

Oblates of Mary Immaculate - Hobbema
Hobbema School and Mission
Codex (volume II), 1935 to 1946

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October 7, 1935

Fr. Moulin went to Wetaskiwin to get fruit for his dear children. A big picnic is to be held tomorrow, but a light rain starts around 9 am.

October 8, 1935

This morning, wind, rain, snow storm. The big picnic that was supposed to take place today must be postponed because of the bad weather.

October 9th, 1935

And as an unexpected event to close the day, we notice that two birds have flown out of the nest - two little guys are missing in their beds at school - the 1st "Run Away" of the year.

10th October 1935

Fr. Moulin visits his Indians on the Samson reserve with Fr. Rhéaume. They are looking for the two sheep lost since yesterday.

October 20, 1935

Sunday. High Mass as usual at 10:30 am, but very poor attendance. There is a big meeting today for the Indians. It is to send delegates to Ottawa to make claims about relief and old people's pensions. This meeting is being held on the Samson Reserve several miles from here and this is what prevents our Indians from coming to mass.

November 8, 1935

Friday. Snowstorm even more terrible. The school Inspector who came to visit us today was stuck in the snow with his car. We have to go with the horses to rescue him.

November 14, 1935

[Detailed description of the little concert in honor of Father Moulin].

November 15, 1935

Friday. The two Indian speakers from yesterday's session are invited to come and have dinner with us. This morning, Fr. Moulin celebrates the community mass to the sound of Cree hymns. Everyone is happy to show their faith on the occasion of Fr. Moulin's birthday. Everyone wants to show their gratitude to such a good father.

19 November 1935

Our children are taking the time off that was granted to them on Father Moulin's feast day. Hockey games, tobogganing, etc.

November 24, 1935

Sunday. In the evening, musical and comic concert given by the boys of the school.

December 4, 1935

Fr. Moulin had to return to Edmonton to get the little girl he had taken to the hospital. The poor sick child is condemned by the doctor as having advanced tuberculosis. As she is a little orphan, she will probably die here at the school.

December 11, 1935

In the evening, after supper, sensational opening of the hockey season for our little guys. New hockey sticks, etc. Fr. Rhéaume is a referee and Br. Guibert is a spectator.

December 25, 1935

In the afternoon, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed by the stripping of the Christmas tree and presentation of gifts. Mr. Colonel Palmer comes to honor us with his presence for this ceremony.

December 27, 1935

The children have a great time on the skating rink.

February 18, 1936

Big meeting at the agency today. Visit of Mr. Christianson from Calgary. The Indians are asking the Government for relief. Some families are really in misery.

September 11, 1937

On September 11, the first issue of the "Moccasin News" appeared, a small newspaper (printed with a spirit duplicator) published to bring former students closer to the school and to interest parents in what their children are doing at the school.

November 17, 1937

Wednesday. In the morning, Fr. Boucher gives moving pictures to the children.

Doctors come to examine the children to find out how many tuberculosis patients there are. A Sanatorium is planned in St. Albert for those who will need it.

November 18, 1937

Thursday. The children are taken by car to Wetaskiwin for X-ray examination. Five or six cars are put at their disposal.

November 20, 1937

The parents of our little Indians are anxious to know the results of the medical examination of their children.

November 23, 1937

Father Moulin goes for a ride on the reserve in a big sleigh and returns with three new little boarders.

November 24, 1937

Visit from Colonel Lewis, Indian Agent. We decide to start evening classes on December 2 to teach English to the young people. Fr. Levert is in charge.

November 25, 1937

Fr. Levert accompanies some children to the woods to cut sticks that can be used as hockey sticks.

November 30, 1937

Fr. Levert leads the boys into the woods to cut hockey sticks.

December 2, 1937

Monthly visit of the Agent to the School.

This evening, the evening classes open for young people who want to improve their English. Unfortunately, it coincides with a dance. Also, except for the white family, not a cat in sight! It doesn't look like it's going to be a success, these evening classes imagined by our agent and accepted by Fr. Levert to show him that we at least have some good will.

December 13, 1937

This evening, Fr. Levert prepares to go and give his classes, but the driver does not come to pick him up. No doubt the Indian Agent is discouraged. Not a single one has yet shown up for the evening classes he founded, except for the interpreter's boys.

January 8, 1938

Sister Marie de Galilée goes on a field trip with about 30 little guys on a sleigh ride. One of them, J. Baptiste Bobtail, broke his leg. Fr. Moulin takes him to the hospital in Wetaskiwin.

February 8, 1938

Father Boucher arrived with Fr. Pratt's projector. This evening, a session of moving pictures.

February 14, 1938

Tonight, moving pictures for the children.

September 3, 1939

Father Auclair bless the new school house: 4 classrooms, 1 dormitory for boys above and recreation room for boys in the basement.

February 4, 1943

Fr. Schmidt takes care of the girls of the school. He founds the Girl Guides Association.

May 26, 1943

One of our school girls, Therese Minde, begins playing the organ in the missions.

September 5, 1943

Six girls run away tonight. The boys and men of the reserve caught five of them; one managed to escape into the woods.

September 6, 1943

One boy runs away from school today.

September 12, 1943

Four girls ran away. Mrs. Minde catches them right away. She lectures us.

April 16, 1945

During the night of the 16th to the 17th, around midnight, a fire breaks out in the furnace room of the school.

The children were evacuated without accident, the girls & boys spent the rest of the night in the church.

Colonel Lewis, Agent, came to the school about one o'clock. Mr. MacLeod, Farmer Instructor of the Ermineskin Reserve arrived about 12:30 a.m., the school employees worked [illegible word] until the arrival of the Wetaskiwin Fire Department; they found where the fire started and with chemical extinguishers and water the fire was controlled after 4 hours work.

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