

Chronicles of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin  
St. Anthony's School. Onion Lake, Saskatchewan  
August 1913 to July 1945 (first book)

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**September 10, 1913** - page 5

Today was a great Assumption holiday which we are taking back. We will have a nice picnic. We head towards the camp, a place that promises us to have dinner in a good little house, everything was complete, hot dinner and served with taste. After satisfying our appetite, the time was used for games and amusements which gave our children the advantage of winning prizes of honor, the most skillful in this art was entitled to a nice reward given by my Sister Superior in order to stimulate the others. At the end of this pleasant recreation, a great wind and dust prevented us from staying outside; fortunately, we had the small house of the camp to let this storm pass. After a few moments, the rain and the wind cease and the rest of the day continues as pleasantly as at the beginning. After having had our supper in the same order as dinner, we set out to return to the Convent. We arrived at about eight o'clock.

**October 3, 1913** - page 7

In the afternoon, our Mother visited the house accompanied by Sister Saint Philomène, Sister Superior and the other Sisters. As she passed by the classroom, the room with its most beautiful decorations offered a very beautiful view to our dear visitors; they felt inclined to stay there for a few moments. Our children greeted her with songs of welcome, an address, two pieces of mandolin, a little drill made by our little girls formed the little performance. Our good Mother addresses a few words to our children, thanks them and encourages them to be very docile, very obedient and especially very pious...

**January 7, 1914** - page 11

The vacation is over, the class started this morning; it is therefore necessary to start work for six months. Our children are very happy to start their classes after a fortnight's rest, which gives them a taste for the classroom. Our two Sisters teachers are not too angry either to start again.

**March 1, 1914** - page 13

A small evening of music and singing is given by the Sisters and our children in honor of the feast of Sister Saint Jerome.

**March 2, 1914** - page 13

In the afternoon, the list of the month is given. The students whose conduct has been good have the pleasure of going for a ride as a reward. Sister Marie de Nazareth and Sister Saint Jerome accompany them; they all return happy and joyful.

**March 12, 1914** - page 14

Doctor Hill spends the day at the convent to vaccinate all our children. It is a precaution or rather a protection against smallpox.

**March 25, 1914** - pages 14-15

The Inspector arrives as he announced himself yesterday. He arrives to the sounds of music, a song, an address and three pieces of mandolin; everything is complete. This good gentleman addresses congratulations to our dear children. From there he went to Sister St. Isabelle's class with Reverend Father Cunningham, Principal, Mr. Sibbald and Sister Superior to examine that class in the morning. A first class dinner was served to our worthy visitors. In the afternoon the examination of the class of Sister Marie de Nazareth took place; afterwards the visit of the house took place. The rest of the time is spent examining the children's notebooks and school accounts. It was not until six o'clock that everything ended.

The good Inspector seemed very happy and satisfied with his visit. We are very anxious to know the result before his departure. He thanks us very cordially for all that we have done for him.

**April 13, 1914** - page 15

Big holiday. Our children are almost all going to their parents; twelve are staying, in the afternoon they are going for a drive.

**April 28, 1914** - page 17

... our children are almost all sick with measles.

**May 30, 1914** - page 18

Singing and music at mass, the French hymns are very well performed by our children. At 9:30, the wagons are at the door and everyone embarks quite happily for a picnic, five wagons are at our disposal. We go to Onion Lake which is four miles from here. We have dinner under the tent. In the afternoon, our children have a great time racing and playing games to win the first prize. We take our supper in the same order, appetite is not lacking, it is 8:30 pm when we arrive.

**July 1, 1914** - page 20

All our children are leaving today to go celebrate Dominion Day with their parents. We spend the whole day alone. We take advantage of it to go to have our dinner in a beautiful small wood very close to our house. The day passes very pleasantly.

**July 2, 1914** - page 20

The children who are to spend the vacations here return to us. We have thirteen at the moment, which is enough to distract us.

**September 3, 1914** - page 23

Our little sick girl, Marissis, is feeling worse today. We think it appropriate to have her anointed. This dear child is very afraid of death. In spite of her great weakness, she does not want to stay in bed all day [a word or two is missing] fearing to die.

**September 5, 1914** - page 23

Our little patient passes away slowly around noon; all the Sisters are present at her last moments. Reverend Father Dupé gives her a last absolution.

**September 6, 1914** - page 23

At two o'clock, our little Marissis is buried. The coffin is carried by four of our girls. This death leaves a lot of impression in the hearts of our children; almost all of them make the communion for the repose of her soul.

**September 20, 1914** - page 23

[The telephone is installed.]

**November 28, 1914** - page 27

Great holiday and great celebration of St. Cecilia. Song and music of 1st class at the mass. Our musicians performed their mandolin pieces very well. After lunch, Sister Superior gives each one a beautiful little medallion of Saint Cecilia. All are happy to receive it and wear it in memory of this great feast.

**December 17, 1914** - page 28

We receive the rest of our beautiful little white beds. Our dormitories look better; those who were once missionaries here would be happy to see that the wooden beds are gone.

**February 15, 1915** - page 29

Today we receive a visit from our Inspector. He examined the classes and visited our beautiful dormitory.

**April 30, 1915** - page 32

The next day, solemn high mass, first class singing and music. Harmonious mass was very well sung by our children, instruction in English by His Grace Bishop Legal, in French by Rev. Father Leduc, in Cree by Rev. Father Poitier. A magnificent banquet was served at our convent. The tables were well laid...

**May 4, 1915** - page 33

[Sisters are godmothers to twins].

**May 30, 1915** - page 34

At Mass, a song was sung for the occasion. At nine o'clock, the wagons are at the door and everyone embarks happily for a nice picnic. We head for the side of Long Lake, six miles from here. There we put up the tent to have our dinner. In the afternoon, the children go to play for a while on the shore of the lake. We come back where the children have to play a game, rewards are given to the winner. The afternoon passes very pleasantly. At half past five, we have our supper in the same order as the dinner and then the return journey is made. It is eight o'clock when we arrive at the house. It has been a most happy day.

**June 1, 1915** - page 35

Today we are receiving five orphans, children of Mr. Patrice Dumont. We already had three since last year. The youngest is only two years old. We will receive two dollars per week per child from the Department.

**July 3, 1915** - pages 35-42

[Trip to Lac en Long for 8 days for the blessing of a bell. Sisters and children go there].

**August 17, 1915** - page 44

Our children have returned to us after a short vacation of a month and a half, and all seem well disposed to resume their classes. Our teachers are all eager to start their classes again after a well deserved rest.

**19 August 1915** - page 45

Big holiday. A big picnic is organized in honor of the beautiful feast of the Assumption and also as a reward for our children who came back to us in time to start class.

**August 22, 1915** - page 45

We have at the moment thirty-four children. Everything is looking good for another good year.

**October 13, 1915** - page 47

Around nine o'clock, everyone is ready to embark for the picnic; six cars make up the procession that heads for the camp. The day was well spent, nature itself seemed to rejoice with us, we had only one regret, it is that this beautiful day was so quickly passed.

**25 October 1915** - page 47

We received four children from the Lac des Iles. We are delighted, because if the Indians of this place decide to send their children to school, it will be a great step for them towards civilization and especially the great benefit of knowing their religion.

**November 24, 1915** - page 48

[Children's Retreat]

**January 1, 1916** - page 50

It is with happiness that we greet the new year. At about 9 o'clock Reverend Father Cunningham comes to bless us and then goes to the classroom to distribute the toys to the children who are anxious to receive them; two big trees are well loaded, the stripping of the trees is done in less than half an hour and all are very happy and satisfied with their gifts.

The Indians come less numerous than usual to wish us a Happy New Year.

**January 2, 1916** - page 50

The children are almost all sick with the flu which fortunately lasts only a few days; a good number have gone to their families for a few days off.

**February 4, 1916** - page 51

On the occasion of the list of the month, the children were given the afternoon off and a good snack was served; the non-meritorious children were in class during this time.

**February 17, 1916** - page 51

The weather is so nice that the Sisters go to visit Paul Chocan, a former student, who has been ill for some time. He is very happy to receive us on his miserable bed. He seems quite resigned to

the will of the good God; he expresses the desire to receive Holy Communion which the Father brings him the next day.

**23 February 1916** - page 51

Two former students arrive, William Poitras and Robert White Face; both seem happy to be back.

**March 3, 1916** - page 52

We receive a visit from the Inspector in the person of Mr. Crombie, accompanied by Mr. Sibbald, Rev. Father Cunningham. He arrives at about 1:30 p.m.. The children welcome him with a song and play a mandolin. He visited both classes, the house and seemed very pleased with everything. He was very kind, he leaves us at 4:30, everything was done in a short time to the general satisfaction.

**March 9, 1916** - page 52

Funeral of Paul Chocan, former student of the school. We go to the church to sing a Libera for him. He prepared himself well for death by a long illness endured with patience.

**23 March 1916** - page 53

Great holiday. [... ...] ...in the afternoon we prepare a little fishing for the children, which gives them a pleasant time, some of them went to their families.

Leo Watch Maker, a tall boy of sixteen years and fatherless, express the desire to leave the school to enjoy freedom. He disliked the classroom and cared little for following the rules. Jean-Baptiste Chocan, his uncle, took him as an adopted son. Another one replaces him, Arthur Masson, Gabriel's little brother.

**April 24, 1916** - page 54

Big holiday. Several children are going to spend it with their families, so the day passes too quickly according to our desires. In the afternoon, some Sisters with the children go to burn the old hay in the park. The fire spread further than they wanted and they had some difficulty controlling it. Everyone came back quite tired and especially determined not to undertake such a task again.

We received two little orphans, Johnny and Augustin Patenaude. Mr. Burke, Sergeant, who took an interest in their cause, succeeded in having their education paid for by the Edmonton Department.

**May 4, 1916** - page 54

For the first time this year we are going to have supper on the hill, the joy is great for the children. We rejoice with the whole community who are jubilant on the occasion of the feast of Reverend Mother St. Monica which we are celebrating today.

**May 11, 1916** - page 55

Arbor Day, therefore legal holiday. The boys and Father Dupé go to get trees that they plant in the yard. We hope for success this time, after several attempts.

In the afternoon, eight boys go away from the others and run around the lakes and only return around 8:30 in the evening, ashamed to have forgotten themselves. This is the first time this year that they have given us such concern. We hope it will not be repeated.

**May 22, 1916** - page 55

Our dear little Florestine Taylor who has been sick at home for the past month has been getting very weak for the past few days. We go to see her quite often and she seemed happy to receive us; however, we did not expect the end to be so close. On Monday afternoon, she had a weakness. We came to fetch the Father in a hurry. When he arrived, she had just passed away peacefully; her service was on Wednesday the 24th.

We have another little patient, Josephine Dumont, who has been in the infirmary for some time. We have little hope that she will return to health. To be on the safe side, we have her anointed. She can take communion almost every morning.

**June 5, 1916** - page 56

Our dear little patient is weakening noticeably. She can still take communion every morning; she edifies us by her great energy and her patience in enduring her sufferings.

**June 7, 1916** - page 57

After a night of suffering, our dear little Josephine left the earth around 3:30 this morning. The Sisters assist her in her last moments which are quite peaceful, as well as Hélène, her little sister. We lay her out in the infirmary.

**9 June 1916** - page 57

Around 9 o'clock the service takes place; the body removal ceremony is done in the parlor. The children accompany her to the church and from there to the cemetery where she is buried.

**June 10, 1916** - page 57

Around eleven o'clock, Madame Laboucane, accompanied by Marie Dumont, sister of our little deceased, it is very regrettable that they arrive a day too late; they did not receive the news early enough. All the same, they are being very generous in their ordeal.

**July 3, 1916** - page 58

Our Montagnais children are all happy to leave with their parents, but the joy is short-lived. At ten o'clock, Angèle had a severe hemorrhage while they were at the Agency. Mr. Sibbald comes to ask us to receive this poor child. What sad news!

At about one o'clock, she is so ill that Father Dupé gives her the last rites. She edifies us by her great piety. The night was quite good, but she still spits blood. The following days are better; she can go home, but she will not be able to go far. It is life; we don't know what the good Lord has in store for us.

**July 10, 1916** - page 59

Our Indians are jubilant. They receive their treaty money. Unfortunately, this money does not last long; they still have small current debts here and there. The rest is used for useless things, poor people!

**September 13, 1916** - page 63

Despite the fact that it is a bit cold, the proposed picnic takes place. We head towards the camp. The day was most beautiful and best used. We go to the park to see the park. The children enjoyed themselves and had only one regret, that this beautiful day was so quickly passed.

**October 20, 1916** - page 65

Inspector Hill was sent by the Edmonton Education Department to examine the two orphans Johnny and Augustin Patenaude. It is a question of reducing the price of their boarding. Reverend Father Cunningham being absent, the question will be settled upon his return.

**December 30, 1916** - page 67

We spend part of the day preparing stockings and gifts for the children thanks to charitable women who make us happy by sending a large box of toys each year, each child has his share.

**January 1, 1917** - page 68

At about 9 o'clock, Reverend Father Cunningham comes to bless us and then goes to the classroom where the children anxiously await him for the stripping of two beautiful trees well loaded. Everyone is very happy to receive such beautiful presents.

**January 13, 1917** - pages 68-69

About 9:30 a.m., Mr. Sibbald as well as Mr. Crombie arrive. The children welcome him with a song, and the girls play a few pieces on the mandolin. Then they go to the classroom. They have their dinner with the Reverend Father Dupé. In the afternoon, it is the examination of the children. They finish by visiting the house and leave us around 3:30. They seemed satisfied with everything.

**March 6, 1917** - page 70

Reward of the month. The greater part of the children who have earned it spend the happiest of afternoons enjoying themselves on the hill; the day is most beautiful and best spent.

**April 9, 1917** - page 72

Great holiday. Although the weather does not favor us, much by the small snow which falls, the day passes pleasantly, some children are in their family and return in the evening.

**April 12, 1917** - page 72

Sister Superior hires Mr. Cardinal to saw wood with the older boys; the machine is installed in the yard. We hope that everything will go well and that no accidents will happen.

**April 25, 1917** - page 73

The cold weather we have been having these days is the cause of several children being sick with the flu which lasts a few days.

**May 4, 1917** - page 73

On the occasion of the feast of Mother St. Monica, we are going to have supper on the hill for the first time this year; it is a great reward for the children who are enjoying this pleasure more.

**May 15, 1917** - pages 73-74

This morning Sister Superior, Sister St. Elzéar, Sister Marie de Nazareth and Sister St. Ulric, 15 girls and three boys embarked to give a performance in Lloyminster. Father Cunningham is leading them, which is a lot of work to prepare for such a trip. People have been asking for this favor for a long time to see what the Indian children can do. It is a great feast for these dear children, though a little less pleasant for the Sisters.

**May 16, 1917** - page 74

Return of our dear travelers who are a little tired. The success exceeded their expectations. The children were applauded and were able to interest the crowd that filled the hall. They came back enchanted from their trip.

**June 10, 1917** - pages 74-75

Our dear little Cecile Taylor who had been ill for some time had returned home in the hope of recovering, but the good Lord decided otherwise. It was around 10 o'clock that she gave her beautiful, pure little soul back to God, her service took place on the 12th. The children went in procession to get the body from her father's house.

**June 29, 1917** - page 76

Most of our children are leaving us for a few weeks. We say goodbye to them and have a good vacation. We will also take advantage of it to rest a little.

**September 20, 1917** - page 79

The day looks so good that four of our older boys, wanting to enjoy their freedom, run away at about 9:00 a.m. As soon as Reverend Father Dupré learns of this news, he sets out to pursue them, but our delinquents know how to hide themselves so well that his efforts are useless.

**September 22, 1917** - pages 79-80

At 5:30 this morning, the good Father Dupé heads for the tents in the hope of finding our deserters, but he can only get his hands on one who is still in bed. As it is the hour of his mass, he returns with this one alone. During lunch, a second one arrives, and in the afternoon, the other two strays are brought back to us by a good Métis. That evening, the Reverend Father Principal called our deserters together and gave them severe reprimands and promised that if the situation was repeated, he would find a way to arrest them. Promises are made on behalf of our poor stunned ones not to do it again.

**October 6, 1917** - page 80

Toussaint Callingbull comes to entrust us with the last of his children, Fredy. We accept him gladly, but not without apprehensions!

**October 17, 1917** - page 80

We receive four Métis children from Vermillion: Jos and Florida Laboucane. Mary and William-John Beaudry.

**November 27, 1917** - page 81

At 7:30 p.m., a very interesting performance is given by the children of the school on the occasion of Sister Superior's birthday. The program is filled with success.

**November 30, 1917** - page 81

The children happily repeat their little performance in honor of the patronal feast of Reverend Father Bigonnesse, Principal. He shows great interest in everything that is taking place before his eyes. He thanked everyone effusively, especially for the beautiful surplice he had received as a birthday gift.

**December 12, 1917** - page 81

At 10 a.m., Mr. Crombie, Inspector, accompanied by the Reverend Father Principal and Mr. Sybbald, Agent, arrived to make the annual examination of the classes. He was very satisfied; he noted progress in all grades. Protestant as he is, he recognized that it takes the patience of a Sister to carry out the difficult task of teaching Indian children, and as he did not think much of the "hereafter", he added: "Your lot is not enviable!"

**February 19, 1918** - page 83

Doctor Eagrett came to do his medical examination, which he had not done for two years. All the newcomers, eighteen in number, receive their health certificate except for two: Samuel Andrew and Christine Dumont who are suffering from tuberculosis; nevertheless, he insists that these children remain under our care, giving us hope that they will recover.

**February 21, 1918** - pages 83-84

Samuel Andrew's father, who is here on business, thinks that a stay in the family would do his boy good. We agree with him and as it is the boy's wish, preparations for departure are soon made and he says "see you" in three weeks.

**March 5, 1918** - page 84

Our little Christine Dumont, 6 years old, has the happiness of being admitted to the Holy Table. As her illness is progressing rapidly, Reverend Father Dupé is hastening to prepare her for this great moment. [... ..]

**March 16, 1918** - page 84

Our little Christine is gradually weakening. As a precaution, Reverend Father Dupé administered the last rites to her this afternoon.

**April 13, 1918** - page 85

Our dear Christine shows all the symptoms of an upcoming end. We called the Reverend Father again and he gave her the "Articulo Mortis" indulgence. It is 6 o'clock in the evening. All the Sisters surround her and remain close to her bed of pain during her agony which continues until 7 pm. It was then that this dear little soul took off towards the blessed Fatherland.

**April 15, 1918** - page 85

At 9 o'clock this morning, the body of our little deceased, after having been placed in the parlor where the liturgical prayers were recited, was transported to the church and placed on a

catafalque surrounded by lilies and lights. The Reverend Father Bigonnesse immediately began the Mass of the Angels during which hymns appropriate to the occasion were sung. The funeral took place immediately afterwards, with the singing of the psalms Beati Immaculate, etc.

**June 20, 1918** - page 86

Big picnic. The day is most beautiful; the children are at the height of happiness.

**June 28, 1918** - page 87

Departure of our children for the vacations. Recommendations are made to them, especially by the Rev. Father Principal, to return on the 12th of August.

**October 24, 1918** - page 91

The Indian Agent tells us that there is a case of severe chicken pox at the neighboring school, that the doctor will be here this afternoon to vaccinate our children. The doctor tells us that the Anglican Minister, Principal of the school, is suffering from the terrible flu. We are beginning to fear that it will come into our school. O God, please preserve us from it.

**October 29, 1918** - page 91

Impossible to teach: all our children, except for nine, complain of headache and have all the symptoms of the Spanish flu ... We hope all the same that it is their vaccine which puts them in this state and that the good God will spare us from this so much dreaded flu!

**November 1, 1918** - page 91

Although we do not want to believe it, we must be convinced, in spite of ourselves, that the terrible disease is in our poor mission so far away. O God! do not abandon us. The doctor, who was eagerly requested this morning, only arrived this evening. He declared thirty-nine cases of this nasty flu which is causing so much devastation wherever it enters. Three of our dear companions, Sisters Saint-Désiré, Saint-Fulgence and Saint-Hector, are also afflicted, but the doctor gives us hope that they will soon recover. Trust! We will always remember the Feast of All Saints 1918! Never will we forget the terrible apprehensions of that day!!!

**November 5, 1918** - page 92

Sickness is making alarming progress and death is beginning to harvest in our school. This afternoon, the best of our boys, Jean-Berchmans Vivien leaves for heaven. Several others will probably follow him in a few days, as pneumonia breaks out in about ten of them. We are doing everything in our power to control it, but God seems to want to choose his victims!

**November 6, 1918** - page 92

Two of our children, Daniel Desrochers and Joséphine Harper, leave this evening to go to bed with God, their death is sweet and peaceful. In between these two departures, we have the consolation of receiving our good Sisters from St. Paul...

**November 7, 1918** - pages 92-93

Death has taken away our second girl, Agnes Badskunk. Our consolation is to know that she is going to heaven, while later, she would certainly not have been so well prepared.

**November 9, 1918** - page 93

At noon, it is the turn of our little Paul Wolf to bid us farewell; it is with a smile on his lips that he closes his eyes to the light of the earth to contemplate the celestial beauties.

**November 11, 1918** - page 94

The doctor, who was unable to respond to our urgent invitations, being called from all sides, arrived around midnight. He went through the sick rooms and noticed, to our great regret, that one of our dear companions, Sister Saint-Désiré, was suffering from pneumonia. On examining the children, he declares ten cases of this serious illness ... this is what brings us down, without, however, discouraging us, for our confidence in the Sacred Heart is complete!

**November 13, 1918** - page 94

Heaven opened again to receive our good little Jean Jackknife, a six year old child. He had the happiness of making his 1st communion which made him joyful in the middle of his sufferings.

**November 17, 1918** - page 94

Around three o'clock this morning, we have the pain of seeing one of our good big boys, Gabriel Desrochers, pass away. In spite of his stoutness and physical strength, he was not able to fight this terrible disease that he feared so much. However, he made the sacrifice of his life with an admirable resignation, which will get him heaven without too much delay; let's hope so!

**November 18, 1918** - page 95

We are still preparing for a forthcoming departure: the breathing of our dear little Paul White Fish tells us that he is finishing his short life. Indeed, at about one o'clock, he passed away so peacefully that the nurse was not aware of it. May the good Lord admit him into his beautiful heaven with all his predecessors.

**November 23, 1918** - page 95

The good Lord has just taken away our ninth child, Gabriel Masson. We hope that it will be the last one. Indeed, if there is no relapse, they are all certainly out of danger. Deo Gratias!

**January 1, 1919** - page 95

We greet the new year in calm, happiness and peace. Indeed, the war is over, the influenza, whose microbe is five times more powerful than the guns, is over.

**April 3, 1919** - page 97

We receive a visit from two key individuals of the place: Chief Missekawoe (Turkey) accompanied by Jonas Viviers. They arrived at the evening Angelus; they came to make sure that the children were eating enough. At noon, they were at the Anglican school; they say that there the boarders are on their ration. We had them sit in the middle of the refectory where they remained until the end of the meal, watching the children eat and observing the quality and quantity of the menu. The look of satisfaction they show leads us to believe that they are preparing compliments. Indeed, the Chief stands up and says, "I'm glad to know you're eating a lot; also, you're all fat! At the other school," he adds, "they are like skeletons. When I meet them, I ask them if they are hungry. Yes, they tell me, and if I ask you the same question, the answer is always no; so, I will persuade my friends that here is the best place for their children."

**May 23, 1919** - page 98

We have our first picnic - the weather would be quite favorable if the wind was not so strong. For this reason, we returned at about 3 p.m.

**June 3, 1919** - page 99

Statutory holiday on the occasion of the birth of the King. We have a second picnic at one of the nearest lakes. The day went well.

**25 June 1919** - page 99

At the invitation of Sr. Superior, the Reverend Father Principal came to give our children advice and recommendations for the vacations; afterwards, each one received an orange and then the blessing of departure.

**September 18, 1919** - page 102

All the personnel of our little mission is in great jubilation this morning, it is because there is a beautiful picnic organized for the whole day which looks so beautiful; at 9:30 a.m., all leave with their hearts full of joy and well disposed to have a good time especially our dear little Indians, because for them the country life is so natural. At noon, all went to the places where a delicious meal was waiting for us, so needless to say that we honored the dishes, especially the beautiful tomatoes that we harvested in our garden thanks to the generous dedication of our gardener. Our students also had their fill, especially with the beautiful corn, as this dish was new to them.

After enjoying all these goodies, we go for a short walk while our students have their romp by the beautiful little lake that winds through our bocage. When we returned, we did our reading and said our rosaries. Up to now, the weather was very nice, but suddenly it became dark, the sun seemed to want to hide its beneficial rays; no, it is only a cloud, soon it will dissipate, we said, but the reality was indeed a storm brewing. The wind and rain were still increasing, which forced us to pack up and return to the convent, except for my Sr. Superior, my Sr. St. Hector and my Sr. Marie-Alberta who stayed to return with the packages in the car, but they only returned to the convent at 5:15, because the little boys had a lot of difficulty in catching the horses. In spite of everything, we do not regret our day and we hope that the beautiful autumn days will allow us to return again.

**October 23, 1919** - page 105

Death has just taken to the grave Mr. François Chican, father of our little Marie-Louise. He leaves behind a poor wife and four children.

**January 21, 1920** - page 108

Some of our students have been suffering from a little flu for a few days. We hope that it will only be temporary; it is with all our heart that we ask the good Lord for it.

**February 4, 1920** - page 108

Reverend Father Thérien came to read the list of the month to our students; the great number of them participated in the reward which was a beautiful afternoon off.

**March 24, 1920** - page 109

We received five children from Long Lake, which brings the number to 66.

**August 26, 1920** - page 112

Reverend Father Demers, on a recruiting tour for his industrial school in Dunbow, came to visit us. We receive him as best we can, but do not give him any definite answer about the children he wishes to take. The Pastor is not here and what would he say on his return, if in his absence, some sheep had deserted the fold?

**November 11, 1920** - page 113

The Inspector visits our classes. He is the type of gentleman, politeness personified, this Mr. W. Morison. He responds very happily to the welcoming address of the students and gives them very practical advice on how to act during their school years as well as on the conduct to be followed after they leave.

**May 6, 1921** - page 115

One of our girls, a tubercular patient, is being anointed this afternoon. She is an excellent child whom the good Lord, no doubt, is anxious to call to Himself. Always gentle and resigned, she sees death coming with confidence and will go joyfully to the good Lord's beautiful heaven, to join her Father and Mother whom she has hardly known here on earth.

**June 21, 1921** - page 115

Two of our older girls and four of our boys are leaving tonight for Dunbow. This is quite an event for these poor children who, for the most part, have never been beyond the limits of the reserve. Rev. Father Demers came to pick them up himself.

**June 26, 1921** - page 115

Most of our students leave after mass. Our annual task is completed; we greet the vacations with joy.

**October 22, 1921** - page 118

Rev. Father Beaudry arrives at the mission as a delegate to visit the Indian schools. As a missionary, he first preaches a small retreat to our children. On the third day, he went to the classes and gave a short examination. He showed himself to be very good and knew how to put himself within the reach of the children, who made us proud. This good Father is satisfied. The purpose of this examination is to make sure that the Catholic schools are superior to the Protestant schools, because, he says, we must fight.

**November 21, 1921** - page 118

On the occasion of the feast of our ever-good Father Therien, there is a small performance in the classroom given by our children. Our little Indians played their part well. Thanks to the dedication of the teachers, always.

**November 22, 1921** - page 118

Father Therien came to distribute apples to the children, which did not fail to please them.

**March 28, 1922** - page 119

We were told that Inspector Murisson will come today for a short visit. He does not have time to go to the classes. We were ready to receive him however.

**March 29, 1922** - page 119

As the Inspector could not go to the class, Reverend Father Thérien, on the invitation of Sister Superior, presided over a small examination. The children made their teachers proud. The good Father is very satisfied with the progress.

**June 5, 1922** - page 120

We are forced to take a leave of absence from class, because the children are coughing like crazy. We can't blame them, because they have whooping cough. We let the ones that the parents want to take leave as it will soon be the summer vacations.

**August 16, 1922** - page 122

Our poor children from the prairies arrive and we welcome them with hearts warmed by the rays of the Heart of Jesus. This means that we want to devote ourselves to them with dedication. We registered 24 girls and 23 boys. Some of them are a bit sick and will arrive in a few days. My God, bless our good will and our fervent resolutions.

**October 10, 1922** - page 123

A new Inspector, Mr. Nivins, came to visit the classes of our Indians. He is satisfied with everything, but he wants our children to follow the white program in the future. It is impossible to succeed with these dear Indians who, for the most part, are without energy. Before long it will be seen that any work of this kind will be unsuccessful.

**February 13, 1923** - page 124

The Inspector arrives for his annual visit. He is received with kindness, because we know that he is always satisfied and indulgent. He knows so well what we can do with these poor children of the woods who do not always respond to the zeal and devotion of their teachers! He leaves us after having given us the best report. To God the glory, always.

**February 14, 1923** - page 124

One of our older girls is suffering from a terrible disease: St. Vitus' dance. She is suffering and giving us a lot of trouble. It is fortunate that we have a resident doctor here, for we would have been in a quandary to treat her.

**February 20, 1923** - pages 124-125

Our patient is better and she has to give way to one of her companions who has pneumonia; like the first one, this one gives a lot of worry and fatigue, the Sisters being obliged to watch over her! My God, give us strength and courage to get through this trial.

**February 27, 1923** - page 125

Our patient is quite well; we are delighted. But, alas, another cross awaits us. A second little girl is suffering from pneumonia. We hasten to give her the most assiduous care and remedies of all kinds and in spite of everything her condition, far from improving, only gets worse.

**March 4, 1923** - page 125

Our patient is in a sad state; all hope is lost. She is anointed.

**March 5, 1923** - page 125

The nurse arrives for her annual visit. She takes care of our dying patient; she even watches her two nights. This is a relief to us; we were feeling exhausted.

**March 20, 1923** - page 125

Our poor patient, to our great satisfaction, is better; she is regaining her strength and recovering from her terrible illness. We propose to rest a little, but the good Lord decides otherwise. A third girl is suffering from pneumonia; however, her condition is not alarming and leaves hope for a quick recovery.

**March 28, 1923** - page 125

The cross, the cross, always the cross of illness. A fourth girl is confined to bed with severe hemorrhages. That always keeps a Sister with her and, like her companions, gives us a lot of worry and fatigue.

**April 3, 1923** - page 126

Our patient is feeling better; let us hope that her convalescence will be short and that she will soon be well again. It is our sincere wish.

**May 18, 1923** - page 126

Our dear little patient is back in the infirmary. The doctor declares that it will not be long; it is the consumption.

**22 May 1923** - page 126

This evening, our little girl is anointed. A weakness made us fear the end.

**May 29, 1923** - page 126

It was at midnight that our dear Madeleine gave up her soul to God after being conscious until the end. She died very peacefully after having generously made the sacrifice of her life. The good Father Dupé was at her side.

**June 2, 1923** - page 126

A very moving scene took place today. We were just starting our dinner when Sr. Superior was called in a hurry; one of our little seven year old, on her way to the refectory, had a weakness. She was carried to the porch. The Father went to her, gave her absolution, and anointed her; it was a matter of five minutes. The little girl entered her eternity. Such a sudden death suggests to many serious reflections.

**August 21, 1923** - page 128

Our dear children arrive to us in the number of 48. Already, we must put our hands to work and work with courage to evangelize these poor Indians. My God, be our strength, our support.

**September 21, 1923** - page 129

The Inspector makes his annual visit. His good report tells us of his satisfaction and we, after his departure, repeat with fervor: "Thank you Lord".

**January 7, 1924** - page 130

The vacation is over. The children are happy to be back in class after a fortnight's rest. This good disposition of the children softens the difficult task of the teachers.

**June 5, 1924** - page 130

Great surprise today! Mr. Inspector Nivins, whom we were far from expecting, arrived to make a second visit to the classes. Fortunately, everything went well. We thank God for that.

**December 25, 1924** - page 133

At 2:00 p.m., two magnificent Christmas trees were stripped by Fathers Therien and Dupé for our children. You have to see the joyful faces of these poor Indians.

**January 8, 1925** - page 134

One of our boys, Arsène Cardinal, takes to his bed with a sore leg that is causing him a lot of pain and that seems to worry the doctor.

**January 12, 1925** - page 134

Our little patient is in so much pain that we have to keep him under the influence of morphine.

**January 25, 1925** - page 134

After having suffered terribly since the 8th, the pain has been localized in his leg and today the abscess burst.

**February 1, 1925** - page 134

The doctor visited our little patient and noted with regret that the tuberculosis had been declared.

**February 28, 1925** - page 134

Our little patient is able to stand up a little; the doctor notes once again the tuberculosis and proposes to send him to a sanatorium where he will perhaps recover.

**8 May 1925** - page 136

We condescend to the strong desire of our prairie children. We take our first picnic even though nature has not yet benefited much from the influence of the May sun, the trees are leafless and the temperature is still a little cool. But this country life which is so natural to them and which they are deprived of during their stay at the school, we try to make up for it by meals taken in the open air and walks in the woods and fields.

**May 27, 1925** - page 136

We still take our Indian children into the woods to breathe the fragrant air that the new vegetation always exhales at this season of the year. They are so fond of nature, see so many things in it, that they marvel at everything and that this day is for them one of the most beautiful of the year.

**June 10, 1925** - page 136

Today we are visited by an Inspector. He is in charge of inspecting only the classes. Although he is a teacher at the Saskatoon Normal School, he is astonished to see that Indian children can learn the first elements of science so well in a foreign language.

**June 29, 1925** - page 137

Departure of our students for the vacations. Their happiness is complete since they enjoy the freedom which is for them the greatest of blessings.

**March 4, 1926** - page 141

One of our big boys, Charlie Carson, has a high fever; it is the measles that is making its appearance.

**March 20, 1926** - page 141

Several children are in bed. They are very feverish. This measles is very bad. Our little Mary also takes the disease; she is taken to the infirmary. Two days later, she passed from life to death without our knowledge. The Father gave her extreme unction. The good Lord had spared her the fright of death by calling her so quickly. This poor child edified us more than once by her submission to the will of the good God. In Heaven, she will remember us and obtain graces and blessings.

**April 8, 1926** - page 142

We ask the doctor for Julia Paul who seems to have an inflammation of the lungs. It is indeed that, but the case is not serious.

**April 16, 1926** - page 142

Our little Marguerite Sawapayiw also has a congested lung. We transport her with Julia. She is so ill that Fr. Thérien confesses her and makes her take her first communion during the evening recreation.

**April 20, 1926** -page 142

The doctor often visits our little patient; she is getting a little sicker. We ask the good Lord to spare her, she is such a good little girl.

**April 25, 1926** - page 142

It's a great day for our little patient; she leaves with her mother for a few months of vacation.

**9 May 1926** - page 142

Three of our children were baptized: Anna Paddy aged 10, her little brother Archie, seven, and Jhon Jimmy, eight. They say they are glad to be Christians. May the good Lord keep in their hearts the good feelings which animate them today.

**June 3, 1926** - page 143

Mr. Henri Turcot, Professor at the Normal School in Saskatoon, arrived this morning for the examination of the classes. As it is the King's holiday, the children were leaving for the picnic

promised on May 30. After consulting with Father Principal, the Inspector made a short examination, one hour per class. He was very satisfied and came to have dinner with us. It is a good rest for him, he is very kind.

**24 June 1926** - page 143

Examination of the little ones and distribution of prizes. These dear children are not used to such things; their joy is very great.

**July 1, 1926** - page 144

It is the big day for the children who stay with us during the vacations: the races, the games, the picnic, the big outing pleases them a lot. Our twelve children leave happy for the day with their snacks and a few pennies.

**September 6, 1926** - page 146

It's Labor Day. We give a big picnic to our children. The day is a little cold, the races after dinner are always appreciated by the winners. The prizes are: apples, plums, pistachios, candy.

**September 9, 1926** - page 146

We have a visit from Mr. Murisson, Inspector of Indian Agencies. He finds that the boys' dormitory needs a new floor.

**May 30, 1927** - page 149

The children give a nice performance on the occasion of the patronal feast of Saint Ferdinand. As the weather is bad, the picnic is postponed.

**June 2, 1927** - page 149

Sister Superior has rented the truck for the big picnic at Long Lake, at our new home. The children are happy to travel so fast, it is better than their parents' horses.

**September 6, 1927** - page 152

Our school increases by about fifteen Montagnais children.

**September 22, 1927** - page 152

The day is so beautiful that we propose to give our children a great pleasure by giving them a picnic six miles from here, on our new land. Fathers Lacombe and Naessens and the staff of the house took their places in the trucks and cars which our good people of Onion Lake put at our disposal. The happy family set out at about nine o'clock. At seven o'clock, they returned home; all of them came back very happy. No inconvenience came to disturb the happiness of the day.

**October 7, 1927** - page 152

Our children are giving a little performance this evening in honor of the patronal feast of Rev. Father Lacombe. All the pieces played, recited and sung were applauded.

**January 8, 1928** - page 155

Death of one of our older boys, Simon Burns, fourteen years old, who had been ill for a long time in his family.

**January 15, 1928** - page 155

Departure for Lloydminster Hospital, one of our boys taken with consumption, Edward Dumont, aged fifteen, here at the school since the age of three. He leaves us with regret.

**February 10, 1928** - pages 155-156

[The school is destroyed by fire].

**July 15, 1928** - page 160

Mr. Ferrier, Superintendent of Indian Schools, accompanied by our Agent and Dr. Hill, visited the house and had a good dinner. The first one is very kind. He promises us a cellar, a house for the farmer, the cement floors will be painted this fall.

**July 17, 1928** - page 160

Mr. Scott of Ottawa, Mr. Graham of Regina, visit the school. They would be satisfied if the roofing were better done; water is running in several places.

August 27, 1928 - page 162

Mr. Scott of Ottawa and Mr. Ferrier, Superintendent of Indian Schools, Mr. Turner, the Onion Lake Agent, visit the school. They left satisfied with everything.

**August 30, 1928** - page 162

Arrival of thirty Montagnais children under the guidance of Rev. Father Lacombe and some parents. These children, after having spent six months with their families, seem happy to come and live in the new school and we are no less happy to receive them. God, being our support, we set to work with courage.

**September 5, 1928** - page 163

Return of our Cree children; we welcome them with joy, all seem well disposed.

**October 19, 1928** - page 164

Departure for the hospital of Lloydminster, under the direction of Doctor Hill, two of our boys suffering from fevers.

**November 5, 1928** - page 165

Marriage of one of our former girls, Miss Josephine Chocan with Mr. Knnipotatew, the latter converted the same day.

**November 9, 1928** - page 165

Our two boys, Jean Desjarlais, fifteen years old, and Augustin Waskewitch, twelve years old, after having spent two weeks in the hospital in Lloydminster, arrive joyful and perfectly healed.

**December 3, 1928** - page 165

A dentist from Lloydminster comes to spend a few days to examine, extract and fill the children's teeth.

**December 6, 1928** - page 166

A fifteen year old boy, Abel Janvier, gives us fears about pneumonia; Rev. Father Balter anoints him in the presence of his four little sisters and some Sisters.

**December 26, 1928** - page 166

Departure of a Montagnais child for the hospital in Bonnyville, Charles Grandbois, eight years old, threatened by consumption of the intestines.

**January 6, 1929** - page 167

An eighteen year old boy, Jos John, unable to accept a reproach, leaves school and does not return.

**January 12, 1929** - page 167

The classes are closed for a fortnight, because Madame La Grippe has made her appearance. Three Sisters and thirty children are in bed; let's hope that with good care, the illness will not last: So, trust.

**February 15, 1929** - page 168

Bad news! We learn with sorrow of the death of our little Charlee, eight years old, who has been in the Bonnyville hospital for two months. All the personnel of the mission offer one communion and a mass for the repose of his soul.

**February 23, 1929** - page 168

Doctor Hill comes to vaccinate our ninety-two children. So, it is up to us to prepare them accordingly.

**April 22, 1929** - page 169

Another big girl of fifteen, Therese Matchisikak, has pneumonia; she is dangerously ill. She gives us such concern that we have to watch over her.

**June 3, 1929** - page 170

Picnic all day in a beautiful large wood, near a lake. The day is most beautiful! The children are at the height of happiness.

**June 28, 1929** - page 170

Our children are going to take their romp in their families for a month and a half. Our annual task is finally completed. We greet the vacations with joy.

**July 1, 1929** - page 170

We entrusted our four orphans to good families and we took the opportunity to go to our old home, Onion Lake, in the beautiful woods of Saint-Antoine, to have dinner; the day passed very pleasantly.

**September 1, 1929** - page 172

A boy, having brought a cartridge from home, ventured to explode it; he injured his left hand and face. Thanks to his good angel, nothing serious despite the danger incurred.

**September 8, 1929** - page 172

Measles makes its appearance.

**September 22, 1929** - page 172

There is a good dozen of children in bed.

**September 23, 1929** - page 172

Mr. Inspector of Schools on a visit.

**October 7, 1929** - page 172

Mr. Inspector Murisson visits the house, promises to use his influence with the people of the department to obtain improvements.

**October 21, 1929** - page 173

Two little girls brought here at the end of August and, on the wish of the mother, were baptized, but at the order of the father of the children, they must return today to the Protestant school. The poor little ones are leaving crying.

**October 29, 1929** - page 173

Christine Janvier, a young girl of eighteen, gives serious concerns; she is anointed. Attacked by the flu and in the last period of consumption, she could not resist.

**October 31, 1929** - page 173

On the eleventh day of illness, our Christine died after a gentle but long agony of about twenty hours. She left with the serenity of souls to whom one would gladly give one's hand to follow them.

**November 12, 1929** - page 173

A new rescue apparatus is installed. It is very simple, a small balcony leaving a third of the platform empty and in the middle of which space is a pole of five inches in diameter, on which one lets oneself slide.

**October 6, 1930** - page 176

Visit of the school Inspector, Mr. Hicks. Charmed with the children's drawings, he asked for some for the exhibition prepared on the occasion of the Teachers' Conventions at Moose Jaw.

**January 17, 1931** - page 178

Father Principal goes to Cold Lake as well as Sr. Superior and my Sr. St Wilfrid. We were to bring back some Montagnais, but we returned with only one girl.

**March 17, 1931** - page 178

Dentist Holt, of Lloydminster, is here for three days. He is making \$30. He earns thirty dollars a day. Sisters are taking advantage of the opportunity to have teeth extracted cheaply.

**May 8, 1931** - page 179

Mr. Murrison, Indian Affairs Officer is here. He wants us to ask that the house be repainted and also some other improvements. He appears to be in our favor.

**May 12, 1931** - page 179

My Sr. St. Adéline and my Sr. Marie-Anna went to Lac La Selle to look for a little Carlson, but they came back without her.

**September 24, 1931** - page 181

Father returns from Thunderchild; he brings back two new children.

**June 21, 1932** - page 184

The good Lord sends us the ordeal, smallpox is declared in our neighbor's house, as we have been in contact with the sick person, we are quarantined. The doctor lets us hope that it will not last 40 days.

**June 22, 1932** - page 184

All our children are vaccinated.

**28 June 1932** - page 184

The doctor gives us back our freedom and removes the signs that closed our doors.

**October 21, 1932** - page 187

Dr. Hill, the Indian Agent, Mr. Murrison and the Inspector of Accounts, Mr. Rayner, spend the day at the school.

**December 6, 1932** - page 187

It's the flu all over the house! Father Portier, four Sisters and almost all the children caught the flu.

**December 14, 1932** - page 187

Délimas Dion, one of our good big girls, is going home to try to recover from the bad flu. We wish her a complete recovery.

**February 13, 1933** - page 187

Another one of our girls is quite seriously ill. We cannot keep her here because of her case which is very contagious. One of her aunts from Frog Lake is coming to get her.

**March 7, 1933** - page 188

During these same days, we receive a visit from Dr. Walls, a specialist in the eye disease called trachoma. We have several children with this nasty disease. This good doctor operated on the patients and then gave very practical instructions on how to treat this disease. He is doing a very

charitable work, so what a service he is doing to these poor unfortunates by preventing them from going blind for the rest of their lives.

**May 11, 1933** - page 188

Father Principal and two Sisters went to Cold Lake to take a sick little girl, Veronique Desjardins.

**June 30, 1933** - page 189

We have a visit from our dear Julia who comes to see us before she dies. She is a walking skeleton; despite everything, she keeps her good smile. She returns in the afternoon with her aunt. She is happy to have seen the Sisters.

**July 12, 1933** - page 189

We learned of the death of our dear little Julia.

**July 25, 1933** - page 189

A telegram announcing the sudden death of our dear little Suzanne Bonnard. She died as a result of an operation on her appendix. Two Sisters are going to Bonnyville to attend the funeral.

**August 19, 1933** - page 191

Today, we receive our 34 Montagnais children.

**September 19, 1933** - page 191

Inspector Hicks visited the classes.

**October 2, 1933** - page 191

Three doctors from Saskatoon, sent by the Department, come to examine the children. They stayed here part of the week. They found that three of our girls were sick with tuberculosis; they forced us to send them back to their families.

**April 1, 1934** - page 193

The administration of all the school's affairs passes to the Reverend Oblate Fathers.

**April 1, 1934** - page 193

Death of one of our older girls, Maria MacKay.

**May 10, 1934** - page 193

It was little Frederic Watchmaker's turn to fly to heaven; it was a beautiful day to accompany Our Lord.

**August 8, 1934** - page 195

Visit from Mr. McGill, Superintendent of Indian Affairs. He seems very interested in the school. He talks of having the house bricked or stuccoed, of replacing the defective engine with a new one, and then the big deal, of having hardwood floors put in the two recreation rooms. These are great hopes, but will they be realized?

**August 16, 1934** - page 195

About thirty Chipewyan children arrive singing; we are pleased to see them in such large numbers and so happy to return.

**September 17, 1934** - page 196

Mr. McAllen, Secretary Treasurer of Indian Affairs, comes to visit our school.

September 20, 1934 - page 196

Father Principal goes to Thunderchild to pick up the children who have not yet returned. He brought back only a few of them; the others were still sick with the black fevers, a terrible disease that is rampant among the Indians of this reserve.

**November 12, 1934** - page 197

We learn of the death of Celestin Jacko, a big Chipewyan boy who left ill with tuberculosis only 12 days ago.

**January 1, 1935** - page 197

Two of our older girls, Eliza Herman and Marie Jacko, are quite seriously ill; their parents are taking them home with them.

**January 2, 1935** - page 197

Another big girl, Monique Amable, is leaving; her health leaves much to be desired. We hope she will recover at home.

**March 23, 1935** - page 198

58 of our children have measles. We are therefore quarantined. Some of them are very sick and give us great concern. Dr. Hill comes to visit them several times.

**April 8, 1935** - page 198

Dr. Hill comes to remove the placard which forbade the entrance to the people from outside and gives us our freedom. As soon as our children have recovered from the measles, smallpox appears. We are saved with a few mild cases.

**May 7, 1935** - page 199

It is the patronal feast of our good Father. In the evening, our children present him with the wishes of all the personnel of the school. All these demonstrations of filial piety are done in intimacy.

**May 12, 1935** - page 199

We repeat our little performance of the 7th in front of the people. Our Indian children make us proud; they receive the congratulations of all.

**May 22, 1935** - page 199

We learn that our dear Marie Jacko has gone to heaven. Her perfect resignation and her great desire to go to see the good Lord are very edifying.

**June 10, 1935** - page 199

Our little Adam Child, who left in May, died in the last few days in the hospital at [??]ford.

**June 27, 1935** - page 199

Today, our children are all joyful and singing "Long live the vacations". At 9 a.m., it was the departure of the Montagnais; Father Principal and two Sisters took them to Cold Lake. Those from the other reserves left one after the other.

**August 19, 1935** - page 201

The children from Onion Lake make their entrance. To see them so well disposed gives us hope that they will have a good year.

**August 20, 1935** - page 201

This evening, it is the Montagnais' turn. They are happy to return, to the great satisfaction of the teachers.

**October 10, 1935** - page 203

Inspector Hicks visits the classes. He was very pleased with the dedication of the teachers and the progress of the students.

**June 11, 1936** - page 206

A high mass was sung at 9 a.m. for deceased former students.

Around 10 a.m., some Sisters and former students of Sr. St. Patrice went to the old Onion Lake. After dinner at St. Michael's wood, it was moving to hear them sing to their teacher "Souvenir du jeune âge", a song learned more than 40 years ago and not a word was lost.

**October 5, 1936** - page 210

Doctors are giving our children a medical examination.

**October 15, 1936** - page 211

Visit of the Inspector of Schools; a good report testifies to his satisfaction.

**November 15, 1936** - page 211

This evening, our children performed a dramatic and musical concert in honor of the feast of the Reverend Father Principal. A joyful day off set the seal on today's celebration.

**December 25, 1936** - page 211

Christmas! Christmas! Magnificent decoration, songs are most successful, the assistance is of the most numerous, proof that the piety of our Indians of which some traveled a long distance to attend the midnight mass.

**January 15, 1937** - page 212

Like it or not, we have to receive Mrs. La Grippe. One hundred and nine children have it, but it is not too bad. There was nothing alarming. The worst of the illness is over in a week. Some Sisters also pay the price. Others are not completely free of it, but nevertheless continue to work.

**January 25, 1937** - page 212

We also have to record today the departure of one of our older Indian girls who is entering as a postulant at St. Paul's. We wish her courage and perseverance.

**June 6, 1937** - page 214

The end of the year brought us an epidemic of measles; 42 children were affected. However, the disease did not keep any child at the time of departure.

**June 17, 1937** - page 214

Big picnic. Everything is going well. The games are in full swing and everyone comes back happy from this beautiful excursion where we took photographs to preserve the memory of this day.

**June 28, 1937** - page 215

Today is the turn of the children of Cold Lake. The shouts and gestures testify to their haste to leave. And we are no less happy because we are going on vacation for two months. We have only five students left.

**September 28, 1937** - page 218

The doctors from the Prince Albert Sanatorium arrived today for their annual visit. Everything is going well and they leave us expressing their satisfaction.

**October 22, 1937** - page 218

Mr. Inspector of Schools visits the classes.

**December 25, 1937** - page 220

Christmas! Christmas! Several little girls dressed as angels made the procession singing "Gloria in excelsis Deo" and went to lay the Child Jesus in the crib. We had the three masses in a row, the singing in the three languages: French, English, Cree and also the instruction.

In the afternoon, a beautifully decorated Christmas tree was stripped. Sancta Claus presided over the distribution. There were also songs and skits for the occasion. It was the first time that Sancta Claus came to the school St. Antoine of Onion Lake; therefore, we must forgive him for any mistakes he might have made, such as giving a box of cigars to our dear Sr. St. Wilfrid or if poor Santa Claus defends himself from such a misunderstanding, we must conclude that it is a trick of some clever person - which is more likely.

**May 24, 1938** - page 227

Big annual picnic. Our children are having the time of their lives.

**June 10, 1938** - page 227

Visit from Dr. Crozier of Battleford, sent by the Indian Department. He extracts 150 teeth and fills 32 of them. With him the medical examinations are completed. On June 1, we had Dr. Wall from Calgary for trachoma.

**July 11, 1938** - pages 228-229

I cannot resist the temptation to tell you a fact about our little orphans who stay here during the vacations. They are eager to go to the lake, so they go to see Sr. St. Wilfrid and the following dialogue takes place: "Are you superior, you?" "No," she replies. They look puzzled, but do not give up. The taller one replies, "Yes, yes, she is superior!" Then, all of them resume speaking: "Tell Sister Laurette-de-Marie to come to the lake with us, she will be obliged to obey you". Aren't our little Indians clever?

**September 16, 1938** - page 230

All our children are X-rayed for tuberculosis. Three are sent home because of the contagion.

**June 4, 1940** - page 245

Big picnic, games, songs, various amusements follow one another; the spirit is not lacking.

**June 23, 1940** - page 245

The doors open today for the beginning of the vacation of the children of Onion Lake and Long Lake and Thunderchild.

**June 25, 1940** - page 245

Frog Lake, LeGoff and Cold Lake will begin theirs today

**27 June 1940** - page 245

Trip to Loon Lake and Big Island Lake.

A week to get these children back to their parents that all requires dedication from the staff. Sister Saint Monique and Sr. Laurette-de-M. accompanied those from Cold Lake as the biggest contingent.

**December 25, 1940** - page 249

This afternoon the Christmas tree is being stripped. All the children are happy and a large number of parents too. Nothing more natural, isn't it?

**September 3, 1941** - page 254

Arrival of our little Indians. We receive them with joy; they all seem very happy to come back.

**September 5, 1941** - page 254

We begin classes although the little Indians from Onion Lake have not returned.

**September 17, 1941** - page 254

All the children had their lungs x-rayed.

**December 5, 1941** - page 255

After the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, our one hundred and twenty-six children began the retreat. Fr. Irénée Gauthier, pastor of Onion Lake, is the preacher.

**December 8, 1941** - page 255

Closing of the retreat. As last year, it ends with a consecration to the Blessed Virgin.

**May 27, 1941** - page 256

Visit of Mr. Doucet, Inspector of Ottawa. He was very satisfied with the work accomplished by the Fathers and Sisters. We had tangible proof of this in the letter he wrote to the Reverend Father Provincial. God be praised.

**August 10, 1942** - page 261

Father Principal goes to LeGoff to take Ernest Swan who has been held until now due to illness, a severe case of pneumonia having struck him down in June. Sisters Alfred-de-Jésus and Céline-du-Carmel accompanied him.

**September 7, 1942** - page 262

New trips to bring back children; only 45 out of 120 returned.

**September 29, 1942** - page 263

Doctors from the Prince Albert Sanatorium here for lung tests.

**November 21, 1942** - page 263

Josephine Kanipetetew, age 14, who had been at school for some time, had a severe pulmonary hemorrhage. Her parents brought her back with them the next day and she died after three weeks.

**December 8, 1942** - page 265

Two of our students leave for the sanatorium in Prince Albert. They are Rina Chocan and Eliza Stanley.

**April 30, 1943** - page 266

After having taken care of the children, Sr. St. Marcien had the flu in turn, whereupon a little girl made a comment: "I cannot understand how a 'nurse' can be sick." Sister Lucie-de-Lyon and Sr. Alfred-de-Jésus devoted themselves to taking care of the sick children.

**May 25, 1943** - page 267

A dentist from Lloydminster spends the day here for professional services. Dr. G. L. Cooke visits. He notes that Joseph Dufresne, who has been sick since yesterday, is suffering from scarlet fevers.

**September 6, 1943** - page 270

Entry of the children from LeGoff and Cold Lake. They arrive by truck with Rev. Father Pascal. Nice trip via Bonnyville, Long Lake.

**October 6, 1943** - page 270

Great hubbub in the house. The doctors from the Prince Albert Sanatorium appeared early in the morning with their lung examination apparatus.

**November 5, 1943** - page 271

The oldest of our boys, Elmer Carlson, age 19, leaves the school to go to military training camp. We say "goodbye" and "good Luck" to him.

**November 16, 1943** - page 271

Who arrives with the mailman? It's our big boy in a khaki uniform. At first, the children seem rather embarrassed, but after a few minutes, they are quick to try on gloves and kepi. He only has a week's vacation and will have to leave for Halifax.

**November 25, 1943** - page 272

The sugar ration does not prevent us from celebrating "Saint Catherine". If the children have good molasses taffy for dessert, it means that the Sisters have no less on their side to celebrate the spinster.

**January 17, 1944** - page 274

Father Principal took our "Grandbois" children to the bedside of their sick sister in Cold Lake.

**January 25, 1944** - page 272

The children had a nice walk to the lake. They visited the installations where the 300 blocks of ice for the ice house will be taken out.

**February 10, 1944** - page 275

Measles epidemic.

**February 13, 1944** - page 275

The boys perform in the choir for high mass. From now on, they will have their turn every other Sunday. May the good Lord be glorified!

**March 27, 1944** - page 277

For the second time, 43 boys and girls are sick with the flu. Our devoted Sr. St. Marcien still has to give herself body and soul to these poor little ones. The fever rises to 104, but does not last. After three days, they are well enough to come down. Of the number, only two have shown their gratitude to the nurse.

**June 2, 1944** - page 280

About three o'clock Mr. Cameron brings an Inspector from Ottawa, Mr. Morris to see the present situation of the Indians. He visited the classes and the kindergartens and was satisfied.

**June 4, 1944** - page 280

Two girls are serving the table. Mr. Morris, surprised at their skill, wants to photograph them immediately after dinner to show Ottawa that there is some improvement. In the afternoon, all the staff set up on the lawn for the pictures. These visitors left us at 4:00 p.m., happy with their time at St. Anthony's School. God be praised.

**June 5, 1944** - page 280

Mr. and Mrs. Cameron came to accompany a medical officer from the University of Edmonton who was visiting the reserves to take blood samples from the Indians to determine the deficiency of their constitutions, especially with regard to vitamins.

**August 5, 1944** - page 284

Small intimate evening on the occasion of the departure of Sister Sainte-Céline, Superior here for six years. The children, that is to say two girls and two boys on vacation, were present. Justine Dufresne, 17 years old, dressed as a postulant, read the address in French. The other was dressed as a nun of some sort. The two little boys, dressed as Oblate Fathers, presented the gift. Great joy for these children, especially the youngest.

**October 6, 1944** - page 288

Eric Carlson left us this morning to return to St. Thomas, Battleford College. He is in his fourth year. He is an alumnus of our school and returns every year to spend his vacation there.

Dr. G. L. Cooke, of Lloyd, attracted by the Indians of our school, makes his first visit; he vaccinates forty of them.

**October 24, 1944** - page 289

Visit of the Inspector of schools.

**October 25, 1944** - page 289

Inoculation by Dr. Cooke against whooping cough and diphtheria.

**November 11, 1944** - page 289

Feast of our new Superior, Sister Stanislas-des-Lys. Performance given by the children. A nice program of an hour and a half which brighten up all the foreheads. Several Indians attended and the success was a credit to the mistresses.

**November 13, 1944** - page 289

Vacation... Opening of the skating rink under the direction of Father Bouchard. First game of hockey.

**November 25, 1944** - page 290

The feast of St. Catherine is highlighted only by the traditional taffy appreciated by all.

**December 12, 1944** - page 291

The auditor of the accounts passed by for his annual visit. Moving pictures are given to the children.

**December 24, 1944** - page 291

Several families from LeGoff arrive to see their children and spend the holidays at the school. They are welcome despite the extra work.

**March 1, 1945** - pages 293-294

We begin this month under the protection of the good Sr. Joseph. With joy, the little ones sing their favorite hymn, "Ketchitwa Joseph".

**April 8, 1945** - pages 294-295

Still filled with the joys of Easter, we decide to celebrate our devoted Father Principal on the occasion of his 67th birthday and the 40th year of his arrival in Canada.

[... ..]

At 7:30 pm, the curtain rises. Boys and girls, aware of their role, expressed by their smiles, their joy, to offer to the good Father Principal the tribute of their gratitude. The plays were well done and the teachers were honored.

**June 3, 1945** - page 297

Sixteen little Indian children come to the Holy Table for their first communion. A beautiful coincidence, isn't it, since it is the solemnity of the feast of the Blessed Sacrament..

After the high mass, the procession starts on the grounds of the school. Angels are scattered here and there. Six little girls throw flowers. 24 cadets at military pace fulfill their role very well. The banner of the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin, the flags, etc., etc., in a word, the whole produced a very beautiful effect. Christus regnat ... Christus imperat.

**June 22, 1945** - page 297

Distribution of the end of the year prizes. All seem very happy.

As we leave the room, we see from afar Elmer Carlson, a former child of our school, arriving from overseas. He was about a year on the battlefield. Sr. St. Wilfrid is happy to see him in his khaki suit. The latter has taken care of this child since he was 4 years old, seeing him for the first time since he was a soldier.

**24 June 1945** - page 298

Departure of the children from Onion Lake and Thunderchild.

**June 25, 1945** - page 298

This morning the children of Cold Lake and LeGoff are happy to take their flight to the "Sweet Home".

**June 29, 1945** - page 298

Eric Carlson arrives from the College to spend his vacation there.

**July 23, 1945** - page 299

Justine Dufresne, who had been at our school since she was 7 years old, was admitted as a postulant to our convent in Bonnyville, Alta. in September 1944, returned to us in mid-June 1945 to spend her vacation. While resting, she helped us to finish the end of year cleaning.

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

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