Inspector of Indian Agencies, and Doctor Evelyn Windsor. All seemed pleased with their visit.

November 12, 1932 – page 329

Death claimed one of our boys in the person of Joe Good Eagle. He was suffering from an erysipelas and was taken to the hospital on Oct. 29th. Pneumonia set in and on the morning of the 12th, he had departed from this world. He was well prepared to meet our Lord. Father went the day before and administered the Last Sacraments. May he rest in peace and pray for us.

November 15, 1932 – page 330

Our pupils enjoyed the privilege of following the Exercises of a three day Spiritual Retreat conducted by Rev. Father Newman. Each day, the Exercise commenced by Holy Mass offered by Rev. Father at eight o'clock. The schedule provided two instructions daily, pious reading, way of the cross, rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The Exercises closed on the 18th with Mass, general communion and the Papal Blessing given by Rev. Father Riou, Principal. May our dear Lord continue to guide and protect these dear children on the prairies.

December 3, 1932 – page 331

Shortly before 5 A. M., yesterday, Juliana Spring Chief was suddenly taken with an Hemorrhage. During the forenoon, Doctor came to bring her to the Hospital where she died the following morning. Before leaving, Father anointed her and prepared her for death.

December 25, 1932 – pages 331-332

At 2:00 P. M., the children gave a little concert for their parents. Santa Claus then distributed the Xmas presents which were many useful things all given by the parents. There are many children, I am sure, who did not get what our Indians did. Benediction at 4 o'clock brought us again to the Feet of the Crib, there to ask favors for loved ones, far and near.

January 18, 1933 – page 333

Mr Christianson, Inspector of Indian Agencies and Mr. Gooderham, Indian Agent, came to inspect the school. He visited the house and stopped at the classrooms to hear the children recite. In the Senior Class, he told them that when they leave school, to put into practice what they are taught here. He finished by granting them a holiday.

April 4, 1933 – page 334

About ten o'clock, Mr. Raymoor, Auditor sent by the Department, arrived to Examen the Account Books. He left at 4.30 and seemed to be satisfied.

April 24, 1933 – page 334

Pay Day. Joy beamed forth this morning on each Indian face gathered here at the School to receive their \$25.00. Mr. Gooderham, Indian Agent, a Constable and Interpreter, arrived at 9.30 and left at 3 o'clock.

May 6, 1933 – page 334

Informed by telephone that Dr. Stone sent by the Department would be here in a few minutes, the Sisters [in] charge of the children hastened to make preparations. Doctor E. Windsor accompanied him. He visited the house and seemed very pleased, remarking how much progress the children had made in their manners and appearance.

May 11, 1933 – page 335

Spring and the Sunshine brought us Mr. C. Edwards, Scholl Inspector. He arrived at 9.30 A. M., and immediately went to the Junior Class where he passed the forenoon, and at one to the Senior room for the afternoon. This was only the second Indian school inspected by him. Still, he gave a very encouraging report. Thanks to the Sacred Heart.

June 6, 1933 – page 335

There was great rejoicing today in our little mission when His Excellency Bishop Monahan conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 50 persons, children and adults, both Indians and Whites. Before administering the sacrament, His Excellency questioned them and explained what they were to receive. Then His Excellency delivered a short sermon, both in English and French, telling the parents how to bring up their children, teaching them to love and respect authority, always watching over their innocence.

July 3, 1933 – page 337

Wedding. This morning in our Convent Chapel, two of our school children, Peter Calf and May Spring Chief, were united by the sacrament of Matrimony. May God bless and protect this new couple.

August 21, 1933 – page 338

[Fire at the school. Damage is important.]

September 30, 1933 – page 340

Mr. Southerland, Minister of Education from Ottawa, visits the school this afternoon. He addressed the children, telling them how they should profit of the opportunity they are having here. He left after luncheon, much pleased with his visit.

October 6, 1933 – page 340

Court. Precisely at four o'clock the Judge and Constable arrived to decide the case of our two girls, Maggie Sitting Eagle and Rosa Mayfield who were the cause of the fire set August 21st. Fortunately, they both pleaded guilty and were sentenced for two years Reform School, conducted by the Good Shepherd at Edmonton.

November 28, 1933 – page 341

One of our girls, Martha Black Kettle, who took the Departmental Exams in June, is united this morning to Walker Bear Chief. Wishes of health and happiness is theirs today and always.

December 26, 1933 – page 342

This year, the concert opened by the Boys' Band at 1.30 P. M., followed by pieces from the girls' orchestra, besides dialogues & drills. How proud some of the Indians felt when they saw their children members of the Band or Orchestra. The children have all the advantages possible here at school. If, while developing these talents which sometimes seem to be hidden, we could see germinate the gift of Faith what would not our consolation be? For the majority of the Blackfoot Tribe, are still far from our holy religion. We confide them all to the Sacred Hart and the Little Flower, patroness of Missionaries.

February 12, 1934 – page 342

Wedding. Again, this morning, two of our girls, Alice Calf with Jim Many Bears, and Eunice Pretty Young Man with David Yellow Horse, are united by the Sacred ties of Matrimony. Our prayers and wishes are theirs.

March 1, 1934 – page 342

The Indian Agent, Mr. Gooderham, brings Mr. Raymoor, the Auditor, to examine the account Books. He left shortly after four.

April 16, 1934 – pages 343-344

Pay Day & Picnic. This is a gala day for the Blackfeet, for regardless of age, they are all to receive \$25.00 from the Dominion Government in payment for their lands. As they are paid at Gleichen, this year, Rev. Father Riou permits them to leave Sunday after mass, so this means two days freedom. In the afternoon, the Sisters had a picnic near the river which we greatly enjoyed.

April 24, 1934 – page 344

This being the only Indian school not under the financial administration of the Oblate Fathers, measures were taken to have it so. The Sisters are to receive a salary paid quarterly. The Provincial Procurator of the Oblate and Sister Sosthene, Provincial Econome, arrive to examine the accounts and settle affairs. Our prayer is that all may turn to the greater honor and glory of God.

June 16, 1934 – page 345

What was not our surprise this afternoon when we received the visit of four Departmental Officials: Mr. Christianson, Inspector of Indian Agencies, Doctors Stone & Wall of Ottawa, and Mr. Gooderham, Indian Agent. They visited the children in their recreation halls and left for Calgary shortly before supper.

June 19, 1934 – page 345

Exams. It is 9 o'clock. Pupils and teacher are in class for Exams. One of our boys, Gilbert Bear Hat is taking the Departmental Exams for Grade VIII. We feel confident that with the help of God he will pass successfully.

June 29, 1934 – page 345

At 1.30 in the presence of Reverend Father Riou, the children, assembled in their respective classes, receive their prizes. After a few words of encouragement, they receive their notes and the rewards given them for a year's work.

September 10, 1934 – page 350

As requested by Reverend Father Riou, Principal, to have a Nurse for the school, our major Superiors kindly condescended to his wishes and names Sister Mary Josepha, R. N., a new graduate of St. Paul's Hospital.

November 15, 1934 – page 351

During the month of September, two Doctors from the Sanitorium in Calgary were sent to examine the children for T. B. The boys and girls are taken each in turn to the Hospital in Gleichen to be X Rayed. Today, we received the results. Eleven are considered to be active cases and are taken to the Hospital for immediate care. The majority of those who remain are under special supervision, consisting of lunch and rest periods. Every day, they have lunch at 10.15 and again at three. They rest in bed after dinner until two. School starts then until four. To

our estimation, they are not any worse than in years past. However, the special care they are now receiving will not harm them any.

December 5, 1934 – page 353

Mr. W. Framie arrives this morning and inspects both classes. As this was his first experience with Indian children, he stated how surprised he was to find that the same course of studies was followed in our schools as in the public schools.

December 25, 1934 – page 353

Midnight Mass.

High Mass is sung by Rev. Fr. Riou, O. M. I. at which a large number of Indians assist and receive Communion. A few of the Xmas hymns were sung in Blackfoot and we may well imagine the surprise of the old folks. After mass, the children recreation halls were left to their disposal. Mostly all remained until morning due to the intense cold and the distance from which many came.

December 26, 1934 – page 354

Our Xmas concert was enjoyed by a large gathering on Dec. 26th. It opened at two o'clock by a song followed by selections from the Band which seemed to be of special interest.

The Indian Club Drill by the boys then pantomimes and drills.

Santa Claus in the person of Dan Wolf Leg then made his appearance and distributed the many pretty gifts, all given by the parents. After a short visit with their children, all left very much satisfied with the performance.

January 9, 1935 – page 354

This afternoon, Mr. Christianson, Inspector of Indian Agencies, accompanied by the Indian Agent, Mr. George H. Gooderham of Gleichen, visits the school.

The pupils repeated the Xmas concert in his honor. He appreciated it and said he noticed their progress.

May 14, 1935 – page 356

Three Ministers of the United Church with their secretary visits the school this afternoon. They seemed to take deep interest in the management of our schools and were greatly surprised to hear of the results we obtain for the betterment of the pupils when out of school. They are out inspecting different Indian Schools trying to find different plans on which to improve theirs.

May 30, 1935 – page 356

In the afternoon, we were visited by Mr. Phelan from Ottawa, accompanied by Mr. Christianson, Inspector of Indian Agencies, and George H. Gooderham, Indian Agent. The children assembled in the girls' hall gave a little concert in his honor.

Afterwards, they visited the house taking special notice of the pressing repairs to be made. Due to the increased number of children present at school this year, the accommodations especially for the girls have been limited. Demands for an annex have been sent in to Ottawa and we feel that it is greatly needed. A number of Catholic children have been put at the Protestant School which is on the Reserve.

The misfortune of seeing these poor ones brought up in a stranger religion seems to be a heavy cross for all. When the matter is discussed with the Government officials, always the same reply results: "Your school is built for sixty, therefore, the space especially the dormitories cannot accommodate more."

Let us double our efforts and trust in the Sacred Heart who in His own hour will have all turn out for his honor and glory.

July 3, 1935 – page 360

The departure of the children for vacation was postponed until the 3rd due to the Sun Dance which has been in full sway since June 26. This is one of the Blackfeet's yearly custom which is held sometime in June. In former years, this pagan formality lasted from five to six weeks, but of late years, the official form the Dept. of Indian Affairs succeeded in having it last only a week from whence they were to break up camp and start for the Calgary Stampede in which they take part.

For the first time since the beginning of the Mission, the older girls who remained with us, throughout the year, vacation as well, were granted permission to spend the holidays at their homes.

Fervent supplications and prayers mount Heavenward asking our dear Lord to protect them.

August 12, 1935 – page 363

Shortly after the arrival of His Grace, Archbishop Monahan, Dr. McGill, Supt. of Indian Affairs in Ottawa, Mr. M. Christianson, Inspector of Indian Agencies, and Mr. G. H. Gooderham, Indian Agent, came to pay a short visit, bringing the good news that most probably in the spring we would have a new addition to the present building. We are beginning to feel confident that we have not prayed in vain, for a new wing is greatly needed to accommodate the large number of children who at present frequent our school.

November 19, 1935 – page 364

Today, on the beautiful [1 word missing] of our heavenly Patroness, our little Betsy Cutter, age 7 years, receives the regenerating waters of Holy Baptism and the name of Elizabeth. Although the father, a Protestant, and the mother a pagan, they have placed their third child, Betsy, at the school and awaited the admission of each to have them baptized.

November 25, 1935 – page 365

This morning, at six o'clock, two of our ex-pupils, Stephen Many Fires and Mary Ann Bear Hat were united by the bonds of Matrimony. We extend to them our best wishes for their future happiness.

November 26, 1935 – page 365

Again, this year the children are taken to the Hospital in Gleichen to be X-Rayed by two Doctors from Calgary. Sisters Eustache de Rome and Mary Josepha accompanied the girls on the first day. Sister Frances of Carmel and Mary Joseph went with the boys the following day.

December 26, 1935 – page 365

The annual Christmas Concert at which a large gathering including Mr. G. H. Gooderham, Indian Agent, and Dr. E. Windsor, were present, opened at two o'clock. The Indians remarked the progress of their children and did not fail to compare the Anglican mission with ours. Then the children left with their parents for three days.

January 6, 1936 – page 366

To our great disappointment, Dr. Windsor comes with the results of the X-Rays taken in Nov. According to her estimation, the number of active cases have increased from four to nine girls and two to five boys. She intended taking them to the hospital, but Sister Superior urged her and asked as a favor for them to be left here at school under our supervision. She condescended on conditions that they be kept in bed continually, separated from the others, and the same care given them as in a sanatorium.

March 5, 1936 – page 367

A new auditor in the person of Mr. Willis examines the account books and statements of the school. Before leaving, he told Father Riou how pleased he was with the manner in which the books are kept.

April 16, 1936 – page 369

Pay Day. A great and glorious day dawns for our Blackfeet Indians for it is today that they receive their "Lease Money" - \$25. per head. Our pupils are granted permission to spend three days with their parents. After being paid, a special train arrived in Gleichen to take them all to Calgary on a shopping tour. At their arrival in the city, the photographers were kept busy.

May 24, 1936 – page 370

In honor of Queen Victoria, this day has been chosen for a picnic near the river, the first one ever taken together by the personnel of the house. Early in the morning, two trucks came for the children, while the car was left for the Sisters. We all returned in the evening for Benediction, not failing to thank our dear Lord for such a beautiful day.

June 11, 1936 – page 370

Having heard that we had the T.B. patients get up without her authorization, Dr. E. Windsor and the Agent sent the complaint to Ottawa. Mr. M. Christianson, Inspector of Indian Agencies, was sent to inquire into the matter.

July 2, 1936 – page 372

Once more, we welcomed eagerly the months of July, bringing with it the accustomed summer vacations. The children gladly said good bye to pen and pencils, taking the road to home again, all, but the T.B. patients who must remain for they require special care which cannot be given them in their respective homes. They will understand this and accept it, although tears trickle down their cheeks to see their little companions leave them behind.

October 14, 1936 – page 375

Again, our dear little Blackfeet of the Prairies are favoured with a three days retreat preached by Rev. Father LaRose, O. M. I.

To our great joy, the children are beginning to show an anticipation to this Spiritual welfare. They show interest, the older ones try hard to be more silent, engaged in reading and visits to Jesus. May the dear Lord look down upon them and shower His blessings abundantly.

October 30, 1936 – page 375

Mr. Frames, School Inspector, makes his annual visit to day. Beginning by the Primary classroom, he then goes to the Junior. After dinner, he spends a couple hours in the Senior class. He is very satisfied and gives an encouraging report.

December 27, 1936 – page 376

Being Sunday, the Indians all arrive for the 11:15 High Mass which was followed by a dinner served to over two hundred of our good Blackfoot friends.

At 1:30, the bells called everyone to the chapel for Benediction.

At 2 o'clock, began our usual annual entertainment which was very successful. After a few words from Rev. Father Riou, Chief Duck and Chief Ted Yellow Fly, the latter a chief from the other school, expressed the great progress rising in the school encouraged the pupils to love their school and to be grateful.

The lovely Christmas gifts bought by the pupils' parents were then distributed by Santa Claus. The whole, closing by the always favored "God Save our King" accompanied by the Rhythm Band and Brass Band.

The children left for a three days holiday very happy with their parents pleased with the efforts and success of their dear children.

January 17, 1937 – page 377

The extra work so willingly accepted by the sisters last year, concerning the active cases of T. B. has proved pleasing to God for this year the X-Ray results register only five girls and three boys, one of the boys being a new pupil. We keep them with us again this year and hope that after another X-Ray which will be taken in May, much progress will have been obtained.

March 16, 1937 – page 378

Mr. Gooderham, Doc. Winsor and a Doc. from Montana come to-day to take a blood test from the children. They are experimenting on finding the origin of the different Tribes of Indians. We all wish them much success.

May 12, 1937 – page 380

Coronation Day. Like all nations belonging to Great Britain, our Blackfoot Tribe join in the celebration of this Memorial Day.

All dressed up with a little excitement in the heart the children are driven to Gleichen in a big truck where an arena is nicely decorated for the occasion. The program celebration began with a National Parade of which our boys took part with their School Band. When all had arrived at the arena, the program in honor of their Majesties was continued. We are proud that our Blackfoot pupils took part in it. They sang "O Canada" in their Blackfoot language accompanied by the School Orchestra.

May the King of Kings bless our new King and Queen, give them strength to fulfill their duty, honesty and righteousness.

May 14, 1937 – page 380

We have been praying daily, begging the Sacred Heart for a new wing as the pupils are becoming more numerous each year. Mr. Schmidt, the new Indian Agent Inspector came with Mr. Gooderham to talk about having a new building for class-rooms, instead of a wing.

May 26, 1937 – page 381

Our annual picnic was held on the 26th on account of bad weather, but it did not at all spoil the great fun everybody enjoyed all day.

June 13, 1937 – pages 381-383

[After confirmation...]

A few minutes later, the crowd was assembled in a large room prepared to give His Excellency a little reception. When all was quiet, Chief White Head stood up, looked around, spoke in Blackfoot to the moveless crowd, then the interpreter announced that His Excellency was to receive an Indian Name by which he would be known on the Reserve. It is a ceremony to receive a name, so after all was done, he was called “The Great White Eagle”. Bishop, in return, made a short but very interesting and touching but appropriated speech of thanks. Father Lessard came next and received the name of “Holy Moon”. These names given, each have their legend and some connection with meaning regarding the person who receives it.

The Indian performance began. Dressed in Indian style, they gave several dances to the sound of their Tam Tams which was greatly enjoyed by the Bishop and every guest.

A lovely address by a school pupil was given and the reception was ended by “O Canada” sung in Blackfoot, accompanied by the school orchestra.

His Excellency blessed everybody and left delighted with the day.

June 28, 1937 – page 383

To-day, Mary Many Guns, one of our school girls is launching out into a new mode of life. After spending ten years at study and domestic science, she is united this morning by the Sacrament of Matrimony to David Bull Bear. The latter chosen by her parents has received just enough religious instruction to step into this engagement.

May God give her strength to keep him in the True Fold.

June 30, 1937 – page 383

At 9.30 this morning, Rev. Father Riou, Father Lessard, Sr. Superior and Sisters are assembled where a happy crowd of children are gathered for the last time before “Vacation”. Large round eyes are fixed on the table where lovely rewards await those who have tried their best to earn them. After a short program, Father Riou gives a few counsels and good advices for the time they will be at home. The prizes are distributed, all are happy and thinking of the morrow which will be the day of departure for two full months.

July 1, 1937 –page 385

According to the last Departmental Orders, the pupils are to have two full months of Vacation.

All were assisting at the 6:30 Mass where hymns and prayers were fervently ascending heavenward begging their Blessed Mother to protect her dear ones from all sin and harm during these two long months.

Many anxious parents were waiting for their children when mass was over, so without breakfast, a great number left for their respective homes.

The remaining soon found their turns coming quietly; at eleven o'clock, we found ourselves left with only the active T. B.'s who are to have a month's vacation in August.

God is certainly good and has rewarded all efforts in regards to the T. B.'s for only four remain now.

August 2, 1937 – page 386

The great day has arrived. What happy four are our little T. B.'s. To-day, they leave for "Home Sweet Home" where they are to enjoy a month's vacation. After assisting at Mass and receiving Holy Communion, we are certain that our Sweet Lord and His dear Mother will take good care of them as they have done in the past.

September 1, 1937 – page 388

Yesterday being the last day of vacation, the pupils had been notified the preceding week to return to school on that day.

To-day, September 1st, as a reward for all those who heeded the call, instead of marching into class, a big picnic was prepared to which everybody took part.

How the children enjoyed the first day and sad were the few arrived too late.

September 22, 1937 – pages 389-390

Sixty years ago, the Treaty No. 7 was signed for this Indian Reservation. To-day, being the anniversary of this great act, a Special feast and program has been prepared.

As our school takes part in the Program, the children dressed up in their best are taken down to the grounds just below the Treaty Monument where this act was signed. Happy are the hearts and shouts of joy are heard from the children when the beautiful sight of highly coloured tee-pees and decorated grand stand are seen.

An interesting and typical parade describing the progressive steps of our Indians in their methods of living and working filed down before the grand stand occupied only by invited guests and Chiefs and hundreds of eyes who have come as spectators.

Between several eloquent speeches concerning the past, present and future of our good Indians, the prepared program by the pupils of the two Indian schools was given.

Refreshments were then passed around to the pupils. Tea and buffalo sandwiches were offered to the guests, the buffalo having been killed for the occasion.

October 19, 1937 – page 390

As in the preceding three years, the children are again taken to the Hospital in Gleichen to be x-rayed for the T. B. treatment which are very much improved. It is with great confidence that we leave all in the hands of God and trust that the results will prove satisfactory.

November 8, 1937 – page 391

The Department has granted permission for the children to have their eyes tested.

November 29, 1937 – page 391

The results of the x-rays taken last October arrive to-day. It is encouraging to state that four of last year's Active cases are now only Observation cases.

Two more pupils, a boy and a girl, have been discovered Active Cases along with two new pupils. With more fervent prayers and the good care bestowed on them by our devoted nurse, we are certain that the number will keep on decreasing each year.

December 26, 1937 – pages 392-393

Again, in spite of the bitter cold, many of our good friends are here to assist at our Christmas Concert.

After the concert which everyone greatly enjoyed, Santa Claus came in with loads of beautiful presents and toys. Outstretched arms and hands soon closed around them as Santa proceeded in making everyone happy.

As the children were not permitted to go home for Christmas vacation their parents remained for a short time with them enjoying seeing their little ones so pleased over their lovely presents.

Rev Father Riou gave words of encouragement to the parents, congratulated the children, then allowed the parents to come any time during Christmas week and take their children home for one day. All were pleased and returned happy.

April 5, 1938 – page 396

After several meetings held on the Reserve by the Indian Agent, the Doctor in charge and the Chiefs concerning the Departmental wishes on Tuberculosis, it was decided that all the active T. B. cases were to leave the schools. Three girls from here are taken to the Central Alberta Sanatorium. The five other cases return home as their parents refused to send them to the Sanatorium. This decision was taken to avoid contamination among the school children.

June 16, 1938 – page 398

Dr. Wall, the eye specialist from Ottawa, is here today to examine the children's eyes. He finds that the children are doing wonderfully and that many are cured from that dreadful disease Trachoma. Treatment will have to be continued if we wish this disease to disappear entirely from this school.

June 19, 1938 – page 399

This same afternoon, at four o'clock, an Indian celebration was held in the boys' hall. Over three hundred Indians were present. Five boys dressed in beaded costumes danced to the rhythm of the drums and Indian war songs. Lunch and tea were served to all the Indians. These celebrations are given to draw the Indians nearer to the school.

June 19, 1938 – page 400

To close this great day, a concert was given by the school pupils in the auditorium. All the Indians assisted and seemed to enjoy the program. Before leaving, the Chiefs expressed their appreciation for the work accomplished by the Rev. Fathers and Sisters. This day will long be remembered by the Indians of this Reserve.

June 30, 1938 – pages 400-401

This afternoon, at 2.30, all the pupils gather in the auditorium for the close of the school term and for the distribution of prizes. Rev. Father J. Lessard, Brother Gaudet, Mother Provincial, Sister Superior and all the Sisters assist. The program is exclusively executed by the Primary

Grade Pupils to show the progress they have made during their first year of school. An address of thanks is also read by a senior pupil. The prizes are than given to all the children who show their joy and happiness with a smiling face. Although this is the last day of school, the pupils will leave for home only on the 6th of July, owing to the ceremonies of the Sun Dance which are still going on at the present. The school children are not allowed to attend these pagan ceremonies.

PAA – PR1971.0220/2587 (This file: 1938 to 1943. Pages 402 to 493.)

July 6, 1938 – page 402

This morning, at 6:30, all the pupils were present for Mass and Holy Communion.

Fervent the hymns and prayers as they ascended to the thrones of Jesus and Mary imploring protection to keep from sin the frail souls of our Indian pupils.

After a hearty breakfast, almost all the pupils left with their parents for home. By noon, every child had gone for the long desired vacation, so pleasant to every student equally appreciated by Indian as well as others.

September 6, 1938 – page 405

A busy day is this one, when eighty-five pupils keep arriving from early morning to seven thirty in the evening, where they find in the boys' new hall a nice moving picture show awaiting them. The machine is new and real movies. After enjoying four good films, they gladly retire with happy little hearts for they know that lovely evenings await them for the future.

September 12, 1938 – page 405

This morning, at a Nuptial Mass officiated by Father Lessard, Mary Clare Calf is united in marriage to Henry Sun Walk.

The children all assisted and sang beautiful hymns appropriate for the occasion. May God bless this young couple starting a new life and [give] them strength to fulfill their duties and grant them happiness.

October 15, 1938 – page 406

This year it is Rev. Father Gagnon who has come to give a three day retreat to our little Indian pupils.

He has been here to preach a retreat in previous years, so the children show interest and try to bring out their improved conduct and spiritual learnings.

November 7, 1938 – page 406

We are now on our fourth year concerning the T. B. treatment which to our great consolation shows an improvement each year. The children are again taken to the Indian Hospital where each in turn pass to be x-rayed.

The two doctors then held the Clinic here at the school two days after.

November 8, 1938 – page 407

At 9 A. M. this morning, the School Inspector, Mr. Frame, walked into the house, and after exchanging a few words with Sr. Superior, began his visit. We were not surprised because we always expect him about this time of the year.

When each class had had its inspection, a few words on education and management were exchanged. He left very satisfied and congratulated us for the improvement he noticed. We were entirely satisfied with the report left.

December 26, 1938 – page 409

For the first time in our auditorium the new stage was raised for our Christmas Concert. All decorated for the occasion and with lovely new dark green curtains, everything was very attractive.

In no time, the hall was crowded, then overcrowded.

The concert was greatly enjoyed by all, it was successful to the end, all had done their very best. The last song came, the best in regards to all youngsters, for it is always with this song that dear old Santa appears laden with toys and presents. He is greeted cheerfully by loud cheers and clapping.

[...]

Again, Father grants them all this permission of a one day holiday at their homes.

December 29, 1938 – page 410

At the eight o'clock mass, another of our pupils, Clare Isabell Cat Face was united in marriage to Mr. Many Turning Robes. Her school mates were all present, several received Holy Communion for success in the future life of the young couple.

April 21, 1939 – page 415

Pay Day. A great day is Pay Day for the Indians and children. Early in the forenoon the parents came for their little ones. All go to Gleichen where their money is distributed.

We have the consolation to state that most of the Indians now spend their money for a good purpose as clothes and footwear. They also give the Fathers a share as Church Contribution. It is hoped that in the future we will still see more improvement in the ways of living of these children of God.

May 26, 1939 – page 419

Cherished souvenirs of the King and Queen's visit will long remain in the minds of all who have seen Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

A special train at the disposal of the Indians took all to Calgary where the day was joyfully spent. In the evening, the train bore the tired children homeward, but delighted and satisfied.

July 2, 1939 – page 422

To-day is Sunday, therefore the pupils begin their two full months of vacation by assisting at High Mass. The church is crowded with parents who will take their children home immediately after. During mass, our Principal, Rev. Father Riou, takes the advantage to give the parents as well as pupils all the good counsils [advice]of an interested pastor and finishes by telling them to have a good time, but a go, good time, then all kneel for his blessing. The hymns and prayers come from the hearts and soul of these fragile children of God, imploring help and protection.

September 3, 1939 – page 426

The announcement of a big Picture Show for Sept. 3rd brought all our pupils back in time to begin the school term. The attendance was large as the parents remained to see the movies.

October 16, 1939 – page 429

To-day, Father Bartley opens a three full days retreat for the pupils. In order that they may be more penetrated with the necessities of this Spiritual food, there will be no school. With the sisters in charge, different little Spiritual exercises are performed and frequent visits to the Host of the Tabernacle where, let us hope, God will enlighten and instruct His chose little ones.

December 7, 1939 – page 430

Marie, one of our little pupils who was discharged in 1936 because of T. B. dies to-day after a stay of almost two years at the Calgary San. She was the eldest daughter of Chief Many Bears, a Counsellor. The funeral Mass was sung by the pupils. Among the large attendance assisting, five other Chiefs were present, including Chief Duck, head Chief. Marie is the only death registered of the seven who went to the San, three are still there, we are confident that they are on the way to recovery. No Active T. B. cases were found in the school this year. Let us hope that with God's help as well as all the care lavished on our pupils, this dreadful germ will soon disappear.

December 13, 1939 – page 431

At 9:30, the School Inspector walks in unexpected. This year, it is Mr. R. V. McCullough, newly appointed and made his first experience with the Indians by visiting the Old Sun School in November, and now it is our turn. Being a stranger, the children were a little timid and did not respond as well as usual. Nevertheless, he was satisfied and greatly enjoyed his visit giving him new material to investigate.

December 26, 1939 – page 432

As in the past, our Christmas program was held in the afternoon of the 26th.

This year, a new aspect took possession of the auditorium for, on entering, just at the right, front of the stage was a beautifully decorated and lighted Christmas Tree, all surrounded with heaps of toys, a cry of joy was heard by all noticing the tree.

The concert was greatly enjoyed and appreciated as related in the speeches of the Chiefs.

Francis Black, acting as Santa, distributed the gifts. This year from Sr. Superior instead of an individual gift for each child, the boys received a lovely Pool Table, along with it, playing cards, balls and other gifts which all could partake. The girls receiving two beautiful toboggans, cards and card tables, Chinese Checkers and a good Bingo. This pleased the children immensely.

Father Riou, the Principal, granted them a day holiday in their homes.

March 3, 1940 – page 436

Rev. Father Lessard who has a lovely Picture Show Machine, obtained a film on the Passion of Our Lord, entitled "The King of Kings". It certainly could not be a better picture to show during Lent.

The Auditorium was opened at 7 P. M. to over 150 outside Indians who crowded to see this beautiful film. It was shown here a second time to all the pupils to get a better impression after several explanations.

Long will this picture remain in the minds of our Indians and pupils. May God help them to Love, serve and obey Him more each day.

April 16, 1940 – page 437

The greatest day of the year for the Indians has come again, that of possessing \$25.00 apiece, excepting for Chief who receive \$75.00 and their wives, \$50.00. With the Principal permission, a few days of holidays were granted, that parents and children may enjoy spending their money. Most of them spend usefully, by dressing their children with very good clothes, not forgetting flashy jewels & pins.

They also profit by this occasion to contribute for the support of their pastor and also give a large sum for the expenses of the School Journal.

May 19, 1940 – pages 438-439

In the afternoon, at five, a lovely ceremony was held in the chapel for the first time, that of a reception of Children of Mary.

Thirteen girls attired in white entered to the hymn of Children of Mary to be the first Blackfoot girls to bear the name of Child of Mary.

These were Cecilia W. S., Annie Leather, Josephine P. C., Iren C., Rosa R. R., Lucy S, Emma R. W., Rosie M. S., Mary Rose G. E., Cecile M. B., Rita R. R., Clarisse L. C. and Mary Louise S. C.

Father Gaudet gave an instruction explaining the necessity of putting into practice the virtues characteristic of a Child of Mary.

The blessing and distribution of ribbons and medals then took place, and the solemn Act of Consecration was recited in unison.

A few parents and friends were present as well as the whole personnel of the school. The ceremony closed with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. May Mary, our dear Mother, protect and care for these, her first Blackfoot Children of Mary.

June 30, 1940 – page 440

To-day being Sunday and so close to July 1st, Rev. Father Riou, the Principal, permits the children to leave for their Summer Vacations after having heard Mass.

The parents from far and near are here for their little ones.

After mass, it is a rush here and there, and in twenty minutes every happy child is on the homeward road.

September 3, 1940 –page 444

It seems strange this year to look at our pupils assembled, several of our older ones are missing.

This, accounts for the new rules set by the Department.

All pupils of sixteen have been discharged which decreases the number and not many younger ones have entered.

All seem happy to begin another school year after a two months vacation.

October 16 & 17, 1940 – page 446

The Clinic was held at the school, taking but one day, and the X-rays taken at the Indian Hospital in Gleichen as in previous years. We are certain that the results will be much improved for all care has been taken towards destroying the T. B. germ.

November 17, 1940 – page 447

Death claims the second victim of our Active T. B. cases, our dear little Helen Spring Chief.

Her mother having died at her birth in 1936, she remained at the Blackfoot Hospital until she reached her fourth year, she was then brought to us, still small and frail for the T. B. germ was slowly working. She spent ten years of which most of it was either in bed here or at the hospital and from there to the Sanatorium in Calgary where she did not remain long, for death was claiming its victim.

Her devotion to the Blessed Virgin was noticeable, always while in bed in the infirmary she would ask to leave the chapel door open so she could see “her Mary” with a vigil light burning before the statue.

She died at the Blackfoot Hospital fortified with the last Sacraments.

Her funeral Mass was sung by the pupils in the church where many Indians assisted to offer their sympathy to the afflicted father, one brother and five sisters.

May Helen pray for her little companions and from heaven obtain for them a greater love for Mary.

December 5 & 13, 1940 – page 448

Twice we receive the visit of our School Inspector, Mr. R. V. McCullough. He visits on Dec. 5 the Primary and Junior Classes, then returns on the 13th to inspect the Senior Class. He is pleased to state a great improvement in the pupils and leave a very good report.

December 24 & 25, 1940 – page 450

For the first time, we have had what we call a quiet or Peaceful Christmas.

On Dec. 23rd, Mr. Gooderham, our Indian Agent, put a Quarantine Card on our door as a precaution against the Whooping Cough and Measles which were spreading on the Reserve. Therefore, all our preparation for a beautiful Mid-Night Mass, lovely concert and decorated Christmas Tree, was enjoyed by the personnel of the house only. The Christmas spirit was not lost, “by far” as we had a bit expected on account of the pupils not seeing their dear parents and missing their outing, but we enjoyed a real family Christmas, the children were happy and pleased.

Mid-Night Mass was beautiful and Christmas day, with all gifts and goodies, was a real Christmas.

The evening recreation was prolonged, then tired little bodies were glad to climb into their warm beds to continue the day in their dreams, after thanking God for all his kindness.

April 16, 1941 – page 454

Mr. Doucet, Director of Education with the Indian Department at Ottawa, was a visitor here for four days.

This is the first Indian School he visits for the purpose of studying local problems for all Indian Schools. He will continue his visits to all Indian Schools under the Government care.

During his stay, he visited all the school and buildings, held conferences with the Principal, Sisters and employees.

He hopes that his visit will result with a definite program of studies beginning in September with a practical combination of Domestic and manual training. We are anxious to follow this new course which will, no doubt, give our pupils a most practical preparation for their future life on the Reserve.

May 15, 1941 – page 456

Every year, Dr. Walls comes to examine the eyes infected with trachoma.

After a new medical treatment which lasted a year, he found an improved condition among our pupils who had this disease.

September 8, 1941 - page 463

It is with sorrow that we learn of the death of one of our little pupils, Windsor Three Suns, aged 7 years. The grieving father and mother came to tell the terrible news.

Little Windsor was riding his horse, when the horse stumbled, taking the dear boy with it, who died instantly. Our dear Indians are still quite superstitious, so the father believes that this accident is a punishment from the Good Lord for being stubborn during the year when Father Riou pointed out that little Windsor should be at school since he was the right age. For him, the child would not have died if he had listened to the Father. May this accident serve as an example to our dear Indians and give them the courage to act when it comes to the salvation of their dear children.

September 22, 1941 - page 465

The delay in the opening of classes requested by the Ottawa government, due to illness, has come to an end. Today, therefore, our doors are wide open to receive our dear children. They all seem happy to be back and seem to be well disposed.

October 7, 1941 - page 466

[Children's Retreat].

October 9, 1941 - page 466

As in past years, our students must report to the clinic for a lung X-ray. It is not without need that the government takes these precautions, for many of our Indians are suffering from tuberculosis.

October 31, 1941 - pages 466-467

The last day of October is not forgotten. Contrary to the last years, the children had fun each in their room decorated for the circumstance in yellow and black. To hear their joyful cries, we judge that they had a good time.

November 28, 1941 - page 467

Around 11 a.m., one of our former students, Florence Carrier Wolf Leg, united her destiny with Earl Calf Child. The children sang hymns during the service. The new bride did this very well. She received the Bread of the strong during the service. Best wishes to the new couple.

December 8, 1941 - pages 467-468

All hearts gathered this morning to celebrate our Good Mother in Heaven. The community mass took place at 6:00 a.m., followed by the reception of the Children of Mary. Fourteen of our big girls received the rule book of the Children of Mary confraternity. May they always be faithful.

December 18, 1941 - page 468

This morning a service was held for a former student, Mary Lucy Medicine Shield (Mrs. Adam Solway) who was just called back to God at the age of 22, a victim of tuberculosis. She died a beautiful death, well resigned and comforted by the help of our religion.

December 24, 1941 - page 468

Concert. Seeing the animation, the Christmas tree, the costumed children, one guesses easily that it is the Christmas concert. Everything was performed with satisfaction. Many parents were present. Between the different sketches, moving pictures were presented. The afternoon ended with the drawing of a turkey and a beautiful cake. One of our students was the lucky winner of the cake.

January 3, 1942 - page 469

Our children are back from their little vacation in a good mood and eager to show us their presents. All answered the call.

13 January 1942 - page 470

Towards the end of the afternoon, Miss Sanderson, Inspector for the physical exercises, arrived. After supper, she went to see the progress made since October. The children have done their best and their teacher, Rev. Charron is pleased with them.

January 17, 1942 - page 470

In order to encourage the children on the beauty and necessity of physical exercises, moving pictures were given to them, representing certain classes doing these exercises. They were very interested.

March 3, 1942 - page 471

Since winter began, the snow has not been very abundant. It is not surprising that at the first snowfall the children are excited and rush out on the sleds and toboggans without worrying about the danger. Some girls came back with a bump on their forehead, a cut on their eye, a scraped knee. We will remember the first real snowstorm of 1942.

April 11, 1942 - page 472

The recreation room fills with Indians who have come for the performance of the moving pictures given by the Rev. Charron, O.M.I. They had a good time, for the whole thing represented "Cow Boys", which every Indian loves.

April 13, 1942 - page 472

The day so desired by our dear Indians has finally arrived. It is the day of the treaty. Let's not blame them if they are a little excited since every Indian today will receive \$25.00. What is

unfortunate in this is to see how little they have left when they return. Poor Indians, the money is burning their hands. May they ever learn to save money.

April 17, 1942 - page 473

Inspectors Shmidt and Gooderham passed through our mission, as well as a doctor from the department who had come to see how the organization was doing.

April 19, 1942 - page 475

One of our grown-up girls, Rosie Medicine Shield, united her destiny this morning with Adam Solway, her brother-in-law. After the nuptial mass, the Reverend Father Principal took the young couple to Calgary on a so-called "honeymoon". Sister Superior gave the bride a beautiful set of dishes. It was a happy day for them.

April 25, 1942 - page 475

The weather is not looking good this morning. What will happen to our family reunion? The banquet fixed for 1:00 p.m. brought together more than 150 former students of our school, not counting the present students and the children of former students.

After dinner, the Reverend Father Principal, Father Fernand Forestier, addressed the alumni. Mr. Simon Big Snake, president, thanked the Reverend Father and the Sisters on behalf of all for the great success of the reunion and promised that he would be the first to set an example to his confreres regarding attendance at Sunday Mass. Duck Chief spoke in his own language as did Joe Good Eagle.

Adrien Charron, O.M.I. organized races in the boys' yard until 4 o'clock, time for the moving pictures where all were admitted free.

After supper, there was an Indian dance party. Everyone danced, old, young, children, to the sound of the drum which resounded up to the 3rd floor. At 10 o'clock, time to rest and to dream about the past day which was appreciated by all.

April 25, 1942 - page 476

We were treated to an unexpected visit by Inspector Alphonse Doucet of the Ottawa department. His purpose was to see what means could be taken to educate our dear Indians. He was accompanied by Mr. Shmidt, Inspector, and Gooderham, Agent.

June 20, 1942 - page 476

The children are working hard this morning. They are at the height of happiness. They are promised a full day of eating and running in the woods. They are light on their feet in the brush. A game of softball was organized. The return trip took place around 7 o'clock. Everyone was happy to be back in bed and to have sweet dreams.

October 4, 1942 - page 480

On the evening of October 4, a three-day retreat for the children was opened by Reverend Father O'Dea, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Calgary. The children enjoyed a few days of recollection and prayer.

After the closing of the retreat on the morning of October 7, we attend the funeral of one of our former students, Henry Calf Robe, aged seventeen; he died a victim of tuberculosis after a stay of about a year in the Indian Hospital at Gleichen.

December 9, 1942 - page 482

On the same day, Mr. Henry McCullough, Inspector of Schools, made his visit to each class. He then treated us to an interesting film: Canada at War and some views of Peace River and Fort Vermilion where we saw two of our Sisters looking after the children of St. Theresa's Mission, Fort Vermilion.

December 24, 1942 - page 482

The children are giving their Christmas concert today. Every class is doing its part to make the celebration a great success. All the children's parents are enjoying the little party very much. During the night, we sing the high mass at one o'clock with our children and a group of former pupils. After the mass, all our children leave for two days only. Another two days off will be given to them on New Year's Day. The rest of the vacations are spent at the mission.

January 11, 1943 - page 483

For the first time this evening, the boys experience the famous "Steam Bath". Some of the little ones are a little frightened and have difficulty breathing because of the great heat, but they quickly get used to it and soon it is a charming pleasure repeated twice a week, each in turn, boys and girls.

May 24, 1943 - page 489

Queen Victoria's Day is again celebrated among us and gives us a holiday. The children go on a picnic at the river and have a lot of fun.

June 8, 1943 - page 490

To celebrate the holiday that the feast of Bishop Bourget brings us, we take all the children for a swim in the river. All of them enjoy themselves very much. But the walk of about six miles, there and back, tired a good number of those who no longer have their good legs of a fifteen years old ... and who promise themselves, the next time, to provide themselves with some means of transport.

June 15, 1943 - page 490

Great reunion of former students. The feast opened with a solemn high mass, celebrated by Rev. Father Forestier, O.M.I. and sung by a choir composed entirely of former students and directed by my Sister Superior. A hymn in Blackfoot, sung at the offertory, pleased all our alumni.

A large banquet followed the mass, with one hundred and ninety Indians taking part. At the head table were the Reverend Fathers Forestier and Charron, O. M. I., Mr. Gooderham, Indian Agent, his daughter Miss Eleanor Gooderham, accompanied by Constable J. Garland, R. N. W. M. P. and members of the Elders' Committee: Chief Duck, Mr. Simon Big Snake, Joe Good Eagle, Joe Bear Robe and Stephen Many Fires. A long series of speeches concluded the banquet. Our guests of honor congratulated the Indians and encouraged them to support and defend their school.

Chief Duck, in his speech as the first Grand Chief of the reserve, showed us how the school had progressed over the years. "When I was a little boy," the chief told us, "the children only came to school to steal cookies... because my father was an honest man and wanted me to be an honest man like him, I never came to school," but today things have changed.

The party ended with a series of outdoor games when a sudden thunderstorm ended the party earlier than we wanted. After the rain, everyone went home.

June 27, 1943 - page 492

Vacations. Last day of the school year and at the same time solemnity of Corpus Christi.

[... ..]

Seven students are discharged this year, they are: Alec Red Gun, Alexander Scalp Lock, Junior McHugh, Margaret Catface, Rita Running Rabbit, Norma Carrier and Cecilia Many Bears.

♦ Translated by Eloi DeGrâce with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)
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Note: from **July 15, 1932** (page 325) to **May 14, 1941** (page 456) the chronicles are in English in the original.