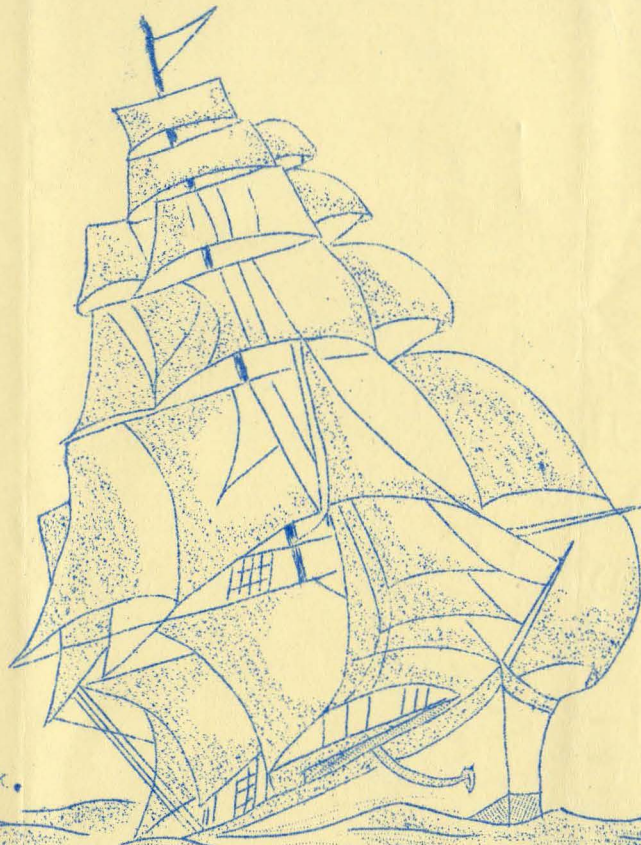


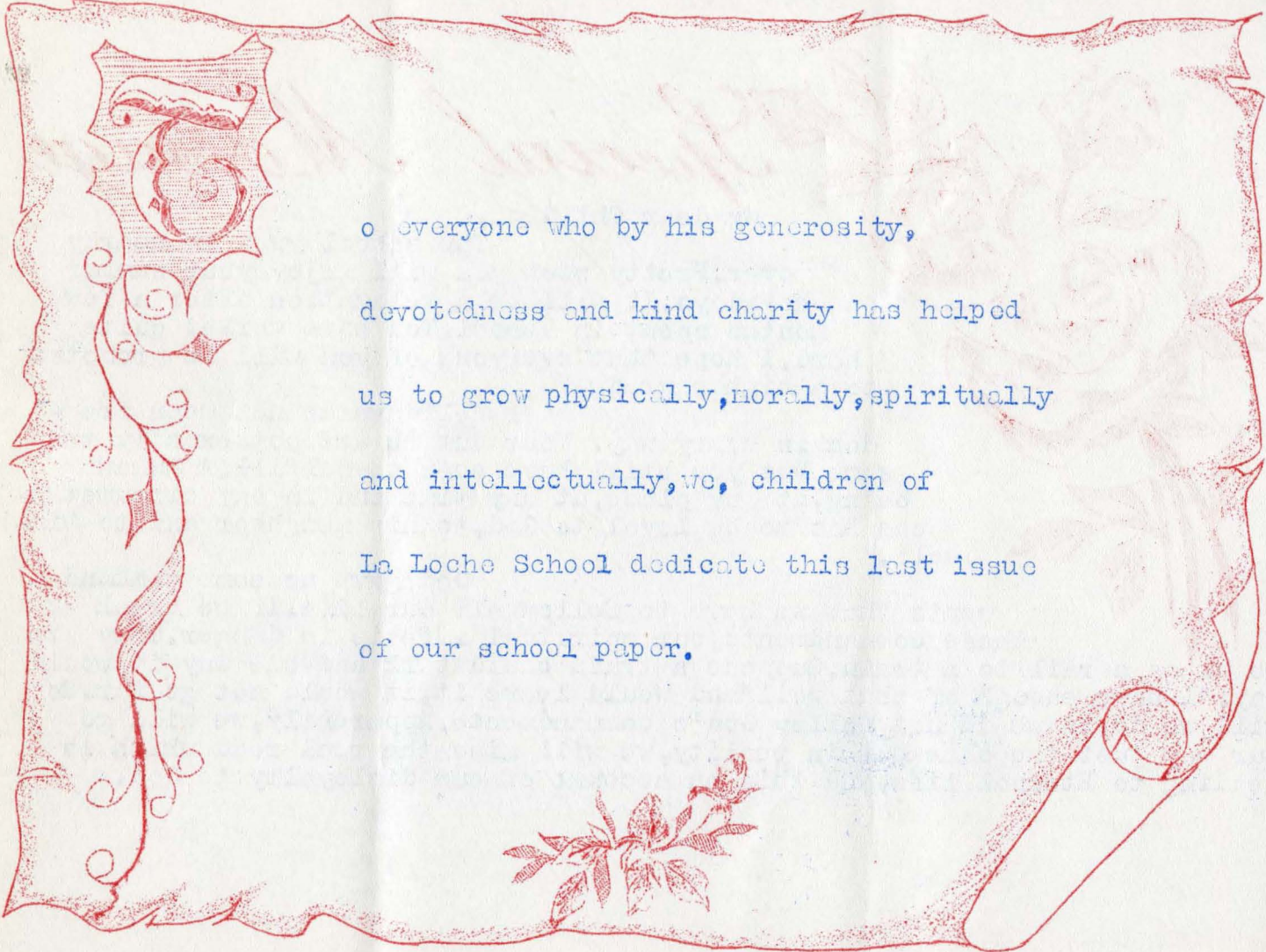
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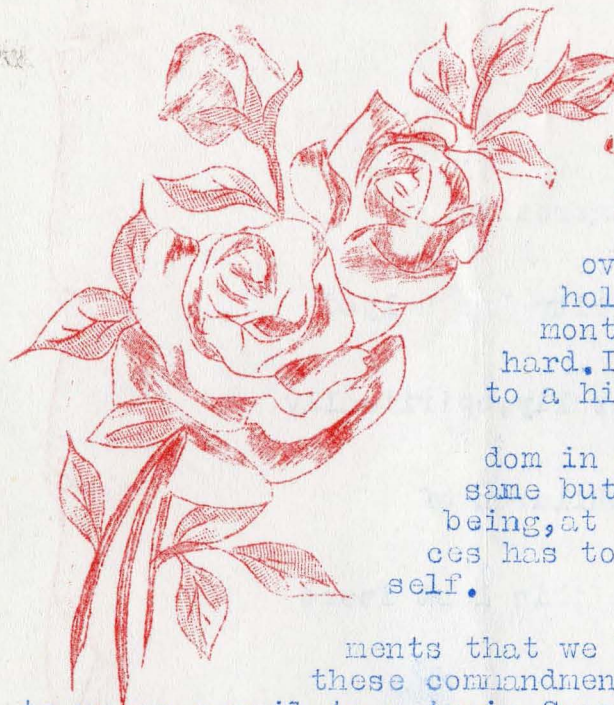
La Roche, Sask.

Vol. VI NO 4

THE GREAT PORTAGE



o everyone who by his generosity,  
devotedness and kind charity has helped  
us to grow physically, morally, spiritually  
and intellectually, we, children of  
La Loche School dedicate this last issue  
of our school paper.



# Special Message

My dear Children,

The school year is nearly over. Pretty soon you will enjoy your summer holidays. It will be a relaxation after a few months spent in school. You have worked quite hard. I hope that everyone of you will be promoted to a higher grade.

Holidays do not mean freedom in every way. Your duties are not exactly the same but you still have some to fulfill. A human being, at any place, at any time and in any circumstances has to be loyal to God, to his neighbor and to himself.

God gave us some commandments that we have to follow all our life. If we break these commandments, our spiritual life is in danger. They are to us as a rail to a train. Suppose a train could talk and one day it would say: "I have enough of that rail" and would leave it, it would not go far. So will we do, if we do not follow God's commandments. Apparently, we will go our way just the same but in reality, we will miss the real road which is leading to Eternal life, and this on account of our disloyalty to God.

We have to be loyal to our neighbor too. My dear children, the first ones, you have to be loyal to, are your parents. Do you ever think how much you owe them? You know that some time at least, they are working hard and this is for providing you with food and clothing: they take good care of you, it is for your own benefit. So in return you shall be good to them and help them as much as you can. Be loyal also to everybody respecting your neighbor's belongings and reputation. Robbery and slander are a proof of disloyalty to our neighbor.

We have to be loyal to ourselves too, according to our conscience which tells us what is right and what is wrong. By doing so we will have a good reputation, which means a lot. Is it not pleasing to hear somebody say: "This is a good boy; this a good girl?" The same can be said of you, if you fulfil your duties and if you are loyal to God, to your neighbor and to yourselves, not only at school but also at home during your holidays. My sincere wish is that you will be spurred on by this spirit which will make your holidays useful and much more interesting. To be where duty calls and to do what we are supposed to do give real happiness.

La Loche, Sask.  
May 31, 1952.

Joseph Bourbonnais O. M. I.



# MISSION

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Ceremony of a Religious profession,

In a touching ceremony, Reverend Brother A. Vachon, O.M.I. sealed a life-long contract with Jesus, under the banner of Mary Immaculate.

Six years ago, Br. Vachon left his native province of Quebec to work at this northern mission-post, where he has, with absolute generosity and great devotedness, given himself to the obscure labors of the lay brotherhood.

To-day, he renounces the world and chooses to follow Jesus on the narrow path that leadeth to Heaven.

As Rev. Fr. Bourbonnais so appropriately explained, the cross which he receives, becomes a symbol of the labors and trials that lie ahead. But who should fear, when He who died on Calvary's height, leads on the way! Also the scapular, is the mantle under which Our Lady hides the soul she would protect.

The Book of Rules, his code of

life, was given to Brother, with the simple words: "Do this and you shall live".

God Almighty, Mary Immaculate, the Angels and Saints, have witnessed this complete renunciation of all things the world deems worthy of its choice and we feel assured that they who measure actions at their true worth will reward Rev. Br Vachon who has willingly taken his place among the humble but heroic Unknown Apostles.

###    ###    ###    ###

Sunday, May the 11th, we were very happy to see the profession ceremony of Brother Vachon, who wants to be a Brother for all his life. He wants to live with God when he dies.

Some people came to Mass and went to Holy Communion for Brother Vachon. Just before Communion Br Pronounced his perpetual vows, in a loud voice, I heard him but I did not understand as he spoke in French

Rev. Father Bourbonnais gave him a cross, a white scapular and a book of rules.

The other two Fathers went to sing in Latin and French. It was very nice.

We people were very happy to see that Brother Vachon wants to be a Brother for all his life.

Cecile Marie Herman.

#### OUR LADY

May is the month of Our Lady. We school children and some people come to benediction at seven.

When we go to benediction Jesus is waiting for us. So we try not to miss this daily visit to Our Lady.

Couronne Toulejour

#### MISSION

The week of June 8th has been set aside for the annual retreat of our people. We hope many will make it a duty to follow the exercises.

It does good to make a thorough review of the past and get all set for the coming year.

Remember June 8th.

# EASTER



Easter was happy day for all the people of La Loche and West La Loche, who came to celebrate the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

The church was filled to capacity and altogether we prayed and sang hymns in Chipewyan and English.

All who were present made their Easter duties by going to Holy Communion all

were happy to receive Jesus in their heart.

Our good neighbors from Garson Lake didn't come as Rev. Father Mathieu had gone to spend Easter with them.

On Easter Monday there was a holiday and we school children were very happy.

Celina Janvier VI

## ASCENSION DAY

Although it was cloudy we had a nice feast in church on Ascension Day.

It was good to hear Rev. Father Fournier preaching to us. After only six months here with us for he speaks very well and we understand what he says. Two times before, Father preached.

Once on Holy Thursday when he told us about Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

We are happy to think that Father has so easily learned our language.

Louison Hainault VI

###    ###    ###    ###

Les grands coeurs ne sont jamais heureux; il leur manque toujours le bonheur des autres.

## ON THE AIR

When Father Bourbonnais returned from Le Pas in February, he brought a recordio. Since then we sometimes hear ourselves singing, at the rec-tory. But on April 19 we had the sur-prise of hearing ourselves over the radio. I was visiting my mother who was sick at the hospital when Sis-ter M. Nadeau turned in and there was La Loche on the air. Reverend Fr Bourbonnais spoke in Chipewyan and we, children sang hymns to Our Lady I thought the singing wasn't too bad for our first trial. Soon again we will sing at C.H.F.A Edmonton. Listen at 4.30 June 14th.

Thank you kind Father, for let-ting us sing on your recordio.  
Lina Janvier.

## TO WHITE FISH LAKE

Early one morning, just as we were rising, a kicker, manned by Father Fournier was speeding across the lake taking Father Athieu and Brother Dionne on the first part of a day's journey to White Fish Lake. This it seems to be the easiest

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part of the trip as the remaining twenty miles or so were made on foot with a 75 lb pack on the shou-ders. Who said the heroism of the missionaries was a thing of the past?

They will spend some time there renovating the church.

May success crown your efforts.

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The third week of May marks the beginning of the sawmill activities. Brother Vachon helped by Pat Mont-grand and Joseph Janvier have tack-led the job of sawing about 60,000 bd ft of lumber.

## SAVING

One good thing about the lumber is\* that it saves our pennies. We, children take our supply of gum from the wood which is piled.

Another thing is that we had snowball fights and those big logs made us wonderful foxholes.

Gilles Jolibois.





NEW COMERS:

Leo Joseph Vital, son of  
Mrs Alexandre Janvier

George Rene to Mrs Tobie  
Montgrand

Marguerite Annette to  
Mrs Arsene Piche.

What a joy it was for Sister Marie Nadeau, R.N. to receive shrubs and dahlia slips from Ile a la Crosse.

Sister planted the lilac and Manitoba maples in front of the hospital. They seem not to have too greatly suffered from the plane trip and to be taking root quite well.

The rosebush was planted in front of Our Lady's niche, it too is doing its utmost to take root at La Loche.

May Mrs Savoie find here the expression of our gratitude.



# Only One Mother

Hundreds of stars in the pretty sky,  
Hundreds of shells on the shore together  
Hundreds of birds that go singing by,  
Hundreds of flowers in the sunny weather.

Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,  
Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,  
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,  
But only one mother the wide world over.



We had lots of fun because we played baseball and some went to see the people fishing through the ice. After a while we rode back and at half past eleven we came here.

We thank Father Bourbonnais for letting us have go with him and enjoy ourselves. He is kind to us.

Alice C. Sylvestre.

WELCOME MR WAUGH!

Mr Waugh came to see us not very long ago one day, after dinner. We like to see Mr Waugh.

He went to White Fish Lake and West La Loche by plane.

When we came home the plane was coming and Mr Waugh came to see us. We were glad that time because we had an hour more to play ball before school. He'll come to see us again sometimes, maybe before the end of the month.

We're going to pray to God so that Mr Waugh may enjoy perfect health.

Marie Sylvestre.

HIKING

On April 24th we went for a picnic in the bush. There were six girl guides. We left at 4.30 p.m.

We went to the bridge and there we got some fish and then we went a little further into the bush. We made a fire and cooked our supper. We were happy to have our nice supper outdoors.

After that we put the fire out and came home. We were back at 7.00 o'clock. We were very happy and we said thank you to Father Bourbonnais

Cecile Marie Herman.

MOTHERS' DAY.

On mothers' day we did not have any exterior ceremony but we made a little card and a little basket in which we put some candies for our mother. We did that to show them that their children think of them.

What shall we do for our mother? The best thing we can do for them is pray.

I was very happy that I had something to give to mother. What I gave was not much but I gave it with all my heart and I know mother was very happy.

Christine Toulejour.

MY RIDE.

It was a great pleasure for me to have been chosen to go with Father Mathieu to West La Loche.

# SCHOOL



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BOOKS!

From St. Paul's Seperate School.

We wish to thank the children and Mrs. Coursier for sending us the lovely books which I greatly enjoy. Cecile Marie Herman is reading "Lassie come home." She say it is very nice, nicer than any other book she read before. Helen toulejour is reading "From the Tower Window." It is a big book but she enjoys reading it. I haven't read any of these books as I am reading "Heidi" which I love.

Mrs. Coursier must be a very kind lady to think of sending

us these books to read. We school children, all thank her very much and also the children who sacrificed these books to make us happy.

Celina Janvier.

We had a sleigh ride to the other village with Fr. Bourbonnais and two Sisters. All the children who didn't miss school during the month of March, were there.

Although I was not in school for six days, because I was sick, Father said that it was not my fault, so he let me go with him.

We expect radio engineers from Prince Albert next month to repair this mast.

## FIRES.

On May 19 a fire was reported at the D.N.R. office burning at about two miles south of La Loche. Quick action was taken and only a small area burned. It is believed that this fire was caused by a camp fire.

It is hoped that from now on every one will be very careful and help prevent forest fires. We have had to date five fires in the district of La Loche.

&&& &&& &&&

## ON THE MOVE

Daniel Janvier was the first one to come to La Loche by water and this he did on May 1st, although most of the lake was still covered with ice. By the 11th all the lake was clear. Mr Poisson, field officer with five men went across to put a fire out.

Since then many kickers have been

12  
D.N.R.

Laurier Poisson.

## GARDENS.

It is hoped that by fall La Loche will have a more attractive look with gardens in everyone's yard. Those interested are busy clearing lots and Father Bourbonnais' big team has been kept very busy plowing. In the near future we hope to see La Loche develop into an orderly settlement.

## RADIO

On April 30 we had somewhat of a misfortune with the radio. A high wind blew one of the masts down. However frequency 1666 working from the other mast, is still in operation and communication maintained.

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heard and seen bringing people to and from the neighbouring places.  
Jonas Lemaigre.

OUR MAIL

Would the regular plane come on the 7th of May. If it did it would break a record.

On the second Wednesday in April it had come, but it was never seen in La Loche that the "break up" was over in three weeks.

This year it was and we gladly welcomed the plane as it circled above our heads on the 1st Wednesday in May.

Dr Lavoie came to visit the sick people. The following day a few sick persons left for the Ile a la Crosse Hospital to undergo further treatment.

We thank Dr Lavoie for his kindness to us and we ask God to bless him.

Pascal Janvier.

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Tout est vain, excepte le bonheur d'aimer Dieu et l'honneur de le servir.

IN AND OUT

From Winnipeg: Inspector Ross of the H.B.C on his regular tour. He was accompanied by Mr Ferguson of the Winnipeg Headoffice.

From Buffalo River: Francois Benjamin, Francois Lemaigre and Albert Sylvestre came to spend Easter with us.

Because the roads were bad our neighbors from Island Lake did not come. However their missionary had gone to visit them some time before to give them a chance to make their Easter duties.

We hear that Father even made a trip to Clear Lake in order to help the Chipewyans who live there.

Also the White Fish Lake people did not come, for the same reason. Father Mathieu again made a trip and he spent Easter with these good people.

On May 20th the rat trapping season was over. On the following day our fathers and big brothers came back. All in all they have had a hard winter.

( Cont'd further)



# Our Mailbag

Bishop's House, LePas, Man.

My dear pupils,

It is useless to tell you how pleased I was when I received your letters. I regret I cannot answer before Easter, but if you just listen in your hearts, you will hear my prayer to Jesus every morning during Mass. This is the quickest and surest mail service in the world. Try and see.

Now once more I am writing to all the pupils, even those who did not write to me. I know they do not forget... To everyone and to your parents, I wish what is best. I bless you all and

your teachers too, of course.

You remember that I told you about our saintly Bishop Charlebois. Lately I have received the report of two favors obtained through his intercession.

The first case happened in Battleford, Sask. A boy, two years and a five months old had inhaled a peanut shell which remained attached to one of his lungs. The lung collapsed and after 5 months the boy was dying. Then one Father asked Bishop Charlebois to cure the boy. He went to see him in the hospital, made him touch a picture of Bishop Charlebois, asking

him to cure the boy that very day. And it did happen. An X Ray was taken and the peanut was gone; the Doctor thought that they had not taken the right boy's picture, so he asked to have a second one taken. Then he had to admit that the boy was perfectly cured.

The second case is that of Bishop Bonhomme who has been Bishop in South Africa and who now lives in Manitoba. That Bishop had a blood poisoning in a hand. He prayed our Bishop Charlebois to cure him before noon the next day and without medicine. And it so happened. The next day before noon without any medicine and treatment, his hand having been swollen and purple became normal as the other one.

You understand why we are trying to have our dear Bishop Charlebois beatified. We need more miracles to be presented to the Holy Father. Who wants to be cured at La Loche?...If you have confidence ask him and you will feel his power and kindness to all those who suffer. He ordained me a priest 35 years ago, I know how kind he has always been, and especially to you people of the north land. He certainly loves you in heaven as he did when he was on earth.

Now my dear pupils, once more I thank you for your kind letters. I pray for you all, for your parents and for all those who do good to you.

I am pleased to receive the Great Portage and I hope that you will write again in your school paper. I am looking forward for good news from your school. Do not linger on the way to success, look on to the North Star and keep ahead.

His Excellency Bishop Lajeunesse too is very pleased when he receives The Great Portage and he reads it all.

J.B.Ducharme, O.M.I



## SOFT BALL

Father Fournier worked real hard making a diamond on the school ground. He ploughed, levelled the ground, then mixed sand with it to make it more even. He fixed the bases right into the ground, so there is no making mistake if you're in or out.

We thank Father Fournier for helping us to enjoy more fully our beloved ball games.

Nap. Sylvestre.

... ..

## AN ACCIDENT.....Almost...

Joseph G. Jolibois had an accident which might have proved fatal without the quick action of his friendly neighbours.

While he was visiting his net, his canoe capsized... Five other canoes immediately went to his rescue and reports were that he was none the worse after his cold plunge.

... ..

We are all travellers in the wilderness of this world, and the best that we find in our travels is an honest friend.

Robert Louis Stevenson.

## THE DOG PEN by Louison.

Would you like to visit the pen that Father Mathieu made? It is in front of the lake and there is a fence around made of barbed wire and poles. This fence goes right into the lake. There are five long wires that stretch from the back of the fence and run above the level of the water. To each wire a dog is tied by means of a pulley and a chain.

When they feel like it, the dogs trot from their kennels and go for a free swim or bath.

There is a door on the side of the fence leading into the pen. I haven't seen the new kennels yet.



It was a close shave however for I had to run for dear life to catch up with Father who was already on the lake.

I was listening to the La Loche children radio broadcast at the hospital and I all but forget the hour. I think that sticking our noses where it shouldn't be and especially when we are to leave is a bad habit.

However after a while I was having a wonderful ride across the lake and soon we reached West La Loche.

Having unhitched the dogs, we went in and made ourselves at home.

Father attended to the spiritual care of the good people there, the following day we assisted at the Holy Mass.

Soon after we returned home as the ice would not be too safe to travel upon.

Thanks for the nice ride Father.  
Louison Hainault.

#### MY TRIP TO WHITE FISH LAKE

What a great honor was given to me by Father Mathieu. He let me go with him to Whitefish Lake, and it was my first trip there.

We left on Maundy Thursday at ten o'clock at night. We stopped a while at West La Loche, to dry my blanket which were dampened when the toboggan turned over in water. The roads were very bad but nevertheless we reached Whitefish Lake by noon on Good Friday.

Later in the afternoon I had a chance to play ball with the children and on Sunday we enjoyed another game with the whole crowd.

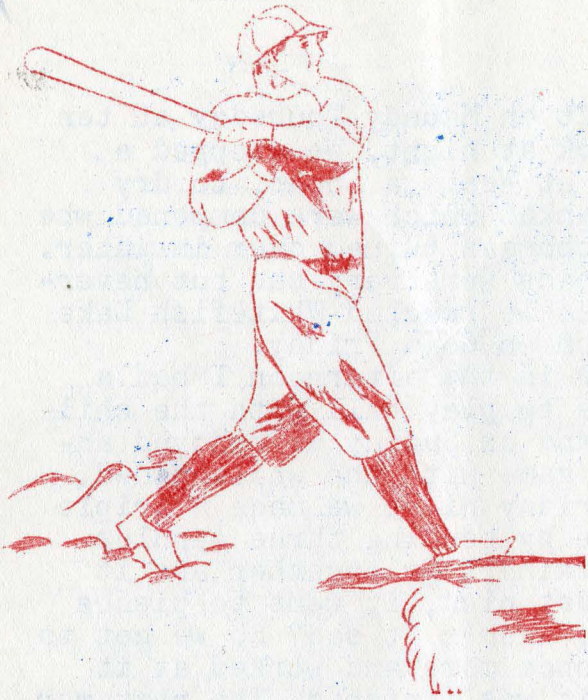
On Friday night we made a triple candle by bending three candles and fixing them together and it was just nice, it went to pieces again, wasn't it sad? So we got to work once more and worked at it till it was finished. The next morning Father used this candle and he also blessed the water.

We spent the rest of the day getting ready for Easter.

It was a beautiful day. Many people came to mass and I counted fifty six who received Holy Communion. So it was fortunate Father came to see them was it not?

On Monday morning we rose early and we had mass at six o'clock. By the time we breakfasted, hitch-

# Village News



The very first patch of brown was trampled by the first four lucky ball players.

Since then balls have been pitched and caught and lost and have ( pst, pst, pst ) broken windows, bats have struck fairs and fouls by the hundred; young and old have answered the call " Let's play ball" and the soft and Indian ball are in full swing.

At La Loche we love playing ball!

###    ###    ###    ###

CATS! CATS! CATS!

B is for Ball

B is also for Bats!

ON April 2nd the cat went out to Buffalo Narrows and was back by April 5th.

It was its last long trip but it has made trips across the lake to bring the logs here.

Now because all the ice is gone the cats make very short trips only. It goes to the sawmill and helps to turn the logs into lumber.

Gilles Jolibois.

###    ###    ###    ###

In the middle of January Elise Lemaigre and some other children were ill. Ever since then Elise has been sick for five long months. She had stayed at the hospital for three weeks and still she is not well. Today she has received the last sacraments and she is slowly dying at her home.

Eliza Montgrand has also been at the hospital for 4 days or so. When the doctor came he took her to Ile a la Crosse and sick people also went with the doctor on the mail plane.

I am sorry for Elise Lemaigre because she was a good girl and when she was well she used to play with me.

Rosaria Janvier

After spending a little over a year clerking at the H.B.Co post here, Harry Harrick will be leaving in the near future.

Sorry you're going Harry, we know you'll make good whenever you'll be but we hope that some day we will see you again. Good bye and God bless you.

###    ###    ###

After a few days spent here at the hospital, Mrs S. Preweda, was taken to Winnipeg where she will undergo further treatment.

We wish her a prompt recovery.

###    ###    ###

SYMPATHY

On May 18 Mr and Mrs Boniface Janvier had the sorrow of losing their baby daughter, Eva.

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Mr and Mrs Janvier.

###    ###    ###

SOLACE

They are not gone those loved ones whom we mourn.

We must not think of them as far away.

Unto a fuller life they have been born.

One Wednesday afternoon we went to get some stones to set around a flower bed which we wanted to help make near the convent.

The boys turned the ground and then we put stones all in a circle. Brother Vachon made a little niche for a statue of the Blessed Virgin. On Saturday he put it out in the centre of our flower bed.

On the 13th of May, the thirty fifth anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, Rev. Father Bourbonnais blessed a white statue of Our Lady, Now we go and kneel to ask her favours. If we go to benediction, we shall give flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Cecile Janvier and Teacher.

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LAST MINUTE NEWS

"Jonas, Nap. Gilles and Louison, come here, I have a surprise for you" said Fr. Fournier on Sunday afternoon. And, off the canoe sped across the blue waters to the island where the calves are marooned. Oh! what a time we had crisscrossing the island, swimming in the cold water, and climb-

THE HIGHROAD OF LIFE

- Take time to work--it is the price of success.
- Take time to think--it is the source of power.
- Take time to play--it is the secret of perpetual youth.
- Take time to read--it is the fountain of wisdom.
- Take time to worship--it is the highway of reverence.
- Take time to be friendly--it is the road to happiness.
- Take time to dream--it is hitching your wagon to a star.
- Take time to love and be loved--it is the privilege of the gods.
- Take time to look around--it is too short a day to be selfish.
- Take time to laugh--it is the music of the soul.

ing trees.

We each took turns at the kicker and of course each one of us thought he was the best.

After saluting 8 pelicans, and crunching lollipops and chocolate bars, we sped back home full of joy and thanks for our good Father Fournier.

ed the dogs it was twenty minutes past eight when we started for our home.

As the snow was melting there was so much water it nearly went above the toboggan. We travelled by the summer road and we had to walk most of the way, but sometimes when there was enough snow I could jump on and ride. Three men came with us. We got to West La Loche in time for supper and by twenty-five to ten we were home again.

Don't you think I had a good trip with Father Mathieu. I thank him very much, I will long remember my first trip to Whitefish Lake.

Napoleon Sylvestre.

#### EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS.

This Eucharistic Congress will take place at Barcelona, Spain. Although we are not able to go to Barcelona we people of La Loche are getting ready for it by having the holy hour every Friday and going to Communion every Sunday.

It will start on May 27th and will last to June 1st.

This also reminds us of the first Eucharistic Congress that ever hap-

pened when Jesus said: "This is my Body".

It is the greatest thing that ever happened for us and also the greatest gift. Jesus made His body food and His blood a drink for us.

On that night at the Last Supper Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist.

During the congress we will pray that Our Holy Father's intentions of peace on earth be realized.

Louison Hainault

#### THANKS

The editors wish to express their gratitude to Rev. Father Bourbonnais for the free use of the Gestetner duplicator and to Rev. Fr Fournier for running it for us. The improvement which the printing of the Great Portage has undergone is due to the skilful work of Fr Fournier. Thank you Reverend Fathers.

#### HOLIDAYS.

It is not long now before the holidays come. We children are very happy at that time, because there is no school. It gives us more time to play and also to help at home.

Anne Herman.

430-21 Street West  
Prince Albert.

Sister Therese Arcand,  
Portage La Loche

Dear Sister;

I hope these books the Victoria and Albert Chapter of I.O.D.E. are sending you will be a real Valentine surprise.

Mr Waugh told me you had not very many books in your library so I asked the children of St Paul's Separate School to bring a book, if they could spare one, to send to your children. It is really good training for these children who have so much to send a Valentine to children who are not so lucky.

Sister Joan of the Cross said the children had so much fun gift wrapping the books. I think they are lovely.

Wishing you all success in your work.

Sincerely yours,

Irene D. Coursier.

## IN and OUT (Cont'ed)

There were no caribous this year, which means that our supply of meat was very scarce.

We hope that next year the caribous will come.

From Buffalo Narrows: Mr and Mrs Johnny Laprise and baby Shirley were in to visit their auntie Mrs Ed. Park.

Also Mr Celestin McKay spent a night with us.

From Buffalo River: Alfred and Salomon Billette, Lazare Moise, Pierre Sylvestre made a short appearance among their friends.

From Ile a la Crosse: Mr Alex Ahenakew and Joe Favell.

Pierre Marie Montgrand returned home by plane from Island Lake.

To Ile a la Crosse: Mrs Francois Janvier, Mrs Joseph Herman, Mrs Madeleine Hainault and daughter Marcelline, Eliza Montgrand, Joe Walter Montgrand, Adeline Montgrand, Bernadette Montgrand went to the hospital for treatment.

To McMurray: Mr and Mrs J.M. Fontaine after a short visit here have returned to their home. With them went Moise Janvier and Jonas Montgrand.

To Chipewyan Prairie: Amable Janvier and Robert Guetre in search of work.

To Buffalo River: Augustin Sylvestre, Aime Janvier, William Toulejour on a fishing business.

To Buffalo Narrows: George Fontaine and Marc Herman.

As soon as the holidays begin many of us will be heading our way to the happy holiday regions.

## GARDENS

The men are busy making gardens just now. Mr L. Poisson, D.N.R. field officer, has encouraged the people to break plots of ground for sowing potatoes and vegetables for next winter's use.

We too have been allotted some land so that we may have a garden of our own. I am glad because vegetables will help us grow healthy and strong.

Celina Janvier



