

Oblates of Mary Immaculate – Desmarais, Alberta
Saint Martin Mission
Codex (volume I), 1935 to 1959

PAA - PR1997.0199/1952 (This notebook contains 198 pages)

April 23, 1935 - page 4

During these first four months of the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-five, we had to deplore two deaths among our school children: Madeleine Villeneuve, 16 years old, died after a few days of illness on January 12 and Malcom Auger, 9 years old, died suddenly on February 19.

June 20, 1935 - page 5

The project of a residential Indian school in Wabasca was approved by Bishop Guy, Vicar Apostolic. It remains to have the plan approved. The struggles of the Protestants justify this decision which, considered from a distance in time or space, could seem bold.

December 6, 1935 - page 8

Mr. L'Heureux, Indian Agent, arrives at Wabasca accompanied by Mr. Doctor [name not given], a police officer. The doctor visited the mission, he was very satisfied. Also, he found that the health of the children was excellent.

[The codex was not written for several years].

September 9, 1941 - page 12

[Father Aristide Philippot] goes on a business trip to Grouard and Edmonton. In addition, two girls from Wabasca, Angelique Crow and Pelagie Rabbit, take advantage of this trip to study at the Grouard domestic science school.

December 8, 1941 - page 14

Feast of our Immaculate Mother. Joyful, but all religious manifestations: duty of gratitude and love towards our protector.

The Children of Mary of the school take advantage of this feast to renew their promises of fidelity. Some of them receive their Children of Mary ribbons for the first time.

January 28, 1942 - page 16

Mr. L'Heureux, Indian Agent, accompanied by Dr. Conroy, arrived by plane for a visit to the Indian schools. They are delighted and very satisfied with the children's behaviour, both intellectually and physically.

June 12, 1942 - page 18

Mr. L'Heureux, Indian Agent, arrives at noon by plane. An inspector from Ottawa, Mr. McCrimmon, accompanies him, as well as the police and the doctor: Dr. Obrien from Grande-Prairie.

This year they stayed only two days, but what a disadvantageous job they did. They took out of the treaty list all the Metis or at least those who had some relation with their predecessors who had taken the "Scrip". All this without taking into account the years or circumstances that

our Metis here are considered as Indians who, by the way, had been freely accepted by these same Government people.

What will happen to the children as far as their education is concerned? We do not know yet, hoping all the same that they will remain on the school register.

June 30, 1942 - page 19

The children leave the school. Great joy for the children who are going on vacation and for the Sisters who will be able to take a little rest after a very busy year.

September 1, 1942 - page 21

Let us also note the entrance of the pupils to the school: this year, the pupils did not hurry to enter from the first day. The boys especially are missing; it is believed that the parents have kept them a few extra days to help cut the hay.

September 26, 1942 - page 22

Father Guimont left us again this morning to go to Calling Lake. He is going to pick up the children of the Indian school: in fact, the children from Calling Lake have not yet arrived at the mission.

September 29, 1942 – page 22

Today is St. Michael's Day, patron saint of Sister Superior. It is a big holiday for the children and for the Sisters. Last night, on the occasion of St. Michael's Day, we had a recreational evening given by the children. This evening was very special and left us with the impression that our little Indians are capable of beautiful things. The evening consisted of drill, singing and gymnastics. Father Floc'h, Superior, gave a short speech in which he wished the Rev. Sister Superior well and then publicly approved the "St. Martin Youth Training" which has been organized for three weeks and which aims to entertain the children with drill, gymnastics and singing in order to keep them busy and thus keep them good. "Sound in body and mind".

October 4, 1942 - page 22

Reverend Father Guimont returns today after an absence of 9 days. Father had gone to Calling Lake to pick up the children of the School who had not yet arrived; he arrives with 5 children and 4 others are on their way to the mission.

November 11, 1942 - page 23

Great celebration today: it is St. Martin's Day. Last night we had a wonderful performance given by the children and organized by the SMYT (St. Martin Youth Training). The session included drill, song and drama. Today is a big day off for everyone.

March 15, 1943 - page 24

Mr. Paul L'Heureux, Indian Agent, Dr. Conroy and Skead, policeman, arrive. This evening, on the occasion of their visit, our children give a concert under the direction of Rev. Father Sauvé, in charge of the "Training" at St. Martin mission. The "training" is a new organization among the children started this year. Mr. L'Heureux congratulates us and encourages us to continue our efforts in the formation of the young people.

September 17, 1943 - page 26

Father Benoît Guimont leaves this morning to pick up the children at Calling Lake.

December 27, 1943 - page 26

This evening, a performance given to the Indians organized by the St. Martin Youth Training. For the first time since the establishment of Youth Training in Wabasca, the parents of our students were able to attend a program organized by Youth Training. Everyone was delighted with the evening.

June 9-17, 1944 - page 29

[The Treaty Party is considering the problem of rejecting certain people from the treaty].

September 10, 1944 - page 31

There are not many children at the mission this year. Many are late in coming in. We are told that three of our children have entered the Protestant Minister's house. The parents of the latter were angry with the Catholic mission for material reasons: hence one can judge the lack of faith and conviction among some of our Indians.

September 15, 1944 - page 31

The children are becoming more and more numerous: some however are still missing being at Slave Lake with their parents where the latter have found work.

October 4, 1944 - page 31

Father Guimont, O.M.I. left the mission this morning to go and look for the children who are supposed to come to school and who live in Calling Lake.

October 14, 1944 - page 31

Return of Father Guimont who did not bring back any children. The parents of the latter went to work either in Arthabasca, Slave Lake or Smith. Father Guimont was unable to see any of them. He even went to Arthabasca to get help from the police, but the latter were absent. Guimont had already called on the police last year ... without any result.

October 29, 1944 - page 32

This evening, we have a performance given by the children of the school. The Eucharistic Crusade, organized among our little Indians since mid-September, takes on an official look this evening. Rev. Father Sauvé explained the general process of the Eucharistic Crusade and outlined the program for the coming year. Father Guimont, the school Principal, encourages the Crusade and gives some advice to the children, inviting them all to be part of this organization.

November 30, 1944 - page 32

This evening, two children deserted the school and headed for Sandy Lake. This is the first case of desertion among the boys this year. There have been a few cases of desertion among the girls before, but of little importance.

December 1, 1944 - page 32

Rev. Father Sauvé left this afternoon to look for the children who had deserted last night. Fr. Sauvé is accompanied by Rev. Fr. Jean, O.M.I. who had come to spend a few days at the hospital. The two Fathers left alone and, after going to Sandy Lake, returned during the night accompanied by the two deserters. Time of their return: one hour after midnight.

December 19, 1944 - page 33

Father Routhier, o m i, accompanied by Father Beuglet, o m. i., left the Wabasca mission this morning to return. As for the canonical visitation, one can consult the book of the visitation act... Let us note that the Indian Agent accompanied Father Pro-Vicar. The Indian Agent, Mr. P. J. Demers, took advantage of his passage to Wabasca to try to bring back to the Catholic School some Catholic children who had been sent to the Protestant Minister's school by their parents at the beginning of September. It was a useless attempt: the father of one of these children, after having made beautiful promises to the Agent, promises by which he undertook to bring his children back to the Catholic school, denied everything at the Protestant Minister's with whom Mr. Demers had gone.

December 28, 1944 - page 33

This evening, the children of the school gave their annual performance before their parents. The latter enjoyed a play in Cree language recently composed and entitled Kassinamakewin.

January 31, 1945 - page 34

In the chapel of the Sisters' convent, we had, at the end of the mass, a ceremony for our children. The Rev. Father Principal, Father Guimont, received in the Eucharistic Crusade twenty-eight of our children from the school, 15 boys and 13 girls. We took the occasion of the feast of St. John Bosco to make this reception. In the afternoon, the Father Principal gave the students their day off.

February 7, 1945 - page 34

Mr. P. J. Demers, Indian Agent, comes to visit us. He has been charged by the Department to come and visit the situation of the Protestant Indian School in Wabasca which was destroyed by fire on the 1st day of January of this year.

May 19, 1945 - page 35

This morning, all the children of the Mission go on a picnic to St. Charles Mission to celebrate Rev. Father Floc'h, District Superior, in honor of his patronal feast, St. Yves.

June 4, 1945 - page 35

The plane arrives this evening bringing us Mr. McCrimmon, Mr. Skead, Dr. O'Brien from Grande-Prairie, all of whom have come to pay the Treaty. On June 5, the plane left for Trout Lake, Long Lake, Chipewyan Lake and Peerless Lake where some of the Indians were put into treaty.

June 6, 1945 - page 36

This evening a performance was given by our students in honor of our visitors: Messrs McCrimmon, Skead, O'Brien. Also, all the people from the reserve came to attend. The program

was held outside. The St. Martin Youth Training did the first part of the performance; after the training, a group performed a play entitled The Mystery of the Mass which is a summary of Henri Gilson's "Mystery of the Mass". It was a wonderful success! Our visitors spoke and warmly congratulated our children.

September 1, 1945 - page 37

Back to school. The children entered quite numerous today, although some are still missing. The parents, in fact, felt in a hurry to put their children in school because of the famous family allowances granted since last July.

January 1, 1946 - page 43

The Rev. Guimont, Principal, grants the children permission to spend three days with their families - great joy in the school - it is the first time that such permission has been granted.

June 28, 1946 - page 48

Last night, June 23, we began preaching a retreat to the children of our school in preparation for their vacation. This retreat will end tomorrow morning. Since most of our big boys and girls are Crusaders, we took as the subject of our talks: Love for the Eucharist.

September 1, 1946 - page 51

Today is the first day of school. This evening several children have already entered. A few are missing... but most of them have obtained permission to enter in two or three days.

October 25, 1946 - page 52

Tonight, during Benediction, one of our school children (Malcolm Anger) succumbed after a short illness of meningitis. As he was the first little Crusader of the Mission to leave his little companions for heaven, we gave him a beautiful funeral: Solemn Mass in the convent chapel. On his casket, which was wrapped in white cloth, we pinned a large red fabric cross: the Crusaders' Cross. The sudden death of this little Crusader made a great impression on our children.

January 2, 1947 - page 53

Dr. Riopel is hired by the Indian Department in charge of the Northern Indians. Dr. Riopel tells us that he will come to visit Wabasca about every three months.

March 21, 1947 - page 55

Patronal feast of Rev. Father Superior. On this occasion, a magnificent performance was given by the children of St. Martin's Mission. The pageant on the subject of "St. Benedict" was particularly successful.

May 26, 1947 - page 55

A country feast was organized today: unexpected success of the raffle of the nurse's bicycle. Games of all kinds were organized for the Indians of the reserve. The benefit of the party went to the children's games committee of our school.

January 20-23, 1948 - page 58

Visit to our mission of the Inspector of Indian Agencies, Mr. Gooderham, accompanied by the Indian Agent, Mr. Landry, Dr. Riopel and the new Assistant Agent for Wabasca, Mr. Fraser.

June 9-14, 1948 - page 59

Stay at our mission of members of the Treaty and members of the X-ray clinic for tuberculosis. Present: Mr. A. Landry, Superintendent of Indian Affairs; his comrade, Mr. Hamer, Dr. Piché of McLennan Hospital, Constable Blada of Peace River, Charly Anderson, interpreter, nurse Hannis and two technicians.

October 21-25, 1948 - page 61

Visit of the Inspector of Indian Agents, Mr. Gooderham, and the new Agent, at High Prairie, Mr. Lapp.

November 1948 - page 65

Dr. Bryk - a Hungarian - and nurse Murphy and a technician came from Charles Camsell Hospital to x-ray our children and vaccinate them. Dr. Harvey had also come to visit in October.

March 21, 1950 - page 68

Dr. Brick and Mons Broughton, school Inspector, are spending the day here. They came back for dinner the next day accompanied by Mr. Lapp.

1 June 1950 - page 69

Treaty. Mr. G. S. Lapp, and Dr. Brick, etc., spend Thursday and Friday here.

February 19, 1951 - page 72

... Father Alfred Bruckert will record the voices of our Fathers and children for two Cree programs - by electric transmission - at the C H F A station in Edmonton.

February 5, 1952 - pages 77-78

Father Alfred Bruckert, omi, and Benoît Guimont, omi, from Grouard, were visiting us. They arrived by car with some merchants. Father Bruckert, OMI, records three programs in Cree language for the C H F A station on tape. Our children from St. Martin's Mission and Father Superior, Father Bernard Rainville, OMI, contributed to the first program; the children from St. Charles Mission and Father Jean-Louis Quémeneur to the second; and some of our Indians: Daniel Houle, Salomon Beaver and others to the third which was not a success.

August 27, 1952 - page 80

Father Elphège Fillion left by plane to visit the people of Chipewyan Lake and then Trout Lake. A Barkley type plane of Ass. Airways, hired by an oil company working at Twin Lakes, offered him passage. He returned on September 13 by the same plane (John Davis) after having seen most of the people (Long Lake, Bald Hill, Old Post = Mission Ste Thérèse). This trip was also intended to bring back children to school for the current year. Unfortunately, any effort on this side was without immediate result. The people, although clamoring for a school at Old Post, do not seem to understand the necessity of educating their children, objecting to the great distance from Desmarais, etc.

September 28, 1952 - page 81

Father B. Rainville, OMI, accompanied by Brother Joseph Bossé, OMI, went to Martin River by Power Wagon to pick up about twenty children brought back by Chief Maxime Bouragan from Slave Lake, Calling Lake and the surrounding area.

December 1, 1952 - page 82

Mr. Waller, Inspector of Indian Schools arrived with Mr. Ingram. On the 2nd, Mr. Waller spent the day in the classrooms and on December 3, about 8:30, he went to the Point to visit Sr. Emma Marg's class. On the 4th, they leave again for Slave Lake...

December 4, 1952 - page 82

Dr. Brick and the X-ray team from Camsell Hospital arrived about 3 o'clock, passed all our children immediately and went to Point St. Charles after supper. They went by car (two cars and a van).

March 9, 1953 - page 85

The High Prairie Indian Agent, Mr. Lapp, and the new school Inspector [name not given], accompanied by the police, const. Rainbeau, also arrived for a visit to Wabasca. The inspector toured the classes on March 10.

May 26, 1953 - pages 87-88

On May 26, the Treaty people arrived, a group consisting of Mr, Lapp, agent, Slave Lake policeman Line, Dr. Pirquet and a medical student assistant, an X-ray technician and his assistant. Mr. Ingram accompanies the group. The treaty was paid on the 27th at St. Charles and on the 28th at Desmarais. They arrived from Calling Lake and went to Le Poisson Blanc. The people of Trout Lake and Chipewyan Lake will be paid by cheques. And that is how the treaty will be paid at Wabasca next year.

July 14, 1953 - pages 88-89

Since the end of June, the Anglican Church has been making efforts to take over the children of Trout Lake and Chipewyan Lake. A new Minister has arrived, Clarence Babcock, to assist the Principal of the school, E. Godwin. The new Minister has already left to visit Trout Lake and Fr. Rainville, on July 10, sent Chief Maxime Beauregard to warn the people that this new Minister was not the real priest. So, none of them let their children be baptized. However, the rumor persists that these people want to send their children to the Minister's school next September. Father B. Rainville left by plane on July 15 to explain the situation to Bishop Routhier who decided to send Father Roger Vandersteen to St. Martin's mission immediately.

August 8, 1953 - page 89

Father R. Vandersteen flew to Trout Lake to get the Indians to sign forms promising to send their children to Catholic school. Father was very successful, for all signed. Father Vandersteen returned by wagon on August 19, the same day as the Minister who had not gained any children, who had not done any baptisms.

September 3, 1953 - page 90

Father Roger Vandersteen flew to Trout Lake to pick up the school children. He returned with nine, that is, all the Indian children who were there. The others who are around the mission all came in on September 1. Unfortunately, one family from Trout Lake, Collin Trindle, a counselor, escaped us. He placed his children with the Protestant Minister.

October 8, 1953 - page 91

Dr. Pirquet arrived with Dr. Kutzer (Ch. Camsell) and nurse Bond (High Prairie) to do the tonsil operations. He plans to stay for a week.

October 13, 1953 - pages 91-92

At the request of Father Fillion, Superior, Father Vandersteen writes a short account of his last trip to Trout Lake.

On October 13, Father Vandersteene, went to Trout Lake with Chief Maxime Beauregard to try to mend the much needed St. Therese mission. He took the opportunity to visit the Indians again at Bald Hill and to tell them about their children who are currently in school. All seemed quite pleased with the news they had heard, especially from George Noskeye Pisiw and Harvey Auger.

The day after Father and Chief Godwin left, the Anglican Minister released the 5 children of Collin Trindle as ordered by the Indian Agent during his special visit. This visit was the result of Father Rainville's and Father Vandersteene's approaches to the Oblate Commission Fathers in Ottawa. But the Minister did more than let the children go. He sent them to Waposik by hired car.

On the way, the Father and the Chief learned of the Minister's action and decided not to speak directly to Collin, enraged as he was, but to let him simmer. If, however, he would talk about it, it would be different.

Collin didn't tell Father or the Chief directly, but he told others that if they came for them, he would let his children go. These "others" (warned as they were) made him understand that he was fighting both God and the Department, and that if he wasn't afraid of God right now, he could have some of the police.

The mission was arranged: roof, walls and windows of the house, stable, dog kennels, pantry and land giving the people in distress a chance to buy some provisions for the trapping season which will open in a few days.

Back here, on October 18, Father Vandersteene learns that the sub-agent, Mr. Ingram, seems to have received the order to go get the Trindle children as soon as the ice can support a plane and to put them in our and their school.

December 2-3, 1953 - page 93

And since a few days (around Dec. 2 or 3) Mr. Ingram had returned to settle permanently in Wabasca as Indian Sub-Agent.

March 24, 1954 - page 97

On the same day, Mr. Atkinson, engineer in charge of the Indian Affairs Dept. made an unofficial visit to our convent. He finds it pitiful, does not advise to ask for repairs, but would rather support the request for a new dormitory. Part of the present convent could be used as temporary classrooms until a block is built for this purpose.

March 24, 1954 – page 97

Mr. Ingram, Mr. John Smith and Father Elphège Fillion left for Edmonton as a delegation. Mr. Desfossés, our MP, accompanied us and supported our requests. We saw Mr. Lucien Maynard, Attorney General, to ask him for a better police service in Wabasca. He promised to take care of this matter.

Then we went to the Dept of Public Welfare where the Minister Hon. Mr. Jorgenson received us. We asked for a Relief Officer and proposed Mr. Jack Hoden.

We discussed the pitiful situation of our Métis and there was talk of a Métis settlement in Wabasca. Should there be a push for this here?

April 1, 1954 - page 102

This month we are inaugurating the twice monthly outing for the children, which lasts from Friday after school to Sunday at 5:00 p.m. We insist on attending mass and hope to train them in this way for later on. This is an experiment we are making and next September we hope to be able to let them go every week.

Week of May 9, 1954 - page 103

The mail plane is one day late...

Surprise: Mr. Atkinson (Calgary) and Mr. Hughes from Regina got off the plane to inspect the school. What will happen to this report? Will repairs be made or will a new school be built?

Dr. [illegible name] was also off the plane. He brought 5 patients back to Edmonton. It is now Sunday and the plane has not left yet. It has rained for three days and the runway is taking time to dry.

May 27, 1954 - page 104

Treaty pay. On the 25th: Calling Lake; 26th: Wabasca; 27th: Desmarais; 28th: Poisson Blanc. Mr. Lapp and a secretary, const. Hepburn (of McLennan), the student doctor [name in blank] and two x-ray technicians (Mr. Dave Falconer, son of Dr. Falconer of C C I H) [Charles Camsell Indian Hospital] remained here the three days.

The treaty was paid to the mission here this year. Their x-ray machine failed so they had to use the one at the hospital here.

July 11, 1954 - page 108

After finishing her retreat, Sister Superior (Sr. Thérèse du Sacré Coeur) and Sister Marie-Jeanne left by plane (John Davids) to continue a three week course at St. John's College.

December 25, 1954 - page 115

Attendance and confessions were not as numerous as usual at Christmas. The first snow having fallen only a few days ago, many of the trappers were unable to return in time.

January 12, 1955 - page 117

Came down from the plane 1°- Mr. Atkinson, an engineer from the Indian Department, who came to see, among other things, the site of the future boarding school that the Department is to build; 2°- and Mr. Carley, a dentist, who came to spend two weeks in Wabasca. He spent about

ten days here (from January 17 to 26) examining the children, adults as well as Fathers and Sisters, Brothers, free of charge.

January 26, 1955 - page 117

Dr. Wannop, an eye specialist, came to spend a few days in Wabasca. A plane came to pick him up on the 29th and he stayed from Thursday morning until Saturday noon (after the plane was a day late).

January 31, 1955 - pages 117-118

Mr. Ingram arrived for supper with the car of the High Prairie agency, accompanied by Mr. Barry, School Inspector. Mr. Barry spent Tuesday, February 1 at the Anglican School and Wednesday morning at Point St. Charles, then visited our classes here on Thursday afternoon, then all day Friday and left again around four o'clock. Mr. Barry slept here and had his morning and evening meals here while Mr. Ingram also slept here two nights.

June 3, 1955 - page 120

Brothers Beaulac and Filion took the animals to Stanley's who will take care of them during the summer. We were obliged to do this after the Chief forced us to remove them from the reserve; he ordered us to do so feeling strong with the support of the Sub-Agent.

12 June 1955 - page 121

First communion of 23 children of the school.

13 June 1955 - page 121

Small picnic (in the afternoon) of the new communicants.

July 1, 1955 - pages 122-123

This year, the children's return home went like this. On Tuesday, June 28, the children from Calling Lake left with their parents who had come to pick them up. On the 30th, the other children (except those from Trout Lake) left in the afternoon and in the pouring rain.

On July 1st, it was the turn of the children from the North. The plane that arrived late took the children from Assinipwat with Mr. Conrad, Sub-Agent. Mr. Conrad also took the Trindle children on this trip. The stopover is at Trout Lake.

A second trip to the same place for the Hudson's Bay Company. Then a trip to Slave Lake with the Brothers (page 121) at 7 o'clock in the evening. Fr. Vandersteene brought back the children of Nabesis and Martin Okema and Joe Auger. The departing plane failed to lift and ran aground in the rushes of the bay beyond the mouth of the river.

The pilot, and the children especially, are admirably calm. When we really see ourselves caught, the trip is postponed. The children are very resigned and only the two smallest, Mable Auger and Jane Okema, cry a moment of disappointment.

Bothers Bossé and Filion, with the pilot and technician as well as a couple of volunteers, work until 11:00 a.m. to free the plane.

September 10, 1955 - page 126

The children from Calling Lake arrive by plane - pilot Earl Lauger [?] (2 trips: 13 children + 1 from Wabasca) We have a total of 15 Gambler children from C. L.

September 10, 1955 - page 126

First trip to Trout Lake: 3 children (+ 2 for the Anglican school).

September 11, 1955 - page 126

Second trip to Trout Lake: 8 children. We have a total of 12 children from Trout Lake and Peerless Lake.

September 14, 1955 - page 126

Doctor Ivanec and Father Vandersteene went to Trout Lake and brought back two Colin Trindle children, one for school.

October 7, 1955 - page 127

While we were babysitting the children for the second time this weekend due to a measles outbreak, three girls ran away: Denis, Jeannette and Hilda Gambler who managed to make it to Sandy Lake, exhausted and having gotten lost.

Father R. Vandersteene, in company with Brother Filion and Harry Gladue, set out early Sunday morning in pursuit of the girls and brought them back Monday evening. Daniel and Melvin Gambler also tried to flee in the same direction during the afternoon of Sunday, but Sylvester Auger, helped by his sons, stopped them in the evening to bring them back to us.

November 8-24, 1955 - page 128

Dr. Ivanec spent two weeks with us. He examined each of the children.

November 11-22, 1955 - page 128

Father E. Fillion went to town to place the annual orders. He went to visit the patients at the Camsell where he found most of our patients - about 20 in all - well on the way to recovery. We have three patients at Oliver, one at the General Hospital and about eight at the Aberhart Sanitarium and the University.

December 22, 1955 - page 130

Annual meeting at St. Charles Point. We go to enjoy the pieces presented with such naturalness and grace by our Métis children under the direction of Sisters Rita-Marguerite and Marie-Marc.

December 23, 1955 - page 131

Performance presented by our children and attended by our Sub-Agent, Paul Conrad. Although it has been 5 years since our children appeared in such a performance, they did well and promise [a few words missing]. Following this presentation, they left for the Christmas vacations, returning to us on the 2nd to begin classes on January 3rd.

December 28-30, 1955 - page 131

Father F. Sauvé of Joussard arrived in a truck with 12 boys to play hockey on December 29 against our boys. Result: 15-2 in their favor. We will practice and hope to return the favor.

January 10, 1956 - page 133

Visit from the lady dentist: Mrs. Kowaluk from CCIH - about a month.

January 31, 1956 - page 133

Feast of St. John Bosco. Soirée for the children to celebrate the beginning of the Eucharistic Crusade, or rather the resumption of the Crusade that was already going on at the time of Fathers Sauvé, Lachance and Guimont. After the members (all volunteers) had chosen their leaders, the leaders in turn chose their own teams. This was followed by organized games in which fathers, brothers and sisters participated. The evening was a real success.

February 24, 1956 - page 134

In a truck, Brother P. Létourneau and Father T. Fillion, with about ten boys, left for the hockey tournament held in Joussard on the 25th. The schools of Grouard, Joussard, Sturgeon Lake, Wabasca and the village of Kinuso took part. Joussard won the tournament, but our boys did well in the only game they played against Joussard, 7-2, in favor of Joussard. Our boys behaved well and did us proud and returned happy with their trip. They had a most active winter playing hockey.

March 24, 1956 - page 134

An Educational Survey Party from Ottawa, composed of Dr. Buck and Dr. Filteau, Mistrs Brown and Waller, Superintendent Murray, stopped here for dinner and an hour's visit. They toured our school and then left, leaving us with promises and encouragement about the new school to come.

June 14, 1956 - page 144

Payment of the treaty. Mr. Murray, Gibson, the secretary, Slave Lake police, and the X-Ray group. Are a day late. Indian Dept. engineer, Mr. Garth.

June 29, 1956 - page 145

A Bellanca on pontoons made two trips to Trout and Peerless Lake to bring back the children. Father Giguère accompanying one trip and two trips to Calling Lake. Father E. Fillion also accompanied the children on the 2nd trip. Mr. Conrad made three of these trips.

December 17, 1956 - pages 150-151

Bishop Routhier, accompanied by Father Provincial, Father Majorique Lavigne, and Father Rhéaume from Camsell, arrived around four o'clock for a two-day visit. On Tuesday, interview of the personnel (Father Giguère is absent on mission). On Wednesday, visit of the classes here, then visit of St-Charles where we have dinner, then Christmas performance, something good, quite successful. In the evening, Christmas performance here again at St. Martin's, very successful. Bishop says he is delighted with the progress made in class, as well as the aptitude of the children at the performance. Large attendance at both presentations. We are proud of our children.

January 7, 1957 - page 155

Arrival of Mr. A. H. Murray, Indian Agent, accompanied by Mr. Barry, District School Inspector. The latter alone sleeps at the Mission.

February 2, 1957 - page 159

The young people played their game of hockey at 10 a.m. Jousard won by a score of 4 to 2.

February 15, 1957 - page 161

Around 11:30 a. m., the Father Superior left for Jousard accompanied by two Sisters to attend the convention of the teachers of the Indian schools. About fifteen older boys are part of the trip; they have to play hockey at Jousard and Grouard. Mr. P. J. Conrad, assistant Indian Agent (or rather, Indian Agent at Wabasca) is part of the caravan with his van.

February 22, 1957 - page 162

Hockey game here against the Anglican Mission club; the latter club is only in the process of formation.

May 21, 1957 - page 166

Children's picnic at the fireguard's field.

September 1, 1957 - page 171

The boarders returned to school. The children come quite well. However, several families are missing.

September 2, 1957 - page 171

Beginning of the school year for day students. Some families from the treaty have put their children in day school, but there are fewer of them than we thought.

October 12, 1957 - page 172

Today, Mr. Racine is taking 3 N.-T. children to Trout Lake. (Catherine and M-Louise Houle, Hilda Gladu) who had returned to us from Baker Memorial Hospital.

Lately, several of our patients from Camsell have returned, thank God. Another one (René Bigstone) has left.

October 22, 1957 - page 173

This morning a group of technicians came from Ch. Camsell to X-ray the children. They arrived by P.W. A. on wheels.

October 24, 1957 - page 173

At the school, the mumps broke out, about 15 children had to go to bed.

October 28, 1957 - page 173

The mumps are joined by the flu, in the school as well as outside.

October 31, 1957 - Page 173

The children did not go away for the weekend, which led to a little trouble on the part of some.

November 8, 1957 - page 173

The children are recovering from the flu, but on the reserve, it is all the rage.

November 27, 1957 - page 174

At school, the flu and mumps epidemic seem to lose its strength. There are only 2 patients left in the dormitories and 2 in the hospital.

January 9, 1958 - page 177

Rev. Father Rhéaume, from Ch. Camsell Hospital, arrives in a "Volkswagen" alone. He visits us and records some programs for the Cree hour at the C H F A. On the morning of the 10th, he takes the children from St. Martin. In the afternoon, he goes, accompanied by Fr. Vandersteene, to St. Charles. In the evening, he records sermons at St. Martin's.

January 15-19, 1958 - page 177

The police are running around the country: 1) truancy of school children; 2) actions against morality - 2 men are condemned, a young girl is sentenced to be interned in the hospital (Fr. Superior becomes the guardian). A girl from the Protestant school is [illegible word] at another school; 2 of our children (2 girls, 1 boy) who run away and make trouble are warned as well as their parents. Further convictions for violations of public decency are expected.

February 7, 1958 - page 178

Father Superior returns to us accompanied by Fathers Guimont, Lachance and Sauvé, all of them O.M.I. With them came 16 children (boys) from the Jousard school. These boys want to play a game of hockey against our boys.

February 8, 1958 - page 178

Hockey game. Desmarais loses 2-5 after having won at first 2-0. The visiting Fathers leave at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

February 28, 1958 - page 179

Father Superior, Fillion, O.M.I., accompanied by Sisters Mary Bernadette and Marie-Jeanne, assisted by Mr. Conrad, Indian Agent, took the children playing hockey to Jousard.

March 2, 1958 - page 179

Our players came back beaten 2-8. They are a bit down in the dumps from the trip as well as from the defeat. They are not talking about a rematch at this time.

June 11, 1958 - page 184

Departure of Sister Denis d'Alexandrie, R.N., who has just served for 22 years at St. Martin's Hospital. This morning we took a trip to Reserve 166A to allow Sister to say goodbye to the people. Everyone expresses their regrets and thanks. Sister Denis cannot hold back her emotion.

July 8-14, 1958 - page 184

Visit of the Federal Auditor, Mr. Oldring.

September 1, 1958 - page 187

Entrance of the students. We have 25 treaty children in the day school and 83 in residence as well as three Metis in residence. We are expecting 4 more treaty to make a total of 90 in residence. Henry Beaver is holding his 2 at Sandy Lake School and Vitaline [illegible word] is

holding Rose Imelda Auger at Calling Lake: both schools run by Mennonites. Most of the children who are already 15 years old are not returned to us, according to a new Indian Affairs regulation, and we lose about 15 from Trout Lake (treaty children) who will attend the school opened by Father Vandersteene. Mrs. Bernard of McLennan is to teach there.

Only a few of our Métis children have started to attend the school.

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