

Chronicles of Providence St. Joseph
Blackfoot Crossing (Cluny). Alberta
July 1943 to April 1963 (second book)

PAA - PR1971.0220/2588 (this file covers the years 1943 to 1950)

July 1, 1943 - page 1

Visit to the school by Mr. Schmidt. Special recommendations not to throw oil or wax cloths or anything into the furnace in the boiler room. As a protective measure for the teaching and executive staff of the house, he recommended that we have each individual undergo an annual X-ray medical examination of the lungs.

August 2, 1943 - page 1

Funeral mass for one of our students, Phyllis Red Gun, age thirteen, who died on July 31. We accompany the remains to the cemetery and offer our sympathy to the bereaved family.

August 28, 1943 - page 2

We go to pick cherries on the sandy hills. An Indian deprives us of the fruit of a large part of our labor by stealing a large bowl almost full of cherries. We learn, a few days later, that this same Indian is sentenced to three months in prison for having tried to make intoxicating liquor at home, something forbidden to the Indian. The fruit of the theft is not lucky.

September 5, 1943 - page 2

Date set for the return of the children; not all of them return. In the evening, we have only thirty-one girls and twenty-eight boys. Most of them come back the next day.

September 6, 1943 - page 2

This morning, our children go to school. Pupils and teachers are happy to see each other again.

November 30, 1943 - page 3

This evening, all our children organize an improvised program in honor of our good Mother Anne-Philomène, Provincial Superior visiting us. Singing, recitations, and Indian dancing greatly amused our visitors. Mother Anne-Philomène then distributed a beautiful red apple to each one. Everyone is happy.

December 22, 1943 - page 4

Our annual Christmas concert is enhanced this year by the presence of Mr. D. Hargreaves, Superintendent of T. Eaton's store in Calgary, a great friend of the Indians; he becomes a benefactor of our house.

January 6, 1944 - page 4

Traditional turkey dinner given to children to close the holiday season.

February 14, 1944 - page 4

Our teachers have arranged for a little concert this evening, the proceeds of which will go to Boy's Town, St. Paul, Alta., conducted by the Rev. Father Ernest Forester, O.M.I., brother of our Father Principal. We collect the sum of fifty dollars which our children are happy to send to others more miserable than themselves. It is a fine act of charity on the part of our poor Indians.

March 31, 1944 - page 5

This morning, we renew our vows after the mass. Always an impressive ceremony for our children and all the personnel of the house. Day off. The beautiful weather allows us to take the children for a long walk and let them enjoy the first beautiful days of spring.

April 20, 1944 - page 5

This evening, when we arrive at the community, we see a big exhibition of hundreds of pairs of beaded moccasins, of all sizes, that the Indian women have brought to my Sister Marie-Damien, Superior, to sell. We have exhibitions of this kind quite often, but each time it is a new spectacle that we always enjoy admiring. This year my Sister Superior gave about \$1500 to the Indian women on the reserve for their work.

May 28, 1944 - pages 6-7

Tonight, we crown our Queen. This ceremony, so simple and so touching at the same time, moves all hearts. Our girls, all dressed in white and our boys in their holiday outfits, escort our Queen. Miss Alma Crow Chief had the honor of crowning the statue of the Virgin, magnificently decorated for the occasion, amidst the songs and cheers of the crowd. A very large audience enhanced the brilliance of the feast, a faint echo of what happens when, arriving in heaven, Mary was crowned by her divine Son and proclaimed Queen of Saints and Angels. We all fervently renew our consecration to Mary Immaculate.

June 18, 1944 - page 8

Before ending the school year, our children gave another exhibition of their talents and skills this evening in a small concert that was very successful and much appreciated by all who attended. The financial result of this performance is given for the funds for the construction of a public hall for the village of Cluny.

June 26, 1944 - page 8

Our school Inspector, Mr. McCullough, arrived today. He notes a real improvement in the pupils' language and manners. This appreciation is very encouraging to those who devote themselves so much each day to the rather thankless task of giving Christian education to the Indians.

June 28, 1944 - pages 8-9

Finally, the day has come, the children are leaving for vacation. One of them, Doris Owl Child, a little protégée of my Sister Superior, Sister Marie-Damien, will return in a few days to stay with us for the vacations. They are all very happy to feel free of any constraint.

May the good Lord keep them from sin during these two months when they are so exposed.

Eight of them are leaving the school for good. They are: Victor Yellow Old Woman, Leo Pretty Young Man, Jack Little Young Man, Alma Crow Chief, Mary Louise Spring Chief, Lucy Jenny Scalp Lock, Maggie Storm and Cecilia Many Bears. We place them all under the protection of the Blessed Virgin.

September 3, 1944 - page 12

Today our doors are wide open to our dear Indians.

As they are never in a hurry, many do not answer the call. We record about thirty of them. Yes, September has arrived and with it all the seriousness of the apostolic life.

September 6, 1944 - page 12

Due to the successful dedication of our dear Sister Ann Clementine, our students will be taking the 8th grade course which had been interrupted for several years. Alma Crow Chief, Cecile Sleigh, Charlotte McHugh will take this course.

September 30, 1944 - page 13

This morning we received from the government thirty new desks for the infants' class. This was not without need, for these poor children had been sitting on backless benches for a long time.

October 19, 1944 - page 16

Today music lessons open for some of our students. A lady from Calgary will come every week to give lessons. Three of our Sisters will take part as well as fourteen of our girls.

December 20, 1944 - page 17

Mr. Gooderham, Indian Agent, stops at our school for a few moments, meets the new teachers, visits the students and leaves us with his best wishes for Christmas.

December 22, 1944 - page 17

This evening, the Indians are gathered in the big hall prepared for the occasion to attend the nice little concert given by their children. Everyone participates in the celebration; each one has a little something to do. They are very happy to see the progress that their children make from one year to the next at the school.

March 19, 1945 - page 19

Feast of St. Joseph, patron saint of the mission. Therefore, a big holiday. It goes without saying that it was taken without hesitation and as joyfully as possible by all the personnel of the house.

April 30, 1945 - page 19

Today, the last day of April, Mr. McCullough, Inspector of schools in this district, honored us with his visit. He is very satisfied.

May 24, 1945 - page 20

Today, Dollard des Ormeaux's day, big holiday. We go to the river with the children which is six miles from the mission. In the afternoon, there were races and ball games. At about 5 o'clock, the sky starts to darken, a big storm comes. The mission truck came to pick us up. We

had not done half a mile that we had to disembark. There was something wrong with the engine. We walked to the school. We were wet, still, we enjoyed our day.

June 10, 1945 - page 21

Every year, in June, we give a banquet to the former students of the school. More than two hundred took part. At the table of honor, were some important people of the area whose names are as follows: Rev. P. F. Forestier, O. M. I., Principal of the school. Mr. & Mrs. Hargreaves, Superintendent of the Eaton's Campaign at Calgary, Mr. & Mrs. Gooderham, Indian Agent at Gleichen, Dr. Winsor, and Mrs. McLeod, Chief Medical Officer of the Indian Hospital at Gleichen, etc., etc., etc.

Then they went to the reception room to pay a last tribute of gratitude to my Sister Superior, Sr. Marie Damien. They were grateful for the devotion she had shown them and expressed their feelings in a touching address read by Mr. Simon Big Snake. It is with regret that she leaves Cluny and her dear Blackfoot.

We have come to appreciate the delicate manner in which she has carried out the role entrusted to her by obedience. All the Sisters of the mission remember her fondly.

June 28, 1945 - page 21

The school year closes with the reading of the promotions.

This afternoon, Rev. Father F. Forestier, Principal, Sister Superior, Sister Cécile de Jésus, and all the Sisters go to the classes to attend the reading of the promotions, after which the Father Principal gives the students his blessing and useful advice for the vacation season.

29 June 1945 - page 22

The end of June saw our dear Indian students scattered on all sides. We especially ask our good Mother in Heaven to protect them from the dangers to which their souls may be exposed during the vacations.

July 25, 1945 - pages 24-25

Tonight, we have the pain of seeing the departure of Rev. Father F. Forestier, Principal of St. Joseph School since 1941. All the Indians are saddened. In the afternoon, there was a reception in his honor. A good number of Indians and the principal Chiefs gathered at the school. There was a song and address. An gift of money was presented by Mr. Big Snake on behalf of the people of the reserve. The Rev. Father congratulated the Sisters for the good functioning of the Mission, as well as for their work and dedication to the children. The same day, Father A. Charron arrives.

September 4, 1945 - page 25

The vacation that began on July 1st ends today. The doors of the school are open and all our little people are happy to return. If the task seems hard to us, sometimes, we must admit that it also brings us great consolation. We beg the Good Lord to continue to give us and our dear children the help of his graces and blessings.

December 23, 1945 - pages 26-27

This evening, our students gave a beautiful concert in the presence of their parents. The staff followed the program with great interest and each of the actors performed his part successfully.

Then Santa Claus appeared, loaded with brightly colored packages. He goes around, shakes hands with everyone, offers wishes, and then gives everyone their gifts. The session was enhanced by the presence of Rev. Charron, Principal, Mr. Mrs. Hargreaves, Superintendent of the Eaton Company.

January 21, 1946 - page 27

Today our children begin the retreat preached by Rev. Father Gibbons, pastor of Strathmore. Both boys and girls seem to be happy to enter the retreat. They have three instructions a day, all are very attentive to listen so well, and Rev. Father is well encouraged since he has the full attention of his little people.

January 26, 1946 - pages 27-28

The boys have been wanting to have their own band for a long time. So, today, we have a gentleman from Calgary who will give lessons. Nine boys were chosen; they are very happy since they love music so much. The girls were more fortunate, because they started in September to take lessons of mandolin, guitar and piano. My Sister Superior, Cécile de Jésus, is the teacher and these dear girls performed two very difficult pieces to perfection at the Christmas concert.

May 29, 1946 - pages 29-30

Today, for the first time, we celebrate our devoted Principal, Rev. Charron. This celebration, while being an expression of our respect and admiration for the priesthood, is also one of our gratitude for the person of one who, for nearly a year, has exercised his ministry to the Indian children with impeccable dignity and punctuality.

There was singing at the mass and many communions. In the afternoon, a small program by the children: songs, skits, offering of wishes and a precious spiritual bouquet. The whole thing ended with a request for a holiday, which was quickly granted, and everyone went to the river for a picnic.

June 19, 1946 - pages 30-31

On the afternoon of the nineteenth, there is a banquet for the Indians. In the children's dining room, freshly painted, everyone is at work to welcome our people. A dozen tables with white tablecloths which will soon be able to receive one hundred and forty guests will soon make the admiration of our dear Indians. The service of the tables is done by our students of the school under the supervision of a Sister by table with two girls. In the kitchen, others serve the meat, vegetables and dessert. At the head table, we see our Principal, Rev. Charron, with the leaders of the Blackfoot tribe. All seemed happy and satisfied. Dinner was served at noon and at half past two, everything was finished, even the washing of the dishes. Immediately after the meal, the mission truck takes all the boys to go to the river while the girls wait for their turn. There will be a ball game at the camp, games and races; they will return around six o'clock for supper. It is the end of a beautiful day.

June 23, 1946 - page 31

Today is Corpus Christi, and since the weather does not permit it, we will not have the procession outside. At two o'clock, the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; immediately afterwards, the parents of the children go to the girls' recreation room for the distribution of

prizes. The parents came in great numbers since all of them brought their dear children back with them for the vacations.

September 9, 1946 - page 34

The day is to receive our students who have returned from vacation. The young and old are happy to return to their studies, interrupted for two months. For some of the new students, it is the learning of school discipline; let's hope that they will like the class and be happy like the old ones.

October 1946 - page 35

The first military training lessons for the cadet class are given during the month. Our boys, from grade five up, are taking these physical exercises which are very helpful to the physical development of our young men as well as perfecting their education.

October 28, 1946 - page 35

The students' retreat opens today under the pious and wise direction of Rev. Fr. Larose, O.M.I. His easy and engaging words quickly won the attention of his young audience; may grace work in these little souls who have everything to learn from our beautiful religion and help them to make their lives better and more Christian.

December 23, 1946 - page 37

The traditional program takes place this evening and delights the old and the young. The parents are happy to come and see their dear children in various roles; the latter also do credit to their devoted teachers.

December 24 & 25, 1946 - page 37

The great festival par excellence fills all the hearts with joy. It is Christmas! A beautiful Midnight Mass has been prepared for a long time and the former students are happy to lend their voices.

January 6, 1947 - page 40

Dr. Stone, Physician of the Department of Health in Edmonton, comes, accompanied by Dr. Murray, physician of the Gleichen Hospital, to visit our school. They were very complimentary and appreciated all the improvements that had been made in the last few years. Their report is very encouraging. These good gentlemen promise their help on occasion.

May 21, 1947 - page 44

Mr. Pugh, Indian Agent of the reserve, came to introduce a visitor sent from the Ottawa Department to examine the kitchen and see how the children were being fed. She stayed two days at the Mission; some time later, she sent her detailed report which was very satisfactory.

June 19, 1947 - page 45

In turn, our students receive the long-awaited visit of the Inspector. He is very satisfied with the progress of the students he visits every year.

24 June 1947 - page 45

This is the big day for our students; it is the beginning of the holidays for them. After the distribution of prizes, all leave with their parents, happy and joyful to breathe freedom. May their good guardian angels watch over them and keep them well.

June 30, 1947 - page 45

Our dear Sister Marie Rustica leaves this morning for Edmonton where she will have to follow summer courses, a study that will last five weeks. We promise her the help of our prayers and wish her every success in her efforts.

September 2, 1947 - pages 48-49

After two months of vacation, our Indian children return to us happy and content to start a new school year. May the Holy Spirit spread his light abundantly in our souls and those of our dear children.

September 8, 1947 - page 49

Dr. Stone, physician of the Health Department, accompanied by his wife and Dr. Windsor, in charge of the Indian Hospital in Gleichen, as well as Mrs. Pugh and Mrs. Horn, visit our children in the classrooms and various offices of the house. They said they were very pleased and admired the order and cleanliness of the house.

October 25, 1947 - page 51

Dr. Miltzer, accompanied by two technicians, takes x-rays of the children's lungs while Dr. McCaffrey, a dentist, extracts the teeth assisted by his nurse.

December 7, 1947 - page 52

A little pagan girl, Victoria Wolf Leg, ten years old, was baptized and will make her first communion tomorrow. Father A Poulin baptized her; her godfather and godmother were two children from the school: John Red Gun and Alice Running Rabbit.

December 21, 1947 - page 53

This evening, the Indians are gathered in the music room to attend the program performed by their children. The children do honour to their devoted teachers, each one performing his part with success.

December 25, 1947 - page 53

After midnight mass, our children left for a week's vacation. Many of their parents came to receive Jesus in the Host on this beautiful night. May the Child-God give them His peace.

April 27, 1948 - page 55

Our inspector, Mr. Larson, visited the classes. His appreciation encourages our devoted teachers.

June 1, 1948 - page 55

Father J. Clermont, CSsR, preached the retreat to our students. These little children are gathered and attentive in order to take advantage of these three days of grace.

June 9, 1948 - page 57

At noon, a big banquet for our former students. The children's refectory, beautifully decorated, offered hospitality to more than one hundred and fifty guests. At the table of honor, one notices the Rev. Charron, Principal, Mr. Pugh, Indian Agent, Dr. Windsor and the Chiefs of the Blackfoot tribe. The service of the tables was done by our big girls who carried out their task with great precision. After the banquet, games in the boys' yard.

June 24, 1948 - page 57

This afternoon, reading of the grades, promotions and distribution of cash prizes in the amount of seventy-five dollars by the Rev. Father Principal in the presence of the school personnel and the parents of the students. Afterwards, departure for the summer vacations.

September 6, 1948 - page 61

About thirty students answered the call. The others arrived the following days.

October 1, 1948 - page 62

Miss Theresa Desjardins, sister of my Sister Eulalia, is our music teacher. Today she gave her first lessons to 15 students.

October 19, 1948 - page 62

Inspector E. Larson came to visit the classes.

December 5, 1948 - page 64

Government people came to X-ray all the children and the sisters.

December 22, 1948 - page 65

At three o'clock in the afternoon, the Christmas concert took place in the parish hall of Cluny. Everything was greatly appreciated, especially the orchestra conducted by Rev. Father Lucien Maheu, O.M.I.

January 9, 1949 - page 66

Almost all our students answered the call to return and all of them came back to us in good spirits and happy.

January 12, 1949 - page 66

Installation of the lights on the ice rink. It was the Rev. Father Principal who had a new skating rink made last November. It also means that the boys are having a good time and that there are many games of hockey.

February 28, 1949 - page 68

Mr. Cooper came to examine the eyesight of all the students. Several parents also showed up.

April 17, 1949 - page 69

All our students sang the Regina Ceoli and the Paschal Alleluia with great enthusiasm at mass. May we, in the footsteps of the Master, rise again and lead a new life. Most of the Indians came to make their Easter Duty. At the high mass, a large and recollected audience filled the church.

A large number of former students came to join the choir, which gave more strength to the choir. After the mass, all our students left for a week's vacation.

April 19, 1949 - page 70

Today our Indians are rich, as Mr. W. P. Pugh, Indian Agent, accompanied by several government employees, comes to pay the \$35.00 to each member of the Indian families on the reserve.

May 6, 1949 - page 71

Mr. G. H. Gooderham, Inspector of the Indian Agency, and Mr. W. P. Pugh, come to visit the classes. They were pleased with the progress of the students.

June 24, 1949 - page 75

Departure of the pupils for the great vacation, joy shines on all faces. Freedom says a lot to the child and especially to the Indian. We have asked the Sacred Heart to bless our students and to preserve them from all evil. Four of our students are taking the ninth grade; they will stay until June thirty.

April 12, 1950 – page 81

Pay Day. The school was the scene of the annual pay roll and X-ray Examination.

April 13, 1950 – page 81

This morning, a last tribute is paid to a thirteen year old school boy, Raphael Cat Face who was accidentally killed Tuesday morning. Requiem High Mass was celebrated for the repose of his soul by Reverend Father Poulin. Raphael devotedly attended Mass during the holy season of Lent, so we feel that he was prepared.

June 1, 1950 – page 81

We are honoured by the visit of Mr. Larson, the School Superintendent. Mr. Larson left seemingly satisfied with the progress of the pupils.

July 2, 1950 – page 83

Sister Marie Rustica leaves for Edmonton to attend University during the summer months. We wish her success.

September 5, 1950 – pages 85-86

School doors are open again for some hundred and forty-five children. Rev. A. Charron, principal, mentions this to be the largest enrolment in years.

This year, the boys are very privileged to have an all day supervisor. They are taught manual art also, while the girls are given lessons in Home Economics by Mrs. Derrick. Every minute is being occupied by the older groups in various activities. They too, have Physical Training twice a week. This is given them by Sister Dominic Mary. All are happy to be back for another busy year.

September 12, 1950 – page 86

Government Doctors and Dentists come this week for a thorough check-up of the children to make sure all are in good condition to be at school.

October 3, 1950 – page 86

Mr. J. Doucet, a government Inspector, comes from Ottawa to inspect all of interest of the Government.

October 24, 1950 – page 87

Mr. I. Eisenhardt, Supervisor of Physical Education and Recreation from Ottawa, comes to visit the Physical Training class. He is pleased with what has been done in so short a time.

October 25, 1950 – page 87

Another Inspector, this time from Calgary. Mr. W. Hutton comes to inspect the Physical Education accommodations. He finds we have very little space for this work during the winter months. But we hope to have better accommodations in the near future.

November 6-9, 1950 – page 87

Rev J. Lynch comes to preach a mission to our pupils. All show a very good spirit really in earnest during these days of deeper thoughts than on ordinary days. We pray God to give these children a strong faith and a greater love for our Creator.

November 24, 1950 – page 88

Mr. G. Gooderham, Superintendent of Indian Agencies, and Mr. W. P. Pugh, Indian Agent, come to visit the classrooms. They are accompanied by Rev. A. Charron, Principal. All are well pleased with the progress and the friendly classroom spirit.

December 6, 1950 – page 88

Another Government Official comes from Ottawa this morning. It is Mr. B. T. Neary. Mr. Neary visits the classrooms several times during the course of the day to watch the pupils at work. He leaves a very good report for Crowfoot School.

This evening, Rev A. Charron, our school Principal, brings the five teachers to the Old Sun School to attend a conference given by Mr. B. T. Neary. Here again, Mr. Neary tells of his pleasant visits to different Indian Schools and gives good advice in methods of teaching.

December 20, 1950 – page 89

This evening brings excitement as our pupils get ready to go to Cluny Hall to put on an hour or so of entertainment, consisting of songs, rhythm band, dialogues and a play. The evening closes with Santa's visit.

PAA – PR1971.0220/2589 (This file: 1951 to 1957)

January 8, 1951 – page 90

The second term of the school year begins today, after a short vacation. The children show eagerness to continue their studies.

February 16, 1951 – page 90

Sorrow follows joy. We received news that Lawrence Scalp Lock passed away. Lawrence is thirteen years old and a pupil in grade six. He was and is loved by all at Crowfoot School.

February 18, 1951 – page 90

Our Hockey Team brings home the Trophy this year after winning all of the fourteen league games. We congratulate our boys for this splendid success.

February 20, 1951 – page 91

The Sisters and children attend the Requiem Mass for Lawrence Scalp Lock who died a few days ago. May his soul rest in peace.

May 7, 1951 – page 93

A little ceremony takes place just before Benediction when Rev. C. Frappier, O. M. I. enrolls the boys – seventy of them – in the Confraternity of the Holy Childhood. The boys are quite proud to be collaborators with our zealous missionaries in China.

May 10, 1951 – page 94

Mr. L. Waller, a newly appointed Government Inspector for Indian Schools, pays his visit to Crowfoot School. He is impressed by all the good being done and is very pleased with the progress of the students.

May 18, 1951 – page 94

Another superintendent comes to-day to inspect the progress of our students. He spends half a day in each classroom watching the class go on. He is well satisfied with the education our pupils are receiving. During the course of the past school year, we have had five Government School Inspectors, so we conclude we must be quite important.

September 11, 1951 – page 98

St. Joseph School opens its doors to one hundred and sixty Indian pupils, who return to continue their studies. Several are not returning; however, at least twenty-four newcomers are in to help fill the school to over capacity.

September 16, 1951 – page 98

When school begins we know health examinations begin too; therefore, ex-ray technicians are on hand to ex-ray all the students and staff members.

October 18, 1951 – page 98

Royal Visit. It is an exciting day for the children to think that they shall actually see her Royal Highness, the Princess Elizabeth. Special train cars are in reserve for our pupils. Supervisors are named for different groups. All is well arranged to see the day through with our pupils.

October 31, 1951 – page 99

A Halloween party is arranged for the smaller children this afternoon and one for the older pupils this evening. Games and treats are the most important items of the day. All seem to have taken a big share of fun.

November 2, 1951 – page 99

Rev. A Charron, our school principal, takes by car, five of our teachers to attend a convention held at Lebret, St. Paul, Alberta. This convention deals with [word missing] of the Indian children only.

November 5, 1951

Our teachers return from St. Paul to-day after spending a few days there attending a convention. We hope this convention will benefit all those who attended.

November 25, 1951 – pages 99-100

Rev. J. MacDonald, CSsR, arrives to-day to preach a three day retreat for our pupils. All the exercises are held in the Indian parish church. We pray that these boys and girls will benefit much from these days of extra graces.

December 21, 1951 – age 100

Mr. L. Waller, Inspector of Indian schools arrives only to find most of the classrooms empty because the pupils are in town practicing for their Christmas concert that will take place to-night; therefore, we look forward to another visit soon.

Mrs. W. Broderick, a social service worker comes with him to get acquainted with the pupils she will later work with.

The concert to-night is a grand success. The children do their best in performing for a large audience. The Indian parents are proud of their children. After the entertainment of about two hours, Mr. G. Good Eagle speaks in the name of his Indian people, words of congratulations and gratitude to the Fathers and Sisters ending by handing to Father Charron a gift in money gathered during the evening.

The evening is brought to a close by Santa's visit. Santa treats the children then draws the lucky ticket for a beautifully hand-made cowboy shirt. Mr. Solway is the winner!

December 23, 1951 – page 101

Our pupils leave for their homes to-day to spend two-weeks with their parents. The teachers and supervisors, cooks & all welcome these few weeks of relaxation.

March 16, 1952 – page 102

Our boys return this evening with gleeful spirits announcing the news that they gained the Provincial Title which gives them the hockey trophy to keep for a year.

We congratulate Rev A. Charron, their coach, and Mr. S. Moore, their Physical Training Instructor on leading this team to gain this Provincial Championship. The trophy sits proudly at the entrance for all to admire and to encourage the good work put behind it.

March 17-29, 1952 – page 102

The dentists are here this week and some to attend to the children's teeth.

April 30, 1952 – page 103

Rev. A. Mercure, O. M. I., arrives this evening to prepare the children for the admittance into the Mission Apostolate of Mary Immaculate. The children from grade three up are being admitted.

Rev A. Mercure gives a lovely talk to the new members. This beautiful little ceremony takes place in the parish church.

In the evening, a banquet is had for all the members during which short speeches and talks are given by the Fathers. Several members also speak in gratitude for all that has been done to help them to become loyal clients of Mary.

May 1, 1952 – page 103

Another banquet! This time for the members of the winning hockey team and their parents. The banquet is held in the Cluny Hall. Rev. A. Charron congratulates all the boys for their splendid cooperation. The parents too receive special words from Father. Several answered Father's encouraging words – all for the welfare of the future generation.

May 17, 1952 – page 104

The pupils and staff gather in Miss McHugh's classroom this evening to express their wishes to their principal Rev. A. Charron whose patronal feast is to-day. A feast day song, by the children, opens the hour followed by an address by Frances Medicine Shield, several piano solos and duets. Rev. Father Charron then speaks to all in gratitude for the prayers & wishes. Father then gives us a holiday which is joyfully accepted by all.

June 3, 1952 – page 104

Two district health nurses come this morning to inoculate the children.

June 6, 1952 – page 104

Sports Day. The annual school sports day is held to-day on the mission grounds. Quite a large crowd gathers. The day is spent in races, games and plenty to eat. The Sisters take charge of selling at the booths. About seven o'clock in the evening, the Physical Training class demonstrate the many lessons taught them through out the past year.

June 24-25, 1952 – page 105

A wiener-roast picnic is had for the children these two days. The girls one afternoon and the boys one afternoon. An enjoyable time is had by both groups of children.

June 27, 1952 – page 105

It is the last day of school. After dinner, all the pupils from grades 1-12 gather on the grounds to receive from Rev. A. Charron, their promotions, prizes, etc. The Home Economics Class keep the work they did during the year as a reward for their good work and the boys keep the different pieces of wood work. They are happy to be able to bring home pieces of fancy work or woodwork that they made themselves.

Mr. S. Moore distributes to the parents and staff at this time the school Annual of which he is the Editor.

Father Charron speaks to the assembled people, congratulates the pupils and parents and staff on the splendid co-operation throughout the past year.

When all is over, the pupils leave for their homes for the summer. The staff too is well dispersed before the close of this last day of school.

July 2, 1952 – page 107

Sister Marie Rustica leaves for Red Deer, Alberta, to continue at Summer School. Sister Therese Laurentia, Sister Therese Martin go to St. John's College, Edmonton, for a course in Pedagogy.

September 16, 1952 – page 109

Due to Polio in circulation at the beginning of this month, classes were delayed till today.

October 13, 1952 – page 110

Our Directress of Studies, Sister Beatrice of the Cross, arrives from Midnapore to attend an Indian Institute which is to be held at the Old Sun School, Gleichen, Alberta. We warmly welcome Sister Beatrice of the Cross in our cold and unheated house with its furnace outside.

December 21, 1952 – page 112

Our school concert is held in the Cluny Hall. There is a great attendance to see the plays, dance and song of the Indian children.

April 13, 1953 – page 116

Classes re-open for the last term. We trust the pupils to return bright and happy after one full week of relaxing and rejoicing.

June 2, 1953 – page 118

The pupils are home free from school on the honor of our Coronation of Queen Elizabeth of England.

June 10, 1953 – page 118

Mr. L. Waller, Indian Inspector and Mr. R. LeMay, Superintendent of Vocational Training, visit the school and the boys shop work today.

September 11, 1953 – page 120

We have the special privilege of having with us for three days, Reverend Yvonne [sic pour Yvon] St. Arneault, O. M. I. who is in charge of the Catholic education in all Indian schools in Alberta. Father comes to start the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate in our mission school. We derive much benefit from Father's many beautiful conferences given on this association.

September 14, 1953 – page 121

The pupils are returning to their classes today as a two-week delay in school re-openings ended. Seventy-five boys and one hundred and seven girls are registered.

October 7, 1953 – page 121

The teachers leave for Hobbema, Alberta, where a two-day convention takes place for all teachers of Indian schools in Alberta.

December 20, 1953 – page 122

Today, the children are giving their annual Christmas entertainment. The program consisting of songs, recitations and plays closed with a beautiful tableau of the Nativity and the choir singing Christmas hymns. The parents seem well pleased with the children's performance.

April 5-8, 1954 – page 124

Mr. L. Waller, Indian Inspector, visits the seven classrooms. He also goes to see the shop work here and the Home Economics in town. Mr. L. Waller seems well pleased with the progress of the school.

April 19, 1954 – page 125

A banquet is held in the girls' dining room for the winning members of the Indian hockey team. Indian women and girls offer their help to cook and serve for one hundred and twenty Indians.

June 18, 1954, page 126

Mr. Larson and Mr. Holman, the new Inspector for our school, are here today to visit four classrooms.

June 22, 1954 – page 126

Mr. Larson and Mr. Holman are here again to inspect the other three classrooms.

June 25, 1954 – page 126

The pupils leave for vacation this afternoon. May their Guardian Angels guard and protect them during the long summer months.

April 11, 1955 – page 131

Grades two, four and five move into the new classrooms today. The new building containing also a teacher's residence and a recreation hall for the senior boys, is a welcome addition to our school.

May 9, 1955 – page 132

Mr. Holeman, Inspector of schools, makes his visit. His comments in each classroom are most encouraging and helpful. He is very pleased with the children's progress since his last visit.

May 27, 1955 – pages 132-133

Today is a special day for the Chief Crowfoot Cadet Corps who is introduced for the first time to the parade square in the boys' yard. These Cadets and Cadettes, numbering fifty-three, show skill in standing, walking and marching. The Corps feels honored to have present at this parade an Officer and an Assistant Instructor from Calgary. We offer our congratulations to Mr. Sydney Moore, Chief Instructor, and to Mr. Don Haggerty, Assistant Instructor for the wonderful display shown this afternoon.

The day closes with a bean supper served for all in the auditorium.

June 18, 1955 – page 134

The Sisters are invited to Mr. Lynn Gordon's place for a picnic given in honor of the catechism pupils of St. Mary's Parish. On account of bad weather, the picnic is held in the basement of St.

Mary's Church. During the meeting of the Catholic Women's League, the parents express their thankfulness and gratitude toward the Sisters for teaching their children catechism. As a token of gratitude, the parents offer the Sisters fifty dollars. Prizes are then given to the children who have the highest marks in catechism and for perfect attendance. After the meeting, everyone enjoys a bingo game. Then follows a delicious lunch furnished by the Women. Sister Praxedes gives the children a treat of marshmallow. Before leaving, the Sisters take the wonderful occasion to meet the parents of the children.

June 28, 1955 – pages 134-135

Joy and happiness reigns in the house today for it is glad vacation time. AT 11:00 a. m., parents, teachers and the pupils assemble in the auditorium for promotions and prizes given by Reverend Adrien Charron, O. M. I.

There is a display of the work done during the year in woodwork and in Home Economics. This is an excellent proof that the fingers of our Indians have not known idleness since the beginnings of the year. After dinner, the pupils leave for home sweet home.

July 1, 1955 – page 138

Sister Eulalia leaves for the University of Alberta today where she will attend the Summer School Session for six weeks.

September 2, 1955 – page 141

After days and days of cleaning after carpenters, plasterers, etc., the workers leave, their work being completed. The new fire escapes are ready for use while the floors too are ready for the youthful feet, treading the ways of learning.

September 7, 1955 – page 142

Because of the Golden Jubilee of Alberta, schools in this province open their doors today. A little over a hundred pupils are numbered as boarders but [one word illegible] long this number will be almost doubled. They seem happy to return and show will in falling into school routine smilingly. A few tears are shed among the beginners, but these are quickly wiped away as the day progresses.

October 8, 1955 – page 143

This year, as the last, four Sisters are taken down every Saturday afternoon to Saint Mary's Church in Cluny by its Pastor, Reverend Father Leo Bossé, O. M. I. Here they teach Catechism for one hour to the Catholic children of the town.

The children are interested and need this hour of religious instruction. Many problems arise in the fact that they are among protestant teachers and pupils. The Sisters are only too happy to give them this help and moral strength for the greater glory of God and souls.

November 10, 1955 – page 143

Just before the children enter the classroom, Sister Benigna of Jesus greets Mr. L. Waller, Regional Supervisor of Indian Agencies. The little pupils work well and try to speak out if not too shy. Recess finds him telling the teacher that, owing to his heavy programme, he is unable to stay the remainder of the morning with the little ones.

After dinner, he visits Sister Eulalia's classroom, grades VII and VIII. As some are at special classes, he questions those present. We sincerely hope that he is favourably impressed and acknowledges our efforts in spite of apparent unsuccess.

December 21, 1955 – pages 145-146

Our Christmas Concert. Everybody awaits the first number over the microphone, given by the announcer, Mr. Wilfred Borden. After "O Canada", the first number is a beautiful pageant in which all take part, save the wee ones and the High School Students. In this first number, the Nativity scene is shown in its entirety with the appropriate carols. As each succeeding number is announced, the participants, large and small, do their very best. At the close, after Mr. Good Eagle has spoken in Blackfoot to the assembled audience, Reverend Father Adrien Charron, O. M. I. principal of the school, addresses the people. Then, when Santa Claus, by his arrival, causes a commotion, and ends a long, anticipated event.

March 13, 1956 – pages 147-148

Our principal, Reverend Father Adrien Charron, O. M. I. surprises us by announcing visitors from Ottawa. These are Mr. Brown, Mr. Buck and Mr. Filtreau, Commission for Indian Affairs, while Mr. W. Pugh, our Superintendent from Gleichen and Mr. L. Waller, Regional Supervisor of Indian Agencies, accompany them. After their tasty dinner, they leave to continue their work elsewhere.

March 29, 1956 – page 148

This evening, the children of the school address Reverend Father Adrien Charron, O. M. I. principal, fitting words because of his recent nomination as Provincial Bursar in Edmonton.

A select group of singers, under the direction of Sister Madeleine of the Eucharist, sing a farewell song. This is followed by an address read by a High School student. A little girl then presents him with a spiritual bouquet – prayers culled from the garden of youthful hearts. The same choristers then sing "May God Bless and Keep You Till We Meet Again". Other persons are called upon by the chairman, Mr. Many Fires, for various speeches. As a last feature, the Physical Training teacher, Mr. Sydney Moore, has a "Sports Photo", 3D in which all the sports activities are represented. The school song closes the programme.

April 25, 1956 – page 149

Mr. Holman, Superintendent of Schools for this Public School District of Alberta, completes his inspection of the Crowfoot School today. He had come on various previous dates to visit the other six classes. He seems favourably impressed and expresses his pleasure in performing this visit of office.

May 8, 1956 – page 150

Four Indian tepees are erected in the boys' large playground where Cadet and Cadette Display take place this afternoon. With Colonel Higgs, is Captain Langley, Cadet Training Officer, both from Calgary. There are others as Inspectors too. Two Royal Canadian Mounted Police were also on the grounds. The Display was a real success and Mr. Sydney Moore, Chief Instructor, can well be congratulated for much time is taken in this field of activity.

June 8, 1956 – page 151

[Children from St. Mary's school in Cardston show up for sports.]

June 12-15, 1956 – page 151

Reverend Father Oscar Fournier, O. M. I. while replacing Reverend Father Philip Poulin, O. M. I., who is in Edmonton, opens the retreat for the children today. He gives two instructions daily, one being in the morning, the other in the afternoon. Valuable lessons and important advice are given with the hope that these will not fall on barren soil.

June 27, 1956 – page 152

Smiling faces, no matter where we turn, are seen! Small wonder for this is the day promotion cards are received and vacation begins. At 9:00 A. M. Reverend Father Philip Poulin, O. M. I. sings a High Mass in thanksgiving at which the pupils are present. After Holy Mass, the gymnasium is transformed for the display of the Home Economics Class and the boys' woodwork. Samples of the former's cooking are placed here and there on the tables. No one needs an invitation to "help yourself"; the plates just get empty! At 3:00 P. M., all assemble for the promotions and prizes which are distributed by the principal, Reverend Father Adrien Charron, O. M. I. In a little over an hour's time, the scene has changed, leaving vacancy and an air of vacation everywhere.

June 30, 1956 – page 152

... Sister Eulalia also travels to Midnapore, en route for Summer School at the University at Edmonton.

July 10-11, 1956 – page 155

The principals of the other Indian Residential Schools meet here today to welcome Reverend Father Gerard Fortier, O. M. I., the new principal of our Crowfoot Indian Residential School – Saint Joseph School – and to bid farewell to Reverend Father Adrian Charron, O. M. I., retiring principal. He has been named as Provincial Bursar for the Oblates at Edmonton.

September 4, 1956 – page 159

It is registration day. School reopens and vacation is past. There are not quite as many boarders as heretofore, because of the wishes of the Department. Nevertheless, the registration is nearly one hundred seventy-five boarders and day pupils. These later live closer to the Mission and are driven to and from school in the school van. We sincerely hope that these children will profit by another year of Christian contact with the religious and the lay teachers comprising the staff.

November 5, 1956 – page 162

After two months of organizing and planning, Catholic Action is under way today. Even though this is really the first year, the children respond nicely to those in charge of their group. It is sincerely hoped that, as time passes, the true spirit of this Christ-like movement will become a part of their lives and those whom they contact.

December 21, 1956 – page 163

Everyone grouped in the gym is smilingly awaiting the arrival of Santa. At 1:30, P. M. Friday, Christmas vacation is about to begin. After Santa has passed a bag of goodies to each child and

had spoken over the microphone, he is gone again! The children are happy with their peanuts and candy. An announcement is soon made. The children are to be conveyed to their homes – those who travel by bus – and thus ends a social afternoon – the Christmas Tree. This replaces the usual Christmas programme which we could not have on account of the disturbance caused by repair work.

April 4, 1957 – page 168

Reverend Father Gerard Fortier, O. M. I., principal, accompanied with Mr. C. H. Kester, Regional Inspector of Indian Schools, and Mr. J. R. Wild, Indian Agent, make a short visit to the classrooms this morning. He seems pleased with his first visit. Mr. Kester replaces Mr. J. Waller in this office as Regional Inspector.

May 15, 1957 – page 169

Mr. M. Holman, Divisional School Inspector, makes his last visit, spending the morning hours with Sister Maria Consolata. Besides being a Home Economics teacher, Sister aids the High School teacher, Mr. Donald MacInnis in teaching some subjects. Mr. Holman is very pleased with her thorough work. He had previously inspected all the other rooms, starting with Grade I. He was well satisfied with both Sister Dominic Mary's and Sister Benigna of Jesus' year's work. The children respond well, for the inspector understands that the Indian child's mentality is not quite like that of a white child.

May 22, 1957 – page 169

At 1:30 P. M. five buses convey the contestants and all the other school children and teachers to the Old Sun School. This is the non-Catholic Indian Residential School, about ten miles distant & situated near the town of Gleichen. A minister is in charge of the school.

An enjoyable afternoon and the participants did very well indeed, under the circumstances. Many were wearing red, blue or white ribbons, indicating the first, second or third place they obtained in that certain sport activity. Angelina Cutter is now the happy possessor of a trophy awarded to the individual girl who obtained the highest number of points.

May 23, 1957 – page 169

The High School students are privileged this Saturday morning. Under the guidance of Rev Fr. Gerard Fortier, O. M. I., principal, they get an early start for the good one hundred miles trip to Saint Mary's Indian Residential School at Cardston. This is where the stampede is being held. A wonderful time is enjoyed by all; two or three receive prizes for events in which they participated.

May 31, 1957 – page 170

Fifty of our best athletes are off to compete with other Indian Schools of our division this morning. The school obtaining the highest marks are to receive the Waller Award. There are four schools competing: Morley Indian Residential School, Sarcee Day School (Indian), Old Sun School, also Residential, and our own Crowfoot School. The drive to Morley is lovely, viewing as we go, the lofty Rocky Mountains. This is really the first year our children have participated in anything of just this nature. Consequently, experience teaches lessons otherwise not so dearly learned. Due to rulings and misunderstandings, a large number of our competitors were misplaced and we hope that is partly responsible for the lowest score. The Morley Indian

Residential School won the Waller Award. However, to compensate their failure, in spite of their good will and efforts, the picnic lunches were enjoyed by all as well as the drive to and from Morley.

June 3, 1957 – page 170

Mr. Roger Moore is quite tense, but having put much effort into his Cadet Corp work, the Cadet Corp Inspection proves a real success. Four teepees have been erected on the boys' playground. These are used by Inspectors and Indians during the course of the inspection. The boys who did well in their drill inspections are given prizes by their officers: Mr. Roger Moore, Mr. Donald MacInnis and Mr. Denis Shupe.

June 21, 1957 – page 175

The dentist stops work. Why? Not wishing any of his patients miss what is going on in the gymnasium, he states that he will continue his work later. When we arrive, we see all of the Home Economics class dressed in the garments they made by themselves. They look very nice indeed. Marie Rabbit Carrier with her four-piece outfit: waist, skirt, balers and jacket, earns 957. Patricia Red Gun deserves special mention too. With this classroom break, we see Crowfoot School taking another step ahead in education. When a girl is able to make things for herself, either in the line of food or clothing, it will make the home a cheerier and a brighter place in which to live. The class liked their work and are anxious to continue next September.

June 27, 1957 – page 175

Because Grades VIII and X must needs give their room to the nine Grade IX students writing the Departmental Examinations, the prizes for each class and the promotions were distributed on Monday. After relishing a popsicle, all returned to resume class work with those present. This morning, with the distribution of the Year Book and the weekly news bulletin issued by their pastor, Reverend Father Philip Poulin, O. M. I., the school year closes. With gladness written on their faces and joy in their hearts, the two full months of vacation begin.

September 3, 1957 – page 181

School re-opens its doors for another term. Some are beginners, others arrive from elsewhere, but the atmosphere is one of good will and contentment. May this year prove for all the inmates an increase in the knowledge of God and duty, and a greater love for both.

December 18, 1957 – page 183

Everything is in readiness the last poinsettia has been pinned in place, the lights work perfectly, plugged in their various outlets, and all the stage furniture is in readiness on the side, behind or under the stage. Seven thirty, and the curtain opens! The first is a song by the school, followed by Mr. Moore's bronzed statuettes depicting the various activities. Then follows the succession of playlets, songs, dialogues, dances, recitations and rhythm band selections. Santa Claus arriving on the stage and talking Blackfoot, puts the final touch to a very happy and deserving crown of children who had worked hard to make this programme a real success.

PAA – PR1971.0220/2590 (This file: 1958 to 1963)

January 16, 1958 – page 185

The principal, Reverend Father Gerard Fortier, O. M. I., has promised a chicken supper to all the children sometime after Christmas. Accordingly, the tables are becomingly arranged, fruit juice and candy, lending color as well as taste. The banquet is thoroughly enjoyed, everything being so appetizing; very little returns to the kitchen. The principal is glad that the children appreciate this annual treat.

January 21-23, 1958 – page 185

Reverend Father Armand Paradis, O. M. I., from Saskatchewan, opens the annual retreat for the children from Grade IV up. Holy Mass is said at 11:15 on two of the days. Since the Eucharist fast is mitigated, many receive Holy Communion. They express their thanks in the form of a Spiritual Bouquet, culled in the garden of their hearts.

February 2-5, 1958 – pages 185-186

An Accident. A Funeral. At about 3:30 on this lovely Sunday afternoon in early February, a fatal accident occurs. Many of the boys and girls under the supervision of several staff members, go to Mr. Calf's Lake to skate taking their hockey sticks with them. When they are ready to return, the girls are to be brought back first. The driver said that, although he had not told them this day, they had been warned to not hold on to the truck. Likewise, many of the children warned the boy to get away from the side of the truck, it was too dangerous. In spite of this fact, a few boys cling to the truck unknown to the driver, and Isidore Black, sixteen years old, was holding on, not at the back, but on the side skating zig-zag on the right side of the truck.

Poor Isidore's skate caught in an ice crack covered over with snow. He fell, the truck driving over him, more lengthwise, crushing many bones. Reverend Father Gerard Fortier, O. M. I., principal, rushes to the sport, giving him general absolution. They take Isidore to the hospital in Gleichen where Father G. Fortier anoints him. The poor parents receive heartfelt sympathy from all at the school, for the principal takes all the pupils to the Black's home where the corps is exposed.

Wednesday morning, the funeral takes place, six cadets in uniform, acting as pall-bearers. Other cadets assist at the Funeral Mass in dress uniform with their Platoon Commander, Lt. Davis Bull Bear giving the different commands. The gymnasium is filled with friends, glad to offer their prayers for the deceased and his parents and dear ones. Thirty-four cars accompany the remains to its resting place in the cemetery on the reserve. We pray that his soul may rest in peace and may he in turn watch over his friends and intercede for us before the throne of God.

March 18, 1958 – page 187

To feast the Principal. Reverend Father Gerard Fortier, O. M. I., Principal, having already announced that Saint Joseph's feast day would be an appropriate one on which to celebrate everyone's feast. On the eve, consequently, a little program having been prepared, all assemble in the gymnasium to enjoy the selections. At its close, our cook, Sister Praxedes, surprises all with a nice treat of ice cream.

April 25, 1958 – page 188

Mr. W. R. Wild, our Indian Agent, brings with him Mr. W. E. Frame, the Regional Inspector of Indian Schools, and two distinguished visitors from Ottawa: Mr. Charles Albinson and Mr. LeMay, both in office in the Department of Indian Affairs. After their dinner, our principal,

Reverend Father Gerard Fortier, O. M. I., brings them to the gymnasium where a few selections are given for the visitors' entertainment. These, they seem to enjoy immensely. After speaking a few moments to the assembled group, we hear we are to have a half holiday.

May 2, 1958 – page 189

First Holy Communion Day. Holy Mass is followed by a Communion breakfast in the girls' recreation hall. Needless to say, the day is spent in a holy joy – this is depicted on their young, innocent faces.

In the afternoon, after having received Our Lord's blessing, they are enrolled in the Brown Scapular. Then the smallest of the First Holy Communicants crowns our Blessed Mother. So ends another beautiful day, registered in eternity's archives. May these dear ones remain close to Jesus and Mary all through life's way.

May 9, 1958 – pages 190-191

[Participation at a festival in Morley. Great success.]

May 23, 1958 – page 192

Another warm afternoon. Old Sun athletes are here, bringing last year's trophy with them which they won, only to carry it back again! Our students do very well, but cannot measure up to the Old Sun contestants. When the last event is scored and all figures added, Old Sun scores fifty points more than Crowfoot ... 280-230. Lost again!

June 6, 1958 – page 193

[Four schools meet in track and field day.]

June 15, 1958 – pages 193-194

For the first time in the history of our school, do we have an actual Kindergarten classroom with twenty six-year old and an excellent teacher in the person of Miss Elizabeth Kaczmarczk. So, it must needs be that when a successful year comes to its close, these mites must be graduated. They are ready to begin school life in real earnest next September.

This Sunday is one of their biggest days. All present smile and chuckle more than once as these youthful graduates dressed in cap and gown, on receiving their diploma or their prize, shake hands with the distributor and say "Thank You".

After the principal, Reverend Father Gerard Fortier, O. M. I., speaks to the assembled guests, the graduates sing the Crowfoot School song. The pianist playing a march, these now Grade I pupils file from their places and sedately march out.

June 17, 1958 – page 194

Having visited some of the classrooms already, Mr. M. Holeman, Superintendent of Schools for this Public School District of Alberta, completes his inspection today. He seems favourably impressed while performing this visit of office to our ten-roomed school including Kindergarten.

June 23-27, 1958 – page 194

This last week, sixteen serious Grade IX students write their Departmental Examinations. Their fervor at Holy Mass and their faith in burning votive lights attest their sincerity.

June 26, 1958 – page 195

Mr. W. E. Frame, Inspector of Indian Schools, having announced his intention to visit the Grade I class, arrives this afternoon. He apologizes to the teacher Sister Benigna of Jesus, for not having come earlier in the week.

June 27, 1958 – page 195

Ten forty-five, and all are assembled in the gymnasium for the distribution of prizes and promotions. Among a crowd of two hundred fifty students, one will naturally expect to see a few sad faces because of failure, but for the greater majority, there is nothing but smiles and happiness. A Year Book is given to each family and before long the sweet quiet of vacation envelops the surroundings of the School. Vacation has begun!

September 2, 1958 – page 202

Today is for some a sad day, especially the small ones. While for others, judging from their pleasant faces and smiles, it is a happy one. Many pupils are registered; nevertheless, we expect fuller classes in the weeks which will follow.

Eleven classrooms now constitute Crowfoot School, and only three of these are taught by our religious personnel. Even though the other eight are staffed with very good lay teachers, all Catholics, it is proof enough that priestly and religious vacations are lacking. For this reason, a prayer is being said daily for this intention after the holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered.

October 14-17, 1958 – page 203

Three of our teachers board the train to attend the Convention at Edmonton. They stay at St. Joseph Hospital conducted by the Sisters of Providence of Kingston...

December 5, 1958 – page 204

Sad news! Surprised indeed we were, when, yesterday's mail brought Sister Yvonne Emilie's obedience to the North. Having been here since the beginning of the term, we surely did not expect a change so suddenly. [... ...]

Although having been here just a few months, she had endeared to all whom she contacted. The girls were sorry to see her go, she was the companion with Sister in charge of them.

December 19, 1958 – page 205

After two short weeks of practice, the selected group of thirty-two singers are off to Calgary to sing on TV, Channel 2. The different teachers concerned, having occupied themselves with the task in hand, the singers are taken to Calgary at 9:00 a. m. Friday, Mrs. Erwin Allanspack directs the choir while Mr. James Henderson, the small boys' recreational supervisor, is the pianist.

All, at Crowfoot School, have dinner at 11:20! In plenty of time, we group ourselves around the three Televisions. Reverend Father Gerard Fortier, Principal, had invited the people to come, accordingly the large boys' TV set is in the gymnasium where there is plenty of space for seating.

We are justly proud of our pupils, well-dressed, mannerly and withal lovely voices which enchant the listeners. All concerned deserve praise for this new step taken by the students.

December 22, 1958 – page 206

This year our concert is shorter but more select. As parents wish to see their children appear in public, the hall is filled ... many pre-school children making themselves heard as well as seen.

The evening proves to be a big success, all are happy. After each school child has received his bag of nuts and candy, the gymnasium become an empty hall once more. Many receive a present from a friend or relative as well. Merry Christmas to all!

March 6, 1959 – page 208

For twenty-one of our pupils, eighteen of whom are in Grade II, this day will be a cherished one in their lives. As they march up the aisle of our new church and arrange themselves in the pews assigned for them, recollections crowd around in the minds of all ... their First Communion Day.

As it is the First Friday of the Month, a large crowd has gathered to witness this beautiful ceremony enhanced by the new building itself! Pictures are taken during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – lovely keep-sakes indeed! After the Holy Sacrifice which is offered at 11:00 A. M., the First Communicants repair to their classroom where their dinner is served.

May 2, 1959 – page 210

The staff witnesses a new ceremony in the church at 6:30 this Saturday evening as twelve Boy Scouts under the Scout Master, Mr. Omer Gosselin, Supervisor of the large boys, make their promises and are vested as Boy Scouts. Lorne Haggerty, a Boy Scout from Cluny, assists in the ceremony.

After leaving the church, all enjoy a candle light banquet held in the gymnasium where not only the Reverend Fathers and staff members are present, but also some of the fond parents of these happy lads are numbered among the guests.

February 8, 1959 – pages 210-211

At 7:00 A. M. a big school bus leaves our grounds. The fifty-eight Festival contestants are on their way to the Jubilee Auditorium in Calgary for their second year of competition. The other contestants of this Calgary District Indian Festival are from three Reserves: Stoney Indians from Morley, Sarcee Indians from the Sarcee Reserve and Blackfoot Indians from Old Sun and Crowfoot Schools respectively.

[Long description – successful competition]

The happy children sing all the way home, expressing their sentiments over their success which entailed weeks of practice and hard work.

June 5, 1959 – page 213

It is the Feast of the Sacred Heart and the First Friday of June. It is the day that Jesus chooses to draw closer to Himself twenty-two little innocent souls who receive Him for the first time. As each child enters the sanctuary and places the flower in the vase designated, a hushed silence permeates the crowd assembled for the 11:00 o'clock Mass. At the Offertory, and after the Elevation, their young voices rise in a joyful chorus chanting praises to God and His Blessed Mother.

After the Mass, they came to the school where they enjoy a picnic dinner in the shade afforded by the school building. Simple in its setting, yet ideal, their teacher, Miss Audrey MacDougall, and a few girls see to the serving after Reverend Father Gerard Fortier, O. M. I., Principal, blesses the tables.

8-12 June 1959 – page 214

Reverend Father M. McMann, O. M. I., arriving by the evening bus, comes to preach the retreat for the older students. Two instructions are given daily with a special time for either boys or girls and for Confessions. The Friday morning Mass ends the retreat which they seemed to have enjoyed. Let us hope that in God's sweet, loving way some good will come from these days spent closer to Him.

15-19 June 1959 – page 214

Because the Grade IX students will need the Grade X room next week to write their Departmental Examinations, the Grade Ten students are writing their final examinations this week. We sincerely hope that their marks will be high enough so they will be able to continue their studies this next year.

June 24, 1959 – page 215

This same day, twelve serious Grade Nine students start to write their Departmental Examinations. Their prayers which attest their faith have not been lacking: may success crown their efforts.

July 13-18, 1959 – page 219

[The Sisters have been teaching catechism in summer months for many years now.]

After returning from retreat, Sr. Benigna of Jesus accompanied with Sr. Alice Bertha from Midnapore, spend this week teaching Catechism to over fifty children gathered at St. Mary's Church in Cluny. Reverend Father Leo Ouillette, O. M. I., the pastor takes them to and from the church at noon, and after the afternoon session. Besides the two Sisters, there are three young people who help Father with the teaching and the supervising during the noon hour and at the breaks. On Saturday, there are no Catechism classes, but at 2:00 P. M., all the families gather on Mr. Peter Reis' lawn where there are races for all – the six year old each get a sucker whether they win or lose! The winners of the other races receive chocolate bars. Then the Grand Knight, Mr. Gabriel Corbeil, distributes a first and a second prize to each grade. Then prizes have been purchased by the Knights of Columbus. The Sisters are glad to have done something for the furtherance of God's Church on earth and she salvation of souls.

September 1, 1959 – page 221

This year, we start with eleven grades, but the same number of teachers. We are twelve ... [...] There are two hundred seventy-five pupils attending, seventy-five of whom are day pupils. More are expected. May this year add one more mile-stone to the Christian education which we are trying to inculcate into their everyday life.

October 13-15, 1959 – page 221

The days following Thanksgiving Day like last year are slated as the Teachers' Convention.

December 22, 1959 – page 224

A hush falls over the audience as Norman Running Rabbit announces the first number over the microphone. This is the first time our stage is used for the Christmas concert – and oh! what a difference. With two side-dressing rooms, and a passage made by the back curtains, the boys'

dining room as a dressing room is the thing of the past. In about two hours' time, the concert consisting of a great variety in selections and actors is over. A big bag of candy, nuts and fruit is given to each school child before they leave the gymnasium.

April 4-7, 1960 – page 225

This evening, shortly after 8:00 P. M., the annual retreat opens for the Junior and Senior High School students.

April 25-29, 1960 – page 225

As there is no Calgary Indian Festival this year, Mrs. Erwin Allenspack decides to enter some selections in the 53rd Alberta Musical Competition Provincial Festival. This is held in the Jubilee Auditorium in Calgary. Even though this week follows our Easter vacation, we make the best of it.

Owing to very unfavorable weather conditions, the first contestant, a Grade III pupil, is unable to go. On Tuesday, two more soloists and two groups for Choral Speech from Grades II and IV are able to go, however. On Thursday, the school bus comes again. This time it conveys the vocal chorus group and the eight little girls in the Grade I Action Song. Arriving a tour destination, we tensely await the opening of the afternoon session. Actions songs – Class 294A – Grade I – is announced and we are No. 4. Then comes class 294B, Grade II, followed by class 294C – Grade III. It happened that there was just one song entered in each of the last two classes. As the adjudicators often do, the winning group is mentioned last. Before realizing fully, we hear that our little group of eight girls have earned the first place in all the Action Songs of the three classes. Because of this, two trophies are awarded them. The vocal choruses follow the action songs. In this, as in all the other entries, save the Action Song and one of Grade II's choral speech which tied third, but last, with a group of white children, we ranked last. This is four first attempt with competing with white children, the knowledge gleaned is very valuable for future use.

June 5, 1960 – page 229

This same afternoon, the Grade IB class hold their Graduation Exercises on the stage in the school gymnasium. The stage is suitably decorated for the occasion; the balloons being the centre of attraction for the young graduates!

June 5, 1960 – page 229

The Knights of the Altar now step on the stage, forming a large K and A while each knight recites an appropriate sentence, according to his rank in the organization. This is very short, they all go to the church. This ceremony lasts a good half hour. Their director, Reverend Father Gerard Fortier, O. M. I., principal, speaks to the assembly. The boys then file into the sacristy. Donning their soutanes, they re-enter the church, coming up the central aisle carrying their surplaces [surplices] on their arms. Reverend Father Philip Poulin, O. M. I., pastor, invests them with the soutanes first then the surplices. Their certificates and badges having been received, the pledge is made and the promise to be faithful. This impressive ceremony finishes by receiving Our Lord's Blessing at Benediction.

June 24, 1960 – page 229

Eleven Grade IX students write their departmental examinations under the supervision of Reverend Father Joseph Couture, O. M. I., Senior Teacher. They have worked and [word missing] well, and we wish them success in this, their last year of Junior High.

June 29, 1960 – page 231

General excitement, and rushing around! The closing of school is anticipated by a few hours, and this does mean something to those having a full schedule. Nevertheless, all is ready at the appointed time – 1:30 P. M. All are smiling and waiting anxiously for the distribution of prizes and promotions. The principal, Reverend Father Gerard Fortier, O. M. I., says a few words to the youthful assembly the Year Books are handed out and school is closed for two months of holidays. May our guardian angels protect all, keeping us from spiritual and temporal harm; may we listen to and obey his gentle voice. Happy and restful holidays to all.

September 30, 1960 – page 237

On September 1st, Crowfoot School opened wide its doors for another year to be spent within its walls. At the close of the first school month, we can say that for the first time in the records of this school under the supervision of the Reverend Oblate Fathers, there is a Grade XII. Out of the number of fifteen teachers counting the Home Economics and Workshop Instructors, only three religious teachers can be counted: Reverend Father Joseph Couture, O. M. I., Senior Teacher, Sister Bernadette Clare, Grade VI teacher and Sister Benigna of Jesus who teaches Grade I.

Up to date, we have practically two hundred ninety pupils, of whom one hundred are day scholars. [One illegible word] long expected to reach the three hundred mark for all have not yet returned.

April 21, 1961 – page 241

Although no Sisters have entered the festival on this date, nevertheless, we do find entries from four grades for the Calgary Musical Festival which is held in the Jubilee Auditorium. This calls for extra work on the part of our Sisters supervising the children. These latter are always well taken care of and even more so on occasions like the present, when they are to appear in public and before strangers. We are glad when we hear that one group – Grade IV – has merited second place under the direction of Mrs. Erwin Allenspach.

April 27, 1961 – pages 241-242

[Description of another festival day.]

May 11, 1961 – page 244

Ascension Thursday and First Holy Communion Day for twenty-five innocent souls is written in the heavenly pages for St. Joseph School, Cluny. Being so anxious, the time seemed so long, but at last the great day arrives. The new organ being used for the first time, peals joyously as they file up the aisle and into their pews. Their pastor, Reverend Father Philip Poulin, O. M. I., officiates and delivers the sermon. During, as well as before and after, pictures are taken for keep-sakes.

After dinner, the First Holy Communicants are enrolled in the Brown Scapular. A surprise lunch of pop, ice cream, cookies and candy await them in their classroom and enjoyed

immensely by all. They are next given their First Holy Communion certificates which completes the order of the day and renders them very happy indeed. Time for home now, so they line up for the bus & return to their homes loaded with graces and precious memories on an unforgettable day. May their sweet mother Mary guide them safely through life's devious ways until the journey's end is reached and they find themselves safely Home.

May 21, 1961 – pages 244-245

The Sunday Mass on this beautiful feast of Pentecost must needs be at 6:30. Quite a large group of children ranging from Grade 1B to XII are to be on "Folk Time" program sponsored by the Canadian Association of Christians and Jews. All are astir early from the oldest to the youngest to be ready for the bus. The said bus travels fifty miles an hour, which means a good hour and a half, if not more, enroute ... and are we crowded! Having arrived at our destination a few minutes behind schedule, we hasten to get costumed as quickly as possible. The director starts with a practice which is satisfactory, has it taped while pictures are being taken. Using some festival numbers and some original selections with an Ave Maria sung by a selected group, a fine performance is the result. After all these numbers have been successfully gone through, they are put together to make an uninterrupted program.

This over, we are driven to St. Theresa's Parish Hall where the members of this same parish have prepared a very nice lunch. As a full hour still remains, the children are taken to Saint George's Island – a zoo and a park – where after having been divided into groups, enjoy themselves in various ways or make a tour looking at the animals. At 3:30, all are back at the Parish Hall to see themselves as other see them on the Folk Time TV Program. A novel experience for many has this day been, which will, no doubt, remain a long time in their memory.

June 11, 1961 – page 246

[Long description of kindergarten graduation.]

September 5, 1961 – pages 251-252

School reopens today. Close to three hundred students register, but several are missing. There have been some disagreements between the Federal Officials and the Indians of the Reserve. The Department wants to limit the number of Boarders and oblige the pupils to come as day students. The Indian families object. They want their children at Boarding School, so, today, as a protest, they refuse to send their children. The Seniors Grades, VII to XII do not show up for school. The "rebellion" last for a week. The Indian Agent, Mr. Alex H. Murray, has to modify his orders somewhat, and with some compromise from both sides, the senior pupils slowly make their way back to school. About 320 are now registered.

October 4-6, 1961 – page 253

All our teaching staff is off to Edmonton, Alberta, for an Indian School Convention. The pupils go home, delighted to have this extra holiday.

January 10, 1962 – page 255

A big news item comes to us today in the transfer of our Principal, Reverend Gerard Fortier, OMI, to Cardston, Alberta. The Principal there, Reverend Maurice Lafrance, O. M. I. has just

been named Provincial Superior of the Oblate Province and Father Fortier is named his successor at St. Mary's School.

A banquet and farewell ceremony are organized quickly, due to the short interval before his departure.

January 19, 1962 – page 255

Today, a solemn High Mass is sung at Church to honor the patron of the Mission, St. Joseph. The entire school personnel and many people from the Reserve come to Father Gerard Fortier's last mass and hear his farewell words. Father is especially devoted to St. Joseph and is happy to have this occasion of closing his work here on such an auspicious day.

June 14, 1962 – pages 257-258

Further to a Formal Graduation which we hope to see in early fall when we know the first seven Grade XII students of our school have made their complete Government of Alberta examinations, this evening, the students are honored at an intimate, informal banquet.

It is a "highlight" of the year for these seven Blackfoot Indians and they show their appreciation.

The parents of each Grade XII student is a guest at the gathering. [... ..]

The Grade XII students honored were: Miss Christine Sleigh, Miss Marie Rabbit Carrier, Leonard Good Eagle, Ronald Doore, Clement Doore, James Good Eagle and Andrew Bear Robe, the Student Body President who thanks everyone in the name of his Classmates.

June 17, 1962 – page 258

Our fifty Kindergarten pupils have their graduation ceremony today. The short, simple ceremony proves to the audience how much work has been done by the devoted teachers, Mrs. Mary Mullins and Mrs. Helen Macdougall.

The "fifty graduates" in white cap and gown, give the entire program of song, address, a choral play and distribution of diplomas.

Reverend Georges Marie Latour, O. M. I., Principal, congratulates pupils, parents and teachers on the work accomplished.

June 24, 1962 – page 258

Following the Corpus Christi procession today is the yearly display in the gym of the children's school work. The teachers go to a considerable amount of work to exhibit attractively the material and classroom work.

Concluding the afternoon, Miss Denise Chand[last part illegible], the Home Economics teacher, has her pupils put on a "fashion show" to model the dresses, skirts and blouses that they made.

June 28, 1962 – page 259

As a final climax to this year of hard work with the Blackfoot Indian children, there is a distribution of awards for various categories of successful and meritorious work during the past ten months.

Many parents of the children are here to share their joy.

Our Principal, Rev. Georges-Marie Latour, O. M. I., congratulates both the successful students and the teachers and gives words of advice to all for the summer months.

June 30, 1962 – pages 259-260

As we conclude these Chronicles for St. Joseph School, we wonder, with astonishment, if the past year has not been running in the same “route” as the past twenty-five years! We hope not!

The Oblate Fathers, working with these Blackfoot Indians are zealous. The Sisters of Providence have likewise worked hard, but to our eyes, so little seem to have been done.

There seems to be a bickering between the Indian Affairs Department and the Indians themselves. Just how much the latter are benefitting from academic work leaves to be seen. At times, our efforts seem in vain, when we try to explain the ordinary truths of our Catholic faith, but do we expect too much? These Indians are still primitive in 1962; they retain so many of their old customs and yet, we must and can bring them closer to God even though our task seems to be a strenuous one.

No one knows what the future holds for Indian Residential Schools. The Department of Indian Affairs seems bent on closing them all, and on having children attend day schools. This would give the children more home life, but are Indian families ready to take on this responsibility? All we can say is “Our times are in His hands”, and pray that the Indian people face the challenge of the future with a Christian attitude. In all sincerity, we say “Providence of God, we thank you for all the favours of the past”.

August 2, 1962 – page 264

Because of the unsettled condition of affairs regarding the Blackfoot Indians and the department at Ottawa with their view for Education, two Oblate Father from Cardston, Alberta, namely Fr. Gerard Fortier and Maurice Goutier and one from the Indian School at Hobbema, Alberta, Fr. Guy Voisin, O. M. I., come to discuss and sign papers with our Principal, Reverend Georges-Marie Latour, O. M. I., following a recent meeting held with the Indians.

The Fathers are doing their utmost to teach the Indians to speak their rights and make known their present difficulties.

June 24, 1962 – pages 264-265

The news is given us today that the seven Grade twelve students who wrote the Department of Alberta examinations last June all failed. For many of these students, it is their second attempt. It is quite evident that these Indians need a curriculum to meet their still primitive means of living and thinking and something that might urge them on to broaden their minds regarding academic work of any kind. Are we trying to “push” them beyond their capabilities?

June 29, 1962 – page 265

Though the Department of Indian Affairs is intend on having the Indian attend day school, they do little to provide for transportation.

Consequently, the Oblate Fathers, at the cost of \$7,000.00 purchase another school bus with seating capacity of 54. The Department gives payment for transportation according to mileage.

January 3, 1963 – page 268

As the pupils return today for the new school term, this day is used to move four classrooms. The Grades 12 and 7, and 10-11 and 8 exchange locale with a view of having all High School

rooms in one block, and making for less waste of time for pupils who must go from one course to the next.

March 8, 1963 – page 269

Parents' Day. On this day, the house is open to parents who wish to visit their children at work in the classrooms. The parents go from one classroom to the next to see pupils and speak to the teachers. They show much interest and hope the children will benefit from opportunities which were not theirs in their own school days. At 3:15, p. m., a light lunch is served in the gymnasium by the High School girls to all parents present.

March 31, 1963 – pages 269-270

One of the extra-curricular activities of this year has been the training of Girl Guides. One district nurse Miss Helena Fitzgerald (now Mrs. John MacKenzie) with the help of Miss Anne Train, Gr. 4 teacher and of Mrs. Charles Park, wife of our Grade 9 teacher, has assumed the direction of this movement. Today, thirty-two girls are officially enrolled in the First Crowfoot Company of Catholic Girl Guides. The civic ceremony was held at the Parish Hall in the presence of parents and school personnel. In the morning, the Girls had come to Mass and Communion in a body, in uniforms, after which a communion breakfast was served here for them and their parents.

April 5, 1963 – page 270

A troop of Blackfoot "Actors" from Cardston came here this evening to give us a film on Blackfoot Tribe life of early days. This is followed by a pageant, prepared by themselves, depicting traditions and tribal rituals. They show a Sundance, a group of Indians on the warpath followed by a war dance and victory celebrations. They show a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R. C. M. P.) and an Oblate Missionary to recognize the benefits they have received from the country and from the Church.

These older Indians deplore the fact that their traditions and tribal customs are dying out. For them, as for any ethnic group, cultural heritage is precious.

- ♦ Translated by Eloi DeGrâce with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)
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Note: from **April 12, 1950** (page 81) to **April 5, 1963** (page 270) the chronicles were written in English in the original.