

THE GREAT
PORTAGE

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La Loche, Sask.

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Soeurs Grises de Montréal
Prov. S. Albert
ARCHIVES

EASTER

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May the blessing of this Season

Be yours the whole year long,

Hope that's deep and constant,

Faith that's clear and strong,

Love that's sweet and tender

Courage staunch and true,

Prayer that brings contentment...

God's Easter gifts to you!



MISSION

HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYBODY

• Our Lord's Resurrection is the most glorious event of His life. When His enemies believed that they had destroyed Him, His real triumph began. Let us follow His teachings and live with Him in imitating His life of purity, justice, charity, and suffering. Doing so, we shall likewise rise with Christ and follow Him in His glorious resurrection.

May all of us spend Easter with this spirit;
then our joy will be sincere, and this feast will
be a happy one to every body.

Joseph Bourbonnais (C. M. 2. 17)



IN AND OUT

On February 4 Father Bourbonnais was taking a friend's plane en route for Beauval where he made his annual retreat.

On the 9th, our two good Brothers were leaving by "cat". Brother Dionne was on his way to Beauval while Brother Vachon stopped in Narrows. The R.C. mission's supplies which are in storage there will call for more trips in the following weeks.

That same night a sick call was taking away our last missionary, Father Mathieu. He returned the next day quite tired I believe, but happy to have helped a dear old soul who is now out of danger.

On the 20th Brother Vachon was again returning with another load from Narrows. Father Bourbonnais and Brother Dionne were with him, coming back from their retreat.

On the 24th, we were happy to welcome Reverend Father Darshe who came with Albert Sylvestre's dog team.

On March 5, it was our dear

Sister Superior's turn to leave. She is presently in St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon for treatments. We do hope and pray that her failing health will return promptly for we miss her a great deal.

Mr. T.A. Hibbert who had been here since a few weeks to install an X-ray apparatus, left by the same plane. Mr. Hibbert seemed to have enjoyed his short stay here if we judge by the roars of laughter we heard coming from the dining-room while he was here. In any case, there is no doubt that Father Mathieu won his friendship the very first day he was here.

On the 6th Father Mathieu left again for a long trip. He ministered to the spiritual needs of Island Lake and Clear Lake's people. On his way back he paid a short visit to Father Darshe at Buffalo River.

Brother Dionne's services being requested at Dillon, he left on the 10th and spent a week there.

On the 17th four "explorers" dared follow La Verendry's traces...

They were Father J. Chaput from Le Pas; Father J.E. Perreault, the Beauval parish priest; Father G. Beaudet of Ile a la Crosse; and Father R. Lemay of Buffalo Narrows. Too bad they had to leave early the next morning; nevertheless we hope that they enjoyed their short visit at the Portage.

Come again, Fathers. Our doors remain open.

FATHER'S FEAST

March 19 was a great day for the mission. We celebrated Father Bourbonnais' Feast day. The altar and the statue of St. Joseph had been very beautifully decorated with lupines and vigils. At a special mass we sang appropriate hymns.

To our very devoted brothers who were on a trip to Buffalo Narrows on the feast of St. Joseph, "their very

own", we prayed God to bless and protect those "unsung heroes" of our northern mission.

Due to the absence of dear Sister Superior and a large number of men being still busy at their trap lines, we decided to hold our concert in honor of Father Bourbonnais on Easter Sunday. It will be held in Lajeunesse Hall at 7.30

Everybody's welcome!

GRATITUDE

Now that the skating rink has become a "pool", we wish to thank the kind Fathers for all their work, first, in making the rink, and then by keeping it always in good condition.

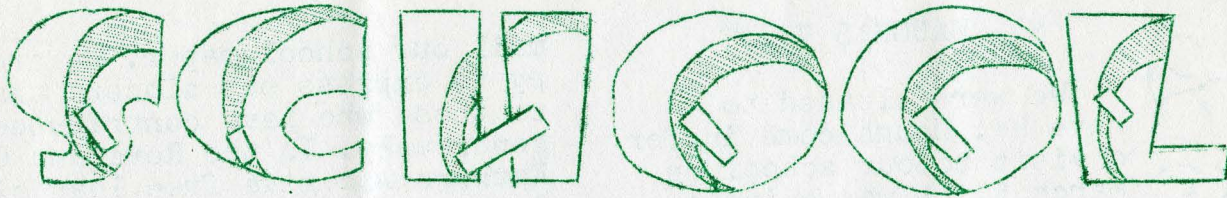
How many happy hours of fun we spent on the ice!!!

Thank you, thank you, Fathers; we are very grateful to you!

.....
 Life is like a mirror
 Reflecting what you do
 If you're always smiling
 It smiles right back at you.

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CHRISTMAS

The happiest day in the year came again to rejoice us. Even if the roads were bad, because there was not much snow, many people came from afar to assist at the midnight mass.

The church was beautifully decorated, and I loved the crib with Baby Jesus lying in the manger.

Oh! it was nice to be at the midnight mass!

Marcelline Hainault

SUPPER

As usual all the school children gathered at the Hall to have their supper. All the boys and girls enjoyed it very much.

We want to say a big "thank you" to our good Father Bourbonnais and to Sister M.C. Gervais who certain-

ly knows how to cook.

Tobie Lemaigre

CONCERT

On Christmas we had a concert given by the school children.

There were songs, drills by the big and the little girls. There also was a funny play by the boys which all the people liked very much. We know this because they laughed and laughed and laughed. The nicest play was about Baby Jesus in the little crib. There were kings and shepherds who came to see Jesus. When it was all over with, we all knelt around and sang "O Holy Night".

Father Bourbonnais kindly said a few words of encouragement and praise.

Christine Toulejour

MR. WAUGH'S VISIT

We were pleased to have Mr. Waugh come in for a visit to our school on March 5. It was quite a short visit as the plane was leaving at 10 A.M.

Mr. Waugh spent just a few minutes in each classroom, but he promised to come to see us again sometime after the break-up.

Though it was a short visit, it was a beneficial one. Mr. Waugh inquired about our most urgent needs and on March the 20, we received six chair desks and other school supplies.

We sincerely thank our kind inspector who takes such a good care of the pupils of La Loche.

THANKS

Without the kind help of our friends, it would be quite impossible to

mail our school paper. We are happy to express our sincere thanks to those who have contributed so generously. To the Reverend Oblate Fathers who give free loan of their Gestetner and needed help for its operation.

We extend our thanks to those who have encouraged us financially. Reverend Mother Rose Vincent, Provincial Superior of the Grey Nuns; Sister M.A. Frechette and Sister B. Dumoulin both ex-superiors of our convent; Messrs. Abel, Louis and Stanislas Simard; Mrs. Wilfrid Cote.

FATHER DUCHARME'S ILLNESS

In late December we had very sad news. Our good Father Ducharme wrote and said that he was leaving for Montreal to undergo an operation. We certainly pray for him so that as he says "he may still work for the salvation of souls".

Do get well again, kind Father. We certainly will pray for you every day.

Cecile Marie Herman



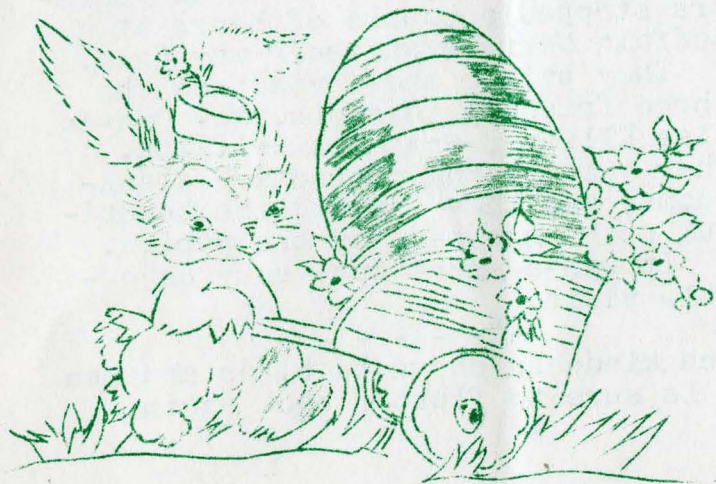
SANTA VISITS US

Santa has made his first trip to La Loche. We were surely glad to see him and the toys he brought for us. Oh! what a time we had when he called each of us by our own name and handed us a gift.

Before bidding us good bye, Santa danced a jig which brought forth shouts and laughter.

To Santa and his "Helpers" we express our thanks and a wish that he come again.

Louison Hainault



THANK YOU

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Sincere thanks to Mr. Waugh, our ever devoted Administrator who sent us the following interesting books for our Social Studies: Seeing Ourselves; Hello David; Atlas; Story of Canada.

TEACHERS' MEETING

One fine Thursday morning our teachers went away on the mail plane. They were going to a meeting at Ile-la-Crosse.

We surely enjoyed the days-off which their absence gave us. I hope we have another holiday again next January.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are always very happy to receive and read the fine school papers which come our way.

Of late the Legal Hilites, the Island Breezes, Beautiful Valley Echo, Voice of St. Mary, the Lajeunesse Centre, and the Pelican Progress, all came to add a note of joy and gaiety to our school life.



OUR VALENTINE PARTY

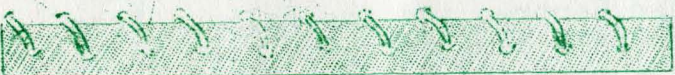
I'm thinking out a valentine,
Only the best will do--
Why, yes of course, I've
got it!

I LOVE YOU!

--Audrey McKim

On February 13, we had a Valentine party in our class. I think that they had a party in the other classes too because we could hear all kinds of noises coming from their classes. We had Valentine cards from them, and we thought of our little friends in school and out of school too. We sent Valentines to our friends in P.A. We made little baskets to put candy to give to our friends. I hope we will have another such party again next year.

Cecile Marie Herman



APPRECIATION

Grateful hearts would like to express their sincere thanks to the Nursing Alumni of St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, for the wonderful Christmas gifts they sent us. Many a cold day, have we been warmed up by a delicious hot drink of cocoa or appetizing soup.

May God bless you, for your charity, kind Nurses and may joy fill your hearts on this holy Easter Day.

VISIT TO BUFFALO NARROWS

After the Sub-Local meeting at Ile a la Crosse, the La Roche Teachers stopped a couple of hours at Buffalo Narrows on their way back.

They paid a short visit to the three friendly teachers, Mr. Pravda, Miss Elloth, and Miss Griffith. They visited the attractive classrooms, and they admired the beautiful paintings made by the pupils.

It was a short but very enjoyable visit.

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Each kindness shown to birds and men
Is sure to flutter back again.

VILLAGE

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Long before the 10 o'clock mass to which all assisted, files and files of men, women and children went from house to house to greet everyone in our settlement.

Yes indeed, we were happy to start the New Year by wishing our friends the best of everything.

May God fulfill our wishes, and all in La Loche will grow to be better citizens of our wonderful country.

That night all gathered at the Lajeunesse Hall for an evening of fun and delight. Through the Fathers' kindness all enjoyed a bountiful lunch. Our sincere thanks.

TRAPPERS' MEETING

Jonas Park went to the Trappers' meeting which was held in Prince-

Albert during the month of January.

Jonas left here by truck and travelled by way of Buffalo. After the meeting he returned by snowmobile.

Gilles Jolibois

D.N.R.

In late January Baby Reginald was flown in to have medical attention. He had to be taken as far as Winnipag where he underwent a major operation, which proved a success. Mrs. L. Poisson has returned home with her loved son to the great joy of our field officer who had to batch during her absence.

Mr. Poisson went on a tour of his district to inoculate all the dogs "our hunters' silent partners", for rabies.

An electrician was over to repair the radio masts which the strong



WEDDING BELLS

winds had blown down.

H.B.C.

The staff at the H.B.C. has been changed. Mr. C. Frampton has been transferred, and Mr. B. Mirton has taken his place. I hope both will feel at home in their new field of action.

A double marriage ceremony was held on February the 9th. That morning Therese Herman became the bride of Leon Piche, and Veronicue Montgrand promised fidelity to Jean-B. Janvier. Rev. Father Mathieu officiated at the special mass during which a choir of volunteers sang appropriate hymns. To the two new couples best wishes of lasting happiness and prosperity.

DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. E. Gervais, the new sub-agent at Ile a la Crosse has really been on the go. He has made three trips to visit his "flock" since the beginning of the year.

March 1 brought Mr. Wark of Meadow Lake on a business trip. On one of those trips, he took Roby Piche's children to the Beauval Indian School.

VISITORS

In January Mrs. Preweda and her son Doc formerly of La Loche paid a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Woodard.

Mr. Ross paid a "flying" visit on one of his routine inspection tours.

The yearly supply for the store could be brought in by truck this year as the snow was not very deep.

The trucks had an accident while crossing a river, but with no great damage.

CARIBOU

The caribou came all the way from Eskimo Land to help us get our food.

When they at last reached our settlement many men went to hunt and brought us our "daily bread".

We thank God for giving us the things that are necessary for our subsistence.

Napoleon Sylvestre

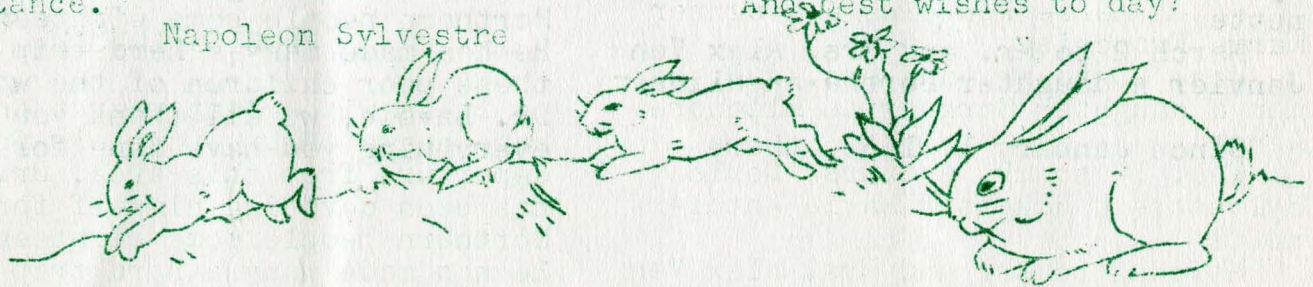
SYMPATHY

To Mr. and Mrs. A. Herman we wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy for the loss of their only son Gabriel and their youngest daughter Christine.

Little Gabriel was ill for two months only; his death came on January 15. Christine passed away on March 20, and she had been sick for a short time only. Her death was a surprise to all.

May God be the consolation of the bereaved parents. We also extend our sincere sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Sylvestre who had adopted Christine when she was still a tiny baby. Nothing was spared in order to save the beloved child.

 Wasn't it nice of
 these bunnies to say
 They would bring you
 our love
 And best wishes to day?



HOSPITAL

HOSPITAL STATISTICS

From January 1952 to January 1, 1953

Dressings	1546
Prescriptions	7317
Visits to sick at home	187
Minor Operations	14
Teeth Extractions	163
Urinalysis	35
Births	38
Hospital Days	1971

HOSPITAL NEWS

Jan. 11 born to Mr. and Mrs.
Jean Marie Fontaine a daughter
Marie Françoise

Jan. 20 to Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Her-
man a daughter Marguerite Eleonore
Agnes

Feb. 17 to Mr. and Mrs. Louis
Sylvestre a daughter Marie Antoi-
nette

March 2 to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Ven
Janvier a daughter Bertha Angeline

Since January 1, 1953, there

have been 72 cases treated at our
little Hospital.

DOCTOR TOTTON

March 14, the plane landed here
again this time bringing Doctor R.C.
Totton, Mr. Robinson of the Hospital
division, and Miss Smith, Public
Health Nurse.

To the great sorrow of the Hospi-
tal Staff, Dr. Totton's visit was a
little too hurried and far too short.
Please come again when you can stay
longer.

DOCTOR LAVOIE

It is with great regret that we
have heard of Dr. Lavoie's future
departure from this area. Dr. Lavoie
has been devoting himself for the
Northern people some eighteen years.
He has made many a hard trip to help
these poor children of the woods.
Dr. Lavoie, we all thank you for
everything you have done for us.

May you enjoy many more years, and may God's blessing be always with you, your wife and family.

MR. HIBBERT

The latter part of February, in came a plane bringing the X-ray machine for the Hospital. The machine belongs to the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League. Mr. T.A.Hibbert of the General Electric X-ray Corporation of Saskatoon came along at the same time so as to make all the electrical installations. During his stay here, Mr. Hibbert was the guest of the Mission. The Hospital Staff will always remember all his kind and devoted instructions on X-ray work.

Come again and visit us some time Mr. Hibbert. You'll always be welcome.

MISS WALTZ

On March 4 Miss Waltz of the Tuberculosis League from Fort San came in to do the Tuberculin tests for all the people of the surrounding district, and those who were nega-

tive were vaccinated with B.C.G.

Some four hundred and fifty people presented themselves. Miss Waltz left on the mail plane of March 19, very satisfied with her first visit here.

During her stay here, she was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Woodard.

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On March 5 the S.G.Airways made a special flight to Garcon Lake to bring back Leon Herman who had been flown to Ile a la Crosse Hospital in early January, partly paralyzed. Leon is improving gradually, and we hope he'll soon be able to get around once more.

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March 9 saw a special ambulance plane come in for Mrs. Caroline Laprise who was suffering from an acute attack of appendicitis, to take her to Ile a la Crosse Hospital. Upon arriving there, she was operated upon by good Dr. Lavoie. She was recovered enough to come back on the mail plane to take her place here at the Hospital for a week or so again.

GOOD BYE

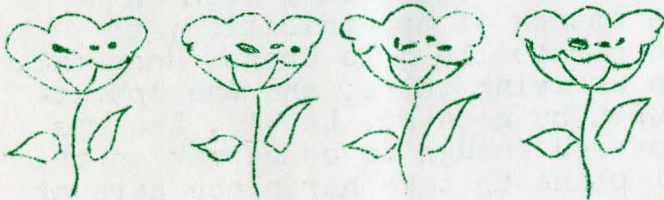
After more than a year of great devotedness to her work as a nurse at this mission, Sister M. Nadeau left for Edmonton where she will take up duties at the new wing of the General Hospital.

Heartfelt thanks, dear Sister, and good wishes for the years again.

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I SHALL NOT PASS THIS WAY AGAIN

Through this toilsome world, alas!
Once and only once I pass;
If a kindness I may show,
If a good deed I may do
To a suffering fellow man,
Let me do it while I can.
No delay, for it is plain
I shall not pass this way again.



WELCOME

What a great joy it was to welcome you in our midst dear Sister Gaudette.

As the Island Breezes so adequately expressed it: "Your departure from Ile a la Crosse was a blow to all the Islanders". We now are the lucky ones who will benefit from your "gentle whole-hearted care".

A PRAYERFUL WISH

To dear Sister Superior we send
this word to bear

The request we beg of Jesus as
we kneel in fervent
prayer,

We ask the Divine Physician to
alleviate your pain,

