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THE GREAT PORTAGE

Soeurs Grises de Montréal
Prov. S. Albert
ARCHIVES





Happy Holidays

My dear children,

The school year is nearly over and every one is anxious to enjoy the summer holidays. For each one of you it will be a relaxation after a few months spent in school.

You must remember that holidays do not mean freedom in every way. We are never free to leave off our duties towards God. If you place Him first in your thoughts in the morning, the whole day will be good. You will then enjoy yourselves in the right way.

Your good parents must not be forgotten either. You must help and obey them even more during the holidays. This will be the best way to show them your love and gratitude for all they have done for you.

You will also remember your duties towards your neighbor's reputation and belongings. Slander and robbery are a proof of disloyalty to our neighbor.

Finally you will try to be loyal to your conscience by doing what she will tell you is right and avoid what is wrong.

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, gives real happiness.

La Loche, Sask.
June 20, 1953

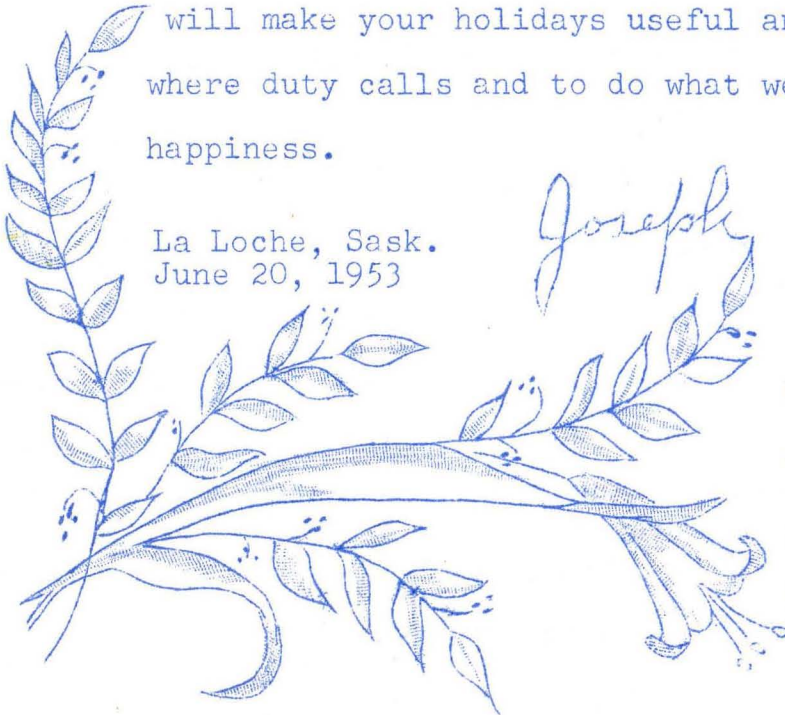
Joseph

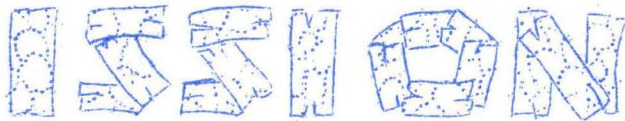
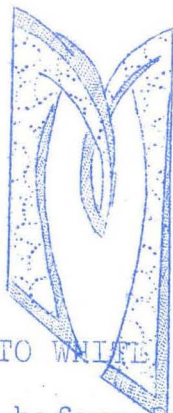
Bourbouis O. M. L.

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The world is such a happy place,
That children, whether big or small
Should always have a smiling face,
And never, never sulk at all.

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MY TRIP TO WHITE FISH LAKE

"BON VOYAGE"

Thursaday before Palm Sunday, I went over to White Fish Lake. Father Mathieu and I got there around three o'clock, and we stayed all day Friday. We started back home on Saturday morning. We spent Palm Sunday at West La Loche and returned that afternoon. I had an enjoyable trip.

I wish to thank Father Mathieu for giving me that pleasure.

Napoleon Sylvestre

THANKS TO MRS. LAVOIE

Mrs. Lavoie's friendship for us is of long standing, and how we treasure it. To add one more favor to all her kindness of past years, she has sent us gladiola bulbs, dahlias, rose bushes and bleeding hearts.

May God bless our kind benefactress!

Our good wishes for a pleasant and very enjoyable trip follow Rev. Father Bourbonnais, director of our mission leaving for his native province of Quebec to visit his friends and relatives.

After many years of labour among the people of this section of the Vicariate of Keewatin, Father certainly deserves the few weeks of holidays, which he will take.

May your stay "out East" be full of happiness and joy is the wish of all our hearts.

During Father's absence, Rev. Fr. Mathieu will take over. He will be responsible for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the "flock".

Besides yhe "routine work" Fr. Mathieu will be in charge when the new church is begun.

SISTER SUPERIOR

During March, Sister Superior was at the Hospital in Saskatoon. By the first mail in April she came back to La Loche.

We are glad she has come because she is kind to us all.

Later Sister L. Rivard also left. Now we know why she went because when she smiles we can see a shiny row of brand-new teeth.

Rosaria Janvier

MOTHER PROVINCIAL'S VISIT

Once again to the great delight of the missionaries, Rev. Mother Rose Vincent, Provincial of the Grey Nuns, came for an official visit.

She arrived here on June 3rd accompanied by Rev. Sr Alice Lagarde, her secretary.

On Monday afternoon Mother paid a visit to the school children. A welcome song, a playlet and distribution of presents by Mother to the children were the main features of the gathering.

Everyone seemed very happy to meet Mother once more. We wish to thank her and also Sister A. Lagarde for their kindness to us all.

AMELIORATIONS

Le premier avion de mai nous apporta la belle surprise de l'arrivee du Frere Boisvert, le contracteur incomparable. Il s'agit de construire une eglise spacieuse en remplacement de celle qui a ete batie en 1924, et devenue trop petite pour recevoir tous les catholiques desireux de rendre gloire a leur Seigneur et Maitre.

Le bon Pere Bourbonnais tout heureux de pouvoir realiser son projet, fait appel aux Indiens pour offrir le concours de leurs bras au Frere Boisvert. Pour donner la chance a tous d'avoir le privilege de mettre la main a ce travail si honorable, l'on travailla par ecupe de six hommes et chaque ecupe se renouvellera tous les quinze jours.

D'ici la mi-juillet, les fondations doivent etre creusees, la ba-

(cont'd on page 6)

Appreciation

La Loche -- an oasis of warmth and friendship amid the ice and wilderness of Northern winter! It was in that settlement that I sojourned recently on a mission of installing x-ray equipment in St. Martin's Hospital for the Saskatchewan Anti-T.B. League.

The plane, chartered for the purpose of carrying the necessary equipment, landed on a frozen lake adjacent to the settlement. It was not without serious misgivings that I watched my pilot take off and disappear into the southern sky, leaving me with the massive equipment, on the frozen northern lake, alone, a complete stranger, and knowing nothing of the people with whom I would be living during the coming days.

Within a few minutes of landing and unloading I was surrounded by a group of curious and passively interested people, as, of course, my arrival was of the nature of an unusual event in the quiet routine of the outpost. I was met by Rev. Father Bourbonnais, o.m.i., who came forward to bid me welcome.

During my stay at La Loche I came to know, like, and feel completely at home with that little group of people who live in isolation but who work together happily and harmoniously in their service to their community and to God.

I left La Loche, inspired by their courage and Faith, feeling privileged to have been acknowledged by them as a friend, and with an earnest hope that someday I might have the opportunity to return and visit La Loche again.

Steini Hibbert

Love the beautiful, seek out the true,
Wish for the good, and the Best do!...

tisse montee et la couverture terminée. Cette nouvelle eglise mesurera 104 x 36 pi. avec deux transepts de 8 pi. chacun; elle sera située en arriere de l'eglise actuelle qui sera bientôt demolie. On a meme fait disparaitre la presente sacristie pour donner place a la nouvelle construction.

Pere Mathieu a pris soin de solliciter des prieres pour avoir du beau temps, afin de ne subir aucun retard dans la marche du travail, vu le peu de temps que peut donner le Frere Boisvert.

Le bon Dieu a exauce les prieres de ses enfants - chacun se donne sans perdre une minute. N'oublions pas la gratitude a laquelle ont droit les Freres Vachon et Dionne, apotres inconnus, qui savent bien trouver le temps d'aider au Frere Boisvert, en depit de leur autre travail regulier.

Chers lecteurs, nous remettons a l'an prochain la joie de vous annoncer la date de l'ouverture de notre nouveau sanctuaire ou nous prierons avec beaucoup d'ardeur, esperons-le.

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This article was written by

Sister Alice Lagarde, Mother Provincial's Secretary. She had the opportunity of seeing the building under way during her stay here.

We are very grateful to her to have contributed to our modest pages.

The Editors

CORPUS CHRISTI

This morning the early sunrise brings happiness to every heart! The Blessed Sacrament will solemnly be escorted outdoors by all our parishioners.

Immediately after the 10 o'clock High Mass, we prepared to put up flags and banderoles. Some of our good men and boys cut down branches with which they ornamented every post on the way. Every one seemed happy to give a hand here and there even the little ones found it important to give a hand, a hammer, etc. thereby proving their joy in helping prepare a Resting-Place for the Blessed Sacrament.

At two thirty ranks were taken on either side of the road by the church, and immediately began the Aves cut by hymns. All the crowd with a heart and a voice gave

glory to the Holy Eucharist.

To quote an onlooker, it was a pious and impressionable sight to witness such a triumph of Faith.

May God think fit his children's praises and bestow upon them his choicest blessings.

THE PICNIC

On Coronation Day, June 2, we had a picnic on the Island. How happy we were to have Father Mathieu with us on the picnic ground.

As soon as we arrived at the island we all went different ways looking for gum. After we were back, we played in the water. Meanwhile

the tea was made and the potatoes cooked. After enjoying a real good dinner, we played a little while, and then we were off.

We thought our picnic was very short, but we enjoyed every minute of it.

We all thank our kind Father Mathieu.

Christine Toulejour

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May your life be like arithmetic:

Friends added,
Joys multiplied,
Sorrows substracted,
Enemies divided!

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Welcome Home.

Yesterday our good Father Bourbonnais came to see us in school. He told us about his long trip to Montreal.

He saw Rev. Father Ducharme who was here before. He had come to stay at La Loche to help the people to lead a good life. I am sure they were very happy to meet one another again.

Father also went to Cap de la Madeleine where the beautiful statue of Our Lady who visited us in July 1950 is enshrined. He offered up Holy Mass at Her altar.

He saw his friends and relatives and those of Father Mathieu's, the brothers' and the sisters'. He went to Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa and Toronto, and to many other places.

I think that Father had a lovely trip. We are happy to have him back in our midst again.

Celina Janvier

The week of June 14 was put aside for the annual mission. The graces of God were showered down upon the souls of the good people who once again made an effort to attend faithfully and regularly the exercises.

Two masses were said each morning, and all days but one, as many as four sermons to different classes and ages, were preached by either Father Bourbonnais or Father Mathieu. At the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament daily an average of two hundred persons attended.

Sunday 21, which marked the last day, a large crowd came to receive Holy Communion. There were some little children who received Jesus for the first time. As I looked on the crowd I thought it must be a consolation for the hearts of our missionaries to see many of their flock willing to follow the narrow path.

May we here sound a note of praise to honour the zeal and self-sacrifice of our missionaries.
cont'd on page 13.

SCHOOL

OUR CONCERT

The school children gave a concert in honor of our kind Father Bourbonnais. Though Father's Feast-day is on March 9, we waited till Easter, so that more of his flock would be present.

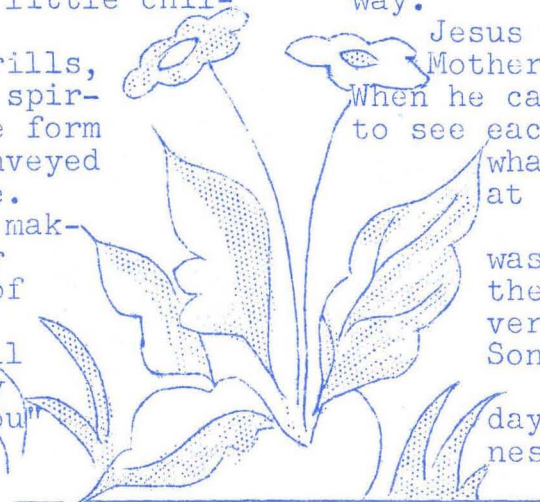
We were glad to express our heartfelt thanks to Father, because he is so good and kind to all of us, but especially to the little children.

Songs, playlets, drills, and the offering of a spiritual bouquet were the form of expression that conveyed our love and gratitude.

Ever thoughtful of making us content, Father distributed handfuls of peanuts to all of us.

For this and for all Father's kindness, may we say again "Thank you" a million times.

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EASTER THOUGHTS

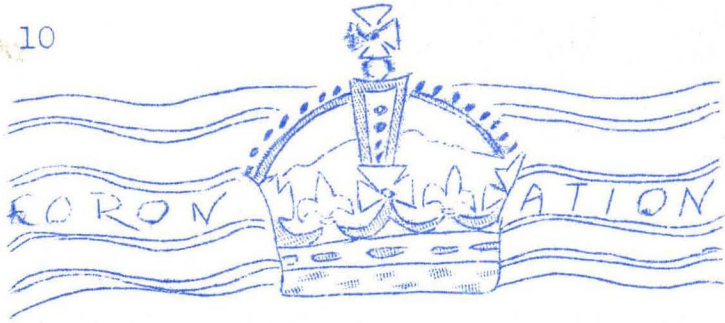
Jesus was nailed to the cross; there he died after three hours of hanging. Then they put him in a tomb and they set a big stone in front of it. On the first day of the week, Jesus arose, and all the soldiers who were watching got very frightened. They all ran away. Then an angel of God came and sat beside the doorway.

Jesus went first to his beloved Mother; she was weeping for Him. When he came they were very happy to see each other. Only God knows what they said to one another at this meeting.

The Blessed Virgin's heart was sad after Jesus died on the cross, but now she is very happy to think that Her Son has risen from the dead.

To all faithful too, this day is one of great happiness.

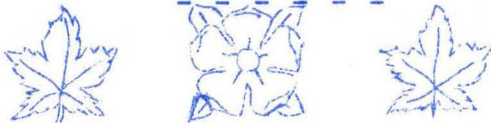
Celina Janvier



In our own humble way, we, the children of La Loche united by ourselves to the millions of subjects of Her gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's, to rejoice and pray.

May her reign be long, peaceful and most prosperous is the true wish of everyone of our hearts.

God save our Queen!!!
Long live our noble Queen!



Our Queen

On June 2 her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in London. In 1951 she came to Canada. Many Canadians saw her and her Consort, the Duke of Edinburgh. I did not see her, but I often have seen pictures of Her Majesty. I think she is pretty and happy as she always smiles.

The picture of Prince Charles and Princess Ann is also very beautiful.

We all pray God to bless and protect our new Queen, as also, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh and their two darling children.

Cecile Marie Herman

The choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour
Long may she reign!
May she defend our laws
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice





FOR MOTHER

I have filled a pretty basket
 With flowers sweet and gay.
 I will give it to my mother
 Because
 it's
 Mother's Day.

But I have another present;
 It's this.....I'm going to be
 The very nicest child
 That
 she could find --
 you'll see!

o - o - o - o - o - o - o - o

Our New Babies



HOSPITAL

BIRTHS

April

- 6 - born to Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. Herman
a daughter Lucia Ursule
10- to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Janvier
a daughter Mariette
11- to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Montgrand
a son Jacob
15- to Mr. & Mrs. Pascal Janvier
a daughter Annette

May

- 13- to Mr. & Mrs. Alex Aze
a daughter Maria Ernestine
15- to Mr. & Mrs. Theophile Piche
a daughter Irene Beatrice
18- to Mr. & Mrs. Billy Janvier
a daughter Jane Victoria
20- to Mr. & Mrs. Zephirin Herman
a son Ronnie Glen
22- to Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Lemaigre
a son Lambert George
23- to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Janvier
a son Martin
31- to Mr. & Mrs. Tobie J. Montgrand
a son Herbert Tobie

June

- 9 - to Mr. & Mrs. William Herman
a daughter Albertine
17- to Mr. & Mrs. Boniface Janvier
a son Paul Martial

CONGRATUALTIONS

to all the happy parents!

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"LAST FLASH" cont'd

forgetfulness of our kind pastors who bravely leave their home and native province, and with unflinching devotion work in this far mission outpost. Though ungrateful at times, on a day like this, one can not but feel that their activity among this people is not in vain, and one also hopes and prays that still greater good may come to crown their labour.

An onlooker

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Early tomorrow, June 22 rain or shine, Father Mathieu will walk the way to Island Lake some forty miles off to bring peace and comfort to the good people there.

GOOD NEWS

The letter Father Ducharme wrote to us told us that he was well again. We are very happy over it.

The children who have prayed for him wrote to tell how happy they are to know that he will be able to keep on working for souls.

Alfred Janvier

P.S. We expect a letter from you real soon Father.

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CLEAN-UP DAY

The children from school cleaned the schoolyard in early May. Some children brought rakes, and the boys carried loadfuls of rubbish to the dump. Now all is clean. We must always keep it thus.

Cecile Sylvestre

A HIKE

The children and their teachers enjoyed a picnic at the rapids. We left at four o'clock, walked two miles, fished, had supper and then came back home by eight o'clock.

We were happy.

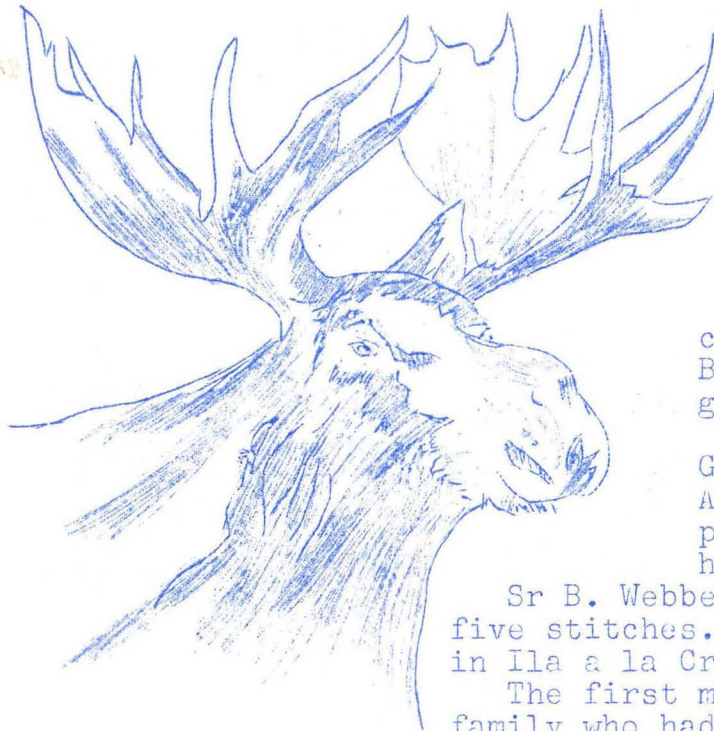
Marguerite Janvier

FIREWOOD

William Janvier and Daniel Le-maigre brought in several loads of wood during the winter. In the spring Brother Vachon, with his crew of men, sawed it. Still later Raphael Janvier and Norbert Maurice piled the wood into neat cords behind the school. Now the wood is drying and it will keep us warm during the coming winter.

Couronne Toulejour

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VILLAGE

AN ACCIDENT

Friday, March 27, I saw the tractor coming from across the lake. It was Brother Vachon returning from his logging camp.

Early the next morning I heard that George Herman had met with an accident. A big log which he was loading on, slipped off, making a very deep cut on his head.

Sr B. Webber and Sr A. Gaudet, our nurses put in five stitches. The following day George was flown in Ila a la Crosse where further treatment was given.

The first mail plane brought George back to his family who had been very anxious and prayed very hard for his welfare.

I saw George at the saw mill the other day, and he doesn't seem the worse for his accident.

Pascal Janvier

TRAPPING

When the people went to the north this winter, they made lots of money. This spring they went trapping again for muskrats and

beavers, there were none; so they all came back. Just a few men are still in the north. I hope that they who haven't come back, have killed many muskrats so that they can buy some food for their families. When

OUR NEW DOCTOR

Dr. Hoehne has come here three times, and on his last visit he stayed fourteen days. Many people have gone to see him; for their pains and ills, Doctor gave them the needed medicine.

I think Dr. Hoehne was very kind to the people.

Mary Sylvestre

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On March 28, a special plane came in to get George Herman and bring him to Ile a la Crosse. George had received a bad tear on the scalp when a big log which he was loading fell upon him while he was working at the lumber camp. First aid care was skilfully given him by Brother Vachon who brought him back to the Hospital after a two hour drive on the tractor. Srs. Webber and Gaudette were obliged to put in seven sutures. Dr. Lavoie came on the plane to get him. We were all happy to see Doc. as we know his visits are nearing an end.

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On April 1, Dr. Lavoie & Hoehne came in on the mail plane. Doctor Lavoie was happy to sit back and smile while Dr. Hoehne examined the patients who presented themselves for medical care. We thank Dr. Lavoie for his many years of service, and we say welcome to Dr. Hoehne.

May God be with you both!

Dr. Hoehne came in again on May 20 and passed a fortnight seeing and treating patients.

FROM OUR GOLDEN BOOK

June 3, 1953. In fourteen days I covered a lot: from tuberculosis to forest fires, from the shots of penicillin to shotguns, from bacterias to little dogs, from gall bladder spasms to the great portage. But the hub for all this was your peaceful and nice little home, a light in a still unconquered wilderness.

One of your admirers, little nuns.

Doctor Hoehne
(Hosp. News cont'd on page 16)

Hosp. News (cont'd from page 15)

The Hospital Staff feels very grateful to Rev. Sister Alice Lagarde for having so kindly worked up a filing system for all the in and out patients.

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Many patients were cared for at the Hospital. Upon their return home all seemed restored and happy.

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Eliza Montgrand leaving on June 20 is the latest addition from La Loche to our little friends at the Sanatorium in Prince-Albert.

May God speed your recovery is our wish to one and all of you.

Trapping (cont'd from p. 14)

Leon Janvier was trapping, his boat capsized and all his things were lost in the water but he was safe.

May God bless all the trappers who endanger their very life for the benefit of their families.

Mary Jane Lemaigre

"FIRST KICKER"

Again this year Daniel Janvier from Black Point was the first one to come "kicking" to La Loche. Ice still covered most of the lake, but Dan. knew how to profit by the first "free water".

Bernadette Montgrand

MERCY FLIGHT

The mercy flight which was made for Raphael Lemaigre brought the first plane on wheels. It landed quite close to my home which is near the air-strip that was enlarged again this year.

Eliza Montgrand

WEDDING BELLS

Loving Mary Agnes Herman became the bride of Alex Herman at a quiet ceremony at our mission church on April 6.

Father Bourbonnais officiated while a large crowd attended the mass and prayed for the future happiness of our old classmate. The

girls sang and asked Mary, our Mother, to look down upon the newly weds and give them many years of happiness health and prosperity.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman make their home at Christina River.

IMPROVEMENTS

Some men have been working to make the airstrip wider. They cut down trees and burned them. They were very careful not to let the fire spread.

Alfred J. Janvier

FOREST FIRES

There are very many forest fires in the north at present. A great number of men are working on them, and Mr. L. Poisson, D.N.R. field officer is working with the men. Mostly every day the plane comes here to get food and men for the fire.

Thinking that the fires were out, the men came back, and all of a sudden the smoke came up again. So people are still on the job.

I wish that God help us with rain. It would certainly be a great help to control the fires.

These fires also mean the loss of hundreds of forest animals. They say that many bears were already killed while running away from the fire. Where will we get our fur next year?

Let's pray hard so that rain may come and stop these fires.

We say "thank you" to the men who are working there.

Napoleon Sylvestre

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Napoleon's prayer and wish was heard. For six days rain fell thus coming to the rescue of the fire fighters. The latter have now returned home to the joy of their friends and families.

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HOME AGAIN

For many long years my cousin Abraham Moise was at the Prince-albert Sanatorium.

He was operated on three times; now he is well again. We are happy to see Abraham come back to us.

Pascal Janvier

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Ave Maris Stella

