

Moccasin News

Ermineskin Residential School – Hobbema, Alberta

Introduction – English

The *Moccasin News*, a small student newspaper from Ermineskin School in Maskwasis (formerly Hobbema), was published from September 1937 to December 1961. There are 45 copies of this publication in the Provincial Archives of Alberta. This newsletter was not published from 1941 to 1949, probably due to limited resources during the war.

The collection I consulted is part of the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate fonds. The archives of the Sisters of the Assumption in Nicolet have six copies (1957 to 1960). I have not included them in the notes below.

As with the *Moccasin Telegram* from Blue Quills School in St. Paul, Alberta and *St. Anthony's News* from St. Anthony's School in Onion Lake, Saskatchewan, I have noted only those articles that provide information on student activities. Most of the articles were written by students at the school.



Introduction – Français

Le petit journal des élèves de l'école Ermineskin de Maskwasis (anciennement Hobbema), le *Moccasin News* a été publié à partir de septembre 1937 jusqu'à décembre 1961. Il y a 45 exemplaires de cette publication aux Archives provinciales de l'Alberta. Ce bulletin d'information n'a pas été publié de 1941 à 1949, probablement à cause des moyens restreints durant la guerre.

La collection que j'ai consultée fait partie du fonds des pères Oblats de Marie-Immaculée. Les archives des Sœurs de l'Assomption à Nicolet en ont six exemplaires (1957 à 1960). Je ne les ai pas inclus dans les notes ci-dessous.

Comme pour le *Moccasin Telegram* de l'école Blue Quills de Saint-Paul, Alberta et le *St. Anthony's News* de l'école St. Anthony de Onion Lake en Saskatchewan, je n'ai relevé que les articles qui donnent de l'information sur les activités des élèves. La plupart des textes sont sortis de la plume des élèves de l'école.

[This folder contains *Moccasin News* from September 1937 to May 1941: 21 issues in all.]

Vol. 1, No. 1 – September 11, 1937

Cover:

This little masinahigan is printed especially for the Ermineskin Indian School children and their parents. By the Gelatine Press Inc. Hobbema, Alta.

Page 2

Editorial

The aim of this little Paper called "Moccasin News" is to keep the children's parents in touch with the daily progress the boys and girls are doing in School. For that purpose, it shall in future editions, publish articles written by the pupils of the school themselves.

It also aims to cultivate the good comradeship now existing among the ancient pupils of the School.

Moccasin News is open to everyone. So all contributions in English or in Cree be heartily welcomed.

The Editor, U Nomee.

Vol. 1, No. 2 – September 25, 1937

Page 3

Our Welcome to Fr. Moulin

Our most loving Father arrived Sunday morning. The children of our School were certainly glad to greet him by the church at 9.30 a. m.

Then they had the pleasure of assisting once again to his High Mass.

After Benediction, our song and address told publicly of our joy to have him back with us. In his answer, Father spoke of his joy to be back with us.

The whole School enjoyed a bright and long holiday on the 20th.

Thank you, dear Father Moulin.

Sophie Nepoos

Page 4

An Unusual Procession

I wonder how many people on the Reserve can guess what privilege the school children had last Saturday.

Just imagine we had a procession!

Men working on the Edmonton-Calgary Highway passed in front of the School with their equipment: Caterpillar tractors, shovel-diggers, wagons and horses. How chilling it was to see men driving four-horse teams!

We all thought these workers were going to make us a nice highway in front of our School. All were glad, but ... the procession continued to Millet. They shall fulfill our hopes, only on their way back to Calgary. And so, let us keep hoping for a beautiful Highway!

Jimmie Omeosiw

Vol. 1, No. 3 – October 9, 1937

Page 3

Class Program

At nine o'clock, we learn Catechism, at ten o'clock Arithmetic, at eleven Social Studies, Spelling.

In the afternoon, at half past one, Nay and Lang, at two Enterprise and at three Singing. We have also History, Geography, Success & Health.

Last week, we had a monthly test on Nay and Lang.

Friday, Oct. 1st, our agent was here with three visitors, Chief Ermineskin, Mr. John Crier and Mr. Dan Minde. They all spoke to us. Mr. Minde told us never to run away and to be good.

Harriette Crier

Page 4

Praying For A New School

Harry Fraser, Bill Bruno and Mark Yellow Bird are repairing the Fathers' house. I hope Fr. Moulin is glad to have a new house.

All the Indian children of Hobbema are praying to have a new School next spring.

Therese Wolfe

Vol. 1, No. 4 – October 23, 1937

[The gelatine is fading away – The texts are almost impossible to read.]

Vol. 1, no 5 – November 6, 1937

Page 3

A Gift

Last Monday, Colonel Lewis came to the School. He gave nice present to the boys: a drum and a pair of Baseball gloves, one for catching and on for first base.

We all thank him very much for his kindness.

George Piche

Page 3

A Surprise

It was a very cold and fresty morning when the guitar arrived. Everybody danced when they saw it arrive.

I wonder if Sister Marie-de-Galilee danced also.

Alice Makanaw

Page 4

Our Picnic

We had our picnic one week ago. I tell you we had some fun, running races. Fr. Moulin who is so good had nice prizes for the winners: pictures with frames, salt-shakers, glasses and combs and other nice things.

Therese Wolfe won many prizes for she can run fast. Helen Lavallee can run fast, but still Therese came ahead. One of the Sisters said that Therese Wolfe has a wolf in her body because she can run faster than all the girls.

Helen Shortneck

Page 4

Picture Show

Every Sunday, we have a Picture Show. It is Fr. Levert who comes and gives us a lot of fun. Last Sunday, he showed us the animals he went to hunt in the woods when coming to our picnic. Harriet Crier said they reminded some of our boys and girls.

Here are the animals he wanted to shoot: elephants, monkeys, rhinos and bears. You see that he is quite ambitious.

M. J. Potts

Vol. 1, No. 6 – November 27, 1937**Page 3**

Bingo

Sister Ste. Lucie, who is in charge of the girls has given a reward to those who made progress in English. Last Wednesday, one third of the girls went upstairs for a game of Bingo as a reward.

Many of them won prizes. Christine Frazer won two prizes, Helen Shortneck, two, Sophie Nepoos, Emilienne Headman, Helen Cutknife and I each had one.

We played Bingo Thursday and Sunday night and the other nights we played other games.

Alice Makanaw

Page 3

Examination for T. B.

On the 18th of November, all the children of our School went to Wetaskiwin to be examined by the doctors and nurses. Everybody was in good health except a few who had a beginning of T. B.

George Piche

Page 4

An Unusual Trip

I surely had a good time when I went as Altar Servant to Fred Bull and Agnes Bernard's marriage at Bull Reserve Church.

After the ceremony, Father Moulin took me to Wetaskiwin where we had a very good dinner. When we had finished our meal, we set for Pigeon Lake at a rate of 40 to 50 miles an hour. I saw Bright View and some schools on the way.

When we came back, Fr. Moulin said: "What will the boys say? I suppose they will be jealous."

But no. They were pleased to hear me telling all about the good time I had.

Jimmie Omeosiw

Page 4

A Feast

We had a fine Feast on Nov. 16th. It was Fr. Moulin's Birthday. At the concert there were sailors, birds, mandolins, little boys and girls barefeeted and in nightgowns holding candles and yawning and stretching as they came in.

On Tuesday, we had a nice big holiday.

Katie White

Vol. 1, No. 7 – Christmas 1937

Page 3

Charlie's Disappointment

About two weeks ago, some boys ran away to the store. Fr. Moulin took his car and went after them. Charlie Roasting was sitting at the Restaurant, waiting to eat a piece of pie. Poor Charlie had to leave everything there and come back with Fr. Moulin. All my sympathy, Charlie, for your great disappointment.

Mary Jane Godin

Page 3

Farewell

I had a friend whom I loved so much. She was so good and kind to us. She told me she was going home and it made me very sad. Wednesday, she packed her trunk and then came to say goodbye to us. She wept and it made us very sorry. She is Miss Helen Lavallee. We surely hope to see her back after Christmas.

Please, Helen, come back.

Sophie Nepoos

Page 4

An Hour of Fun

Last Tuesday, Dec. 14th, all the Sisters went for an instruction in the Chapel at half past one.

As there was nobody to supervise, we all went in a classroom and Father Calais told us a very interesting story and made us sing Christmas hymns. We enjoy to practice singing with him. We invite him to come as often as he can.

Henriette Crier

Page 5

Our Skating Rink

Our skating is not very good yet, but we are skating just the same. As soon as it will be finished, we shall play real hockey. Our skates are not sharpened yet, but they will be pretty soon. We have to play this Christmas Day. Some boys want to be big hockey players and took

the names of the star players: Red Horner, Harvey Jackson and all names like that. It is great fun.

Alex Simon

Vol. 1, No. 8 – January 29, 1938

Page 3

Our New Skates

Father Moulin made the boys very happy by giving them some new skates on Saturday night.

On Sunday morning, we skated till 10 o'clock and in the afternoon we played hockey. Our two teams had each their turn to win. We hope to have another hot game to-morrow. Come and see us.

Ernest Simon

Page 3

The Girls' Slide

We greatly enjoyed our Christmas Holidays. When we were playing outside our favorite spot was the Slide. Why? Because we have so much fun on it. Father Levert came over to see our spills and took our picture. He is how it works. [Nice drawing.]

Mary Jane Potts

Page 5

A Sad Accident

Three weeks ago, we had a sleigh ride. It was great fun going, but on our way back, we had a sad accident. J.-Baptiste Bobtail broke his leg and had to be taken to the Hospital. But this did not keep us from enjoying our Christmas Holidays as it happened only on the last day.

Joe Wolfe

Page 5

A Departed Class-mate

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, Jean-Baptiste Whitebear died after a long illness. The Funeral took place the next day. We were all very sorry. I hope all the children of our School will keep on praying for him.

Katie White.

Vol. 1, No. 9 – February 26, 1938

Page 3

Alex Simon tried his luck in a Drawing Contest published by the FREE PRESS PRAIRIE FARMER. Our artist won a first prize which is a hunter's knife. This is his drawing made with the figures 0 to 9. [Great drawing!]

Congratulation Alex.

From your classmates of Gr. IV, V, VII

Jacinthe Lessard 4/13/2022 3:24 PM

Comment [1]: ar

Page 3

Our New Father

Father Pratt arrived here about three weeks ago. He can speak Cree and he is very good to us. On Saint Valentine Day, he came and gave us some Moving pictures. We enjoyed them very much. Our dear Father Moulin treated us that night with lollipops saying: "To all my little Valentines". We all thank him for his kindness. It was one of our best Valentine Parties.

Helen Shortneck – Grade IV

Page 3

Good News

We were all very glad to hear that our friend Jean Baptist Bobtail is getting well and that he will come back to us soon. It sure will be good to have our dear old "Musum" with us again.

George Piche – Grade IV

Page 5

Radio

We like listening to our new radio-gramophone. Every Saturday, we listen the Hockey Games. We also enjoy the Cowboy songs very much. On Sundays we listen the Catholic Broadcast and find it very nice.

Pierre Saddleback – Grade IV

Page 5

Children of Mary

We had a great Feast on the day of the Purification. Three girls were received Children of Mary: Jennie Smallboy, Christine Fraser and Mary Jane Child. They were very happy.

The same day, we had elections presided by Father Moulin. The ones chosen were: President, Sophie Nepoos; 1st Assistant, Harriette Dion; 2nd Assistant, Helen Cutknife; Secretary, Lena Minde.

Sophie Nepoos – Grade V

Page 5

Bingo Party

Last week, the girls had a Bingo Party with many nice prizes. I am sorry to have to say that I had to go to bed instead of the Bingo. This because I did not make enough efforts to learn English while working in the kitchen. Now we all do our best to have no more bad marks.

Celine Therese Rabbit – Grade V

Page 6

Sickness

On February 19, Jimmie Piche went to the Hospital. He was very sick. We were very sorry when he went. I hope you will all pray for him so he will soon be better and come again.

Frank White – Grade III

Page 6

About Our Enterprise

We work our Enterprise at ten o'clock and make sentences about the farmer, milkman, and also about Mother and the Baker. We hung all kinds of pictures for our Enterprise. We are enjoying our School days very much.

Mathilda Wolfe – Grade III

Vol. 1, No. 10 – March 5, 1938

[Incomplete edition?]

Page 3

We were all very disappointed to learn that our dear Father Moulin was going away. We were all very sorry to see him going on Tuesday morning. And Father Moulin must be very sorry too, because he had been over thirty-four years with the Indians of Hobbema. But we are all praying for him so that he will come back to us again. We hope he will be going to Lake Ste.-Anne so we might be able to see him next summer.

Therese Wolfe – Grade IV

Volume 1, No. 11 – April 2, 1938**Page 2**

Please remember in your prayers the soul of our departed friend, Lawrence Pany Ermineskin, who died at his grandfather's home on Sunday, March 20, at the age of 16 years.

Page 3

Letters

We have received many letters from the pupils of other schools. Last Friday, we received some from the children of Saint-Paul's School. There were about twenty-six letters and many Maps for our Enterprise. We send them our most sincere thanks.

George Piche – Grade IV

Page 3

University Visitors

Some students of the University of Edmonton came to visit our School last week. There were forty of them. They came by special bus. We sang our Welcome song and played our Rhythm Band for them. After that, there were girls to serve them lunch. Then, we sang "O Canada" in Cree and recited "NOTAWINAN ...". After supper, we said goodbye to them and "Come again! We were given a holiday in their honour which we enjoyed on Wednesday.

Therese Wolfe – Grade IV

Page 5

The Moving Pictures

We had some moving pictures on Wednesday. We were very glad to see them. We had lots of fun seeing Charlie Chaplin. All the children went to see the pictures. We invite Fr. Pratt to come on every holiday.

Theresa Minde – Grade III

Page 5

Girls' Soft-Ball

We are enjoying ourselves playing soft-ball even when snow is falling fast like last Saturday. I was half frozen when I ran to the first base. I had to rub my hands to warm them. I was the first one out. I hope to do better the next time we play.

Helen Whitebear – Grade IV

Page 5

A Spill

The other day, Agnes Firingstony fell into the water. It was very funny to see her fall from the swing. She was screaming so loud. Look at her picture. [A nice drawing.]

Isabel Bull – Grade III

Page 6

Go "Fer" Gophers

Now the boys are keeping their eyes open. Do you know why? Because gophers are out of their Winter Headquarters. It is Spring, the best time to be hunting these pests. We may use guns or traps and even lassoes made of small strings, but the best way for us is a pail of water poured into their holes in the ground. When the hole is full, out comes the gopher. Sometimes, the gopher is smart enough to get away from us. All we have to do is to "go fer" another gopher.

Alex Simon – Grade V

Vol. 1, No. 12 – Easter 1938**Page 4**

We played ball last Saturday. Father Pratt gave us moving pictures last Sunday night. I was sorry because I had to go to bed. I will be a good boy now.

Ernest Baptiste – Grade II

Page 5

Happy Easter

Alleluia, Easter is here. What a good time the girls, big girls, small girls, middle-sized girls will have on that great day, playing soft-ball and playing base-ball. I wish a very happy Easter to all the soft-ball and base-ball players. May this bright season rejoice your hearts and bring happy days to all our pupil readers and god luck in their Easter Tests.

Alice Makanaw

Page 8

A Great Pleasure

This week, it was our turn to write to Father Moulin. We were all very glad in our class to be able to do it. We told him about our parents and the children. We also told him that we will all be very glad to see him if he can come after Easter.

Wilfrid Johnson – Grade III

Page 9

[Text on Jacques Cartier by Alex Simon – Grade V.]

Page 10

A Big Hunt

On Saturday, April 2nd, I took Fr. Levert with me on my two-wheel cart and we sent behind Navarre to hunt rabbits. Fr. Levert had his 22 and I took Fr. Moulin's old shot gun no. 12. We had a nice rough ride through the fields and bushes. Then, I saw a rabbit. We got off and started after him. Fr. Levert came on him first but he said he was afraid to hurt him so he did not shoot. When he came my way, I got him. The little Fr. sent another one to me and down he went. These were the only two I killed. My friend did not kill any but he says just the same he had a very good time.

Tom Bull

Vol. 1, No. 13 – May 1938**Page 6**

We have a new friend in Edmonton. Her name is Miss Huban. A year or two ago, our teacher met her and told her about her Indian children. Miss Huban was kindly interested in us and sent us many very beautiful brooches. We wish to thank her for being so good to us all.

Mary Jane Godin – Grade IV

Page 7

Mrs. Speedy's Visit

Last month, Mrs. Speedy and two of her cousins from Red Deer came to visit our School. They seemed very interested in our work and sent us many presents. Our teacher also received a letter from Mrs. Speedy thanking her for our hospitality. We are very glad to hear she is also interesting her friends to us. We hope to see her again in June. While expecting her visit, we wish to thank her and her friends for their kindness.

Sophie Nepoos – Grade V

Page 9

Lost Reward

We were washing the moccasins, Mary Jane and I. Sister St-Emmanuel came and called Mary Jane to work in the church. I went with them and both of us left our work. Two little girls took our place to wash the moccasins. When we came back from the church, the washing was all finished. Sr. Ste-Lucie was going to reward us, but we both lost our reward for leaving our work.

Helen Shortneck – Grade IV

Page 9

Lonely Little Wolves

On Treaty time, the little Wolves did not go home because they had measles at their place. I was very sorry not to go home and thought I would be lonesome. But Fr. Pratt took us to Wetaskiwin to bring Celine Therese Rabbit home. We stopped to see Jean-Baptiste at the Hospital. Then we continued to Edmonton with Fr. Pratt. He want to see Mgr. Langlois. After his visit, we came back. We arrived at seven o'clock. We took our supper, we went to play for a few minutes and then we had moving pictures. We enjoyed ourselves very much and I thank our good Father for the nice ride.

Therese Wolfe – Grade IV

Page 10

Sad News

I am very sad. My little sister Mary Lightning died on May 4. She is a little angel now and she will help me to be a good boy.

Joe Lightning – Grade II

Page 10

First Communion

The little boys and girls are going to make their First Communion on Pentecost Sunday, June 12th. My little sister is going to make her First Communion too. She is six years old. She knows her prayers well and her Catechism too and so do the others.

Theresa Minde – Grade III

Vol. 1, No. 14 – June 1938**Page 5**

First Communion

June 5th will be a happy day for the little boys and girls. Most of them are newcomers who came at the beginning of the year. Even the big ones are glad for their little brothers and sisters. My sister Justine will be one of them. What deep souvenirs come to my memory when I see them.

Harriette Dion – Grade V

Page 6

Farm News

On Sunday, May 29, while we were milking the cows, William Standing-on-the-road came to us full of excitement and told us that some new little pigs had arrived. As soon as we had finished milking we hurried to the pen. There they were, thirteen pink-colored little pigs. I invite you to come and see how cute they are.

Jimmie Omeosiw – Grade VII

Page 7

A Trip to Lake Ste. Anne

The Children of Mary are going to Lake Ste. Anne to visit Fr. Moulin. Here are the names of those who are Children of Mary: Sophie Nepoos, Helen Cutknife, Harriette Dion, Lena Minde, Jennie Smallboy, Christine Frazer, Mary Jane Child, Mary Jane Godin, Alice Mekanaw, Eva Sittingweasel and I. We are all anxious to enjoy the trip.

Therese Wolfe – Grade IV

Page 8

Fr. Pratt gave some moving pictures on Sunday night. We went to bed some of us because we had not kept silence. I was very sorry. I will try to do better next time so I will not have to go to bed.

Rena Ayowastin – Grade II

Page 8

Tuesday, May 31, 1938. We played cowboy this morning and Peter Crane was not pleased because he did not want to be a cowboy. He wanted to be a horse. Jos Lightning, Russel Mekanaw and I we went in the water. Sister punished us.

Ernest Baptiste – Grade II

Page 10

Our Cowboys

Our star Cowboys, of course you know I mean George Mind and myself, went to the Stampede at Morley the other day. It was a pretty good one. The horse were wild and so were the steers and so were the riders. George Mind won second prize and I won nothing. When we were decided to go home, we were broke and had to bum a ride.

Pat Rattlesnake

Page 10

Trip to Winterburn

When Father Moulin went back after his visit, I got on with him up to St. Albert. I got off there with my Mrs. and we went to visit at Winterburn. They received us well over there and I came to Hobbema on the bus with two black duck under my arms. My friends at Winterburn had given them to me.

Tom Bull

Vol. 1, No. 15 – July 1938**Page 5**

The distribution of prizes for the School children took place June 30th. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, Miss Conroy and the Fathers were present. There were many prizes to reward those who had done well during the year. And also for those who had played well. The Yankees won the cup of the Senior League and the Moccasin Boys for the Junior League. The best players also received each a baseball player's cap. Father Levert also gave rewards to those who had written articles for the Moccasin News during the year.

Alex Simon

Vol. 2, No. 1 – September 1938

Page 4

[Long article on the school's annual picnic. By Mr. L. Protti]

Page 5

Sickness

Our little friend Bella Boysis is back to the Wetaskiwin hospital. She was there in May for a whole week and we hoped she would be well. But she had to go back last Saturday. The Doctor says she has double pneumonia. We pray for her to come back to school soon in good health.

Mary Child

Page 6

Picnic Hour

I wonder how many of our readers have had our privilege ... All those who came back to School on time went for a nice picnic and enjoyed themselves. I imagine George Piche very happy to be one of them; he is one of those who won most of the prizes for the races. I surely had a good time and promise to be on time again next year.

Patrick Yellowbird

Vol. 2, No. 2 – October 1938

Page 5

Sickness

Did you ever have the mumps? They hurt very much and having them makes our faces nice and fat! We look just like this picture which one of my friends drew. The worst of it is when meal time comes along, we would like to eat, but it is impossible for us to open our mouths, so we have to fast for a few days. So boys and girls, watch yourself if you want to remain pretty!

Page 5

T. B. Test

A few weeks ago, all the children were brought to the Wetaskiwin Hospital in a big truck. Many Indians also went for the Tuberculosis Test. The boys went on the first day, accompanied by Mr. Protti, Sister Monique d'Ostie and Sister Marie-Jeanne. The second day, it was the girls turn but they had Sister Lucie-des-Anges and Sister Sainte-Flora to supervise them. I hope there will be no serious cases, because they will be sent to Edmonton Hospital. Let us hope to have as real good reports as was last year.

Theresa Wolfe – Grade 5

Page 10

Sport News

I bet you would like to hear about the Ermineskin's School Boxers. As you already know, Father Pratt, our Principal, has bought some boxing gloves for us. Now there are two little players who are famous among the little ones: George Montour vs Frank Lightning. When George starts he seems to be dancing and its very funny to see him.

There are two others who are also very interesting. They are Ernest Baptiste vs Fred Buffalo. We have boxing matches in our recreation hall nearly every evening; Mr. Protti show us how to box. This we like the best.

I might have a real fight with Wilfrid Dion because he is always after me, but just now I cannot give it to him, because I have the mumps. I had this sickness most probably because I've been laughing at Lawrence Johnson. This gives me a lesson, so I'll never laugh at my neighbors.

Alex Simon – Grade 6

Vol. 2, No. 3 – November 1938**Page 4**

Tribute of Gratitude

On the 16th of Nov. all the boys and girls, in their best clothes, were on the stage to wish a happy feast to our Principal, Father Pratt. Unfortunately, sickness & repairs have stopped us from having our usual concert. We all feel sorry about it, but it was impossible to do otherwise. So we had a nice song "The Woodlands Call", an address read by Mary Ann Godin and the traditional "Asking of ... a Holiday!" Now watch our 5 baby boys speaking as loud as they could:

[A drawing].

Father seemed happy and gave us a real nice one. Oranges, apples and candies also prove his kind heart for us all. Thank-you, dear Father.

Jimmie Omo sew – Grade 7

Page 5

Our Picture Show

As usual we are working our nice Enterprise and Alex Simon with George Foureyes, who are always ready for anything, went to ask Father Moulin for his little machine and pictures. We saw all the principal buildings in Edmonton, the Capital of our Province. All liked Alex & George's idea and thank them for their kindness.

Celina Lightning – Grade 4

Page 7

[Long article on a visit to the experimental farm – by Celine Therese Rabbit.]

Page 8

Pleasant Work

Here is a picture [a drawing] which shows our Readers the beginning of our nice skating rink Alex Simon, Johnny Deschamps, James Saddleback with Mr. Protti were busy putting boards.

This second one [2nd drawing] tells you we are doing fine work and will soon be finished. Now our good Father Pratt promised us some new skates, but we have to earn our money with good notes. Each good note costs 1¢. So, if we can be smart enough to get 300 good ones, we will get our skates. Don't you like this good plan?

Alex Crane – Grade 4

Page 9

Our Holiday

On Father Pratt's feast, we had a nice holiday. So we went to skate. It was far, so we went in the sleigh. We had a great time. Mr. Protti showed us how to skate. We came back tired, but glad. Examine the picture [a drawing] and see if it was not fun for the boys ...

The boys were not the only ones to have lots of fun. All the girls were called in the house around 1 o'clock and Sister told us we could go for a walk at the store. All were very glad to go and spend some money buying candies and ... bubble gum!

Therese Minde – Grade 3

Page 9

A Surprise

Not very long ago, our teacher had a nice Bingo game prepared for all the singers. Many prizes were given. This encourages us to keep on, because we have to prepare the mid-night Mass. By the looks of things, I think every body will enjoy our singing because the air is beautiful.

We had another Bingo in our class-room as a reward for our test in Catechism. If our Xmas Tests are satisfactory, we will probably have a Bunco game that time.

Jennie Simon – Grade 5

Page 10

More Sickness

Although one of [our] friends, Alexis Cutarm, is in the Hospital with pneumonia, we are all better and mumps have gone to other places we hope. A few had chicken pox, but nearly every one is playing outside. We hope to see Alexis back with us in a few weeks.

Helen Whitebear – Grade 5

Vol. 2, No 4 – December 1938

Page 7

How's U. Nomee?

I often wonder how the ex-editor, U. Nomee feels to be alone in the north with his good friends, the Indians of Beacon Hills? We thought we would see him in Hobbema, but I suppose he was too busy preparing his little "Masinahigan" because in one of his letters he told us he was going to try and make one.

Forgetting his silence, all of us wish him a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Lawrence Soosy

Page 8

Great Choices

On Dec. the 3rd, Father Moulin chose the Children of Mary, the “Guardian Angels” and the “Infant Jesus”. I will tell you the names of them all, because they have to give good example.

Harriette Crier, Emma Child and Alice Oldpan were chosen to be Children of Mary.

The Guardian Angels have been taken among the middle-sized girls; they are: Isabelle Rattlesnake, Mary Child, Therese Minde, Peggy Piche and I.

The Infant Jesus are for the smaller ones: Dolly Omeosew, Nelly Omeosew, Marie-M. Saulteaux, Mary Ann Godin and Rachel Child. All these girls have become members of the different societies on the 8th of Dec. I hope they will do their duty, now and later, on the Reserve.

Celina Lightning

Page 8

Our Class Organization

In our class-room, we have four rows of desks. Each row has a color: one is red, the other blue, the third green and the last one yellow.

Our seat-work, oral work and whatever exercise given, receives letters instead of notes. These letters are: A ... very good; B ... good; C ... fair; D ... poor. These letters are kept in Sister’s personal Book and at the end of each week, the amount of A’s is added for each row. The row lucky enough to get the most A’s is sure to draw for a reward. Now, how do you like this?

Joseph Bull – Grade 4

Page 9

Moccasin News Printers

In some other pages you will find our way of printing our little paper. But we wish all our readers to know the names of those who do the work. Here they are:

Editor Monias

Typist Teacher

Ernest Simon

Mimeographers: Mike Lightning

Myres Dion

Charlie Roasting

Special Artist: Alex Simon

Page 9

Poor Suzanne

I am very hateful in school and can not earn any money with good notes. I don’t know what kind of present I will have at Xmas. I hope it is not a feather or a wee string. This is what I always think about when I am in bed.

Suzanne Piché – Grade 2

Page 13

Would you believe it?

We are very pleased to have a real good friend in Red Deer: Mrs. Speedy, so interested in us all.

Having no story about the beginning of Red Deer, I wrote to her asking for those details. Being a “Newcomer” in the city, she was unable to do this work herself, so she asked another lady to help her out.

Would you believe it, a nice fat letter came to me yesterday full of interesting things about the city. All my class-mates and my teacher are more than happy to have Mrs. Gaetz’s treasure.

We sincerely thank Mrs. Speedy and Mrs. Gaetz for the great interest they take in us. We hope they will like our Xmas Number and take a very large share in all the wishes we express.

Helen Cutknife – Grade 5

Page 14

My Aunt’s Death

On Sunday, Dec. the 4th, my aunt, Sophia, died. Her boy, Joe went to the burial on the Samson Reserve. He came back and is very sad. I was sorry too and I am going to pray for her so that when she will be in heaven she will pray for me.

Cecilia Lightning – Grade 3

Page 15

Tricky Joe

One of my best chums is Joseph Bull ... So, one day being very busy at the stable, I asked him to do me a favor. As usual he said yes. I very well know some of the boys were going in the woods to get some hockey sticks. I asked him to bring me one. Now, just look at this picture [a drawing of a crooked stick] and see if I can play with it ...

George Piché – Grade 5

Page 16

[Patrick Firingstony – Grade 4 – explains the “Poison-Hole Game” with an illustration.

Page 17

A Great Help

Our kind Father Pratt has bought the kitchen girls a real good electric “meat-cutter”. This surely saves us a lots of hard work and we wish to thank him very much for this good idea.

Christine Fraser – Grade 6

Page 19

New Movie Machine

Father Pratt bought a new “Picture-show” machine which cost \$125. We are trying to help him to pay a part of it by giving 5¢ each. I gave my money already and many other boys also.

On the 8th of Dec., we had movies in the honor of the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mr. Baril was driving the machine and showed us many films, but the one I liked best was the one about the Indians at the Hobbema Stampede.

Thank you very much, Father, and please come back as often as you can.

Wilfrid Dion – Grade 4

Page 19

Moccasin News Co.

Would you like to know how we print our "Moccasin News"? First, I must tell you that 6 or 7 months ago, Father Pratt bought us a Duplicator Machine: "Remington" is the kind.

Father U. Nomee, was the first one to use it. Then Monias, and his committee took charge of it, because U. Nomee was gone.

We first print the stencils on the type-writer, then print our drawings, then apply the stencil on the roll of the machine. If everything works well, we can print 200 sheets in 1/2 hour. On another page, you will find out the names of the printers.

Ernest Simon – Grade 5

Vol. 2, No 5 – January 1939**Page 3**

[Letters of congratulations to the Moccasin News.]

Page 6

[Concert – by Mary Jane Child – Grade 4]

Page 7

Saskatoon Pies

We read in all the other School Papers that the girls learn all kinds of recipes, we want you to know that in this School, the girls also go and work in the kitchen. Every month, we are changed, but while we are there, Sister Louise-Marguerite shows us how to cook our own meal.

For New Years, she had us make some pies. They were real good and all wished we had some more saskatoons prepared exactly the way the Indians prepare them. I heard the boys say they tasted good, so did the girls. So now I hope we will have the chance of making other kinds of pies.

Mary Jane Potts – Grade 6

Page 8

[Presentations at a concert.]

Page 9

An Unpleasant Fall

Not very long ago, one morning, when I was working in the kitchen, I dropped a big dish of porridge on the floor at the girls' refectory door. I suppose this happened because I sometimes get nervous. Sister scolded me, so I began wiping it all. I thought every thing was O. K., so I went for my meal. A few minutes later, one of the hired men (a little shy) came along and did not notice nor suspect the floor to be slippery. Bang! ... all the girls turned around and saw him flat on the floor ... but it didn't take him long to get up and have a good laugh over it.

Celine T. Rabbit – Grade 6

Page 10

Movies

Last Saturday, Father Pratt gave us a picture show. All the girls did not go. Some did not have enough good notes. They went to bed. I am glad because I went. We laughed very much and we hope to have some more.

Jeannette Saddleback – Grade 3

Page 11

Hard-hearing

One day, all the big girls and boys were asked to go and sing at a funeral. So Sister told the girls to bring the Cree Books. Now we have English Hymn Books which have a green edge. So here came Helen Whitebear and Therese Wolfe with a pile of “Green books”.

Seeing them, Sister made a “sour face”. But she did not say anything. At 3.30 p. m. during the singing period she asked the girls why they had brought the English books? – Because you told us to take the “Green Books”. Everybody puffed out laughing ... even Sister, who said she would have the Dr. examine their ears ...

Jimmie Omeosew – Grade 7

Page 11

Results ...

We had Xmas Tests before enjoying our holidays. They were quite hard but some succeeded in getting good marks. Here are their names with their average:

Gr. 7: Jimmie Omeosew	91%
Gr. 6: Sophie Nepoos	90 “
Gr. 5: Jennie Simon	86 “
Gr. 4: Celina Lightning	85 “
Gr. 3: Therese Minde	92 “
Gr. 2: Lucette Brown	90 “
Gr. 1: Maurice Wolfe	90 “

Page 12

A Good Game

Yesterday, Mr. Protti called Grade 1 and Grade 2 boys to play hockey when the big boys were at study. We made 3-3, but 2 boys were “mad”, their names are Fred Buffalo and Russel Mackenaw. Everything is alright now ...

Fred Buffalo – Grade 2

Page 13

Our Ice Slide

All the big boys have skates, but the little ones have none. So that is why we cannot skate. So we made a slide of our own. We picked some snow and carried a lots of it. We made a little hill. Then we put some water on it. The ice is just as good as the big boys’ skating rink. Now we can play and have a lots of fun with our sleds.

Ernest Baptiste – Grade 3

Page 13**What I Liked During the Christmas Holidays**

I like to play outside on the girl's nice slide which is very slippery when Helen and Mary Jane flood it, but I prefer listening to the Radio. 2 weeks ago, Sister gave me a radio Programme and I had my nose in it all day. Everyone teases me and calls me Bethoven, because I love music. But I don't care what name I get, I could stay near the radio all day and enjoy the beautiful music and learn many "Cow-boy" songs. Then it's my turn to laugh and tease the others because I can show them more than they can show me ...

Alice Makanaw – Grade 6

Page 14**My Mother's Departure**

On Christmas Day, I was very sorry when I heard my brother telling me that my mother had died. She passed away into another happy world on Dec. the 25th at noon time. She had suffered a long time, but had offered her pains to God. So I'm quite sure she's in Heaven praying for me, my father, brothers and sister. Even if I think she is with the Angels, I'm praying for her just the same, because she might be in the flames of Purgatory. But she won't stay there long, because I'm going to do my best for the repose of her soul.

Alex Simon – Grade 6

Page 14**Another Departure ...**

At the beginning of January, Emma Callingbull and Alice Oldpan went to the Edmonton Hospital because they are T. B. I was very sorry on Tues. when Sam Potts, Hervy Wolfe and Jos Boysis left us for the same place. I hope they won't be as lonesome as I was, although I was there only 2 weeks. We are praying for their cure, because it's no fun to be in bed all day.

Charlie Roasting – Grade 5

Page 17**Our New Ironing Room**

We have a new ironing room in the basement where the little boys used to sleep. This is the place where we will iron the clothes every Monday. The top part of the laundry is now a new dormitory where the big boys will sleep. In our ironing room, we have an electric iron machine and Sister Marie-de-la-Protection promised to let us it if we do the ironing very nicely with the ordinary irons. I think it's easy because Mary Jane Godin used it already.

Therese Wolfe

Vol. 3, No. 3 – June 1940**Page 6****Residential School Holds "Open House"**

Hobbema, June 21. Ermineskin Indian Residential school held open house for the public, exhibiting all their handicraft work for the year.

Reed work, bead work, sewing of all kinds, knitting, weaving, painting, drawing, quilt-making, and a small blanket made on their own loom, were shown by the girls.

In the morning, they entertained the village school children by showing them all through the school and putting on a program.

In the afternoon, guests were also shown through the school and the exhibit room and many of the articles were sold to visitors. Tea was served and a program was staged by the children followed by speeches by Col. A. G. B. Lewis, Indian agent, Dr. F. G. McNally, deputy minister of education, and by Mr. J. H. Ross, director for Health & Recreation in Alberta.

Page 11

A Pleasant Afternoon

One afternoon, after recess, we went for a rest in the woods. We took our lunch and played ball over there. We had much fun. Boys and girls had a race. The six first ones got two buns as a reward. Then we came back home. We were glad to have such a fine time. It was a rest from school work.

Dolly Omeosew

Page 12

Our Picnic

We had our picnic last Sunday afternoon. We had a good time running races. Mr. Protti gave us some coins when we were first, second, or third in the race. We bought all kinds of things with them. After running the races we had our supper. Then we had a tug-of-war with the boys. There were 30 girls against 20 boys. Naturally, the girls won, but when the sides were even, the boys won. We played soft ball and then came back to the school. We thank Father Rhéaume for the nice prizes we had.

Celina Lightning – Grade 5

Page 12

Boys' Enterprise Work

We are still doing some enterprise work. Not long ago, we learned all kinds of things about agriculture, now we have started to put it into practice, because we want to become good farmers. We have our own garden and each boy in our class-room has each a row that he must water and weed. When we become farmers, we are all going to have each a garden.

Victor Cutarm – Grade 4

Page 13

Hunting Trips

Since spring has come we often go out in the bush to hunt for some eggs. We have several kinds of eggs now. We keep them in our classroom. When we bring them in, we take a pin and make two holes at each end so that we can blow the inside out. We are starting to have a nice collection of birds' eggs. Here are the samples we have: duck, row, magpie, chickadee, sparrow, robin, blackbird, woodpecker and wild canaries or yellowbirds. We destroyed many crows' eggs and some magpies'.

Patrick Yellowbird – Grade 6

Page 14**Our Work in the Garden**

The other day, after finishing our work at the house, we went to help Sister in the garden. We weeded it, and after we had gone over all the rows, we walked all around it to see how everything was growing. Our garden is very nice and is growing very well.

We were not tired after all our work, so we went to play till supper time. I like to work there because we learn how to take good care of the garden and how to get the best out of it.

Madeleine Buffalo – Grade 4

Page 17**Concert**

On May 19th, we had a concert for Father Rhéaume. The girls gave an operetta. It was about a little girl who wanted to be a poppy and a poppy who wanted to become a little girl. A fairy changed the little girl into a poppy and the poppy took the little girl's place. But both became unhappy for having changed, until they were turned into what they were before.

After that, the boys gave a display of Physical Training. There were four of us: G. Foureyes, J. Bull, L. Soozie and myself.

On June the 19, we gave this same concert for many visitors from Edmonton, Calgary, Wetaskiwin, Hobbema and Poplar Forest. Our agent, Colonel Lewis, Doctor McNally, Deputy Minister of education, Mr. Ross, Director of Youth Training in Alberta were also here.

They congratulated us all for the work done and they said that they hoped like we all hope that next year there will be many more visitors. After that, we sent outside to see the Royal Car, which came purposely for us.

Page 18**Doctor Wall's Visit**

During the whole year, Sister Ste Lucia, and our local nurse, Miss Conroy, treated the Trachoma cases. However, we were surprised one day to hear that Doctor Wall was here to see if there was any progress made in the treatments and also if there were any new cases.

But the children of our school must be doing their share by taking better care of their eyes, because six of them were cancelled from the "Black List".

C. T. Rabbit

May 1941 – no volume number given**Page 4****Local Statistics**

About 12 girls and 7 boys will leave the school this year. 4 of them are in grade 6; 5 in gr. 5; 3 in gr. 4; 6 in gr. 3, and 1 in grade 2.

25 new pupils were admitted to school this year. Only 2 were 7 yrs. old upon entry. 7 were 8 yrs., 9 were 9 yrs., 2 were 11 yr., 3 were 12 yr., 1 was 13, and another was 15.

Page 5

Amelia goes to Edmonton to see Dolphis!

On Saturday, June 7, I went to Edmonton with Father Rhéaume to see my brother Dolphis who is in the General Hospital. He has T. B. and I also saw Dolly Omeosew. She is in the hospital too for T. B. On our way back, I got sick. When we got to the school, I helped to clean the car. But I was very happy because I saw Dolphis and Dolly.

Page 6

An R. C. M. P. at the School!!

One day a car stopped in front of the school. Out stepped a "simaganis"! In no time a crowd of boys gathered near the car. It was to their great relief when they found it was only Constable Broadway of Camrose who had come to buy a pair of moccasins for his 9 months old baby!!

Page 7

Our Concert

We had a concert on May 21st in honor of Father Rhéaume, our principal.

We enjoyed it very much and everyone who saw it said we had done very well indeed.

First, we had a patriotic sing song by the senior boys and girls. Then, a drill of little negro boys and girls; this was called "Darkies Delight". It was very funny to see them dance and march.

After that, was a recitation by a little boy; a song by grade 2 pupils and last of all was a play of boy scouts which made us laugh very much. Everyone did his part very well.

We did it over again for our parent. We were very glad to be able to show them what we could do on the stage.

M. Ann Godin & C. T. Dion

Page 7

Our Picnic

On May 24th, we had a picnic on the Samson Reserve at the place where they have the Stampede. We went as soon as our work was finished after dinner. Many of us had a ride either in a wagon or in Father Moulin's car.

As soon as we reached the place, Chief Samson spoke to us in Cree while Dan Johnson repeated what he said in English. Then we sang some patriotic songs and began the races at once. We had all kinds of races for little and big boys and girls. We also saw a horse race. The boys did all kinds of physical training exercises. We like to watch them. We had lunch and supper there and came back about seven that evening. We stopped at the store on our way back.

A. Oldpan & E. Crane

Pages 8 & 9

[Two articles on the P. T. organisation and a meeting in Calgary.]

Page 9

Master Magician Valleau

On May 28th, a magician came here. We were glad to see him. Of course, I would like to tell you the things he did but I forgot some of them. But the best ones were the ones where Helen Dion had her head cut off and when the magician took W. White's dinner out of his pocket. Do you know what it was? ... a bottle of milk. I hope W. White doesn't take his dinner along next time and I hope Helen Dion hasn't lost her head!

Page 10

School Crests

On the cover of this copy of the Moccasin News, you can see a model of our school crest supposed to be an "Ermine" – for Ermineskin School. It took a long time to get them. Our teacher sent for them in April and we received them on May 10th. We are surely proud of them, but especially of the School they stand for.

Enock P. H. R. R. Crane

Page 11

The "M. N." Artists

For this issue, all drawings and their transferring onto the stencils were done by Joseph Shortneck and Patrick Yellowbird, both grade six pupils. Thank you Joseph and Patrick.

Page 11

Hunting Eggs

On May 15th, we went hunting eggs with our teacher. We had a good time hinting eggs especially crow's, magpies' and hawks' eggs. About an hour before supper time, we all met near the creek and Mr. Protti sent Peter Pane to get our supper. He came back with Ernest Baptiste. After supper, we practised our play in the bush and then we played "Home Sheep Run!" After that, we came back to the school. We were tired because we had walked and run around all afternoon. But we had a lot of fun.

Alfred Buffalo

Page 19

Softball

Since the hockey season we have played different kinds of games. We have played football, basketball and even rugby. Of course, our most important game this spring has been softball. We have finished our league games. L. Mackanaw's Moose won the eight games they had to play. M. D. Buffalo's Welders won three of their games while J. F. S. Bull's Arrows remained throughout in the cellar with only one game to their credit.

M. Mackanaw

[NOTE: No issues available in the Provincial Archives for 1941 to 1949. A new series started in the fall of 1950.]

[PAA, PR1971.0220/3986](#)

Vol. 1 No. 1 – Dec.-Jan.-Feb. 1950-51

Page 1

The Moccasin News Comes Again!

After a few years of silence, this little school magazine aims at a greater solidarity between the Ermineskin staff, the pupils and their parents. As in the past, we expect the parents to cooperate

hundred per cent with us in the great task of educating their children, for the training of children really demands the collaboration of parents, priest and teachers.

[... ..]

Fr. G. M. Latour, Principal

Page 2

Our School

Hobbema Indian Residential School is located ten miles south of Westaskiwin. The building is rather long and spacy. It contains many rooms: dormitories, recreation rooms, sewing rooms, kitchen, laundry and six class-rooms.

Now, I would like to say a few words about Rev. Father Principal, Father G. M. Latour, o.m.i. He is always very kind to us especially when he lets us have ween-end holidays.

The Sisters of the Assumption have charge of the six class-rooms and of the house work. The girls are taught how to keep house. We boys wish to thank the Sisters for showing them such useful things.

The boys' keepers are Mr. R. Rioux and Mr. Desaulniers. They are very interested in us boys.

Maurice D. Buffalo – Grade 6

Page 5

School Paper Staff

Editor: Doreen Buffalo

Assistant Editor: Lena Smallboy

Printers: Larry Hodgson, Robert Morin

Artists: Mr. Dan Buffalo, Mary Therese Okmaw, Maurice D. Buffalo, David L'Child, Fred Morin.

Page 6

Radio Broadcast

Under the able direction of Rev. Father G. M. Latour, o.m.i., our school has already put on three radio broadcasts. We, the Indian children of the Ermineskin Residential and Day schools were very thrilled to hear our voices on the air. Many thanks to the Station C.H.F.A.

Peggy Saddleback – Grade 6

Page 6

We Visit Grade Two

Were you to visit our class-room, thirty-one happy children would greet you. Among these are seventeen husky boys and fourteen delicate girls.

The subject we like best is catechism... the next best is the rhythm band. We all enjoy music. Reading is also a pleasure. When Sister takes out our new books, then we have shining eyes!

Every week, new pictures appear on the walls. We like our class-room. It is our little home.

Annie Saddleback – Grade 2

Page 6

Congratulations

Congratulations to Irene Brown who was awarded a 3rd prize in Grade V Poster competition sponsored by the Alberta Tuberculosis Association. The amount received was \$2.00.

Page 7

Our Favorite Subject

We appreciate being in school now-a-days. Many subjects are taught: religion, arithmetic, English, social studies, science, music, and health. Our favorite one is religion.

This course is enjoyed every day of the week. Rev. Father Principal comes to teach us this subject on Mondays and Wednesdays. The task assigned for the year is: To know, to love and serve God. If we are attentive to all instructions given, we will be prepared for the future. However, knowledge is not all ... the important part is to put into practice what we do know. Only then are we living our religion.

Lena Smallboy – Grade 7

Page 7

Sewing

I am happy to be in a residential school because we can learn how to cook and sew. Our periods in the sewing room are enjoyable ones. I always run short of work. I do my task the best I can in order to please God. Beadwork is my favorite, although I don't mind sewing. It is so useful for a young girl to know how to handle a sewing machine.

Now, take a look at the two articles above [two drawings], these are the kind we are taught to make. I'm almost proud of myself when I think of all I can do along this line.

Rosie Brown – Grade 6

Page 8

Cooking

Lucky girls, we are! We can go to the kitchen and learn to cook. I was very fortunate as I went once a week for a month and a half. I learned much about cooking and baking while I was there. The work was greatly enjoyed. The two Sisters in charge of this department are very kind. I hope all the girls will keep on doing their very best.

Rosie Whitebear – Grade 6

Page 8

Exhibition Work

This year, most of the girls are trying their luck at sewing. We have over twenty-five articles ready for the Edmonton and Calgary Exhibitions. The different articles made are: pillow cases, child's garments, dresses, men's socks, gloves and sweaters. I am making a carpet, as soon as I finish, I will be taught to knit. This is a great encouragement I really appreciate learning so many things. My thanks to our kind and ever helpful teachers.

Lucy Stoney – Grade 6

Page 10

The Skating Rink

I have lots of fun on the rink. I have no skates ... I do not need any to play Broom Hockey. Oh! we have so much fun! Sometimes we get so warmed up that we want to take our coats off. The other night, the scores were 3-1.

Alice Okeynan – Grade 3

Page 11

Our Class-Room

Our class-room is the best place to learn many things. I like it. The walls are decorated with pretty pictures. The desks are nicely varnished.

We have five and a half hours of class every day. We are taught a lot of useful things by our teacher. There are thirty-three pupils in our room, sixteen boys and seventeen girls. These pupils enjoy being at school. Many boys work very hard, they are even ambitious. I'll talk about the girls next time.

David Whitebear – Grade 6

Page 12

An Interesting Game

The Millet Team came to play last night. However good they were, the Hobbema boys won the game. At the beginning of the game, Maurice Wolfe made a score. At the end of the first period, the score was 1-1. In the second period, it was 2-1 in our favor. At the end of the third period, the score was 5-3. The Hobbema Team won the six straight games played so far. Three cheers for our good players!

David L'Child – Grade 7

Page 12

Our Skating Rink

Our skating rink was started around the middle of October. The boys' keeper, Mr. R. Rioux, worked at it with the older boys of the school.

The rink was finished on November 14th. How happy the boys were on that day! They skated long hours without stopping. The girls' turn came on November 28th. Their first trial meant work, really – a hard job ... but what speed they have gained since then!

We certainly enjoy skating. Broom Hockey is also a favorite.

Here, we wish to thank Rev. Father Principal for his great kindness in finding skates for us. We appreciate them very much, Father.

Doreen Buffalo – Grade 7

Page 15

The Christmas Concert

Our Christmas concert was very good this year according to what Father Principal said. I really think the audience appreciated it also. The concert was held on Tuesday, December 19th, at 2.30 p. m. The children did well in all – singing, talking and acting. I guess the staff enjoyed it too.

I liked the play called "What Christmas Means". This play was put on by the senior girls. I also enjoyed "The Story of Christmas". It was beautiful to see the crib on the stage with living personages. The shepherds seemed so natural, the children of Bethlehem looked so happy, the three Eastern kings really looked nice in their riche costumes. The little children of our days certainly told all their troubles.

This makes us believe that when we do well, everyone is happy and wishes to accomplish still greater deeds!

Maurice Dion Buffalo – Grade 6

Page 15

The Senior Class

On entering our class-room, you will see four medium sized windows, four rows of varnished desks, thirty-five in all. The two large libraries will attract your attention as the books are kept so orderly. On the south side of the room is a large blackboard which is used every minute of the day. The bulletin board at the back of the room is indeed very useful. There, we find many interesting articles to read.

Our teacher is Sister Sainte-Theophanie. I like her because she does not let us lose our time in class. We understand that we are building for the future so we must work.

During the week, we have different duties to fulfil. The boys take care of the flag, the floor and the libraries while the girls are responsible for the dusting, the blackboards and the plants. We love to work in our class-room.

I do not get lonesome at school for the good reason that we study subjects of great interest to us, also because we are permitted, now and again, to go home on week-ends.

Lily Saddleback – Grade 7

Page 16

Day School

I like day school because I can help mother after class. I love to help with the dishes and especially take care of the baby.

We all enjoy day school very much because Sister St.-Marc l'E. is our teacher. She is giving us lessons in sewing and knitting every Wednesday. I am knitting ear muffs for the Edmonton and Calgary Exhibitions. It's fun! Don't you think so?

Ivy Buffalo – Grade 5

Page 16

After School

I do not live far from school, so when class is over, I hurry home to bring in the water and wood for my mother. Then, I help my father with the chores. When this is all done, I like to go and help my grandfather. He is 77 years old.

Billy Potts – Grade 4

Vol. 1, No. 2 – April-May-June 1951**Page 10**

Our Grand Picnic

We got up! early on Thursday morning. Can you guess why? It was our picnic day! The sun was shining and everyone felt like getting up! That's a record!

We assisted at Holy Mass with greater devotion because it was the feast of Corpus Christi. The boys sang beautifully! When Holy Mass was over, we had our breakfast, then our clean-up jobs were done in a hurry ... but May 24th comes only once a year so we know we will be understood.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament comes next with our daily devotions to Mary. We want our heavenly Mother to be our companion for the day.

At 9 o'clock, the truck is ready. "Hurrah for Mr. Baril!" The older girls and all the boys walk to the grounds.

At 10 o'clock, the games begin. There are races of all kinds. The prizes are fifteen cents for the first, ten for the second and five for the third. With this money, we can buy at the booth. Now do you understand why we are so happy?

Dinner time comes very quickly. What hungry people to satisfy! It does not take long however – we have such good cooks! They know how to soothe our hungry stomachs. After the prayer of thanksgiving, comes a short rest.

Suddenly, something aroused our interest. We heard cheers – all ran to look. Whom did we see? Reverend Father Principal at the "Ring Toss". He is such an expert at it that Mr. Fortier has to move out ... He is going bankrupt. Three cheers for you, Rev. Father.

At last, the soft ball games start. Nine diamonds are occupied. Everyone is busy – even the teachers. In many cases boys win the game but the girls get prizes also ...for their good sportsmanship. Hurray for Rev. Father Allard! He knows how to render justice!

A good lunch put us back on our feet. After chatting for a while, we had more games and races.

A weiner roast brought us around the bonfire where we enjoyed every bite of the delicious supper.

Happy hours fly rapidly. It is already time to pack. In a few minutes the grounds are cleared and like good campers we throw water over the fires. The senior girls get a ride in the truck this time. The smaller girls return by cars while the boys enjoy a walk in the cool breeze. The truck and cars arrive at the school at the same time. Before coming down, we hear: "Three cheers for Father Principal! Hip, Hip! Hurrah!"

It is the end of PERFECT DAY!

Lucy Stoney – Grade 6

Page 11

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Page 11

Dear Pupils,

What joy fills your hearts on leaving the school for your summer vacations! We rejoice with you because we know that most of you deserve a good rest after a year's hard work.

While you are away, dear students, we will remember you. We will pray for you every day so you will remain faithful to God by assisting at Holy Mass on Sundays and faithful to Mary by the daily recitation of the Rosary.

Yours devotedly,

The Sisters of the Assumption

Page 14**Our Meat Chopper**

A meat chopper is very handy to have especially when we must prepare meals for over two hundred persons.

You can imagine the joy of all the cooks when this new machine arrived... Everybody wanted to try it first ... even the men.

The young cooks now hum a tune while getting the meat ready. Can you hear them? No doubt they are thinking that this luck will not always be theirs.

All the cooks, young and old, are very grateful to Rev. Father Principal for his great generosity in equipping the kitchen so well. Our kitchen is now one of the best!

Mary Therese Okimaw – Grade 8

Page 14**Exhibition Work**

Time to pack our exhibition articles will soon be here. That is why we see so many little needles pushed in and pulled out with greater speed.

You should see all the articles we have ready: pillow cases, cushions, bedspreads, towels, dresses, blouses, carpets, centrepieces, beaded belts, head-dresses, boys' suits and diamond socks.

Do you think we will get many prizes? If we do, we can be very thankful to our teachers who have been so perseverant in encouraging our efforts whenever we needed it. To our regret, the teachers had to stimulate us often. We now understand their kindness and will try to be more diligent in the future.

Lily Saddleback – Grade 7

Page 15**Work Shop**

Every Wednesday at 2 o'clock we are very happy to learn how to handle a carpenter's tools. Mr. Fortier is our teacher. We already made: books-ends, a little chair, book case, tools and also many little toys. We enjoy that work very much. We hope to keep on next year.

Raymond Deschamps – Grade 5

Page 15**Our Classroom**

Our classroom is a real home for us. We are 30 pupils in grade 5. Our teacher's name is Sr. St. Alphonse-Marie-de-Liguori. She is very kind to us. We did an entreprise on Alberta. You should see every thing we have learned about our nice province! We made maps showing the lakes, rivers and National Parks. We studied the means of transportation in Alberta, then we found how coal and oil were formed. Next came the birds and trees of Alberta, and finally all the other products of Alberta. It was very interesting. We enjoyed working such a project.

We have studies on Tuesday and Thursday. Last week we started our exhibition work. Some were doing raffia, reed work, others woodwork or art. We do like that kind of work because we learn to do many things.

Teddy Ermineskin – Grade 5

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Page 2

English

English is my favorite subject because we learn how to pronounce words and how to express our ideas in a clear way. In order to learn a language we must use it often.

There are many interesting books we can read. These books get us acquainted with new words and expressions. We should read many books so as to learn how to speak a better English.

I like this subject better than any other because it seems to me I will make great use of it as years go by.

Ivy Buffalo – Grade VI

Page 2

Choir Practices

Twice a week, our kind Fr. Principal gives us singing lessons. During Advent, we rehearsed for Midnight Mass. This gave the opportunity to all those attending Midnight Mass in their respective churches of the three reserves to participate in the Christmas Hymns. How beautiful it was to hear everyone sing with all his heart and soul! We thank you, Rev. Fr. for devoting so much of your time for our training.

Agnes Ermineskin – Grade VI

Page 3

[A Trip to Edmonton. Visit of their Royal Highnesses. By Doris Buffalo – Grade VII.]

Page 4

Household Economics

As in the past years, Household Economics seems to have a special attraction for all girls. How interesting it is to be able to learn how to sew, knit, darn and put in a perfect patch! All these things we learn, we will make use of in our life.

In the kitchen while cooking the daily meals, useful techniques are learnt. What is more important than good food in the building of a strong body? Yes, we are very fortunate indeed, to be in a residential school where time is allowed for the teaching of these very important skills. What better preparation could be given us for our household duties later in life?

Christine Buffalo – Grade VII

Page 4

Exhibition Prizes

This year at the Calgary and Edmonton exhibitions our school was fortunate in winning 101 first prizes, 98 second prizes and 99 third prizes. The sum of \$275.50 was distributed to the winners.

At the Wetaskiwin Agricultural Fair, held on July 31-Aug. 1, we won more prizes: seven special prizes, 14 first prizes, 12 second prizes and 11 third prizes. The sum of \$46.50 was received.

Page 4

Girls' Choir

On November 5th, the senior girls organized their choir. The reason for the formation of this choir is to become better singers and thereby be of greater help to our Missionaries.

The result of the elections were as follows:

President: Miss Peggy Saddleback

Vice-President: Miss Annie Omeosiw

Secretary: Miss Agnes Ermineskin

Members of this choir have one practice a week besides the two practices with the whole student body. We intend to work hard so that we may soon be able to take the responsibility of the choirs on the Reserves, particularly when the Sisters are unable to come.

Peggy Saddleback – Grade VII

Page 5

Woodwork

At the end of November, Mr. M. Woyewoda arrived as our new teacher in woodwork. You can imagine our joy! How interesting is this course for any boy! Now, we consider ourselves just as lucky as the girls.

Twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday, Grade VI go to the shop. One of the first things we learnt was about measuring. The measuring instrument used is generally a two-foot rule or the carpenter's square.

We must know about graduation line and scale divisions also. It is important to learn how to measure and cut a piece of wood quickly and accurately without having to measure three or four times.

Then we study the kinds of saws, the rip and crosscut saws. The kinds of planes come next. We know at least two of these namely the Smooth Plane and the Jack Plane.

This is just the beginning of our work and we have found it so interesting and useful! What will the remaining part of our course be like? Time will tell ... However, we know that with our capable Master, we will climb the ladder of success!

Fred. Whitebear – Grade VI

Page 6

The Joys of Winter

Winter begins on December 21st. We always love to see the snow. As soon as the cold weather sets in, we look forward to skating. This is our favorite winter sport. Besides skating, we have sliding and skiing. What joys Winter brings to us! We do appreciate the summer months, but when Winter comes, it seems to bring so much with it that we cannot help loving "Mr. Winter" also.

Skating is my favorite sport. I think every one ought to learn how to skate because it can give us so much fun! How we should thank our kind Missionaries for being so generous towards us!

Helen Lightning – Grade VI

Page 6

My Favorite Sport

Winter begins on December 21st. It brings many joys because we know Christmas is near. I like Winter because there is great fun to be had. The many sports of Winter attract us. I like

skating best of all because practicing how to skate well gives me so much pleasure! Every night, after supper, we enjoy an hour's skating.

Here, I wish to thank Rev. Fr. Principal, Rev. Fr. Allard and all those who devote their time and energy for our welfare.

Iva Buffalo – Grade VI

Page 7-8

[Long article on MAMI – Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate – by Doris Buffalo and Agnes Littlechild.]

Page 8

Our School

The Ermineskin School which we are very proud of stands in a little district called Hobbema.

The School itself is rather large. It has six gay classrooms, six dormitories, four large dining rooms besides sewing rooms and play halls. The bright kitchen is well equipped. There is a large number of pupils and the devoted staff numbers about thirty, with Rev. Fr. G. M. Latour, O. M. I., as Principal.

Our main activity presently consists in winter sports. We started to use our skating rink on November 5th. The hockey team only played three games so far, but public skating has been going on for quite a while. Boys and girls skate nearly every evening. Many thanks to those who helped get our rink and who are continually working for its upkeep. It certainly makes us love our school all the more!

Larry Hodgston – Grade IX

Page 9

What Christmas Means to Me

When Christ was born, it was the first Christmas. For me, Christmas means a favor for all mankind. Our Redeemer was born in a stable. We celebrate Christmas because it is a great day; the birthday of our Eternal King.

We prepare for Christmas during the time of Advent. We do penance and we go to confession and also try to receive Holy Communion often. At Midnight Mass, I thank our Lord for coming to me in Holy Communion.

On Christmas Day, we get gifts and we give something to the children. We are happy when a crowd of people passing by our way say "Merry Christmas". Sometimes there are about ten families in our home saying "Merry Christmas".

Alfred Saddleback – Grade VII

Page 10

[Long article on the Christmas concert by Bella Threefingers – Grade VI.]

Page 13

Literature

Literature is my favorite subject because it teaches us many lessons that we will use later on in life. Another reason why I like this subject is that we enrich our vocabulary and therefore will be able to speak a better English.

Reading is also very helpful. The more books we read the more interesting our conversation will be.

We are very fortunate in being able to attend school regularly, there are so many things we learn. If we begin our education while yet young, this will give us a better chance of making a success of life.

Here, I wish to express my gratitude to all those who work so hard in giving us an all-round education.

Agnes Littlechild – Grade VI

Vol. 2, No. 2 – March-April 1952

Page 4

Congratulations

In the Health Poster Competition sponsored by the Alberta Tuberculosis Association, our school was fortunate in winning the following prizes.

Ruby Littlechild, Grade 5, 3rd prize: \$3.00

David Littlechild, Grade 8, 5th prize: \$1.00

Philip Simon, Grade 2, Special: \$2.50

Congratulations to the three prize winners!

Our heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Baxter for his generosity and encouraging words.

The pupils of Ermineskin School.

Page 15

Spring

Spring is a season of work and of enjoyment because it is the time when there seems to be a renewal of life in all living things. We like to see the snow melting and the birds coming back. We see the flowers, leaves and green grass come forth. I sure like to see the birds. There's no bird that's more welcome than the robin. How merrily it sings!

When spring time comes men are busy working in the fields while the ladies do the gardening. It is an interesting and useful affair.

With all these things to see and do, who wouldn't like SPRING?

Grace Swampy, Grade VI

Page 15

Clean Schools

In many schools boys and girls are careful not to throw papers on the floor. When the wastebaskets are full, they empty them. They help their teacher tidy their classroom. They [do] the blackboards and shake the erasers out of doors. The floors are swept and the furniture dusted. They also help clean the school yard so that it will be pleasant and attractive. The children are careful not to throw papers on the grounds. Visitors that come praise the school. This makes the pupils feel happy.

Bell Threefingers – Grade VI

Page 16**An Arithmetic Match**

A few days ago, we had an arithmetic match in our classroom. Sister Superior was present. We were all very happy to see her come, not only because she always brings beautiful prizes, but also because we like visitors.

Emily Ermineskin and Robert Roasting were captains. Emily's army was called The Bluebird while Robert's was named The Robin. I was in Robin Army. Some of our birds were too slow. The Bluebird Army won. Three CHEERS for their army!

We were surprised when Sister Superior said all those who had not missed could draw a prize, I won the lovely Rosary. Thank you, kind Sister Superior!

Edna Crier – Grade IV

Page 17**Our Enterprise**

We are studying about "OUR HELPERS".

Here are some of the ones we studied about: Our Missionary, the mailman, the policeman, the fireman, the milkman.

God is good to us. He gives us many people to help us. Some of them help our souls. Some bring mail to us, others help us across the busy streets.

We want to thank all our kind helpers.

Josephine Cabry – Grade 2

Florence Firingstone – Grade 2

Page 17**Learning to Sew**

After my dinner was over, my teacher taught me how to use the sewing machine. At first, I didn't know how to make the wheel turn. I practiced a long while, finally I was able to sew a child's dress for the Exhibition.

This will not be my last trial as we will have a chance to sew every Wednesday afternoon.

What lucky girls we are?

Velma Johnson – Grade 5

Vol. 2, No. 3 – May-June 1952**Page 1**

[Excerpt from a letter of the Principal, Fr. G. M. Latour, to the parents.]

One of the aims of your Catholic Schools is to prepare its students for an advanced education. As you are aware, the Indian Affairs Branch will give every possible assistance to pupils who are found apt to continue their studies. This higher education cannot be given without your appreciation. Parents, don't let your children miss this splendid opportunity! See that they benefit of this privilege offered them. It is the function of Christian education to provide facilities for the formation of that kind and quality of character which will enable the individual to behave as Christ expects him to behave in relation to God, to his neighbor, and to nature. Your responsibilities are great!

We are proud of your children's achievements and success! This year, one, Theresa Minde, has graduated from Normal School; one is promoted to Grade XII, one to Grade XI, two are promoted to Grade X, and six are in Grade IX.

We would like to see a greater number of capable girls and boys receiving a high school education. This training would aim at the moulding of an Indian elite so important in our midst. Care would be taken through able vocational guidance, not to steer your children from their own people, their land, and their tradition.

Trusting in your collaboration, dear parents, and in the good will of your children, we foresee, for September, more pupils registering in High School.

Page 2

Open House Day

On June 22nd, we had OPEN HOUSE. All our exhibits were finished and placed in two classrooms. Numerous visitors came to see our work on display. I couldn't name all the articles I saw, there were so many. Would you like me to enumerate a few? Here you are: sweaters, stockings, mittens, dresses, blouses, pillowcases, child's garment, jackets and carpets. In the line of woodwork I saw: bird houses, medicine cabinets, sled, stepladder, rockers, book shelves, model planes, towel hangers and many other useful articles.

We are proud of our work now. We must not forget to thank our good teachers for their kind and sure guidance.

Agnes Ermineskin – Grade VI

Page 3

[Father Principal' feast day – by Grace Swampy – Grade 6.]

Page 4

[Holiday duties – by Agnes L'Child – Grade 6.]

Page 5

[M.A.M.I. Ceremony – by Ivy Buffalo – Grade 6.]

Page 7

[Long article by Armine Cutknife – Grade 7: Joys of Childhood.]

Page 9

[First Communion Day – by Alfred Saddleback – Grade 7.]

Pages 11-12

[Trip to St. Albert – Long article by Peggy Saddleback and Ida Mackanaw – Grade 7.]

Page 12

An Interesting Game

Our first Baseball Game was an interesting and tough one. The Optimist Club was our visiting team. Our pitcher, Robert Morin, struck the white boys out in this game. The boys gave the best of themselves, so did I because I wanted our team to win.

The score turned out to be 2-1 in our favor. The game was a quick one the spectators said. The losers were good sports, they cheered for us and we cheered for them.

Reverend Father Allard invited the boys to have lunch with us. They gladly accepted. Who wouldn't?

Rev. Father Principal, we are very indebted to you for having bought us such a complete baseball equipment. Many boys in this province have not what we have. We promise to play our best at every game.

We do not forget you, Rev. Father Allard. We couldn't do much without you. Our sincere thanks, Rev. Father.

David L'Child – Grade VIII

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Vol. 3, No. 1 – December 1952

Page 1

[Letter to the parents by Fr. G. M. Latour, Principal.]

Dear Parents,

Your children are at home for their Christmas holidays. During these holidays, your children will no doubt speak to you about their school activities, religious and social. As in the past, all the staff members: priests, sisters, laymen have devoted their time for your children. The 256 pupils attending the too small and too old Ermineskin School tell beyond proof that the Indians of the Hobbema Indian Agency support one hundred percent the policy followed by the Ermineskin Staff with regard to education.

In order to develop in your children a growing sense of responsibility, the M.A.M.I. meetings were held regularly with some success. At these meetings, your children have studied their own problems and have organized their own religious, social and sportive activities. They have realized, to some extent, the part they have to play as citizens in this world so as to become citizens of heaven. The subject is vast ... therefore the remaining task is great! This is why we, children, parents, and missionaries must work together.

At our Christmas Masses, Father Allard and I will remember you and your loved ones. We will ask the Divine Infant to shower upon you and yours all the graces for which you stand in need.

Page 5

Christmas Holidays

Hurrah! only a few more days and Christmas will be here! How days fly by when we work hard. We are preparing our concert, and oh! but we have so many things to learn. We want our concert to be a success in order that God and our parents may be pleased. All the hearts are full of joy. Little children think about the toys they are going to receive. But for me, in the first place, I shall not think about toys. I will try and prepare my heart for Jesus so H will find something good in my heart and soul at His coming.

After this had been done, I feel I can have happy holidays because the blessing of God is upon me.

Page 6

Woodwork

Every boy loves to go to the shop and learn how to use tools and to care for them. How essential it is for a man to know how to build a house, a barn or a garage is unquestionable. We learn all this from our shopmaster, Mr. P. Paul. We have already made a miniature house and a barn. How proud we are of our success!

Now we are learning to make all sorts of articles such as a pipe, a knife, etc. We want to become excellent carpenters.

Fred Whitebear – Grade 7

Page 9

Our Skating Rink

How we enjoy the skating rink! We are very fortunate to have Rev. Father Allard to care for our rink. Oh! what fun we have there. It makes us feel so good when we have skated an hour on our large rink. It's so much healthier to take fresh air every evening and besides it develops our muscles and above and it helps to keep in good humour.

Can you picture 200 children skating and playing on a rink? Listen to the happy noise! See the smiling faces! Really, when we are there, we forget all our worries. How good God is to have given us such devoted missionaries and teachers who give so much of their time to make life pleasant for us.

Vernon Omeosiw – Grade 7

Page 11

I work in school.

I was in the concert.

I like Christmas stories.

My teacher is Sister St. Wilfrid.

I like my teacher.

Rose Pipestem – Grade 1

Page 11

I am in Grade 3.

I like Christmas.

I will go to Midnight Mass.

At Christmas, we receive gifts.

I say "Thank you" to the people who give me gifts.

I wish a Merry Christmas to all.

George Pipestem – Grade 3

Page 14

My Class Work

I work in school because I want to go to Grade 6. The subject I like best is drawing. I love to draw Christmas cards.

In school, we learn to be polite. We learn to read and write. I have a hard time with arithmetic. My teacher helps me. My teacher's name is Sister Alphonse-Marie-de-Ligouri.
Gordon Pipestem – Grade 5

Vol. 3, No. 2 – April 1953

Page 7

[Long article on M.A.M.I. by Doris Buffalo – Grade VIII.]

Page 9

Why We Are At School

We are at school to study and learn about God. This is the first thing we must do. The more we study, the more we will learn about every subject. We get something more at school than we do at home. In school, we have to study very hard especially from Grades 6 to 12. At home, our work is mostly manual. If we didn't have schools, we couldn't learn the many things we need to know. What we learn about the true Catholic Church is worth more than all the rest.

Page 9

A Visit to Cardston

Last February, we, the Cadets of Ermineskin School, enjoyed a beautiful trip to Cardston. We left here at 9:30 a. m. and arrived at St. Mary's at about 8:30 p. m. We certainly found time too short. While we were there, our time was so well planned that we didn't even have a moment to think of Hobbema. We played a game of hockey with the boys ...but I am sorry to say we lost ... Why? ... I'd better not give the reason. Then, we boxed. That was a lot of fun. Alas! Sunday morning came too soon. Nevertheless, as good little boys we got up and assisted an early Mass and headed for home. At 8:30 p. mm, we were back in Hobbema, tired and worn out ... but HAPPY!

Many thanks to all those who contributed to our HAPPINESS!

Vernon Omeosiw – Grade VII

Page 10

[Article by Grace Swampy – Grade VII – on rabies.]

Page 11

The New Colt

We have a new colt at our farm. He was born last Monday. Dad says I may take care of him. I have named him Blackie. Blackie has a white spot on his forehead. It will be fun to ride him someday.

Alex Lee – Grade VI

Page 12

Sewing

On Wednesday afternoon, our teacher shows us how to sew. I made a work bag, cross stitch tea towel, a scarf and now I'm going to make a child's dress. I am very happy to learn so many things.

The little girls of Grades 3 & 4 made pretty pin cushions, beaded doll dress. They are anxious to learn more and more.

Emily Thom – Grade 5

Page 12

Our Woodwork

Every Wednesday we have a couple hours of woodwork. I like to work in our little shop because it's fun to make so many things. Just now, we are making articles for the exhibition. Every one is doing his best to get a prize. We also made different objects for our classroom. I made a sleigh, but I had to paint it twice because the first coat was not dark enough. Hope I'll be more successful the next time I use paint.

Stanley Crane – Grade 5

Page 14

My Favorite Subjects

My favorite work in school is in catechism, arithmetic, and spelling. In catechism, we learn the commandments of God which show us the way to heaven. I like to practice multiplications and divisions during our arithmetic periods. In spelling we learn many words that are hard but it helps us to speak and write English well. I want to work well to learn more.

Josephine Little Child – Grade IV

Page 17

Movies

Almost every Saturday evening brought us a lovely picture show. What could be more enjoyable for us? We saw The Miracle of Faith, St. John Bosco, Bobby Brien, Vatican City, The Royal Visit, Bengal, Government is Everybody's Business, Australia, and many others all of which were interesting as well as instructive. How fortunate we are to have such wonderful pastimes. We even had a show given to us by Rev. Fr. J. L. Michel, O. M. I., Provincial, from Fort Resolution, who stopped here in Hobbema so we could see his film on The Work of the Missionaries in the North. We enjoyed it thoroughly. Our good friends, the R.C.M.P. were down at this school, one beautiful morning, to have us see a whole series of different shows. How glad we were!

Reverend Father Principal and kind friend, we thank you very much for your great generosity.

Rita Wolfe – Grade VI

Vol. 3, No. 3 – June 1953

Page 5

Mother's Day at Samson

On May the 8th, we were very happy to show our love and gratitude to our dear Mothers and Fathers. We had prepared songs and recitations for the occasion.

The exhibits we prepared during the year were shown.

Mr. Philip Soosay, counsellor, said in his little speech, that he appreciated his afternoon with us and told us to be obedient to our teacher and to come to school every day, rain or shine.

Yes we will try to do our very best every day.

Floyd Buffalo – Grade 5

Page 7

[Long article by Helen Lightning – Grade VI – on Queen Elizabeth II.]

Page 9

[Long article by Grace Swampy – Grade VII – on the annual picnic.]

Page 10

Coronation Day

We celebrated Coronation Day on Tuesday. We went to Mass in the morning and prayed for our Queen. We were going to have a picnic but it rained so we had our parties in the house. After breakfast, everybody played games, money was given for prizes with which we bought at the store. We had our dinner and supper in the hall. At 5.30, p.m. we recite our Rosary. We had a social party in the evening. Everyone enjoyed himself very well. Our best thanks to our devoted priests and kind teachers.

Pauline Edwards – Grade 4

Page 11

In the Kitchen

This week, my friend, Ruby Littlechild and I are cooks. How I love to cook! Sister Yvonne-du-Sacre-Coeur and Sister Marie-Edmond are our devoted sisters in charge.

We help prepare the meals for all the people: the Reverend Fathers and Sisters, the ladies, the farmers, the supervisors and the pupils. From 9:00 to 12:00, we are kept busy getting the food ready for dinner.

This morning, I made a birthday cake for Lena Bull. I put 12 candles on it and at lunch time you should have seen the smiling face! Making someone happy is certainly one of the joys of life!

During our week's stay in the kitchen, we have the chance of learning many useful ways of preparing and cooking food. What can a girl do in a house when she can't cook?

Violet Roasting – Grade VI

Page 13

[Long article on the Royal Coronation by Doris Buffalo – Grade VIII.]

Page 15

I am in Grade 1. My teacher's name is Sister Marguerite du Rosaire.

I like to write, read, and sing. I am glad the holidays are coming.

I thank my teacher for what she did for us.

Herman Omeosiw

Page 15

I am in Grade 3. I like my classroom.

My teacher is Sister Amedee-de-Savoie.

I like to do my arithmetic and language.

I like to read in my story book.

Lena Bull

Vol. 4, No. 1 – December 1953

Page 5

[Long article on a film at Ponoka: Our Lady of Fatima – by Ross Littlechild – Grade IX.]

Page 5

Cadet Parade in Wetaskiwin

On Wednesday, Nov. 11th, thirteen of our second Year Cadets went to Wetaskiwin to parade before a large crowd of people. They paraded with the Reserve Force Army. The parade started at 11 A. M. from the Drill Hall to the Memorial Park in Wetaskiwin. Then it proceeded to the Canadian Legion Hall. It ended at about 1 P. M.

How happy and proud were we to march in the steps of Sergeant Major Conrad!
Lawrence Saddleback – Grade IX

Page 6

[Long article on the inspection of the army cadets – by Alfred Saddleback – Grade IX.]

Page 7

A Hockey Game

On December the 16th, we had our first hockey game of the year at school. We played against the Samson Indian team. The game started at 7 P. M. The score was 10 for Ermineskin School and 7 for Samson Reserve.

When the first period came to an end, we were leading 3 to 1 by Ross Littlechild, Vernon Omeosiw and George Cutknife. Robert Buffalo made the Samson goal.

The goals were scored by Daniel Littlechild, Raymond Deschamps and myself. Percy Wolfe, Andrew Lynch, Maurice Wolfe and Ernest Twins were scorers for the Samson team.

This helped us to get into the right mood for the winter season that we hope will be both pleasant and invigorating.

Lawrence Wildcat – Grade X

Page 8

Potato Picking

On Friday, September 18, we went to pick up some potatoes in the field. We were very glad. We filled many sacks. The big boys put the sacks in the little truck and carried the potatoes to the cellar. We were very busy when all at once it started to rain. We ran for shelter. Then Father gave us some apples and we went to play.

Daniel Johnson – Grade 4

Page 10

We Have Been Chosen

On October 26th, thirty of us, girls, have been chosen by Father Allard to join the “Kadettes Corps”. We have practice every Monday night. Weeks after weeks pass so quickly now and we feel that we are doing better. I am delighted to be one of the chosen ones.

After the drill, we go to the boys’ playroom and take our lunch with the boys. Last Sunday, we have studied the wireless and we had the last practice for this year.

We shall have our next evening drill on Jan. the 11th and we already long for this pleasant meeting.

Irene Brown – Grade 8

Page 12

Christmas Cooking

Last week, we made some pies, biscuits, doughnuts, etc. Ruby Johnson and I have a good time at the kitchen learning how to cook.

We have done all this for the children's dinner. Sister said that we still have to make some pop-corn balls. We like to work at the kitchen all the time. We hope everybody will like our pies and doughnuts.

I enjoy cooking!

Cecilia Cutknife – Grade 6

Vol. IV, No. 2 – January-February-March 1954

Page 9

Pleasant Visitors to Ermineskin School

On March 12, nine Indian girls from St. Joseph's Convent in Red Deer came here to spend their week end. On Saturday morning after breakfast they joined us at the sewing room where they listened to the radio. In the afternoon, after another radio program, we went to a show about the Canadians in Korea.

On Sunday, we had a repetition of the show and on coming back to the Girls' Room, we had a surprise party. Our friendly visitors had organized an interesting program in return for the kindness showed to them by the sisters and their pupils. Miss Eleanor Calihoo sang "Dear John" and Miss Pauline Bighthroat and Miss Rachel Brewer sang "I won't see home no more".

The way these girls acted on the stage, their poise in facing an audience, prove they are at ease with us and most of all it tells about their good education.

Welcome again to our School, good Indian stuff of St. Joseph High.

Violet Roasting – Grade 7

Page 11

[Long article on the Cadets activities.]

Page 14

Traveling Pictures

Since the beginning of the Marian Year, our teacher lent us a picture of Our Lady of the Cape. We take it home for nine days. While this picture is in our home we [do] our best to pray better and especially ask our Heavenly Mother to help us in our work.

Kenneth Crier – Grade 6 – Samson Day School #2

Page 14

Mumps

Did you ever have the mumps?

If you didn't, you don't know what you missed.

Four girls from our school have them. They are my sisters. Virginia had to go to the hospital. Our Hospital is a very nice place to be at when we are sick. There are a good Doctor and nurse to care for us.

But I hope that my sister will not stay there too long and that she will be home soon.

Floyd Buffalo – Grade 6 – Samson Day School #2

Page 20

Amateur Hour

The boys and the girls of Ermineskin School have benne planning programmes and practising songs and music for a “Social” that will take place after Easter at the Ermineskin Indian Community Hall. We already had two amateur hours. Our Chief, Dan Minde, Councillor C. Larocque and many Indians of the Reserve came to encourage our efforts, and gave us much pleasure by talking to us and singing for us.

At these “Search for Talents”, I have the honor to be one of the “searchers” in partnership with the President, Ivy Buffalo, and Adele Minde in charge of the Social Committee.

We hope to derive much profit by these entertainments and it is easy to see that all missionaries and teachers share our hopes.

Lawrence Wildcat – Grade X

Vol. 5, No. 1 – December 1954

Page 4

Our Pilgrimage to Penhold

On the first Saturday of October, October 2, we, the girls of grades 7 & 8 of Hobbema went to a pilgrimage in Penhold. It was organized by a group of pupils of Red Deer. It was a Marian Year Pilgrimage in honor of our Lady. It started at 4:00 p. m.

There was a procession and a floral offering to the B. V. followed by the Renewal of the Blue Army Pledge and by a prayer to our Lady. Then was the celebration of the Mass, which we dialogued as well as we could. After Mass, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed and we said the Rosary, sang hymns, recited the Holy Father’s Prayer of Reparation. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given, we consecrated our Hearts to Mary and it was time for us to go back. We enjoyed this simple but pious pilgrimage to Mary very much. We hope that it will give us a more tender devotion to our Mother in Heaven.

Thank you, Father Allard, for having given us this pleasure. We thought of you during the ceremony. We prayed for you.

Page 5

Week-ends

We have many week-ends and we have lots of fun at home. When we had a week-end, my brother and I went and got the horses after breakfast. We put the saddles on the horse’s back. We went to Hernan Louis’ place to play with him. After that we went to my sister’s place but she was gone to the store and that was too far for us. So we went on to George Stoney’s place. He was picking up potatoes with his grandfather. He came to ride with us. When we came back,

my sister was back so we stopped to visit her and then we went home. On Sunday afternoon, we came back to the boarding school.

Alex Firingstone – Grade 4

Page 5

In the Kitchen

This month, I am working in the kitchen with Sister Yvonne and Sister Gilberte-Marie. I help with the dishes after meals. When I have time, I cut meat into small pieces for dinner. Now I am helping to decorate Christmas cakes. Cooking is lots of fun when we are young but very useful when we are grown up.

Ruby Brown – Grade 5

Page 6

How I Learned to Skate

One Sunday afternoon, I went to the river with my brother David to skate. I did not know how, but had in mind to learn somehow. David loaned me his skates but they were too big so he said: “Keep your shoes on”. This I did and you should have seen all the fun I had.

Wilton Littlechild – Grade 5

Page 7

[Article on the Cadet Corps by Herman Minde – Grade 7.]

Page 8

The Shop Work

The shop work is important for boys. We go by grades. Some boys make slides and some make tables. The work must be well done. The tools which are not sharp we asked the man to sharpen them. The tools which are in the shop must be placed well. I like to work in the shop because I will learn how to do woodwork.

George Mackanaw – Grade 5

Page 10

Our Rink

Every winter our old rink looks the same. [Nice drawing.] It never changes, but we still like it. I have fun skating on it. Sometimes the big boys flood it. After supper, the girls come and play with us on the rink.

Andrew Whitebear – Grade 5

Page 11

[Article on the 4-H Club.]

Page 12

No More Hanging of Clothes

“No more hanging of clothes” girls of Ermineskin School yell. Why? Come and see in our laundry and there you will find a new clothing drier. You press on a button and the wet clothes roll over until it is all dry. This only takes about 15 minutes. Then it is soft and it has a very clean smell. Thank you, Father Principal, for being so generous.

Page 12

Exhibition Prizes

This year, at the Calgary and Edmonton and Wetaskiwin exhibitions, our school was fortunate enough in winning 74 first prizes, 79 second prizes, and 75 third prizes. The sum of \$271.75 was distributed to three different groups. To the Women's Club, \$120.25, to the children, \$124.25 and \$26.55 to Samson School.

One of the members of the Progressive Club, Mr. Daniel Buffalo, received 2 first prizes, one at Edmonton and one at Calgary for his oil painting. Let us hope that more members will follow Mr. Buffalo's example.

Page 17

Visitors

On December 9, the Knights of Columbus from Ponoka and Red Deer came to visit us. These were accompanied by their wives. They came over to see what an Indian Residential School is like. They visited the classrooms, and the exhibition prizes won last year.

We had a reception for them. We sang "Vie la Compagnie" as the Knights entered into the reception room. Then, Stanley Crane said a work of welcome. This was followed by "Ting-a-ling", "Some Folks Do" and a Cree hymn "Ni ka N'tawapamaw". The Grand Knight addressed the pupils. He told us that we were very fortunate in having sisters and priests to teach us our Faith. He also told us the impression he had in seeing us as a group dressed in our Girls' Guide or Cadets' uniform.

A good refreshment was offered them.

We hope that one day some of these Knights of Columbus who are doing so much for the welfare of everyone come on our reserves so that we too may benefit of their good works.

Alvina Walker – Grade 7

Page 17

Boxing

Since the beginning of the year, a few boys are taking special lessons in boxing every night. Mr. Maurice Wolfe is our trainer. We do appreciate the work he is doing for us. We went to many places already. We certainly enjoyed those trips. Penhold was my lucky place. I boxed with one white boy and that time I won the trophy. I was very glad. Boxing is my favorite subject.

David Headman – Grade 6

Page 18

Our First Enterprise

The title of our enterprise was "Fall is a Busy Season". We liked to study about fall because we learned many things. Every day we saw some changes all about us. We each made a booklet and in it we put writings and pictures about these changes. On the walls there were three big charts with pictures. Each chart had a title. The first one was Fall Activities. The second was How Animals Prepare For Winter. On the last one was How Man Prepares For Winter. We started our enterprise the second week of September and finished the week after Thanksgiving. By working this enterprise, we learn that fall was a busy season for every one.

Rose Mackanaw – Grade 3

Page 19

[Long article on the feast of Immaculate Conception – by Amy Buffalo – Grade 8.]

Page 22**My Favorite Sport**

My favorite sport is skating. I'd like to be a hockey player like the others. I know how to skate a little. I wish I'd have skates of my own. I am going to buy skates of my own. So, I will not borrow skates from the boys.

Herman Cutknife – Grade 5

Page 22**My Sport**

Hockey is my favorite sport. Last year, we played hockey with Camrose. In the second period they made 7 goals and, in the third, Albert made a goal, so it was 7 to 1. After playing hockey Father Allard stopped in Wetaskiwin and bought lunch. After lunch, we watched Ponoka playing with Wetaskiwin. Wetaskiwin had 6 and Ponoka 2. After that, we came back to school and we had another lunch downstairs.

Philip Cayote – Grade 5

Vol. 5, No. 2 – April 1955**Page 7****Sister Superior's Feast Day**

March 22 is the feast of Saint Lea. Saint Lea was a great saint who practised very especially the great virtue of humility.

Saint Lea is the patron saint of our kind Sister Superior. On that day, we made a special program in her honor. We sang "We're altogether Again", then Amy Buffalo read the address and Joyce Johnson made the offering of three low masses on our behalf. We next sang "Friendship True is a Golden Token" and "The More We Get Together". Sister Superior said a few words. We regretted that it was too short.

However, Sister Superior, we heartily thank you for all you have done for us. We will forever remember you in our prayers.

Wilda Roasting – Grade 7

Page 7**An Epidemic**

The week of March 7 was a week of sickness in our School. Almost all school pupils were in bed or had to be sent to bed because of a high fever. We, the school children, felt happy enough, for our case was not too serious, but I imagine that the Sisters had a heavy burden on their shoulders. Just think! 168 children in bed at a time ... Pills to be given ... trays of food to be distributed ... and what not! ...

Thanks to the great devotedness of the sisters, the doctor and the nurses we recovered quickly. School re-opened on March 14. We were happy to be back to school for we now feel the end of the year quickly coming.

Alvina Walker – Grade 7

Page 10

A Departure

I was sorry to see our Instructor, Major Sergeant Conrad, leave us on February 10. We, the Cadets, really appreciated the instructions he gave us.

He came to say good-bye to us so we took the occasion to thank him heartily for all he had done for us. We sang a few songs. This was our way of showing to him our gratitude. No one has replaced him yet. Father Allard is still our devoted captain.

Gordon Pipestem – Grade 7

Page 11

Promotions to Cadets

Herman Minde is now an Officer-Lieutenant.

Douglas Omeosoo is a Sergeant-Major and his brother, Vernon Omeosoo a Staff-Sergeant.

The Sergeants are: Raymond Cutknife, Stanley Crane, Lawrence Wildcat and Gordon Pipestem.

The Corporals are: Philip Plechek, Raymond Wild, Thomy Minde, Jacob Omeosoo, Emile Cutknife, Andrew Whitebear. The Lance-Corporals are: Floyd Buffalo, Herman Cutknife.

Page 13

[Two articles on MAMI activities by Amy Buffalo – Grade 8 and Jane Mackanaw.]

Page 14

Spring Has Come

Spring has come and winter has gone. The boys were playing marbles everywhere and some were playing soft ball. All the boys were enjoying playing marbles. After supper, the girls came to play in our yard. The next morning, I woke up, it was raining a little bit and in the afternoon it was snowing for good. But Spring is still here.

We wish you a Happy Easter.

Herman Cutknife – Grade 5

Page 15

Our Radio Broadcasts

We have been very fortunate to have a radio in our classroom to be able to listen to the School Broadcasts. We listened to Western Gateways, Health Highways, Discoveries in Words and News from the West. They were all very interesting but the one I enjoyed most was “Discoveries in Words” as it showed us the beauty of the English language.

Rita Bull – Grade 5

Page 15

I was very fortunate again this year to win four dollars from the Tuberculosis Association Contest. I will certainly try my luck again.

Norman Potts – Grade 5

Page 16

In the Kitchen

Since Christmas, girls are organized in groups to spend a few hours every week to work in the kitchen. This is real fun for we feel that we are real cooks. Each one of us prepare a meal for two or three persons. This is just like at home. We each made a pie, a loaf of bread, a few buns, we roasted bacon, etc. This will give us a chance to learn many useful ways of preparing and cooking food. What can a girl do in a house when she can't cook?

Our devoted sister in charge is Sister Yvonne-du-Sacre-Coeur to whom we owe so many thanks.

Agnes Ermineskin – Grade 8

Page 16

4-H Club

Our 4-H Club is still alive! We have our regular meetings every two weeks. In the business section of our meeting, we have studies how to wash clothing neatly, cleanliness on ourselves and in the homes.

The second part is taken for sewing. So far, we have completed a hanger cover, a sewing kit, a laundry bay, a dicky and an apron.

Sewing also will be very helpful for our later life. For isn't a good wife, good at cooking and at sewing?

Loretta Wolfe – Grade 7

Page 16

My Stool

Last week, I completed a nice stool. I painted it light blue and green. My mother will be pleased to have it in the kitchen. I will make more for her during the summer holidays. I also made a knife box for her and painted it gray. Many thanks to Mr. Baril, our instructor.

Jackson Rowen – Grade 7

Page 17

Little Birds

The birds are flying in the air.

They came back from the south.

The birds are helping us too, because they go in the gardens to eat worms.

Some people feed the birds because they love them.

Florence Nepoose – Grade 2

Page 17

Spring Day

The flowers will soon be growing and the green grass too.

Here in our school, all the children like to play on the green grass.

Would you like to see green grass? I do.

I like to play on it too.

Russel Rowan – Grade 2

Page 20**Our Enterprise**

We have studied about the Indians long ago and now. Long ago, the Indians had to work to live. They got their food from the animals and made their own clothes and tepees. They travelled on horseback or by canoe.

In our booklet, we drew the Indians homes and the animas they killed. Oh, what fun we had coloring the clothes of the men, women, and children and other pictures about Indians. We wrote a little report on the difference of the homes and on the ways of travelling. We cut out wigwams, clothes of today and other things of the Indians. We built tepees, houses and canoes with brown paper. We also made posters of the foods we should eat.

He had a program for the children and Sisters. We played "How Good Food Wins". We also recited poems and sang a song of spring.

Louise Lightning – Grade 4

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[Letter from the Principal to the parents.]

Dear Parents,

The School Year 1954-55 is over. It is up to us now, missionaries, teachers and parents to delve deeply into our hearts in order to see if we have achieved some success in giving a Christian education to all children who have been in our care during the year. The enrolment was large and was as follows:

Pre-Primer: 48; Gr. 1, 46; gr. 2, 47; gr. 3, 47; gr. 4, 40; gr. 5, 52; gr. 6, 37; gr. 7, 8 & 9, 32; a total of 342.

Today, I wish to attempt summarizing the school activities of the past year. In the classroom, we have studied religion, mathematics, science, social studies, etc. and as extra-curriculum activities we have taken part in sports, concerts, programs, receptions. This year, we have prepared seven receptions for some special circumstances, such as departures, feast days, invited guests, given Christmas Concert, performed a Feast Day Program which was repeated three times in order to give place to all who wanted to attend. People from all around were present and greatly appreciated the entertainments. Sports, namely skating, hockey, soft ball have been encouraged greatly. MAMI and 4-H Club meetings have had their places in the weekly programme.

Is education important? Is the education of Indian boys and girls important? Why then should all parent of different nationalities come in such large numbers to our school performances? Yes, they know the value of education and they are mostly surprised to see the great amount of education that the school boys and girls are having at our school. They only wished that they could have one like it for their own children.

So, all in all, teachers and missionaries have done their best. You, the parents, must now do your share of work, especially during vacation time to carry on the great task of the education of your children. Let our youth be good, democratic and Christian citizens.

Finally, we ask Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, Patroness of our Indian Land, to help you and to protect your family.

Trusting in your collaboration, dear Parents, and in the good will of your children, we foresee for September a group of pupils ready to assimilate all knowledge given to them and willing also to let teachers mould their character according to Christian and Catholic principles so that they may become the good future leaders of your Reserve.

Page 4

The Annual Picnic

Early Tuesday morning on June 7, every boy and girl got out of bed with cheerful looks for it was the day of our picnic. We hurried our breakfast so as to get everything ready, but as we hauled boxes of lunch into the truck, we looked anxiously at the big clouds forming. What was waiting for us? Rain? or Sunshine?

Sunshine for a while, so let's go. Off we went two miles and a half on a country hill. Soon we were at play, taking races of all kinds and doing our best to get money prizes. Ten we could run to the small hand-made store to buy sweets to warm us up. At 12:00 o'clock, all groups met around a small camp fire and had dinner. As there are no roses without thorns, we had to bear the disappointment of a little more rain with the result that we had to rush back to school. But fun was not over. We gathered in recreation rooms and took part in more games and races. At 5:00 o'clock, it seems that the rain had ceased and that the sun was peeping out so we hurried out to greet it with our buns, wieners and dixie cups. A beautiful show awaited us after this enjoyable outside supper.

Many thanks to our devoted and kind missionaries and ever-helpful Sisters who have found so many means to have us enjoy ourselves so well.

George Saddleback – Grade 7

Page 4

On April 28th, Reverend Father Pratte, o.m.i., brought a film to the school "Key of the Kingdom" which is one of the best shows we have ever seen. We greatly enjoyed seeing it.

In the name of the school, a sincere thank to Reverend Father Pratte for coming from so far to show us the nice film.

Theresa Saddleback – Grade 8

Page 10

[Long article on 4-H Club achievement day.]

Page 13

[Long article on the Cadets' activities.]

Page 15

Our Pageant

I enjoyed the pageant that we had for the Alberta Golden Jubilee on June 9th. I took the part of Father Lacombe, the first missionary in Alberta. I was proud to wear a cassock, a belt and a cross. There were also Indians, Explorers, settlers, store-keepers, farmers and cattlemen in the pageant. All pupils did very well and were very happy to taste the delicious Alberta birthday cake, baked by the grade eight girls.

This pageant helped me to appreciate still more all the work that our forefathers and missionaries did for us and for our Reserve.

Wilton Littlechild – Grande 5

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Page 2

Fun at the Party

We had a party on December eighth. It was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We had a banquet at night and we all had a wonderful time. After supper at 7:30, we had a party. We started our by praying and then Brother Boutette named the games were to play. First there were races, then we played a game where two boys and two girls stood at the centre of the hall with their hands at their backs. They then tried to eat an apple in that position. I surely laughed at the way they made faces and sometimes kissed each other. I couldn't stop laughing until Sister told me to keep quiet. Another game I liked was the potato race. We put a potato on our feet and tried to pass it along like that. We surely had a hard time playing that game, but we had fun at the same time. We finished at twenty minutes after nine. I never had so much fun before. We then had lunch and ended the evening with prayers after thanking the Sisters and Brother for a wonderful time.

Pauline Edwards – Grade 7

Page 2

The Season I Prefer

I like Winter the best of all the season because of the skating and sliding. That is also the season during which we enjoy Christmas. We always have lots of fun during the Christmas season at our house. Once again, I am anxious to see the beautiful, sparkling decorations in towns, cities, houses and in school. Christmas is nearly here and we are all going to celebrate the birth of our dear Baby Jesus. I am going to be very happy and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Mary Delphine Saddleback – Grade 7

Page 2

In the Kitchen

Cora and [I] worked in the kitchen during the month of November. It was surely nice because Sister Yvonne-du-Sacre-Coeur showed us how to cook. The best thing I like to make are pies, cakes, and doughnuts.

We each have our turn to work in the kitchen. It is very interesting. We certainly enjoy that kind of training. We know that it is going to be very useful for us later. We hope to be good cooks.

Peggy Hodgson – Grade 6

Page 3

Sister Superior's Feast Day

Happy Feast Day! Sister Superior! On December 13, we feasted the patron saint of Sister Superior, Saint Lucy. We had a Low Mass for her. In the afternoon, we had a reception for her. We sang "Bless this House" and after we read an address. Sister Superior said a few words to us to remind us to keep pure. We ended this very short reception by the song "The More We Get Together".

Rachel Saddleback – Grade 9

Page 5

[Two long articles on MAMI by Amy Buffalo and Annie Saddleback.]

Page 6

Cadets

ATTENTION ! Our Army Cadets is having another successful year. At the beginning of the school, we were organized for our yearly training, and were given new ranks. Some of those are: Douglas Omeosoo – Sergeant Major; Herman Minde – Lieutenant; Raymond Cutknife – Sergeant. Many other boys have received ranks as corporals or lance corporals.

Every Monday evening we have our training. Our instructors are Mr. Laight and Mr. B. Fessler. Rev. Father Allard is our devoted Captain. We are enthusiastic and want to progress.

Raymond Cutknife – Grade 8

Page 6

1st Ermineskin Company Girl Guiding

At the beginning of the year, our Girl Guiding was re-organized. We have our meetings in the recreation room every Tuesday night.

Each patrol is called after a bird or a flower for its emblem. We have three patrols formed. Just now, we are getting ready to pass our Tenderfoot Test. I like to study about nature, woodcraft signs, knot tying, signalling, first aid, and nursing. I enjoy that work.

Much work has been done. We have still greater plans for the future months. By this association, we learn also how to conduct our own affairs and thereby acquire a greater sense of responsibility.

Adele Minde (Guider)

Page 7

Fur Traders

It is spring and there is a good deal of activity at the fur trading post. The steamer has left some supplies on the log raft and is on her way to the next stop. The men in the York boat are relaxing for a while because the wind is blowing the soil. The York boat can go on rivers that the clumsy steamer cannot navigate. The North canoe can penetrate into more difficult places. It will go where streams are narrow and there are many portages. The men paddle with smooth even strokes and the canoe glides through the water swiftly. The lone voyager may be a settler who is going home from the post. He stops to make a meal on the campfire before paddling on.

Wilton Littlechild – Grade 6

Page 8

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Father Latour:

I should like to thank you for the beautiful articles made by the Indian girls as part of their Home Economics class.

The workmanship of these articles is of an extremely high order, and I should appreciate it if you would extend to the girls my congratulations on the excellence of their work.

You will be pleased to know, I am sure, that our Deputy Minister, Colonel Fortier, was delighted to accept the sweater, and my wife has asked me to express her appreciation of the lovely pillow cases. The other articles were distributed amongst members of the Indian Affairs Branch and they, too, were gratefully received.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

H. M. Jones, Director

Dear Father:

Mr. Jones showed me yesterday a woollen sweater knitted by Mrs. Joe Deschamps. It was an article out of the many that were offered by the pupils of the Home Economics Classes. These exhibits certainly proved to be of good quality and deserve to be well praised.

I also wish to thank sincerely Mrs. Joe Deschamps whose work was admired by all who have seen it. Please extend my congratulations to her.

Respectfully Yours,

Laval Fortier – Deputy-Minister

Page 10

The Skating Rink

We have a new skating rink this year. We surely thank Mr. Baril and the two Brothers for making us such a nice rink. It is 200' x 85', the regular size. Boys and girls have fun skating every night. I enjoy skating.

We hope to keep it nice and welcome all the visitors who will come and play good games for us.

We should not forget to thank Rev. Father Principal and Rev. Father Allard also for helping us spend such pleasant evenings.

Wallace Soosay – Grade 6

Page 11

[Long article on the 4-H Club by Amy Buffalo – Grade 9.]

Page 11

Sewing

We are very fortunate to learn how to sew at school, for that is what we need to know when we will be at home.

As the girls from grade five to nine are too numerous, they take turns for the Home Economics classes, on the following days: Monday, gr. 6; Wednesday, gr. 5, 8, & 9; Thursday, gr. 7, and Friday grade 5.

Besides sewing, we are taught how to knit, crochet, embroider, and how to do bead work. The first bead work I did was not very good, but I hope to do better next time. I am knitting a pair of socks just now and enjoy it very much.

Kathleen Arcan – Grade 5

Page 12

Science

I am a grade 5 pupil. The first week of school we were in another classroom, so eleven of us moved to a bigger classroom, where the grades 8 & 9 are. There are six girls and five boys. Our teacher is Sister Saint-Zenon.

The subject I like best is Science. We take Science three times a week. We made some experiments already and this is what I like of it. We did one that proved that steam makes things move. We filled a test tube half full of water and put a cork on it. We heated the test tube with an alcohol lamp. Soon the cork flew up because steam took too much space.

Richard Myakat – Grade 5

Page 14

[Long article on musical activities in the school. Not signed.]

Vol. 6, No. 2 – May 1956

Page 6

The Flutophone

Six girls have the advantage of learning to play the flutophone. It is a wind instrument. We blow in it to produce sound. We practice fifteen minutes every day. We learned many pieces already. Thanks to Sister Claire-Marie for giving her time and lessons for our benefit.

Rose MacKinaw – Grade 4

Page 6

Harmonica

Every day at five o'clock, Sister teaches us how to play harmonica. We like that very much. The piece I enjoy most is "Lovely May". That is the one we are going to play for Father's feast.

Page 6

Why I Like Work in the Class

I like classwork very much. The first thing in the morning in the classroom there is Catechism. We're taught to know, love and serve God, we learn something about the sacraments and the Ten Commandments. The second subject is Mathematics. We've done a lot of work in Math. Right now, we're nearly finished with the book. Then comes Literature. We've had about three tests in Literature. Spelling is the easiest subject in the classroom.

In the afternoon, we have Social Studies. Sister from Grade VI comes and teaches us. That's the period I like best, because we write and read much. Next comes Language. That is not bad either. Sometimes, it puzzles me with new words like subordinate, but I am getting it now. Science is last. I've learned what electricity and air are. I like every subject in the classroom.

Eliza Omeosoo – Grade 7

Page 11

First Communion

When our first communion day comes, we feel very happy because we are glad to receive Jesus in our soul. Then we do not want to do anything displeasing to him because he is in our hearts.

On Ascension Day, what a great day of joy for 29 girls and 18 boys who made their first communion! For the first time, our Lord entered into their hearts.

The girls wore white dresses and veils and the boys all had a white ribbon around their arms. This was to remind them that their souls were just as pure as the white colour of their garments.

When these little one returned to their pews after making their first communion, they knelt down and shut their eyes, all seeming to say "It's good to have You here, Lord".

Loretta Wolfe – Grade 8

Page 13

[Long article on M. A. M. I. activities.]

Page 16

Girl Guiding

We have our meetings every Tuesday night at 7:30. We enjoy that short entertainment very much. Just now, we are learning how to tie knots. At first, we found it hard but we are starting to know them.

The best thing I like the Girl Guides is "The Court of Honour", because it helps us to understand the most important element in the Girl Guiding Training. We like the sense and practice of self-discipline and responsibility.

Amy Dion – Grade 9 – President

Page 16

Home Economics

Do you wonder what we have been doing all year in the sewing and cooking? First of all, we have had our 4-H Club meetings very regularly every two weeks and have almost completed our program. We will have our achievement Day on May 31. Every other week, we did more sewing and we each had our turn to work in the kitchen as well. This is for all grades from grade 5.

Apart from our 4-H Club work, we have helped in the making of clothes for the girls of the school. We have made about 100 night gowns, 130 slips. Now, we are about to make ourselves each a dress.

It is really fun to sew and cook and it is very practical.

Emily Ermineskin – Grade 8

Page 16

Woodwork

The year is almost over already and I can assure that we learned many things in the wood shop. Many thanks to Brother Detillieux.

We have been doing much repair work around the school. This is very practical work for us. We also have made tool boxes, medicine cabinets and chairs.

Every month, Brother gave us a test on what we have been learning. We don't like tests, but we know that they stimulate our interest, not only in Woodwork, but in all other subjects as well.

Gordon Pipestem – Grade 8

Page 17

About Ourselves

We, the pupils of grade IX, 7 girls and 1 boy, are preparing ourselves for our June exams. We find grade IX to be a difficult grade to pass, but we hope that with the help of God and with our own constant efforts, we will succeed. We study every afternoon from 4:30 to 5:30 and again from 7:30 to 8:30. These study periods are very precious for us. Our teacher, Sister Saint-Zenon, is really working hard for us. For more than 3 months now, she has been working around on crutches because of a broken knee. May God reward her for the help she is giving.

All of us are begging prayers from the readers of the Moccasin News for the success of our exams.

Rachel Saddleback – Grade 9

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Page 2

Christmas

It is winter. Christmas is coming now. We are going home for our holidays. I'm going to get Christmas presents and I am getting something for my mother and father. I am making Christmas gifts. Everybody will have to get Christmas toys. For Jesus, I am going to make some sacrifices to make His Christmas happy too.

Stella Listener – Grade 3A

Page 2

Winter

I like winter. I play in the snow. I like to play snow balls. We ride on the sleigh and I like it too. We made a snow man at home. We play war in the snow and I slide too. It is fun. We skate at school and at home. It is the best fun of all. In winter, we have Christmas also. Jesus was born on Christmas Day. It is the nicest birthday of all. I will give Him one birthday gift. I will be a good boy.

James Whitebear – Grade 3A

Page 11

[Article on Cadets by Victor Buffalo – Grade 8.]

Page 11

Winter Activities

In the fall, the most busy sport around is the rink. We have to do our share in flooding and later, when the snow is on the ice, we get to work scraping and snow-shovelling. This year, the snow came late, only in December, and the ice is starting to form (Dec. 4), but it is rather rough. The lights at the rink are very bright at night. This winter, there will be games played here in Hobbema against different teams as before. We have started our practices already.

Right next to the rink is the Curling Rink. The rink is long and wide and the boards were painted white this fall. They didn't mark the blue and red lines yet, but it will be done soon.

Let us look forward for good hockey and curling games.

Freddy Crate – Grade 9

Page 12

Guitar

I have been very fortunate in being chosen this year to take Guitar lessons. For two and a half months now, we have been practicing every morning from 8:20 to 8:55.

Nine of us are taking advantage of these lessons. They are Annie Saddleback, Jean Mackanaw, Herman Cutknife, Archie Lightning, Rose Mackanaw, Velma Bruno, Dorothy Arcand, Pauline Buffalo and Floyd Buffalo.

Some morning, instead of playing on the instrument, we learn to read our notes and to write notes. I enjoy this work very much. Our music teacher is Sister Claire-Marie. Thank you very much, Sister, for your help. The members of the "Guitar Club" are joining with me to wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Floyd Buffalo – Grade 9

Page 12

Piano

We learn how to play the piano. We do finger exercises. We learnt the names of the notes in the treble clef. We learnt some of the notes in Daddy Bass F Clef. We play staccato. We finished Piano Book I and we're in the middle of Book II. We like to play the piano.

Bella Soosay & Mary Bull

Page 13

[Long article on the 4-H Club by Edna Crier – Grade 9.]

Page 13

Mechanics

Every third day of the week, all the boys of Grade eight and nine go to the shop where our teacher, Mr. Hodgson, teaches us about the motors of cars and tractors. He teaches us such things as transmission, generators, fuel pump, etc. Of course, we sometimes have a hard time to remember the parts of these machines. Now we are taking motors apart. It is fun though it is difficult to replace. Thank you, Mr. Hodgson, for your help.

Gordon Pipestem – Grade 8

Page 14

Tap Dancing

Twelve girls were chosen for tap dancing lessons. I was a lucky one. We practice fifteen minutes every day with our teacher. As it is my first year, I enjoy it very much and certainly want to keep on. This is one means of forming our character as well as the exercise it gives us. We are indeed lucky to learn so many things free while other children have to pay for tap-dancing lessons and music.

Dorothy Arcand – Grade 5

Page 14

Our Music Room

This year, we have a nice music room. On one side, there is a new piano and pictures of Great Musicians. At the back, there are pictures of Folk Dancing and Folk Songs. On one side are Nursery Rhymes pictures for the little ones who play in the Rhythm Band. Besides there are two little rooms where we can do some private work. The different instruments: flutes, harmonica, guitars, mandolins have their special places. Thank you, Father Principal, for being so generous in giving us the pleasure of learning to play musical instruments.

Rose Mackanaw – Grade 5

Page 17

The Indians of Long Ago

When the white man came to live in North America, he found many tribes of Indians. Every tribe was ruled by a chief. The Chief was obeyed by his people. The white man named the Indians red men because they had red skins. The red man never had cows, horses, hogs, sheep or hens. He never saw apples, wheat, and many other things common now. But he had corn, tobacco and potatoes. He worked hard for his family and went hunting in the fall for winter. He lived in a teepee made of skin and wore warm fur skin clothes.

Louisa Eagle – Grade 5

Page 19

Sister Superior's Feast Day

On Tuesday evening, December 11, a reception was held in the girls' recreation room in honour of Sister Superior's feast day. All the pupils of the school sang a song for her. It was "Bravo, bravo, bravissimo". After the song, Theresa Laroque read the address to Sister Superior, expressing, on behalf of the pupils of the school, our best wishes on her feast day and also thanking her for what she did for us in the past.

Then came the Rhythm band by the lower grade pupils. This ended our short entertainment.

Theresa Laroque – Grade 8

Page 21

Art Period

Who is the Indian boy or girl who does not enjoy a good and long period of Art? In our class, gr. VIII and IX, we have this leisure hour every Thursday. How we long for that day to come so that we may express our feelings on our art paper! We are doing some Exhibition work already. Some of us draw scenes and color them with crayons, others work with tempera paints which are layed on a large table in the back of the classroom, at the disposition of all who have to use them.

Last week, some of the girls made letters in red and silver to be used as Christmas decorations. The grade eight students have drawn maps of the countries of the Commonwealth in correlation with their Social Studies. They also have made a [1 word illegible] of Canada long Ago and Canada Now. It is pinned on the walls of the classrooms. Most of us have tried ourselves at doing some Fingers Paintings. It was our first try but some good samples were given out.

Recently, we have started decorating our classrooms. We hope to do some Christmas sceneries on the blackboard soon.

Raymond Cutknife – Grade 9

Page 22

Science

I like Science best of all because it helps us to know more about all kinds of things such as electricity, power, wires, wind, clouds, what forms rain, and some other interesting things.

First, we learned about power, how it was formed and where it comes from. Second, we learned about winds, cloud and rain. Third, we studied electricity; how it was formed, where it comes from and how we get it. Fourth, we learnt about wires; how they must be repaired when worn out. We were told not to touch electricity wires with wet hands.

Kathleen Arcand – Grade 6

Page 22

My Best Subject

Enterprise is my favorite subject. I like it because we learn many interesting things. Just now, we are taking the Ancient History. We studied about the Suez Canal.

In studying Egypt, we saw that the Egyptians, in their social customs, were divided into classes according to the work they did.

We learned also that “Egypt is the Gift of the Nile”. When the river overflows its banks, it provides the necessary moisture for cultivation. People improved upon nature by making canals and ditches to carry water farther.

We learned about the Sphinx and the Pyramids. It took many years to build the Great Pyramid. Inside there is the King’s Chamber, Great Hall and the Queen’s Chamber.

We were very surprised to learn that people are still living in it.

Mariam Saskatchewan – Grade 6

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A Pupil’s School Day

A pupil’s school day starts early in the morning. Under her nice warm blankets, she is having her glorious dreams which are interrupted by a bell ringing in the dormitory. It’s time to get up, for she has to hurry and dress up for the seven o’clock Mass (if it’s Wednesday or Friday).

The gets up feeling very sleepy, but she had to get over it fast, for there is a hard day ahead of her. She has to study real hard for the coming of June exams. Sometimes she gets lazy so that her teacher has to push on her. Sometimes she may be so studious that her teacher has a hard time getting her out of the classroom for recess.

As the school hours come to an end, she feels well at the thought that she has done her best. So it pays to study hard.

After supper, she has a few good leisure hours that she usually spends playing softball or skating if it’s winter time.

Then comes bed time again. She goes into her nice warm blankets after prayers and goes off to dreamland to continue her once interrupted dreams.

Emily Ermineskin – Grade IX

Page 8

A Walk

On April 16, our class went for a long walk into the woods. We brought back three empty sparrows' nest to keep in our class room. The nests are made of grass on the outside and mouse hair on the inside. Last summer, the baby sparrows stayed in these nests while their parents fed the worms. We all had a very good time on our walk.

Betty Simon – Grade II

Page 9

Poster Contest

Once again this year, we have participated in the Alberta Tuberculosis Association. Some of us were very successful and our efforts were greatly rewarded. These are:

Beatrice Omeosiw – \$4.00

Louise Lightning – 8.00

Harry Lightning – 8.00

Annie Saddleback – .75

Raymond Cutknife – 2.00

In order to spend this money usefully, our teachers made an order of clothes we needed. We are always eager to take part in these poster contests for we know that they are in the interest of our health.

Louise Lightning – Grade V

Page 9

Spring

Spring is the time to be happy when the flowers and green grass spread in the fields like a blanket of many colors. Spring is the time the birds and the other animals come and make homes and nests for the young babies. The robins sing and their beautiful voice tells us to be happy. The deer, rabbits and baby horses jump for joy because spring is here again and all are happy

Lottie Crier – Grade V

Page 15

Our Enterprises

The subject I like best is Social Studies. We studied about Our Wonderful World. It was interesting to find out how people lived in the continents.

Next, we studied 30 explorers and among these, the one that I liked best were Lief Ericson, Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus and Samuel de Champlain. For our culmination test, we had one hundred questions to answer. I only had a few mistakes.

Now, we are studying about our beautiful province, Alberta. I am always anxious to find out more and more about our wonderful heritage. I am glad to live in "Sunny Alberta".

Herman Louis – Grade V

Page 18

Girl Guiding

We are very lucky to belong to the Girl Guides Association. We are learning useful things such as: woodcraft signs, knot tying, signalling, first aid, and nursing. Just now, we are getting ready for our tenderfoot test.

But there is one thing that surprised us one day. Sister said that Father Principal would buy us some new uniforms. Imagine our joy when we received them! We certainly look “spick and span” in them. Now, more than ever, we are looking forward for our Wednesday night’s meeting. We wish to thank you, Father Principal, for having purchased these uniforms for us.
Delphine Saddleback, Leader – Grade VIII

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Pages 5-6

[Long article on M.A.M.I.]

Page 11

Girl Guides

Our Girl Guides Company is still in action. More than ever, we are looking forward for our Tuesday and Wednesday night meetings.

We are divided into two groups: Senior and Junior G. G. There are 20 Senior and 16 Junior. The Girl Guides are a Sisterhood. This means that members of it are working together as sisters, elder and young sisters.

On Friday night, December 6, thirty six of us passed the Tenderfoot Test. The Provincial commissioner and District Commissioner from Wetaskiwin came for that purpose.

We enjoyed their visit and we thank them for their great encouragement. Mrs. Poullfrey said that she admired the work we do and said to keep on in our good behavior and good discipline, and to remain cheerful as we are now.

She also congratulated our leader, Delphine Saddleback, for her swift commands and also for leading the whole company in such a wonderful way.

We hope to continue this splendid work and always remember the promise we have made.

We wish to thank our Captain, Sister Alphonse-M.-de-L.

Clara Saddleback – Grade 7

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Grade IX

Just like everybody else, the Grade IX pupils are back on the job, after two good months of holidays. But what a thrill it is to feel that we are grade nine’s, for to get ready to write these so important departmental exams, is certainly a worth while experience and what an achievement! We hope to do as well as the grade IX of last year – 100% pass.

Our class numbers nineteen presently. We are still in the same building as before. We have almost two hours of supervised study with plenty of homework to do. We certainly feel that we are getting older and closer to Senior High.

We have many teachers to help us. Sister Saint-Zenon is our regular teacher. Rev. Father Voisin is giving her a hand by teaching the Sciences. Mr. N. Kohlman, our sports director, trains the boys in all kinds of sports. Girls can also take advantage of some of his lessons. He is the regular P. T. instructor. We are also taking Home Economics with Mrs. Radicchi as our teacher. She is our leader, along with Mrs. Joe Minde, of the 4-H Club.

Mr. Duckett teaches Woodwork and Mr. Hodgston Mechanics to the boys.

Sister Claire-Marie is our music teacher. Thanks to her, we know very many songs, for all occasions.

So all in all, aren't we the lucky ones. We do not want to be foolish enough to waste all this precious help so we are determined to work hard and do our best. I wish to take this occasion to express my gratitude, on behalf of all my classmates, to all my teachers, to the Fathers and to other members of the staff.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
Jean Mackanaw – Grade IX

Page 23

Woodwork

Since the beginning of the year, we have been taking Woodwork Instructions from Mr. Duckett, our teacher, once a week. All boys from grade V have their turn. During the two hours of woodwork each week, we have made several kinds of joints, we have learnt how to cut, how to plane, and how to square off boards. Mr. Duckett also taught us to make a stool. We are now working on it.

All the boys like woodwork and thanks to the instructor who is so helpful.
Richard Arcan – Grade IX

Page 23

Mechanics

We go to the mechanic shop every two weeks. All of us would like to be mechanics later on. Mr. F. Hodgson is our instructor. We usually take the tractors apart and after we put them back to their respective places.

Mr. Hodgson teaches us how to use the tools and to name them. We are working on a McCormick Deering Tractor. We enjoy that kind of work and we thank Mr. Hodgson for teaching us to become good mechanics.

Mervin Littlechild – Grade VII

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4-H Club

First of all, I would like to give thanks to our sewing teacher, Mrs. Martindale, for being so good to us in teaching us sewing. Our thanks also go to 4-H Club leader, Mrs. Joe Minde and to Miss Inglis who comes to every meetings.

The 4-H members are doing well. We have had our meetings quite regularly. To each one of these, we have demonstrations such as: How to wash a wollen sweater, How to Iron a wollen shirt, how to make hand lotion, etc. We are always interested in our club.

Hazel Cutknife – Special Class

Page 10

[Article on Girl Guides by Emily Ermineskin – Grade X.]

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When I Grow Up

When I grow up, I'm going to be a farmer. I will feed the cows, horses, the pigs, sheep, goats, turkeys and chickens. I will try to keep the farm clean and I'll work hard every day plowing the field to plant flowers and vegetables. Everyday, I'll milk the cows and at night I'll put them in the pasture. In the spring, it will be time to brand the calves and colts. In summer I'll put them out to pasture once again.

Melvin Arcand – Grade IV A

Page 18

When I Grow Up

When I grow up, I am going to be a nurse. I will go around the world and make sick people better again. I will always be careful to make them well. I will make crippled children walk. I will take care of babies in the hospitals. I will give medicine to people till they are all better.

Jean Minde – Grade IV A

Page 19

A Walk in the Woods

We walked across a plowed field. There was a slough. There I saw yellow pussy willow. We found a crow's nest with eggs. The boys took the eggs. I saw a cow and a little calf. It could not stand. I saw some birds too.

Donald Crier –Grade II B

Page 19

Helping Others

I will work in places of those who need help. When they are sick in bed, I will go and milk the cows, feed the pigs, chickens and sheep. Then I have finished, I will cook a good dinner, and I will wash the dishes. I'll sweep and wash the floor. I will get the water and wash dirty clothes too.

Welma Lightning – Grade III

Page 19

A Good Mother

When I grow up, I am going to be a Mother and have children. I will work hard to be a clean Mother. I will make the children wash their hands before they eat. I will be good to my children – sometimes I'll play with them too.

Lorraine Roasting – Grade III

Page 24

Altar Boys

Sister Sainte-Theophila taught us how to serve Mass. When we go to bed, she teaches us how to say our answers. I like serving Mass. I serve with my little brother Percy. He is seven years old. He knows his answers very well too. Thirty other boys know how to serve Mass. We are glad because we can hear our mass better. We say thank you to sister.

Donald Johnson – Grade III A

June 1960

Page 8

Hobbema Cub Pack

The Hobbema Cub Pack has 28 cubs. These are under Lawrence Wildcat, cubmaster, and Jerome Woods, assistant cubmaster.

The pack has five sixes. These are:

White six – Percy Johnson, sixer; Charlie Firingstone, helper

Red Six – Donald Crate, sixer; Emile Simon, helper

Black Six – Johnny Ward, sixer; Ralph Moran, helper

Yellow Six – Roy Arcand, sixer; Leonard Coyote, helper

Gray six – Martin Neepoose, sixer; Roy Coyote, helper.

The pack meet on Wednesday afternoon from four to six in the Scout Hall. The cubs are taught how to tie knots, to play games, and to direct games. Some are working for badges.

The meetings open with the Grand Howl. The cub promise is repeated. Prayers are said at the opening and closing of the meetings.

The cubs have been going on walks. The leaders sometimes tell stories about the jungle animals. Sometimes the cubs are called upon to tell stories.

The pack has had a successful year and look forward to greater progress after the school holidays.

Jerome Woods

Page 9

Hobbema Boy Scouts Troop

The Hobbema Boy Scouts Troop has a membership of thirty-six, Ernest LeClerc is the able scoutmaster, assisted by Roy Fontaine and Wilton Littlechild.

The troop has four patrols. They are:

Bear Patrol – Kenneth Wolfe, patrol leader;

Moose Patrol – Francis Rowan, patrol leader;

Beaver Patrol – Ronald Arcand, patrol leader;

Eagles Patrol – Cecil Green, patrol leader.

The regular meeting night for the whole troop is on Tuesdays. On Monday, the Court of Honour, made up of the patrol leaders and assistant scoutmasters, together with the patrol seconds – those who take over if the patrol leaders are absent – meet to discuss the program for the week. The patrol seconds are: Bear – Harry Rowan; Moose – George Littlechild; Beaver – Donald Johnson; Eagle – Russell Rowan.

The patrols have one meeting a week each on different nights. Each patrol has a corner in the scout hall which is in the old school.

At present the scouts are working for different badges. Among these are the ambulanceman badge, skating badge, athlete badge, and artist badge.

Among the activities during the year have been several hikes. The patrol that wins the honour flag for the best patrol of the week goes on a hike on Friday night or on Saturday.

An investiture was held this spring. Tenderfoot scouts, who had past their tests, became second class scouts.

The troop is planning a summer camp at Pigeon Camp. This camp is owned by the troop. Ernest LeClerc will direct the camp.
Wilton Littlechild

Page 12

Hobbema Army Cadets

The Ermineskin Indian School cadet corps is under the command of Lieutenant Lawrence Wildcat. There are twenty-one cadets. The officers are: Sergeant – Wilton Littlechild; corporals: Francis Tootoosis, George Pipestem, Colin Buffalo, Ruben Soosay.

The corps meets every Wednesday night. The program consists of drill led by the sergeant or the corporals. Drill consists of saluting, presenting arms, slope arms, order arms, foot drill, and marching. The lieutenant makes an inspection each night. Ernest Leclerc has been giving lectures on first aid, also instruction in Morse code. The corps is having target practice. The cadets qualify for marksman, first class and second class. They have been firing for their qualifications.

A junior leader course for cadets under fifteen will be held for two weeks this summer at Clearwater, Manitoba. Leonard Crate, Jerry Littlechild, Elmer Emersiw are expected to attend this course.

The cadet inspection was held on the afternoon of May 18
Wilton Littlechild

Page 17

Speaking of Music

The pupils of this school have the privilege of taking instrumental music provided they have some musical ability, a satisfactory average in the school subjects, and the willingness to sacrifice a few minutes after school for music practices. They have the choice of taking the piano, the guitar, the mandolin, the flute or the harmonica. Music is fun, but the ball diamond has proven overwhelming. Those whose names appear below have persevered to the end. Congratulations, Boys and Girls! The many pleasant hours you will spend later playing the instrument of your choice will be splendid reward in itself. May each and everyone be the winner in the coming musical contest.

[List of instruments played: piano, flute, guitar, mandolin, harmonica, violin. Names of musicians given.]

Page 18

[Long article on Cadet Camp of 1950 written by Wilton Littlechild.]

Page 20

[Long article on Girl Guides by Florence Kootenay & Ella Arcand.]

Page 23

[Long article on the Brownies – not signed.]

Page 23

Brownies

I like to be a Brownie. We learn to do good deeds everyday, to be polite and to help people who are in need. We learn to make sacrifices for others. We also learn to think of others, not of ourselves. We learn to sing and recite our promise. I would like to thank Sister St. Mark for letting me to be a Brownie this year.

Catherine Coady – Grade V

Christmas, 1960

[Very few articles on the pupils' activities.]

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Grade V. Busy Beavers

In our classroom, we are always very busy, so we call ourselves "Busy Beavers". At the beginning of the year, we started an Enterprise and we named it "The Story of our Reserve". We divided the class into six groups. The captains were: Freddy Rowan, Welma Lightning, Garry Morin, Lawrence Bruno, Emily Firingstone and Jonny Crier. They each had six members in their group. The topics to be discussed by each group were: Our First Missionaries, Our First Church, Our First Teachers, Our Treaty, How Hobbema Got Its Name, and Our First Boarding School.

We have now completed these six reports. We painted a mural 16 feet long and 2 feet wide showing how it must have been fun being a little boy and girl fifty years ago, especially when the buffaloes were roaming around in our own fields. We really enjoyed painting our mural and working together. It was very interesting to study about the early days around our Reserve. We have a lot more to discuss to complete our Project as we have to reach 1960 before Christmas. We are up to 1898 so far.

[Not signed.]

Page 17

Our Halloween Party

On Monday, October the 31st, we had a Spelling Test in the morning. After dinner, when we came back to the classroom, the desks were all placed in a circle around the room and spooky owls, witches and cats were posted all over. We knew it was time for our Halloween Party. We played all kinds of games and had fun.

The first game we played was the Musical Chair. Peggy and I were trying to get on the same chair. I fell on the floor and Peggy fell on top of me. I won only once. The next game we played was the Spoon and Marble Race. I dropped my marble, so I was called off the game. We had fun blowing fish across the room. I won that one too. Next, our Teacher gave us each a piece of paper and we had to race across the room without stepping on the floor. I did not win that race. We played many other games until three thirty.

Freddie Rowan

Page 21

[Long article by Dan Montour on Hobbema Indian Cadets Corps.]

June 1961

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[Long article by Wilton Littlechild: What is the Bible?]

Page 12

What We Do in Home Economics

Every Friday morning we go to the Home Economics room. It is here that we learn how to sew and cook. Each month, we take turns in the sewing room and in the cooking lab. I like going to the sewing room because I learn many things. This year, I have learned how to knit a little girl's tam and how to make a skirt for myself. I have also learned how to keep a house clean because I have gone through the different stages in house-keeping duties which we must do. I hope to take Home Economics each year.

Virginia Buffalo – Grade 7

Page 12

A Place Where I Like to Go

We are very lucky to have Home Economics taught in our school. Sister Rose-Yvonne is our teacher and she shows us how to do many things. I have learned how to knit and how to sew. I like cooking because I think that it is going to help me later on. I have learned how to cook eggs, make muffins and cookies. I have also made soup and cooked meat. I wish we had Home Economics every day.

Madeleine Iwastin – Grade 8

Page 13

Our 4-H Sewing Club

We have forty members in our Sewing Club this year. We have our business meetings every Tuesday evening. Our sewing projects are completed during our Home Economics periods. The girls in our class have completed a dress which we will wear on our Achievement Day at the end of May. We will have a fashion show and we hope to have many of our parents come to see what we have accomplished during the year. On that day, two girls, who have done the best work will be picked out to attend the 4-H Club Week at Olds during the summer holidays. This is a reward given to the girls who have proved to be the best sewers of the club. Last year, two girls from our school, Victoria Morin and Flora Northwest, attended the course. I know that it is a great honor to be invited to attend. We learn so many things by meeting other members of the 4-H Club.

Theresa Whitebear – Grade XI

Page 22

A Trip to Quebec [Pee-wee tournament]

When we started our trip to Quebec, we took a plane from Calgary to Regina, then on to Winnipeg, Port Arthur, Toronto, Montreal and Quebec.

When we got there, many people were waiting for us. We visited the city and then we watched a hockey game.

There was one team that played against Toronto. When Toronto lost the game, they started to cry.

The first game we played we lost 5 to 4. The second game we played, we lost 3 to 2.
When we were coming back, I was asleep nearly all the way. Even before the plane started off, I was asleep already.
When we got to Calgary, Father Allard and Father Principal were waiting for us.
Jimmy Minde

Page 25

Brownies

I have been a Brownie for 2 yrs. Our Leader is the charming Miss Lannon whom we usually call Brown Owl. There are 12 Brownies, six in each group. The Brownies go for their meetings every Tuesday and Wednesday. And at these meetings, we sing, play games, learn about the flags and learn to help people. On May 13, we, Brownies, helped to sell Girl Guides cookies.

On March 15, many new little Girls were enrolled. The little Brownies are learning their duties quickly. In our group, there are Elves, Sprites, Fairies, and Little People. Sometimes this month, we are having a hike and a picnic. If you would like to be a Brownie, contact Miss Lannon, the mellow-voiced Leader of the Brownies Group.

Georgina Francis – Grade IV D

December 1961

Note: No short articles in this issue.

- Importance of Grade Twelve – by Gerald Wolfe
- Junior 4-H Club – by Rita Cutknife
- Social Activities – by Doreen Ward and Violet Johnson
- Physical Education – by Herman Cutknife
- I Kid You Not – by Elmer Oldpan
- Importance of Reading – by Rose Mackanaw
- The Dorm – by Freddy Crate
- Ermineskin School Sports Report – by Joseph Yellowhorn
- Manual Training – by Richard Yellow Bird
- A Night to Remember – by Martha Kootenay
- A Night to Remember – by Angela Kootenay
- A Cold Winter Night – by Florence Nepoose
- Hunting – by Ivan Shortneck
- Is A Good Education Necessary for Indians Today? – by Norman Potts
- Our 4-H Club – by Nancy Smith
- Jeunesse Musicale – by Jean Mackinaw and Pauline Buffalo
- Social Events at Ermineskin School
- The Importance of Education – by Rita Buffalo