

Chronicles of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin  
St. Anthony School. Onion Lake, Saskatchewan  
August 1945 to June 1962 (second book)

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**September 29, 1945 – page 4**

Return of Rev. Father Bouchard and Joseph Dufresne. This little Indian was more than once amazed when he saw the beautiful panoramas and the beautiful buildings of our great cities of Montreal and Quebec. What struck him the most was the great piety of the people at Saint Joseph's Oratory and at Ste Anne de Beaupré. This contact with the white people was very favorable to him. He returned almost transformed. He is no longer a child of the woods, but a little gentleman with an affable and distinguished manner. It would be nice if many of them had the same advantage.

**27 October 1945 - page 6**

Visit of the school Inspector. Congratulations to the Sister teachers.

**December 18, 1945 - page 8**

Pascal took the opportunity to bring a child from the Lestock reserve, transferred here two weeks ago. This child could not acclimatize to our school. He repeatedly tried to escape, even in 35 degrees below zero.

**March 19, 1946 - pages 11-12**

At 7:30 this evening, the solemn opening of the novena in the brilliantly illuminated chapel. In procession, banners at the head, to the singing of the "Mitte Operarios" enter our big and small girls veiled in white; the boys dressed in the cape of the "Knights of the Sacred Heart" follow. The Veni Creator, in the Cree language, calls for the help and the lights of the Holy Spirit. "Astam miyopsit Manito" sing the voices and hearts. [... ..]

The Reverend Father St. Pierre, missionary of Onion Lake, sings in Cree: "The shadow extends over the earth". Together, we implore the tutelary Virgin to listen to the prayer and the songs of the evening.

**June 27, 1946 - pages 15-16**

Cecile Jimmy underwent emergency surgery for appendicitis. This 17 year old child did not want to return home for the vacations. In this circumstance, more than ever, she says she is happy to receive the most attentive care of the good Sisters.

**July 1946 - page 16**

[There are 46 boys and 57 girls in the school].

**September 4, 1946 - page 19**

After having spent almost two months at St. Anthony's School, Father Cloutier returns to his field of apostolate at St. John's Juniorate in Edmonton. He brings with him all our regrets. Our ten older girls on vacation enjoyed his friendly company more than once. Every evening, we played ball, cards, songs and music. He was a great educator who passed on doing good.

**September 8, 1946** - page 20

This good Father is back to make the deposition of the Blessed Sacrament at three o'clock before undertaking a long trip to Thunderchild where he will do some recruiting. Sr. Helene de Rome and three girls from this reserve who spent the vacations here, accompanied him.

**September 21, 1946** - age 22

The missionary Father made a second trip to LeGoff and Cold Lake to bring back the late arrivals from the beginning of September. After agreement with Sister St. Wilfrid, director of the boys, he accepted a little Montagnais boy aged 2 whose mother was in the Edmonton sanatorium. The father works to earn his daily bread and having only a boy of 12 and two girls of 5 and 8 to take care of, is forced to part with them.

Only eight children returned, all of whom seemed happy to be back at school, but the poor baby cried when he saw the Sisters' headgear for the first time. Fortunately, he finds in Sr. St. Wilfrid the consoler of his little sorrows.

**September 27, 1946** - page 22

Maggie Hill, age 14, was taken to Lloydminster Hospital for an emergency appendix case.

**October 3, 1946** - page 23

Tonight, Father LeGoff is giving the first catechism lesson in the older children's class. He knows how to interest them in English and in Cree.

**October 22, 1946** - page 23

We learn, by telegram, of the death of Mrs. Martial, mother of the two-year-old baby who was entrusted to us in September.

**October 28, 1946** - page 23

The doctors from the Prince Albert Sanatorium are here to examine the lungs, X-ray.

**November 12, 1946** - pages 23-24

Mr. Doucet of Ottawa, Inspector of Indian Schools, is visiting. In a talk given to the staff, he emphasizes the education of our Indian children. The purpose is to prepare them to face the difficulties they will encounter when they leave school. A difficult problem that the Reverend Fathers and Inspectors of the Department have been trying to solve for a long time.

**November 27, 1946** - page 24

Dr. Cook, accompanied by a new doctor from Lloydminster, visited our patients. Less worry for Sister Superior who was concerned about some serious cases.

**December 25, 1946** - page 25

The Indians from far and near came in great numbers to the midnight mass and spend the day here in order to be present at the stripping of the Christmas tree which will take place at three o'clock.

**February 5, 1947** - page 27

The Ottawa department has invited the students of the Indian schools to take part in a drawing contest on the subject of the different ways of preparing meals in order to learn to appreciate vitamins at their true value. For the past month we have seen young and old alike, according to their ability, giving their all.

**February 6, 1947** - page 27

This afternoon Mr. Cameron, Indian Agent, and his lady, his secretary and the Onion Lake Mounties, are coming to judge these drawings to select one per class to send to the Department and to give a prize to the three deserving ones.

**March 11, 1947** - page 28

An epidemic is coming. This morning, 12 girls and 8 boys remain in bed. Sister Superior puts on the white uniform to take care of them.

**March 13, 1947** - page 28

Today, there are 36 boys and 42 girls in bed. Mrs. Chapdelaine is of great service to Sister Superior since she is a graduate nurse.

The classes are closed so that the teachers can exercise their devotion elsewhere - such as taking the children's temperature and giving fluids to all these little people.

**March 16, 1947** - page 29

Before mass, Mrs. Chapdelaine, with a very good English, converses with the Indian girls. At first, they seemed to be studying this "white woman" from afar, but they soon realized what a warm welcome she gave them, and especially knowing that she was the sister-in-law of Sr. Superior, we could see from her face the esteem in which she was held by them.

**March 26, 1947** - page 31

We learn, by telegram, of the death of Mrs. D. Pathegan, Yvonne Harper, a former girl of our school who had been in the Paradis Hill Hospital for three weeks. Her daughter, recently operated on for her appendix, and still so weak, refuses to believe that her mother will return in her coffin. However, she uses the little strength she has accumulated to go to her home, seven miles from the school.

**March 28, 1947** - page 31

Funeral of Mrs. Pathegan. The husband pays for the Requiem Mass (a rare occurrence for the Indian). The small choir of the school is invited. The musician goes, accompanied by some girls. At the end of the mass, the Reverend Father was told that little Sophie had died at 9 o'clock this morning. May she in turn receive her crown.

**June 15, 1947** - page 32

65 Indians attend a performance given by the children (mimed gospel scenes). Afterwards, we served them a good snack. They returned home very happy with their afternoon.

**June 15, 1947** - page 32

Mr. Cameron, Indian Agent for the past 8 years, announces his imminent departure. [... ...] We regret to see Mrs. Cameron leave since she was a graduate nurse and gave us great services in the care of the sick.

**August 7, 1947** - pages 34-35

[Pilgrimage to Long Lake].

The living faith of our dear Indians resounds in pious hymns performed in Cree and Montagnais languages. Everyone puts his heart into it.

**September 2, 1947** - page 37

The Indian students scattered here and there on the surrounding reserves are returning like bees to the hive. They all seem to be ready to spend a good school year, which facilitates the work of those who are in charge of it.

**October 23, 1947** - page 39

Little Martha Fox's illness is becoming more worrisome. Sister Superior and Sister Lucie des Anges went with her to the hospital in Paradise Hill.

**December 7, 1947** - page 40

Surprise!!! At about 10:45 a.m., the arrival of Dr. Cooke and the dentist Douglas was announced. The children who are to see the doctor are prepared. Several have their teeth extracted.

**December 28, 1947** - page 41

Departure of an older student, Marie Rose Mayo (18 years old) who went to Vancouver where her mother lives.

**February 2, 1948** - pages 42-43

This morning we attended the impressive wedding ceremony of M. Catherine Wolfe (17 years old) and Pierre Stanley (from Frog Lake). On Sunday evening, the day before the nuptial blessing, a recreational evening was organized in the girls' recreation room; music, singing, games, etc.

The Reverend Father Principal, Mother Provincial, Sisters, employees and students joined together to rejoice and congratulate the chosen ones. To conclude the evening, the guests went to Sister Rose-Hélène's classroom where she, with the help of some students, prepared a delicious snack: sandwiches, cake, candies, ice cream, etc., all of which was tasted with appetite and greatly appreciated by the guests.

Several useful gifts, offered by the staff, were spread out on a desk and caused a pleasant surprise to the future spouses who showed their deep appreciation to the generous donors.

Monday - Wedding mass at 9 am. The chapel is dressed in its festive costume. The radiant sun throws its beneficial rays in profusion and seems to join us all in wishing the chosen ones of the day a cloudless happiness.

[... ...]

**August 31, 1948** - page 48

About thirty children, soiled by the dust of the road, arrive joyfully. The thinness of some of them tells us that they have lacked the necessities during the vacations.

**September 2, 1948** - pages 48-49

Our good Father has to travel hundreds of miles several times to pick up the children. The families being scattered here and there on the vast Indian reserves.

**September 7, 1948** - page 49

Opening of the classes. We count more than seventy students, divided into four classes.

**September 20, 1948** - page 49

With autumn, the big chores come back. The whole family participates. Father, Sisters, servants and children spend the whole day picking potatoes and other vegetables. Hundreds of bags are piled up in the cellar. The harvest is magnificent.

**October 21, 1948** - page 49

Pneumonia is numerous among the children. The small pox disease is raging; about ten children have it. Sister Agnès-de-Poitiers, our nurse, is unable to keep up with the work. Sister Marie-Ludovic is appointed for the cases of isolation.

X-rays for all the staff of the house.

In two months, four cases of appendicitis, which still requires long trips to the Rev. Father Principal. His patience is admirable.

**22 October 1948** - page 49

The doctors come to vaccinate the children against diphtheria and whooping cough.

**October 23, 1948** - page 49

Two policemen from Battleford and Lloydminster visit our school and give the children some moving pictures.

**October 25, 1948** - page 49

Mr. C. A. Clark, Indian Affairs Officer in Ottawa, came to visit us. He takes pictures of the classes and students and signs the registers.

**November 23, 1948** - page 51

[Sister Superior's feast] The students presented with their tributes many prayers, a very interesting little evening and very well executed by our little Indians. They put all their heart into it. Several of their parents are present. They like to attend the sessions especially when their children are present.

**December 17, 1948** - page 52

A few children, those from Onion Lake, are going to live the family life for a few days.

**January 12, 1949** - page 53

We are going to drive Mary Paddy to Thunderchild. She deserted during the vacation to attend the dances.

**January 14, 1949** - page 53

Father Principal went to bring the viaticum to Anthony. We bring his children; he seems to be in his last moments. He recognizes them, gives them his hand, but cannot speak.

**17 May 1949** - page 54

The doctors come for X-rays and vaccination of the children.

**September 2, 1949** - page 59

First recruitment tour to Maidstone, Sweet Grass, Poundmaker, Cut Knife, Delmas, Battleford, Red Pheasant, Jack fish and Thunderchild. Sisters Joseph-Edmond and Laurette-de-Marie bring back about thirty students.

**September 4, 1949** - page 59

Trip to LeGoff, Fishing Lake. Sisters André-Apôtre and Agnès-de-Poitiers went to pick up the students.

**September 9, 1949** - page 59

Reverend Father Principal goes to pick up the students from Beacon Hill. Sister Superior and Sister Saint Paul de Damas accompanied him.

**October 30, 1949** - page 60

Moving pictures given by Mr. Greenall, farmer instructor on the reservation; he is breaking in the new projector.

**November 2, 1949** - page 60

The dentist so longed for the sake of the children finally arrives. He will take the time to do a good job.

**December 25, 1949** - page 61

It is Christmas! We have the three masses in the night. The chapel is filled with Indians and whites. In the afternoon we have the Christmas tree stripping. Many of the parents who came are allowed to bring their children for two days off.

**May 5, 1950** - page 65

By happy coincidence, two former students, Cecile Jimmy and Florence Swan, meet here as they come to spend a few days at their Alma Mater.

**May 12, 1950** - page 65

Staff and big boys are requested to fight a prairie fire a few miles away.

**August 31, 1950** - page 68

First outing to pick up students on the Delmas side; thirty-seven answer the call. Sr. Superior and Sr. St. Louisa accompanied them.

**September 3, 1950** - page 68

Trip to LeGoff brought back only six students.

**December 18, 1950** - page 69

The contractor from the Cochin school arrives at five o'clock accompanied by five Indians to bring back fourteen of our students.

**December 19, 1950** - page 69

At six o'clock this morning, Father J. St. Pierre will drive to Frenchman's Butte six of our students from Thunderchild who have their tickets in their pockets.

**December 22, 1950** - page 70

This morning, Father Principal returned to F. Butte to drive five of our students to Red Pheasant.

**September 2, 1951** - page 75

Our students numbered 43. The bad weather prevents the Fathers from traveling to pick up the others.

**September 21, 1951** - page 76

In order to be more successful in the training of the students, one boy is appointed Grand Chief, having the responsibility of the whole group. All the boys are divided into six groups with a leader and an advisor for each group. The idea is excellent and the teachers are very happy with it. Every Saturday, Father goes to the recreation room and rewards the deserving group by giving .25¢ to the leader and .15¢ to the counselor, a chocolate bar to all team members. This makes supervision much easier. It is very interesting to see each leader regroup their people, have them line up for class, meals, make sure they are combed, hands are clean and everything is in order in the room.

**October 26, 1951** - page 78

We are receiving the three children of the reserve Chief, Ernest Dillon. We had received two Protestant girls on Sunday, the 21st.

**October 31, 1951** - page 78

Visit of the Inspector, Mr. Conrad, especially for the Indian schools. Mr. Agent and the doctor also make their visit.

**19 November 1951** - page 78

Arrival of the optometrist. He examines all the students.

**December 21, 1951** - page 79

Father takes the students from Paynton. Father Houde the ones from Battleford.

**January 6, 1952** - page 79

Entry of the students. Almost all are on time. Father Principal knows how to attract them by giving them a great movie, the same evening of their arrival, which was promised to them before their departure.

**May 22, 1952** - page 81

Dramatic and musical evening for Father Principal's feast.

**May 23, 1952** - page 81

Big dinner prepared by and served by the big girls. One hundred and twelve guests including some children with their mothers.

**August 27, 1952** - page 84

Our pupils already begin to arrive. I don't know if it's the lack of necessities that pushes them to return so early or the love of study, but everything announces that the school will be filled to capacity.

**September 3, 1952** - page 84

52 boys present this evening and 65 girls, the older ones stayed home to help with the harvest.

**October 15, 1952** - page 85

Washing day, and at the same time the double frames were washed by the boys in the various departments of our school. Sister Superior gives them taffy as a reward. One of them said: "Some more?" Sister Superior replied, "Eat this one, we will see after."

- "No, I mean, some more windows to carry?" Don't they have their subtlety too?

**December 17, 1952** - page 86

Christmas concert. It is one of the most successful. The children are leaving for the vacations, a fortnight's rest will do them good.

**December 22, 1952** - page 86

The last students from the other reserves leave us; we are alone for two weeks. Thank God!

**January 4, 1953** - page 87

The children are back, all happy to be back. A few are missing, we hope they will not wait too long.

**January 21, 1953** - page 87

One of our students, Dorothy Paul, broke her leg while skating.

**January 16, 1953** - page 87

Another fracture, this time it is a boy, Jonas Littlewolfe.

**February 22, 1953** - page 87

As a special favor to the Indians who are too far from the church, we have the privilege of having mass celebrated at 4:30 p.m. every Sunday in our chapel. Today is the first time, which will continue throughout the year.

**May 15, 1953** - page 88

Visit of the children's parents, at noon the banquet is served to them by the grown-ups who helped to prepare it; the whole thing is done in a calm manner.

**June 2, 1953** - pages 88-89

Holiday in honor of the Queen's Coronation. At eleven o'clock, the students gathered to sing "O Canada". The Reverend Father Principal addressed a few words to them, distributed souvenir medals, then came the salute to the flag and the singing of "God Save the Queen". In the afternoon, the Head Boys had the privilege of attending the rodeo in Lloydminster, a real reward for these children. The others had the pleasure of going on a picnic.

**June 24, 1953** - page 89

Distribution of prizes. Only the most deserving students received an award, smiles were on their faces; the others promised to do better next year. Almost all the students leave us between two and four in the afternoon. They are happy to return home.

**September 28, 1953** - page 92

As last year, the students were organized in groups; the boys elected leaders and advisors; the girls appointed mothers and older sisters to be in charge of the different groups.

**November 11, 1953** - page 93

Meeting of the parents of our students with the Reverend Father Principal. As in previous years, new resolutions were taken for a better performance in our school, for the great work of education. Dinner was served and tea around four o'clock.

**January 4, 1954** - page 94

The students are returning in great numbers; however, the snow, which has fallen for the past fifteen days, is closing the roads. Some who are delayed will return by train.

**April 7, 1954** - page 95

Mr. Inspector is arriving this evening with Mr. Agent A. N. Wark. They will stay here. They will visit the classes tomorrow and the day after.

**May 7, 1954** - page 96

Banquet for the parents of the students presided over by His Excellency, at three o'clock, a performance in honor of the feast of the Reverend Father Principal. In addition to the parents were Mr. Agent A. N. Wark, Inspector J. A. Cairns and the Principal of Sandy Lake Day School.

**June 6, 1954** - page 96

This afternoon, the Sisters and the children go to the mission cemetery to do the annual cleaning, all is well, after the prayers and the singing for the occasion, we serve a small snack and we return happy to have done this act of charity.

**June 14, 1954** - page 96

The children gathered in the girls' recreation room, all dressed up, it was a surprise for Sister Superior who was finishing her time at Onion Lake, gifts bought by the students were offered to her as a token of appreciation, a word of thanks was composed and read by Harvey Dillon on behalf of his companions, a touching little demonstration, though simple.

**September 1, 1954** - page 98

About sixty students arrived today, all in good spirits and happy to start a new school year.

**September 2, 1954** - page 98

First day of school; several students are absent because of the bad roads.

**September 13, 1954** - page 99

This evening, for the seventh time in our school, the selection of Heads and counselors by vote was held for the boys, and by nomination of Mothers and Big Sisters for the girls. We are satisfied with the result and we thank God who arranges everything for the best.

**December 22, 1954** - page 100

Christmas concert. The children played "The Perfect Gift", which was a success for the short time they had been practicing. Next was the distribution of gifts at the Christmas tree. The children from Onion Lake left afterwards.

**December 23, 1954** - page 101

Departure of all the other students, except for six who will spend a fortnight with us.

**May 23, 1955** - page 103

Opening of the Education Week through games, races. The winners will go to Loon Lake to take part in the activities, the rallying of several children from our Saskatchewan Indian Schools.

**May 27, 1955** - page 103

Parents' Day. Banquet at noon, all satisfied. Mr. Cairns, the Inspector of Indian Schools was present. In the afternoon, he recorded the students' songs on tape. We will hear them on the radio.

**June 3, 1955** - page 103

16 boys and 21 girls went to Loon Lake for the Saskatchewan Four Indian Schools competition. Several came back with first prizes.

**June 6, 1955** - page 103

Dr. Coba of the North Battleford Indian Hospital comes to examine our students before departure for vacation.

**June 23, 1955** - page 103

Since an award is given every week to the most deserving group, the distribution of end-of-year prizes is made only to the first in each class. All the students are happy anyway and leave the nest by telling us we will see you in September.

**September 5, 1955** - page 105

Reverend Father Lessard, Principal of the school, will take Dorothy and Jean Cardinal to our convent in Battleford where they will continue their studies.

**October 2, 1955** - page 106

The Day School classrooms are not finished; nevertheless, the students arrive in small groups. They are anxious to start their school year. Isn't three months of vacation more than enough?

**November 10, 1955** - page 107

Classes begin in good shape despite the lack of space at the residential school. Classrooms were improvised here and there.

**December 25, 1955** - page 108

Christmas!!! All is peaceful in the school. We still have about 50 children, but they are friendly and do not interfere with the happiness of this day; on the contrary, they contribute to it. Isn't Christmas the children's day!

**May 26, 1956** - page 109

Mr. Rodrigue Le May, inspector of our Indian school for home economics, visits us as well as the former teacher of the Normal School of Nicolet, Mr. Filteau.

**September 3, 1956** - page 111

Opening of the classes. Our children arrive all well rested and happy to see their school again.

**January 15, 1957** - page 112

Many of our students are sick with a bad flu.

**January 31, 1956** - page 113

And now, it is the measles that keeps many of these same children in bed.

**May 8, 1956** - page 113

The provincial Inspector, Mr. Smith, visits our classes. He made Sister Bernadette-Thérèse tremble a little as she was just beginning to teach in English; she still hoped for a satisfactory report.

**May 24, 1956** - page 113

Sports Day. The students, the best at jumping, running, or throwing the ball, go to measure their strengths with those of the students from the surrounding area. The most deserving go to Battleford and even to Lebret. Fortunately for us, one of our older girls is ranked first in this tournament for the whole province.

**May 29, 1956** - page 114

Education Day. On this day, all the parents of our children are admitted to the school. They can visit the classes and see the progress of the students.

At noon, there was a big banquet presided over by Rev. R. Gagnon, Principal of the school. At the head table were his two confreres: Rev. Father Louis-Philippe Roy, o.m.i., and Rev. Father Ottavino Cassarotto, o.m.i. Mr. R. J. Gavigan, Indian Reserve Officer, and the persons attached to the service of the school.

This year's celebration specialized in the graduation of our graduates. A nice gift given by the Father Principal made our celebration very happy and appreciated by the recipients. Ball games and races ended this day, one of the most beautiful for all our dear Indians.

**September 4, 1957** - pages 117-118

Even before the opening of classes, the children arrive in small groups. The large contingents are brought by the Fathers who go by truck to pick them up a hundred and twenty miles from here. Most of them are happy to be back, at least they seem to be, and they are in good spirits, enjoying themselves. Today, they are enrolled in one or another of the seven classes. We have 80 girls and 65 boys. A few more students will be added. There are about 40 day students.

**October 26, 1957** - pages 120-121

For some time now, the newspapers have been telling us about the flu. We are happy to have been spared until now, but not without apprehension. And now, in the week of the 20th, in the midst of the preparations for the feast of the Rev. Father Principal, the visitor appeared. A few students were affected at first, then on Wednesday, the 23rd, the classes closed. There was no question of dismissing the boarders; the dormitories were converted into hospitals and the Sisters into nurses. [... ..]

If there were no serious consequences, some children did give cause for concern. A little boy, Leo Paul, spent the evening and part of the night in delirium and nightmares; a little girl, Edna Sandfly, had to be anointed at eleven o'clock p.m. and the doctor took her to the hospital returning Saturday at midnight.

**November 28, 1957** - page 124

[Feast of the R. P. Principal: singing, theater, etc.]

**February 2, 1958** - page 1215

From now on, the day students will have their hot dinner in the refectory with the boarders. Special arrangements are required because of the limited space. So, the "Kindergarten" and the "Grade 1" will have dinner at 11:30 a.m. in order to give up their seats at noon. Extra work for the Sisters, but generously accepted for the greater physical and spiritual good of our children.

**March 27, 1958** - page 127

[Baptism of an adult].

April 18, 1958 - page 128

Responding to the invitation of Mr. Peter Bersch, organizer and master of ceremonies, our students presented three numbers at an "Amateur Show". Also competing were the Fort Pitt

School and the Onion Lake Anglican Day School, as well as several singers and instrumentalists from Frenchman Butte, Lloydminster and Onion Lake. Rev. Father Simon-Rolland Gagnon, Principal, charmed the audience as the guest of honour. The judges' decision favored our dear children: two first prizes were won, one by the girls' dance: "La Petite Cécilienne", the other by the mixed rhythm band: "The Bobolink". The boys also did well with their song "Out where the West begins".

**May 16, 1958** - page 129

A group of 12 girls and 10 boys participated in the Track Field at Meadow Lake. Rev. Father Gagnon, Sr. St. Jean des Oliviers, Sister du Sacré-Coeur and Mr. Bohme are also on the trip. Our school was honored with six crests and many ribbons. Bravo!

**May 19, 1958** - page 129

The little church at Onion Lake witnessed a rare sight: a double wedding. Donald Cardinal to Dora Lewis and Alex Littlewolfe to Dorothy Cardinal. A large audience. Sister Superior accepted Mr. Cardinal's request and went with Sr. Laurette-de-Marie, Sr. Claire-de-Notre-Dame and a few students to enhance the ceremony with music and song.

**June 4, 1958** - page 130

As is customary, Parent's Day was held today. Visit of the classes, dinner (85 guests), amateur hour during which the graduation ceremony of Clément Cardinal, Betty Rose Whitestone, Irene Waskewitch and Lydia Waskewitch who have completed their Grade 8 and are leaving the school permanently took place.

**June 10, 1958** - page 130

Dr. Orford of Battleford visits the school.

**June 1958** - page 131

[Statistics:] Boys 75, girls 85.

**October 31, 1958** - page 133

Mr. Smith, Provincial School Inspector, begins his tour of the classes. His departure is scheduled for November 5.

**January 11, 1959** - page 135

Christmas gifts are distributed. The afternoon began with a meeting of parents and teachers. The members of the Council of this association were appointed. At about 5:00 p.m., all the children arrived. Miss Bellegarde and Miss Koscielny opened the curtains of the theater and showed the traditional Christmas tree, next to a magnificent crib surrounded by gifts.

**February 20, 1959** - page 136

Inspector Connelly discusses our obligations to the Indians, their mentality and the certain, if not obvious, fruits of our labors.

**March 17, 1959** - page 136

Mr. Connelly attended a high mass sung by the Reverend Father Principal in honor of St. Patrick. The Inspector admired the powerful and cheerful voices of our students.

**March 19, 1959** - page 136

The older pupils of grade 7 and 8 of the Domestic Education Department did themselves credit by serving the midday meal for the Reverend Fathers, the Inspector and the lay teachers. These big girls served the meal to perfection!

**March 25, 1959** - page 137

The children go to their families - that is, those of this reserve. We have seventy left for the Easter vacations.

**March 30, 1959** - page 137

The Reverend Father Principal leads the girls on a picnic. Sister Sainte Agnes de Poitiers, Albertine des Anges and Bernadette Therese tell us about the pleasure they had in killing gophers.

**March 31, 1959** - page 137

It is the boys' turn to go on a picnic. They come back happy.

**April 12, 1959** - page 138

There is a parent-teacher meeting in the grades 7-8 class. The desire to have a high school here was initiated. The request is sincere and general among the parents.

Meeting adjourned, we went to the home economics room to admire the work of the children. It is surprising to see the skill of these girls in grade three and up.

**May 24, 1959** - page 139

A small internal flu has been raging; teachers and students for several days. Sister Bernadette-Thérèse is in bed today.

**May 25, 1959** - page 139

Parents and teachers, in assembly, awaited the Inspector Mr. Connelly to discuss the question of the "High School". Disappointment! He arrived only in the evening.

**May 28, 1959** - pages 139-140

Education Day! The beautifully laid out student refectory awaits parents from Onion Lake, Meadow Lake and Little Pine. The guests of honor were Reverend Father Gagnon, Principal, Reverend Father Pascal, Assistant, and Reverend Father Cassarotto from Meadow Lake, Inspector Connelly, the warden and Miss Goodman, Regional Superintendent of Wardens and other friends of education.

In the afternoon came the graduation, the presentation of diplomas and the farewell ceremonies. The graduates were eight in number, five girls and three boys, accompanied by the little ones from the Kindergarten who served as their pages.

Mr. Connelly was pleased to address the audience to encourage the Indians in their march towards physical, intellectual and moral perfection.

Mr. Arsene Cardinal, an Indian, President of the Parents and Teachers Committee, offered his thanks to the government representative so interested in the Indian cause. He also thanked the Sisters who were totally devoted to their service.

**August 27, 1959** - page 143

Inspector Connelly visits us. The Fathers and Sisters received him with their usual hospitality.

September 1, 1959 - page 143

The school opens to the children of Onion Lake. Almost all of them will be day students because of the large number of children arriving from the remote reserves. In the evening, the bus from Battleford brought the last contingent.

**September 8, 1959** - page 143

A big Montagnais girl arrives from the North. A student for Sister Rachel-des-Anges.

**September 10, 1959** - pages 143-144

The Reverend Father Principal goes to pick up two more children in Lloydminster; a young lady in the eighth grade and a boy in the sixth grade. These sudden and late placements are to be expected. Everything is being conducted by the department.

**December 7, 1959** - page 145

Mr. Inspector Freezen, visitor to provincial schools, is coming for three days. He is friendly, encouraging and very interested in the work being done in our Indian schools.

**December 19, 1959** - page 145

At 8 a.m. the bus was on the scene to take forty children to the southeastern reserves; then a Meadow Lake Transport bus brought those from Thunderchild, Loon Lake and Meadow Lake.

**January 19, 1960** - page 147

The boys go to Hilmond to play a game of hockey. They came back with three points to two, happy with their victory.

**January 27, 1960** - page 147

Our youngsters leave for Hilmond in the afternoon to meet the hockey players. They return triumphantly with seven points against two.

**February 27, 1960** - page 148

Big hockey game in Lloydminster. Our youngsters were congratulated for their openness in the game and their composure in defeat.

**March 5, 1960** - page 148

A bus took the hockey lovers, thirteen big girls, Sisters Agnes de Poitiers and Pierre de Jesus for a game at the Blue Quills School in Saint Paul. We came back happy despite the defeat.

**May 24, 1960** - page 151

Field Meet! Meeting of the Indian schools at the Thunderchild reserve. The "van" and two cars drove the eighteen chosen. Sister Laurette de Marie, Rachel des Anges and Miss Mathieu went to the meeting.

**June 1, 1960** - page 151

Education Day! About a hundred parents sat down for the banquet.

In the afternoon, graduation ceremony for eight graduates: three girls and five boys, in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Doll.

The children from the kindergarten presented their brothers and sisters. The whole event is wrapped up in a little play. All this contributes to a beautiful performance.

**June 2, 1960** - page 151

Ball game at Thunderchild. St. Anthony wins with twenty-seven points to thirteen.

**June 4, 1960** - pages 151-152

In spite of the bad, rainy and cold weather, our athletes went to compete with the other Indian schools of the North Battleford Agency. The meet is at Thunderchild. Who will get the trophy cup? About a dozen will take part.

Reverend Father Gagnon, Sisters Laurette-de-Marie, Rachel-des-Anges, two female teachers and two men teachers will accompany the small troop of choice.

The result? Four cups. The school won out of four agencies represented.

**June 23, 1960** - page 153

Distribution of prizes to the most deserving. The gymnasium has never been so busy during the year.

Reverend Father Gagnon, Principal, gives wise vacation advice and tomorrow everyone will leave happy.

**June 29, 1960** - page 153

After the exams, the older students left for their homes. The Reverend Father Principal drove those who had to travel by bus

**September 27, 1960** - page 157

All without exception must be x-rayed for tuberculosis. A few serious cases are found among our students.

**September 30, 1960** - page 157

A little girl, Annette Carter, falls off a swing and breaks her arm. Hurry to the hospital!

**October 1, 1960** - page 157

The playrooms were each adorned with a television. The children never stop thanking their good Father Principal.

**October 29, 1960** - page 158

It is difficult to ignore the Halloween so dear to the children. While Christianising it, they prepare a very joyful and formative evening.

**November 23, 1960** - page 160

Mr. Freezen, Inspector of the "white" provincial schools, begins his two-day visit. He is always very interesting and interested.

**November 28, 1960** - page 160

The cold and the measles are lurking in our house. The nurse visits the bedridden.

**December 19, 1960** - page 161

Departure of the children for the vacation. After December 20, not one will remain in the house. What a blessing! The rest is so necessary.

**February 11, 1961** - page 162

The players from the Blue Quills (St. Paul) residential school come with Rev. Father Lionnais, assistant, a Grey Nun, teacher of grades seven and eight and about twenty girls for a game of hockey. Onion Lake was foiled.

**April 3, 1961** - page 165

Great news! A picnic on the snow. Sisters Saint Alphonse, M. de Ligouri, St. Luc-l'Évangéliste and Marie Reine accompanied the children driven by truck.

**April 23, 1961** - page 166

Some of the larger ones are received into the Catholic Guides Association and the smaller ones, "Brownies". The ceremony took place in the chapel in a beautiful meditation.

**14 May 1961** - page 167

The vacations are approaching. It will be necessary to dress the children in new clothes. Sr. Superior and Sr. St. Alphonse, M.-de-Liguori hurried to Edmonton for these urgent purchases.

**May 30, 1961** - page 168

Having arrived the day before, Bishop Morin administered the sacrament of Confirmation to one hundred and eight children and three adults.

In the afternoon, he spoke to the Sisters gathered in the Community. What simplicity!

The altar boys are received into the association of the Knights of the Altar. Each one recites his consecration and promises fidelity to the ministers of the altar. Bishop Morin expressed his appreciation for the effectiveness of such a ceremony.

**June 1, 1961** - pages 168-169

Seven girls and two boys graduated from our school, from grade 8. Inspector Connelly, Superintendent of Indian Schools in Saskatchewan, made a speech on the occasion.

Each class presented a charming act to the graduates and the parents who had come for this day of education.

**June 17, 1961** - page 169

The Altar Boys will have a picnic at Frog Lake. At the same time they will help the missionary with his spring cleaning.

**September 11, 1961** - page 174

First day of school: only the boarders and day students from Frog Lake are present.

The Reverend Father Simon Roland Gagnon went to Battleford with Sisters Laurette-de-Marie and Pierre-de-Jésus: the latter would return in the bus with the children who had gone up to the indicated stations, while the Reverend Father would pick up those who had come down from the bus from Edmonton to Lloydminster.

Around ten o'clock in the evening, the bus from Meadow Lake arrived with its full contingent.

**October 2, 1961** - page 175

The evening was spent with the chickens. Sisters and children killed, plucked and emptied fifty young and fat chickens.

**October 3, 1961** - page 176

Another "bit" of seventy-five hens this time. As always, Sister S.-Alphonse, Marie-de-Liguori gave herself over to her heart's content with about thirty older girls.

**October 4, 1961** - page 176

Mr. Freezen, Inspector of the provincial schools, surprises us at nine o'clock sharp. His sympathy made the anguish felt in front of such a visitor disappear.

**October 26, 1961** - page 178

The dentist employed by the Department of Indian Affairs begins his "butchery". After examining all our students, he says he would have work for a year at our school.

**November 4, 1961** - page 179

A very nice movie is playing at the Marwayne theater. As always, our good Father Simon Roland Gagnon, Principal, could not resist the desire to surprise the children. He crammed about 40 deserving children into vehicles, paid for their tickets, and they all enjoyed the gigantic "Ben Hur" movie for four hours.

**December 21, 1961** - page 183

Children visit the Christmas cribs in each classroom. The resourcefulness of the teachers and students is admirable. Each room is decorated in an interesting way.

**December 22, 1961** - page 183

It is the big day of departure. The children are lifted up with joy. Always new! Always beautiful! There will be no children left. What a rest and relaxation!

**January 18, 1962** - page 185

Shopping spree in Edmonton! Sister Superior Sainte-Monique and Sisters St. Alphonse, Marie-de-Liguori went to choose the necessary items to dress the children in new clothes before their departure for the summer vacations.

**March 10, 1962** - page 186

A contingent of hockey players from Blue Quills, an Indian school near St. Paul, arrived by bus. Twenty girls accompanied by two Grey Nuns were part of the group. They returned victorious.

**March 16, 1962** - pages 186-187

Little Carol Harper broke her arm when she fell off a swing. She had to be taken to Lloydminster Hospital.

At about 2:30 p.m., Rev. R. Gagnon saw to it that sixty children and five Sisters were transported to the Lloydminster television station.

For twenty minutes, children from the kindergarten to the 8th grade were on the screen. They were a great credit to St. Anthony's School. If we thanked Providence for that.

**May 30, 1962** - page 191

Reception of the altar boys by Rev. Father Martin Michaud. The ceremony, always very beautiful, resembled a taking of the habit. The little boys of grade II were given the opportunity to sing under the direction of Sr. Pierre-de-Jésus.

**June 23, 1962** - page 192

Most of the children are leaving for the summer vacations. Must stay here, grade VIII in order to take, on a fixed date, the departmental exams and the children from Meadow Lake and Loon Lake. The heavy rains have devastated the roads.

**June 26, 1962** - page 192

Children from around Loon Lake take advantage of the charitable souls and the vacant vehicles to go to their "Home".

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