

Codex historicus of St-Michel School  
Duck Lake, Saskatchewan  
1910-1944

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**PAA, PR1971.0220/3030**

[Notebook of 189 pages. Includes photos].

**July 15, 1910** - page 4

Mr. McKinna, Inspector, visits our school and declares himself satisfied with everything.

A government employee, Mr. Scott, after visiting the school shows his satisfaction by promising to take an interest in everything concerning our school from now on.

**September 10, 1910** - page 5

The children return to school. Our children, who left on August 10, return to regular life without much enthusiasm.

**November 2, 1910** - page 6

Father Gabillon goes to Ottawa. Our Father Principal goes to Ottawa to settle with the government some questions concerning the school.

**April 23, 1911** - page 9

Principal's day. "St. Victorin's Day" is celebrated in a big way this year. Thanks to a rather mild weather for the season, we had a picnic which was very much appreciated by all.

**June 1, 1911** - page 9

Visit of Bishop Pascal. His Grace Bishop Pascal arrives for his pastoral visit. The children, placed in rows on the lawn, greeted his arrival cheerfully. The next day, papal mass and confirmation of thirty-nine of our children. In the afternoon, His Grace agreed to preside over a small meeting of the "Sacred Heart Leaguers". He congratulated them and exhorted them to persevere in this good way, giving them frequent Communion as a great means of perseverance.

**July 13, 1911** - page 10

The solemnity of the feast of St. Henri will henceforth be a non-working feast [patron saint of Father Henri Delmas]. Last night we had a simple reception; this morning, Mass with beautiful hymns. Then, a superb picnic for all. Rev. Lacoste, two other priests from the bishopric and the parish priest took part. Our children enjoy themselves to the full and would like every day of the year to be a picnic...

**July 27, 1911** - page 11

Our children, with joy in their hearts, leave for a month of freedom.

**September 20, 1911** - page 11

The annual exhibition of our children's handicrafts gives a more than satisfactory result.

**September 29, 1911** - page 12

Bishop Pascal wants to join us to celebrate the Archangel St. Michael. The ideal weather allows us to have a picnic - there would be no real solemnity without it. However, it was so cold that we had to light a fire to warm up, which contributed a lot to the pleasure.

**December 1, 1911** - page 12

One of our little boys, Francis Watson, was carried off in a few days by the terrible tubercular meningitis. He may have been eight or nine years old.

**December 25, 1911** - page 12

The Christmas celebration was both joyous and consoling - a true gathering of all our Indians. Almost all the former students of the school approached the holy table with fervor. At midnight mass, our children performed a new Gregorian mass with great success. At lunch, a "Christmas tree" was stripped. Everyone, beginning with the Principal, received a "Christmas Stocking" containing treasures and sweets that were much appreciated.

**May 22, 1912** - page 13

Bilingual Inspector. Mr. Chauvin, the bilingual Inspector, visits the schools under his control. He spends a day here.

**July 31, 1912** - page 14

The children leave happily for their vacations. The next day, the Sisters began their retreat preached by Fr. Croisier, O.M.I.

**August 31, 1912** - page 14

Return of our birds. The children return. Because of the bad weather, there are many latecomers.

**September 30, 1912** - page 14

Ideal day. Big picnic to celebrate the feast of Saint Michael.

**December 11-15, 1912** - page 15

Children's retreat. The children's retreat was preached by Fr. Patrice Beaudry, a French Metis. Our children seemed to appreciate the preacher's instructions; Cree being his mother tongue, he had no difficulty in speaking their language.

**July 4, 1913** - page 16

The school of Saint-Michel is very honored to receive the visit of the Apostolic Delegate, Mgr Stagni; he is accompanied by Bishop Pascal. The children gave a simple reception. An address was read in Cree by Louis Greyeyes, a former student of the school, Mr. Louis Schmidt, father of our Agent, Pantaléon Schmidt, read an address on behalf of the Metis. The delegate seemed satisfied with everything. He said that "the Oblates had erected a monument of civilization in the West which would stand forever".

**July 18, 1913** - page 16

The children leave. Return to school: August 18.

**January 29, 1914** - page 17

A doctor from Ottawa visits the house, accompanied by Mr. Campbell, a clerk at the Agency; they promise a report that will bring credit to the school.

**November 1, 1915** - page 20

Children's retreat preached by Father P. Beaudry.

**August 30, 1917** - page 22

Another threat of fire. This time, it is one of our boys who tries to set an explosion by setting fire to the apartment where the gas for the lighting was being prepared. God forbid that the thing should be discovered in time. The culprit, Harry Paul, was sent to the reform school on Nov. 28 following.

**March 31, 1918** - page 22

Easter! Our Indians came in great numbers to take communion. In the afternoon, a brass band, organized by Fr. Poulenard, gave a concert in the open air which was greatly applauded. Our boys were very proud of their success.

**July 12, 1918** - page 22

Big picnic at the "Villa" on the Oblate farm. (There was then a beautiful lake, which is now dried up).

**November 4-15, 1918** - page 23

Within two days, the school was transformed into a hospital. Brother Lacroix, a servant, a good number of Sisters and almost all the children were in bed. Only three or four of the smaller boys and a few girls were spared. One girl and three boys died in the first few days; all the others recovered fairly quickly.

**December 25, 1918** - page 23

Nothing appears of the sadness of November; the children all seem to have recovered from this terrible shock. The Christmas party is as joyful as the previous ones.

**Note - 1919**

From 1919-24, documents are lacking; almost nothing entered in the reference book. Thus, in 1919, we only mention the children's retreat preached in December by Father Boyer, O.M.I.

**January 18, 1920** - page 23

Helen Greyeyes entered the Grey Nun novitiate at St. Boniface.

**January 1924** - page 25

There is talk of a new building to replace the aging school. On January 7, Father Delmas made a trip to Ottawa in the interest of the future St. Michael School.

**July 4, 1924** - page 25

On this day, the first Friday of the month, the foundations of the new building are being dug. The old school dated from 1894 and the chapel was finished around 1900. There had been, at various times, additions to the main building.

[A list of the personnel follows:] Brother Joseph Lacroix - the latter left on October 16; he was replaced by Mr. Alexis Cunningham, ex-novice in the Jesuits. [As boys' supervisor.]

**March 31, 1925** - page 27

The new school, begun on July 4, 1924, has been built as if by magic. Already, for a few weeks, they have been proceeding with the move.

**April 2, 1925** - page 27

Finally, it is the big day! Around two o'clock, we said goodbye to our old house which seemed to be sad about our departure... The arrival in the new Saint Michael School was without enthusiasm and without joy, as much on the part of the staff as on that of the children.

**May 31 and June 7, 1925** - page 28

Four of our children, born of pagan parents, after proper instruction, received Baptism: Jane Peters, Georgina Badger, Leo Paul Badger, Jean-Baptiste Turner. On June 7, the Knife family, consisting of father, mother, a large boy and baby, all were admitted to our holy religion. Two other children of the same family, Regis & Suzanne, were left at school; they will be baptized later when they have received sufficient instruction.

**June 5, 1925** - page 28

Thirteen of our children approach the holy table for the first time. Great celebration! The details of this celebration are at the end of the book. Never, I believe, will we see so many tent cities around the school. The children leave with their parents on July 17 & 18, after returning from the pilgrimage to St. Lawrence.

**October 10 - December 10, 1925** - pages 29-30

Typhoid fevers - The first attack of the terrible plague that fell on our school. There were forty-five cases among the children - 26 girls and 19 boys - Brother John Morkin was taken to the hospital in Sask[atoon] on November 1 and died on November 13. Sr. S. Ulric, who fell on October 3, remained in bed for two long months. Among the children, there was only one small victim, Jeanne Lafond, who succumbed at the Sask[atoon] Hospital where she had been taken on Nov. 22. It was not until Dec. 24 that the last of the convalescents returned from the hospital.

**December 25, 1925** - page 30

First Christmas in the new school. The midnight mass took place in the old chapel, which was moved during the last summer to its present location. Large attendance, many communions.

**February 25-28, 1926** - page 31

The annual children's retreat was preached this year by Fr. Alphonse Jan. The children seemed to appreciate these days of recollection.

**June 16, 1926** - page 32

First communion of 24 of our children. The good Father Cochin came to preach to our little ones in their language and to prepare them for this important action.

**July 1, 1926** - page 32

Our annual picnic was a success. The day was good in all respects.

**August 7-8, 1926**

Mr. Cunningham left the job of supervisor; he was replaced by Mr. Leja, a young Polish man.

**March 10, 1927** - page 34

The dentist, who arrived on Feb. 23, finally finished his work (Mouldson of Rosthern).

**March 16, 1927** - page 34

Dr. Lynch, assisted by two Doctors and a nurse, removed tonsils from forty-one children and two employees, Mrs. Scissons & Hanly.

**April 5, 1927** - page 34

The boys' supervisor, Mr. Leja, leaves the school; he is temporarily replaced by Mr. Hoffinger.

**April 17, 1927** - page 34

Easter! The old Seesequasis baptized. Nice celebration! Solemn baptism of the Chief of the reserve, the old Seesequasis and his old lady. Both do things very seriously.

**August 27 & 28, 1927** - page 35

Return of the children; almost all of them arrive on opening day and seem happy to be at school.

**September 1927** - page 35

[In the staff list, Mr. John Klausnek, is the boys' supervisor].

**December 4-7, 1927** - page 35

Annual children's retreat, preached by Father Patrice Beaudry.

**March 10, 1928** - page 36

Arrival of a new boys' supervisor, Antony Bakker. Mr. Klausnek left on February 29.

**June 19, 1928** - page 36

Saint-Henri. Early feast of Father Delmas. The hero of the feast expressed satisfaction with the small reception in his honor. Father Odilon Allard, Inspector of French in the Saskatchewan schools was present.

**July 11, 12 & 13, 1928** - page 36

Mr. Ferrier, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, visited the school and declared himself satisfied with everything.

**July 15, 1928** - page 36

The same evening arrived for supper: Dr. Scott, deputy minister of Indian affairs with his lady, Mr. Graham & his lady, and Dr. Corbett. These government employees slept here, visited the school, and then went to St. Laurent.

**September 1-2, 1928** - page 37

Return of the children who had a little longer vacation this year.

**November 18-21, 1928** - page 37

Father Patrice Beaudry preached the children's retreat again this year.

**September 13, 1928** - page 37

Dr. Lynch, accompanied by Dr. Scott and his Lady come to ask for hospitality. The last two visit the school.

**December 25, 1928** - page 38

Every year, the Infant God seems to call the Indians to his crib as he once did for the Shepherds. Beautiful midnight mass. On New Year's Eve, Mr. Bakker had a nice drill performed by the boys.

**January 26, 1929** - page 38

For the 3rd time, Dr. Lynch comes with his assistants to operate on the tonsils and adenoids: 32 children go on the operating table.

**February 3, 1929** - page 38

The flu, which had already claimed several victims in January, returned again. Almost all of the children and some of the staff paid a tribute to it. Nothing very serious, however.

**June 7, 1929** - page 40

Father Delmas' feast day. The anticipated feast of Saint Henri. Father O. Allard and Naessens were present. Nice decoration. The small reception was quite successful. Father Delmas thanked the children and those who had organized the feast in moving terms. Candies were distributed. The picnic took place on July 9: it was a success.

**December 2-5, 1929** - page 40

Annual children's retreat: Father Beaudry is still the preacher.

**December 5-6-7, 1929** - page 40

This year, many of our children are in bed during the "Forty Hours", because measles entered the school towards the end of the retreat. There were 85 cases of measles.

**December 25, 1929** - page 41

Christmas brings a little joy and hope to our children who are suffering from illness. About 20 children are still too weak to go to church, but most are able to attend mass in the chapel.

**January 24, 1930** - page 41

Joseph Constant - 8 years old - is taken by a tubercular meningitis that followed the measles.

**June 27, 1930** - page 42

The boys' supervisor, Mr. Bakker, left the school to settle in Saskatoon; he was replaced by Mr. Joseph Piché.

**July 6, 1930** - page 42

Early celebration of Fr. Delmas' birthday. Nice reception. The picnic took place on July 9: it was a beautiful day for the children.

**December 18-22, 1930** - page 44

Father Beaudry is the preacher who is always appreciated and liked. Unfortunately, the flu is passing through the school and people are coughing like crazy.

**January 16-30, 1930** - page 44

An epidemic of influenza transforms the school into a hospital.

**November 30, 1931** - page 46

Opening of the children's retreat preached by the tireless Father Beaudry.

**March 9-10, 1932** - page 46

Dr. Wall makes his first visit. Under the control of the government, Dr. Wall undertook a campaign against trachoma, an infectious eye disease.

**December 4-8, 1932** - page 50

The children's retreat is again preached by Father Patrice Beaudry.

**December 14-15, 1932** - page 50

The school inspector, Mr. Crough, visits the school. He declares himself satisfied.

**December 25, 1932** - page 50

The religious feast was really beautiful: beautiful singing, a great number of communions. On New Year's Eve, it was very simple, because there was only one song at the arrival of the Child-God. It had been decided - in council - that a small performance would be given in the afternoon for the parents of the children. This performance, needless to say, was very much appreciated by our people.

**December 26, 1932** - page 50

The "flu" is making its entrance. The epidemic was not too severe.

**January 1, 1933** - page 51

According to an already old custom, Mr. Pantaleon Schmidt comes to take the supper here with all his family, at the first of the year.

**March 31, 1933** - page 52

Second visit of Dr. Wall. He insists that the Sister who is a nurse gives herself the treatments that should cure or at least improve the condition of the children suffering from trachoma.

**July 4, 1933** - page 53

Saint Henri feast day - anticipated - is as solemn as possible. The picnic that takes place the next day brings joy to the hearts of the children.

**October 5, 1933** - page 54

Doctor R. W. Kirkby, chief physician of the Prince Albert Sanatorium, arrived with the X-ray machine. Two young men accompanied him. All our children were x-rayed and the doctor examined several children. On October 10, Dr. Kirkby came to continue his work and gave the "Tuberculin test". He came back again on Oct. 12 to see the results of the "tests".

Note: This work has been done every year since then, around this same date. The purpose is to find out if there are any cases of tuberculosis in the school. Almost at every such examination there are one or two cases of active tuberculosis, which cases are sent to the San.

**November 30, 1933** - page 55

The school inspector, Mr. Crough, visits the classes. He declares himself satisfied.

**December 25, 1933** - page 55

The Christmas celebration always has a special touch. In the after dinner, a "dramatic and musical show" very much appreciated by an audience more numerous than distinguished...

**February 21, 1934** - page 56

Dr. Wall and Dr. Mouldson, dentist, arrive at the same time. Dr. Wall expressed his satisfaction with the work done to control "trachoma.

**June 26, 1934** - page 57

Father Principal's early party. The party was interesting and nice. The picnic was held on June 28.

**August 1, 1934** - page 58

Two government employees, Mr. Murrison and Dr. McGill, visited the school.

**October 1, 1934** - page 58

X-ray - examination of the children.

**December 25, 1934** - page 59

The weather was very cold, which somewhat diminished the number of people attending the Christmas Eve services. The Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at two o'clock, then the concert was greatly applauded. The entire Schmidt family was there, even Sister St Marcien (Irène) of Marcellin.

**February 13, 14 & 16, 1935** - page 59

The children's retreat, preached again and again by Fr. Beaudry, opened on the evening of the 13th. On the 14th the Forty Hours began. The retreat and the Forty Hours ended on February 16.

**June 23, 1935** - page 62

The same evening, Father Delmas' anticipated feast. The reception was quite successful. The picnic took place on June 27.

**September 26, 1935** - page 64

X-ray. Dr. R. W. Kirkby.

**December 18-19, 1935** - page 65

The school Inspector, Mr. Crough, visited the classes. He says he is satisfied.

**March 5, 1936** - page 66

Mr. Murisson and Mr. Pantaleon Schmidt visiting the school.

**March 28, 1936** - page 66

Two loudspeakers are installed in the radio, one for the boys, the other for the girls.

**July 14, 1936** - pages 68-69

Jubilee of Father Delmas - Part 2. The celebration opened with a solemn high mass with a sermon in English by Father McCabe and in Cree by Father J. Calais. The Indians had a country dinner for which Father Delmas had meat, fat, potatoes, flour and tea distributed to each family according to the number of guests. There were 169 families in all; this gives an idea of the provisions distributed. At about two o'clock, a performance for the Indians by our children; then came the speeches. Bighead spoke at some length as did Prosper; Father Auclair made a very pathetic speech, Mr. Pantaleon Schmidt had his turn. Finally, Father Delmas let his big heart speak. The whole assembly seemed very satisfied with this celebration of a new kind.

**August 26, 1936** - page 70

Entrance of the children. From the first evening, one hundred and four of them slept under our roof. Several arrived tired; two were taken from the improvised beds in the visiting rooms to the beds in the infirmary. Another has been sick here for a few weeks; it is paratyphoid.

**September 29, 1936** - page 71

Father Delmas has obtained from the department a nurse to help in the infirmary to care for the children. At present we have eight cases of paratyphoid and seven pneumonias.

**October 3, 1936** - page 71

On October 3, another nurse, Miss Healy, was sent to watch the patients during the night. Both are from the Fort Qu'Appelle Hospital.

**October 7-9, 1936** - page 71

X-Ray. Dr. Kirkby, then Dr. Banting.

**February 14 and 15, 1937** - page 73

Opening of the children's retreat and the Forty Hours. Father Beaudry is the tireless preacher. Retreat and Forty Hours end on the morning of the 17th.

**April 15, 1937** - page 75

We receive from the department the new rules concerning the children's vacation.

**June 22, 1937** - page 75

St. Henri's Day was almost a feast of heaven, for almost all the actors represented angels and saints. Nice reception.

**June 23, 1937** - page 75

If yesterday's feast was of heaven, today's picnic was of earth ... Left this morning in the rain, we spend the day in a dust storm. Returned at 3 p.m. - very tired and smeared.

**June 30, 1937** - page 76

According to the new laws, the children leave on June 30 and will have two full months of vacation. They will be taken home by truck or car. The most distant ones leave by railroad.

**September 1, 1937** - page 76

From the first day, 65 girls, 50 boys.

**September 6-25, 1937** - page 76

Epidemic of measles. Many are sick, but no complications.

**September 30, 1937** - page 77

The X-Ray. Dr. Kirkby. Every year new children are examined as well as suspects. The "Tuberculin test" is given.

**March 22-25, 1938** - page 78

Dr. Wall made a third visit. He seems to appreciate what has been done to control "trachoma".

**May 2, 1938** - page 79

The government auditor comes to review the books. He spends the day here.

**22 June 1938** - page 80

The anticipated feast of Father Delmas brings great joy to the world of our children and the picnic the next day will complete the happiness.

**June 30, 1938** - page 80

The children leave; in a short time, the house is almost empty.

**September 4, 1938** - page 80

The children return to us. From the first evening, there are more than one hundred and thirty of them registered.

**March 2, 1939** - page 84

Dr. Morrow, chief physician for the Indians of the region, comes here for dinner. He is accompanied by Mr. G. H. Simpson, our Agent, and Dr. Paré. The former visits the school.

**March 4, 1939** - page 85

Our boys went to Rosthern for a game of hockey - relative success.

**June 29, 1939** - page 88

Children leave; truck and cars travel for a few days.

**August 30, 1939** - page 89

A special sewing room for the boys' clothes was opened in the boys' "Overflow" apartment. Half of the sewing machines were taken and the tools were shared. The children will be given more space in the two sewing rooms.

**3 & 4 September 1939** - page 89

Return of the children. One hundred and fifty-seven sleep under our roof on the evening of the 4th.

**September 16, 1939** - page 90

X-rays. Dr. Kirkby and Morrow.

**March 2, 1940** - page 91

Our boys go to play Rosthern with Mr. Salamon. They did not win but lost "with honor".

**February 14 & 15, 1940** - page 91

The indefatigable Father Beaudry opens the retreat on the evening of the 14th.

**March 12-16, 1940** - page 92

Visit from Dr. Wall. He encourages the nurse to continue the treatments and advises to give sulfanilamide as an internal treatment for "trachoma".

**May 2 to June 15, 1940** - page 92

Whooping cough epidemic. There is coughing on all the tones of the range!

**June 18, 1940** - page 93

To continue the family traditions, the principal's party was again held in June. The reception took place in the girls' recreation room, beautifully decorated for the occasion. A harmonica piece opened and closed the party. Everything was nice and well done.

**June 19, 1940** - page 94

The picnic was a real success; it took place on the "Oblate farm". The boys went to their destination in a "hay wagon" and the girls in a truck. We returned around six o'clock, delighted with the day.

**September 1, 1940** - page 96  
Children enter - 119 on the first evening.

**September 23, 1940** - page 96  
X-Rays. Dr. Morrow, then Dr. Simes.

**November 21, 1940** - page 97  
Our agent, Mr. S. H. Simpson, makes a tour of the school.

**Dec. 5-Jan. 15** - page 98  
Outbreak of measles; about twenty-five of the latest arrivals are affected.

**Dec. 25, 1940** - page 97  
Because of the measles, we have very few foreigners - especially people from the north. Father Principal had warned the people of the epidemic that was in the house. We still had our usual show. The band organized during the year by Mr. Salamon played its first pieces which were warmly applauded.

**December 28, 1940** - page 97  
A nasty "flu" entered the house and complicated some people with measles. On December 29, there were already nearly one hundred children in bed. It is on this minor note that we end 1940.

**January 18, 1941** - page 98  
The "Flu" and "Measles" are slowly receding and soon we will be back to normal.

**January 21-22, 1941** - page 98  
The inspector, Mr. C. H. Krueger, visits the classes. His report is good.

**February 8, 1941** - page 98  
Rosthern boys come to play field hockey with our boys who have the upper hand.

**February 11, 1941** - page 98  
Father Beaudry arrives to preach the retreat which opens that evening.

**March 27, 1941** - page 99  
Moving pictures presented by John Deere Company.

**April 1, 1941** - page 99  
Dr. Morrow, Dr. Paré & Mr. Simpson, our Agent, visit us and see the sick.

**April 25, 1941** - page 101  
"Our band, with its director and Father Latour, goes by truck to Waldheim to take part in a festival.

**May 28, 1941** - page 102

Dr. Wall and Dr. Morrow stopped at the school for a few hours. They examine the eyes of the children.

**June 18, 1941** - page 103

The picnic was again at the Oblate farm. It was a beautiful day all around.

**September 1, 1941** - page 105

Entry of the children. From the first day, the family was quite large. [The following is a list of the members of the personnel. Mr. Rodolphe Archambeault, boys' supervisor (arrived on Sept. 25)].

**September 25, 1941** - page 105

X-rays and "Tuberculin Tests". Dr. Kirkby does not come this year.

**October 21-25, 1941** - page 105

Children's retreat preached in English by Father O. Fournier. The very simple sermons were listened to with great interest.

**December 25, 1941** - page 107

Many people came from the north to celebrate with us the feast par excellence. Beautiful singing and numerous communions. Father Labonté said the three masses of the night and gave the sermon. Fr. Latour took care of the singing. On New Year's Eve, "little Jesus" came dressed in Indian style as well as his Holy Mother. The afternoon session was very well received. Pieces from the band and the rhythmic symphony were enthusiastically received by the audience.

**January 16, 1942** - page 108

Dr. Morrow and Dr. Paré spend the afternoon here examining the people of the Batoche and Duck Lake reserves. Dr. Morrow makes a special visit to Father Delmas, which is very sensitive to the patient.

**February 24-15, 1942** - page 109

School inspector, Mr. Kreuger, visits classes - good report.

**February 28, 1942** - page 109

"Our boys" go to play Rosthern and the Fathers of the house accompany them. They don't win, but are happy anyway.

**March 13, 1942** - page 110

The first two classes go to instructive moving pictures at the parish hall.

**March 16-17, 1942** - page 110

Exercises are held in the "rescue stairs" to be ready in case of fire.

**April 11, 1942** - page 110

"Our musicians" - the band and those who play the harmonica - go to play at the Radio (parish hall) for an impromptu concert to benefit the Sanatorium.

**April 22, 1942** - page 111

St. George's Day. This year the celebration of our Father Principal was more quiet. Entrance duet by Georgina Lafond and Catherine Bird. Conversation. Songs. The hero of the feast thanked and then recalled the memory of those who had devoted themselves to this school, especially the souvenir of Father Delmas. A day off was granted for the next day.

**May 18-20, 1942** - page 115

Mr. Doucet, assistant to Mr. Philip Phelan, sent from Ottawa to organize activities in the schools, arrived to visit our school. Around 7 p.m., this gentleman gathered the Fathers, the employees and the Sisters and gave a rather interesting talk to all. He wants to give more confidence to the children, to give them some responsibilities in order to accustom them to act by themselves. Mr. Doucet visited the classrooms, the sewing rooms, etc. He declared himself satisfied with what was being done. He declares himself satisfied with what he has seen and encourages us to try the methods he has indicated.

**June 24-26, 1942** - page 116

Departure of the children. The truck and the car travel without stopping.

**September 1, 1942** - page 118

Entry of the children. They are quite numerous from the first day.

**September 1942** - page 119

[List of staff members] Mr. Henri Saint-Pierre succeeded Mr. R. Archambault on Sept. 15 as supervisor of the boys.

**October 29, 1942** - page 120

The children begin their annual retreat. Father Beaudry is still the ever-popular preacher.

**November 2, 1942** - page 120

The government auditor visits the books.

**November 16, 1942** - page 121

Fr. Joyal gives some talking movies.

**November 19, 1942** - page 121

Mr. J. H. Simpson, our Agent, makes his annual tour of the school. His Lady accompanies him.

**November 22, 1942** - page 121

A convention at which representatives of the western Indian schools were convened was held at St. Boniface. Father G. M. Latour went with two Sisters, Sr. Ste Bibiane and Sr. St. Ulric.

**December 25, 1942** - page 122

The three masses of the night and the sermon by Fr. Labonté. Our Father Principal led the singing - all the singers downstairs. Many people from the North, numerous communions. Every year we see progress in our children in the little Christmas concert which was really good this year. Father Labonté had practiced "Cowboys Songs". Mr. St-Pierre "A Peanut Man", the Sisters some small pieces. The rhythmic symphony, by the youngest, was very well received. In a word, everything was for the best.

**January 11-12, 1943** - page 123

The school inspector, Mr. C. H. Kreuger, visited the classes - very good report.

**February 13, 1943** - page 123

"Our boys" go to Prince Albert to play hockey. They lost 3-4. Father Labonté and Mr. St. Pierre went with them.

**February 28, 1943** - page 123

Flu epidemic followed by a few cases of pneumonia.

**March 2, 1943** - page 123

Mr. Henri St. Pierre left on Feb. 26 for an examination to enter the army and has not yet returned. In the meantime, Fr. Maillet from Prince Albert is coming to help with the supervision of the boys.

**March 4, 1943** - page 124

At last, we have a supervisor. Father Theodore Roussel comes, with all his good will, to lend us a hand.

**March 9, 1943** - page 124

Mr. St. Pierre returned in his uniform to get his belongings.

**March 20, 1943** - page 124

Our boys go to play at Hague; they lose "with honor". Fr. Labonté accompanied them.

**April 25, 1943** - page 125

At the high mass, sung by Fr. Latour, he gave a reading in Cree. There are several families from the North, but as the season is quite advanced, these people can go out and visit their friends in the tent, which gives a little calm to the house. Lots of communions.

**April 28, 1943** - page 126

For some time, there had been talk of putting the Indian language hymns on discs so that the missionaries could more easily have their people learn these hymns. The school was asked to prepare a few easy hymns in Cree, and we were told that a Father would come to take the impression of these songs on discs.

Father Roger Lafleur arrived on the 11 a.m. train; by 2:15 p.m., the installation was done and the cutting began. The school choir - boys and girls - Fr. Labonté and Fr. Latour as director, all did their best. Three records were cut; let us hope that they will be good enough.

**May 4, 1943** - page 126

This year, St. George's Day having fallen on Good Friday, it was, like all the other "first class" feasts, postponed until after Easter.

At 5:10 p.m., a reception in honor of our Father Principal. A nice little party with leaves, flowers and fruits "from the garden of the school St. Michael" under the care of the vigilant gardener. Father Latour thanked the children and the nuns, and then, the little rhythmic symphony that had opened the feast, also ended it. It is always a pleasure to see these budding musicians play.

**May 5, 1943** - page 127

Singing at mass; in spite of the gloomy weather, one could feel that the hearts were in joy. The children had a half day off.

At dinner were Doctors Morrow and Paré, Messrs. M. Christianson, General Agent, and S. H. Simpson, our Agent, Mr. Mercereau, James Connell and a constable. All these gentlemen were at the Agency for Treaty pay and a clinic. Our Principal had invited them to come and have dinner at the family table.

**May 9, 1943** - page 127-128

Sunday. At three o'clock, assembly of the Indians in the girls' recreation room to meet Mr. M. Christianson and Mr. S. H. Simpson. Fathers Latour and Labonté were present as well as the older boys and girls. There were about 110 Indian men and women. The session opened with a piece played by the "Rythm Band" and at the end the children sang songs translated into Cree.

In their lectures, these gentlemen encouraged the Indians to cultivate the land and to do some cattle raising. They asked the women to make gardens and to keep their houses and surroundings clean. This was interesting and especially practical.

**May 10, 1943** - page 128

In the afternoon, Mr. Ch H. Kruger, school inspector, came to give very instructive animated views.

**31 May 1943** - page 132

Reception of 13 girls in the Congregation of the Children of Mary. During the ceremony, an incident occurred which almost became an accident. One of the girls - Geneviève Duquette - set fire to her veil while holding her candle clumsily. In a minute the veil was only a flame and already the fire was spreading to the hair when a Sister saved the situation by throwing the rest of the veil on the floor. She also extinguished the fire in the hair; no one had moved from his place and Father Latour continued the ceremony as if nothing had happened.

**June 18, 1943** - page 134

This morning, the weather was indecisive, the clouds threatening; in spite of everything, we left for the "Oblate farm" with the whole school family. The boys traveled by "Bain", the girls by truck. Around noon, the sun came out and everything was fine until the evening. It was an ideal day all around. Prizes were given on the spot and sweet liquor and some sweets were sold. Everyone came back very satisfied with the day.

**June 23-25, 1943** - page 135

Children's outing. Great happiness to go and live in freedom at the dear home.

**June 25, 1943** - page 135

Father Theodore Roussel leaves us. He is going to visit his family in the east; then he will go to Makenzie. He received his obedience a few weeks ago.

**June 26, 1943** - page 136

Father Latour, on his return from his trip to Sturgeon Lake yesterday, brought back two little boys - Amos and Jacob Naytawahow - because he had not met their father in Prince Albert. This morning, at about five o'clock, Fr. Latour and Mr. Forseille left by car with the two children. They went directly to Montreal Lake where these Indians live. Father Latour returned happy with his trip, for he had the opportunity to do some good for the people of that place, some of whom know our school.

**June 28, 1943** - page 136

Father Latour and Father Labonté made a trip to Shellbrook to take a little girl to her mother (Bertha Mongrand). There are only three girls left, one of whom will leave soon - no boys.

**August 9, 1943** - page 140

The records cut on April 28 by Fr. Roger Lafleur have arrived. We can say in all truth that it is a good success. God be blessed!

**September 1-2, 1943** - page 143

The children return to school. They are numerous and seem well disposed. Three girls who had finished their school time returned.

**September 2, 1943** - page 143

Our new supervisor for the boys will be Father Leo Couture who arrived here on the evening train on August 30.

**November 3, 1943** - page 148

Session in front of the X-Ray machine. Dr. Kirkby examines the newcomers and gives the "Tuberculin Test".

**November 27, 1943** - page 148

This time, it is a question of recording Canadian songs translated into Cree. Father Roger Lafleur arrived on the morning train; he began the installation around two o'clock. There was a lot of trouble before the voices could be tuned to the piano; even the harmonium was tried... Finally, Father Lafleur managed to record four songs - two records.

**December 9, 1943** - page 149

The government auditor, Mr. Bouchart, inspects the books of account. Our agent, Mr. S. H. Simpson, begins the tour of the house, but does not have time to finish it.

**December 20, 1943** - page 150

Father Latour was called this morning to the Prince Albert Hospital for the widow of the late Edward Yayakikut, who was dangerously ill. (Edna Yayakikut died the next day and was given a Christian burial in the school chapel on December 23).

**December 27, 1943** - page 150

Some boys from Prince Albert came to have a game of hockey with our boys; they won 5-2. They were served a snack.

**January 13, 1944** - page 152

Mr. S. H. Simpson, our Agent, came to resume the course of his visit begun on Dec. 9. A telephone prevented him from completing it completely.

**January 17, 1944** - page 152

The records of the songs cut on Nov. 27 have arrived. They are quite successful.

**January 29, 1944** - page 153

The boys went to Rosthern for a game of hockey: they won 9-10.

**February 2, 1944** - page 154

Dr. Morrow and Mr. Simpson, our Agent, are having dinner here. Dr. Morrow sees some sick children.

Talking moving pictures by a former schoolmaster - very instructive. (Mr. B. L. Corchinski)

**February 6, 1944** - page 154

Our boys host the Laird boys; ours are victorious 11-9. The players have a snack.

**February 8, 1944** - page 154

The school Inspector, Mr. Kruger, visited the boys' classrooms and then the girls'.

**February 9, 1944** - page 154

Mr. Kruger finishes his visit to the girls of Sr. St. Alban.

In his report sent on March 2, the Inspector declares himself very satisfied with the work done in the classes.

**February 10, 1944** - page 155

The school boys went to Laird for a game of hockey; they won 10-9.

**February 19, 1944** - page 155

The boys went to play a game of hockey at Rosthern; it was the decisive game of the season and our boys were proclaimed "Champions" in this part of the province. Father Labonté was still a little tired, so Father Couture accompanied the boys to Rosthern.

**February 24, 1944** - page 156

Our boys went to Waldheim to play hockey with Father Labonté: 9-1.

**February 26, 1944** - page 156

The boys from Rosthern came to play hockey here; ours won 9-3.

**March 20, 1944** - page 158

This morning we had a high mass in our chapel in honor of St. Joseph. The children had the whole day off.

**March 29, 1944** - page 159

Talking movies by Mr. B. L. Corchinski - very instructive.

**April 22, 1944** - page 160

The children gave a simple reception to our Father Principal in honor of St. George.

**April 24, 1944** - page 160

A big vacation because of Father Latour's feast day.

**May 3, 1944** - page 161

The school Inspector, Mr. Kruger, came with one of his friends to visit the school. He saw the classrooms and the sewing rooms. In the afternoon, Mr. B. L. Corchinski gave moving pictures.

**May 4, 1944** - page 162

Payment of the Treaty at the agency. On this occasion, Mr. Simpson and his lady, their clerk, Dr. Morrow and a Mountie came to the school for dinner.

**May 19, 1944** - page 162

Father Latour went to Maskeg to take two of our older girls (Antoinette Greyeyes and Clémence Arcand) home.

**May 23, 1944** - page 162

Mr. Simpson, our agent, comes with his wife to pay us a farewell visit. Mr. Simpson is transferred to the File-Hills agency. His replacement, whom he comes to introduce to us at the same time, is Mr. McLeod. The three of them have dinner here.

**June 20, 1944** - page 165

A government employee, Mr. Morris, comes to visit our school with our new agent, Mr. McLeod.

**24 June 1944** - page 165

Father Latour goes to Maskeg to take three of our children whose mother is seriously ill (the children of Basile Manitokan).

**July 13, 1944** - page 167

Golden anniversary of St. Michael's school. The preparations are completed. The festoons and garlands give the whole building a festive atmosphere. Vehicles of all kinds continue to pour into the school yards a multitude of travelers. Before nightfall, a village of more than one hundred tents has already sprung up and bivouac fires are lit everywhere. Anticipating this

influx, Father Principal is not caught unprepared: eleven oxen have been slaughtered and provisions of flour, tea, lard, etc., are ready to be distributed through the intermediary of the clan chiefs to each family present.

**July 14, 1944** - page 168

[Description of the activities of the festival].

At three o'clock in the morning, all the students and their guests gathered in the great hall to attend a long and carefully organized recreational and musical performance. It began with the performance of the jubilee cantata "Nanikamutan Kakiyaw" composed in the Cree language by Rev. Father Jules Calais, O.M.I. and harmonized by Mr. Oscar O'Brien, the popular director of the "Allouette Quartet". [Program ...]

A little Indian girl, with perfect English diction and unflappable poise, read this address of gratitude to the Reverend Oblates of Mary Immaculate, represented by Father Armand Boucher, Provincial, and to the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary in the person of Sister Marie St. Zénon, Provincial Councillor, who was herself celebrating her golden anniversary. O Canada and God save the King (Natotamawatak) were sung in Cree.

[The description of the activities continues...]

**September 15, 1944** - page 180

Fathers Labonté & Latour pick up some children from Sandy Lake.

**September 16, 1944** - page 180

Latour goes to Sturgeon Lake.

**September 1944** - page 181

[List of staff members] Father Gérard Labonté, supervisor of the boys.

**September 18, 1944** - page 181

130 children have returned to school! It's a nice entry; everything is going well.

**September 20, 1944** - page 181

Visit of Captain Jourdin from Regina; he comes to establish a cadet corp.

**September 26, 1944** - page 181

Fathers Latour & Valois went to Sturgeon Lake to pick up a little Indian girl.

**October 11, 1944** - page 182

Arrival of Fr. Albert Joyal, school Inspector.

**October 14, 1944** - page 182

Films given by Fr. Joyal. The children had a good time.

**October 20, 1944** - page 183

The clinic of Prince Albert passes all the children.

**November 19, 1944** - page 185

The boys skate for the first time in 1944.

**November 20, 1944** - page 185

We receive another boy boarder: George Marion from Fort la Corne.

**November 26, 1944** - page 186

Fr. Roussel goes to Batoche. Campagna to St. Laurent, accompanied by a boy, Narcisse Daniels.

**December 8, 1944** - page 186

Reception at 3 p.m. of five girls into the Society of the Children of Mary.

**December 12, 1944** - page 187

Very instructive films given by "Cockshutt Plow Co."

**December 21, 1944** - page 187

Visit from Mr. McLeod, Indian Agent.

**Christmas 1944** - page 188

The church is filled with Indians. Fr. Beaudry sings the high mass & preaches in Cree. Fr. Latour gave communion to nearly 300 Indians. He takes care of the singing during the first two masses. Fr. Labonté said the three masses at the school. Fr. Campagna returns from S. Laurent at 2:30, Fr. Roussel from Batoche at 4:00, very successful. The children are making real progress. Songs, band, etc. 55 Indians from other reserves come to school.

**December 27, 1944** - page 188

The Indians are leaving. Many have expressed their satisfaction. They are very pleased with the school & staff. All find their children in good health. There is only one family left.

- ♦ Translated by Eloi DeGrâce with [www.DeepL.com/Translator](http://www.DeepL.com/Translator) (free version)  
March 2022