

THE Great Portage

Soeurs Grises de Montréal
Prov. S. Albert
ARCHIVES



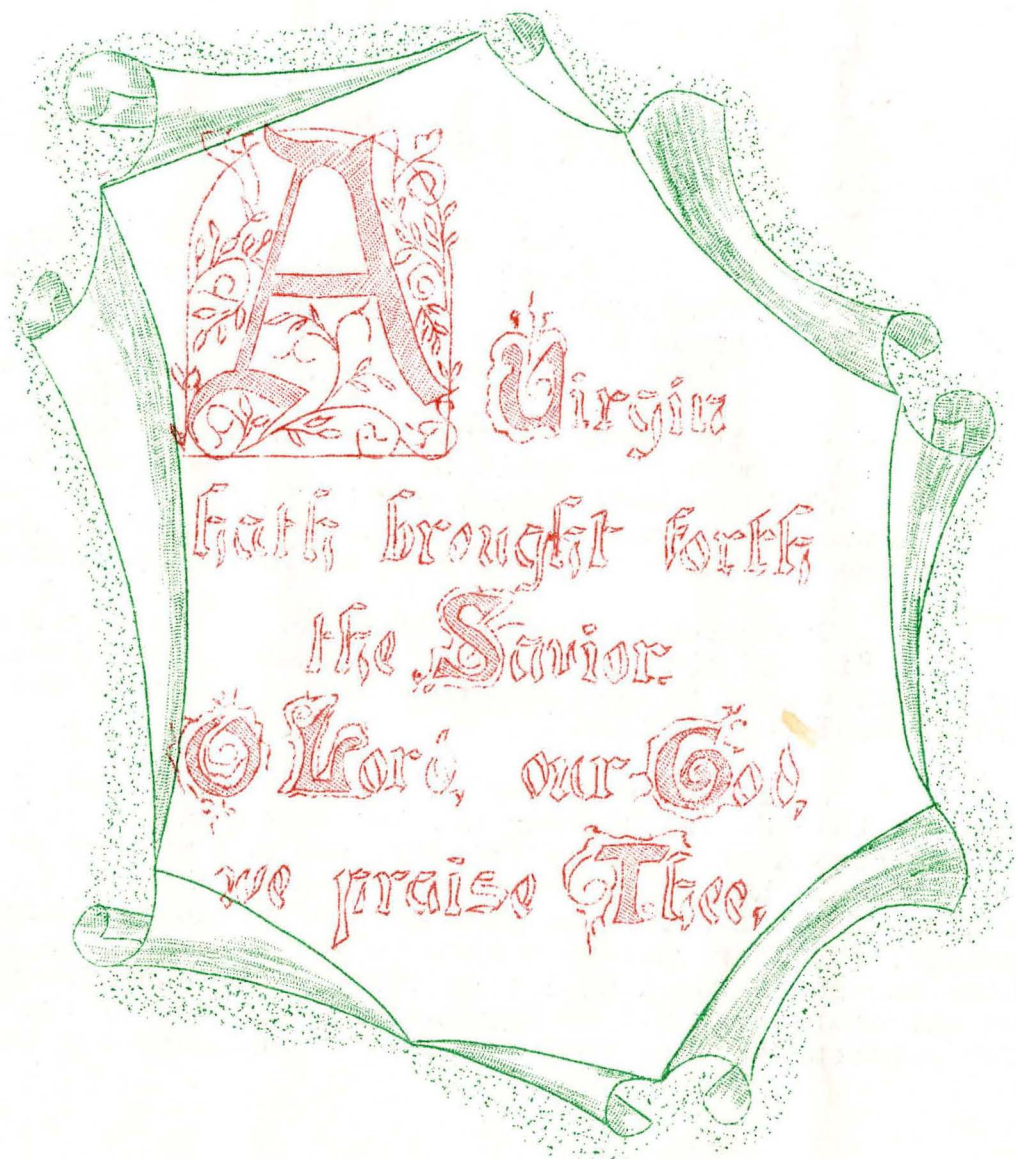
L
a
L
o
c
h
e

S
a
s
k

V
o
l
u
m
e
8

dec. 1953

N.
o.
2



A

Virgin

hath brought forth

the Saviour

O Lord, our God,

we praise Thee,



Father's Wishes

Once again, it is almost Christmas and New Year. On these occasions, we will hear shouts of joy, we will see people warmly shaking hands and expressing all sorts of good wishes.

This is all very fine, but will we think of Him to Whom we owe the gift of time? Do we realize the value of this gift of a New Year? With it so much good could be done, so many worthy causes could be undertaken, and by fulfilling our duties, so much merit could be gained. No doubt, God expects of us at the beginning of a New Year a **SINCERE GRATITUDE.**

God expects each one of us to do his part, keeping for Himself the privilege of fecundating our labors according to His plans. He does not necessarily demand success but an **INTELLIGENT COOPERATION.**

So let us remember that we depend of God, being thankful to Him for all that He is granting us. We are dependent on this Divine Child, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, who had pity on us and came on earth to redeem us. The Angels are repeating what they said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all the people, for there has been born to you a Savior who is Christ the Lord". Like the shepherds did, let us adore Jesus and wish that He will be recognized all over the world as Our Savior, thinking of the ones who have to suffer persecution from those godless tyrants who try to dominate

the world. The real kingdom to come is the one we are asking when we pray the OUR FATHER. The glory of God will never be as widespread as it deserves to be. So here is another ideal God would have us strive to attain during this coming year: we are expected to show a REAL ZEAL FOR HIS GLORY.

With this spirit, I extend my best wishes for a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all the school children, their parents and readers of our paper.

May God bless you all!

J. Bourbonnais O.M.S.

La Loche, Sask.
December, 1953.

BEFORE THE CRIB

On Christmas Eve I love to steal
Into the quiet church and kneel
 Silent and still
Before the Crib, with its soft light.
I think upon that hallowed night
 And a far hill,
Above which angel voices rang
As they in joyous welcome sang
 Unto the new-born King.

.

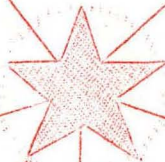




Jesus flower
of the
Virgin Mother

Sisters' Residence
La Loche, Saskatchewan
December 8, 1953

CHRISTMAS



GREETINGS

To the Readers of the Great Portage, our generous Benefactors, our dear Pupils and their kind Parents, I am especially happy to offer my most sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

May the Virgin Mother bestow upon each one the choicest blessings of Her divine Son.

And may He, in His own sweet way, bless every thought and thing you do!

Sister A. Gamache s.g.m.

Superior

MISSION

BROTHER BOISVERT

Brother R. Boisvert has come back on October 21. As soon as he arrived he started to work on the job he had not completed when he had to leave in July.

After supper we visit him at his work, but just now Brother is sick. We all know he is good and kind.

Jonas Lemaigre

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

The feast of Jesus Christ King was celebrated with all the splendour of the liturgy. The ten o'clock solemn High Mass attracted a large crowd as had that of seven. Many people received the sacraments, which was a fitting homage to our Universal King.

After High Mass our Lord remained on the altar exposed to our adorations. The rosary was said without interruption by family groups. How fervently we prayed for the inten-

tion of the persecuted Catholics of Poland and their Cardinal Primate.

The benediction of the Blessed Sacrament put an end to our outward demonstrations of piety, but we will long remember the beautiful day of Jesus King.

ALL SAINTS DAY

November 1st attracted a larger crowd of communicants than even the feast of the previous Sunday. Our good people have a great devotion to the saints, the saints unknown to the world at large, - the saints of the teepee, the tent and the hut, the saints of these vast white solitudes of their native land.-

How well attended too was the Requiem Mass for the dead which was celebrated the following day.

May God give eternal rest to all the faithful departed.

- - - - -
Trust ever in God.
- - - - -

6
TO WEST LA LOCHE

While the late Mrs. Janvier was ill, Rev. Father Bourbonnais was called to West La Loche. He gave her the last sacraments to strengthen her for the last lapse of her journey toward eternal life. Some time later Father Mathieu also paid a visit to her.

Though death always comes like a robber, Mrs. Janvier was well prepared, we trust, to meet her God.

FATHER MATHIEU VISITS HIS
MISSIONS

Rain or shine, wind or snow, always Christ's message of good will, and the help of His sacraments must be taken to the people who have not the privilege of living near the mission where our good Fathers dwell.

Our two outpost missions regularly receive the visit of their missionary Rev. Father Mathieu. In summer he walks the thirty five miles' distance from here to Island Lake, but in winter he uses dogs to travel.

May God bless his work among our people.

UTILITY BEAUTIFIED

Day by day the interior of the newly built church gains in beauty. The skilful Brothers add some boards here, and some tentest there with perfect alignment till the building rivals in fineness with many another church.

Soon we are sure the whole work will be finished and then shall we pray on beauty.

OBITUARY

We request your prayers for the repose of the soul of Rev. Sister Arsene de la Providence who passed away in Montreal in late September. She was 56 years of age and had been 35 years a religious. Many years she spent teaching little people, so Jesus will certainly make her shine like a star in his Home beyond the sky.

To her brother, Rev. Brother R. Boisvert, her three sisters also nuns, and to all her family we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

THANKSGIVING DAY

On Thanksgiving Day, Oct. 12, we had a holiday. As there was no snow and ice, some of the children went fishing, and some others went berry picking with their parents.

We always enjoy holidays as it gives some time to spend at home and help our parents.

Christine B. Toulejour

OUR REPORT CARDS

Every month we have the reading of our report cards by Rev. Father Bourbonnais, secretary of the school board. Mr. Raphael Janvier, parents' representative and Mr. Norbert Maurice, truant officer came also.

The children are anxious to hear their notes, and the first one of every grade receives a prize. Our names are then put on an airplane divided up into different percents. The smartest one has 100% and is sitting very near the propellor, the lazy ones are sitting on the wings with

their hair flying in the wind.

Not one has had 100% yet, but I'm sure someone will get it some-time.

Couronne Toulejour

PRIZES

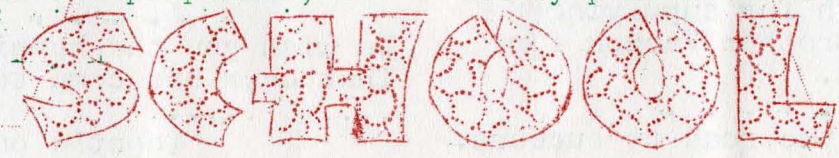
At the end of every month when Father J. Bourbonnais comes to read our reports cards, he always brings prizes for the best ones. Don't you think I was lucky to get a prize for September and October? But I was not the only one. Cecile Marie Herman, Jonas Lemaigre and Eleonore Herman had lovely prizes also.

All of us say a big THANK YOU to Father!

Marie Sylvestre

TREES AND FENCE

On October 9 we planted trees around the school yard. All of us gave a helping hand, and soon some fifty pine trees were lined around the new wire fence which now surrounds our playyard.



THE WEATHER

Two years ago, a plane landed on the ice on the big lake on Nov. 1st. But I don't think a plane would come unless it landed on the air strip. It is November 16, and there is no ice yet. It snowed yesterday, but today rain fell and now the snow is melting. There are puddles all over the yard, and Sister told us not to play in the water because we might catch a cold. I think the seasons have changed. Maybe next April and May we may have Autumn. By the 17th the whole lake was covered over, and at last we could think of skates.

Marguerite Janvier

LIGHT

For a few weeks already, we are enjoying the electric lights in all three classes. Our kind Br. Vachon did the wiring. We are thankful to both Mr. Waugh for supplying the means, and Brother Vachon for doing a fine job.

Perseverance is the road to success.

ANOTHER PRESENT

Mr. Waugh has sent us another present. Can you guess what it is? It is an orange rubber soccer ball. Ever since we, girls are enjoying our recess so much more.

But that's not all, we also received bats and balls, but they will be for next spring.

We won't wait till then to show our gladness. So here is for Mr. Waugh a big THANK YOU!

Rosaria Janvier

THANKS AGAIN

Of late we received a box full of precious paper from Rev. Mother R. Vincent, Superior Provincial of St. Albert. How glad we were, and how useful we found it!

May we here say "thank you" to Rev. Mother Provincial.

Jonas Lemaigre

We wish you the happiest Christmas That ever has come to your door.

(cont'd on page 12)



HOSPITAL

9

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

What a wonderful surprise it was, on Nov. 19, to see a chartered plane come down bringing with it our dear Doctor Totton, Northern Areas Hospital Administrator, and Doctor Hoehne of Ile a la Crosse. We were pleased and honored to give them hospitality for the night, and we enjoyed every moment of their visit.

Come again and see us. You'll always be welcome! Doctor Hoehne spent the evening receiving and examining patients who presented themselves.

Sr. B. Webber; R.N.

The loviest gifts the WISE MEN brought,
Were FAITH and LOVE and CHEER.

May these again bring joy to YOU
Now that CHRISTMAS time is here!

Sister B. Webber s.g.m. R.N.

Sœur Antoinette Gaudet s.g.m. R.N.

MY STAY AT THE HOSPITAL

I have been sick, and I was at the hospital for a week.

Sister A. Gaudet took a good care of me. On Friday morning I was so happy that I jumped for joy, and I'll tell you why. Helen wore me up and told me that my Dad had come home. I was so very happy!

Then I said "thank you" and Good bye to Sister, and I went home.

Alfred J. Janvier

MERCY PLANE

A mercy plane came to get two patients, Pascal Janvier & Mathias Lemaigre. At the same time Eugene Jolibois was picked up and taken away.

Alfred Frank Janvier

DEATHS

Nov. 9th Martin Isidore, twenty two month old son of Mr. & Mrs. Aimee Janvier left to join the Angel choir above.

Oct. 18 & 20 respectively, little twin daughters of Mr. & Mrs. George Janvier.

BIRTHS

Sept. Florence Angeline, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Giles Fontaine.

- Wilfred Paul, son of Mr. & Mrs. Francois Herman.

Oct. Hilda Antoinette, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Arsene Piche.

- Edith Mariette, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Magloire Deltess.

- Marie & Rose, twin daughters of Mr. & Mrs. George Janvier.

- Jude Bruno, son of Mr. & Mrs. Leon Montgrand.

Nov. Denis Norbert, son of Mr. & Mrs. Clement Lemaigre.

- Kenneth Mathurin, son of Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Herman.

- Robert John, son of Mr. & Mrs. Jean Marie Montgrand.

- Mathilda Catherine, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Leonel Herman.

.
 Christmas time is here again,
 Hear the old familiar strain!
 Ringing over all the earth,
 Sounds the story of Christ's birth.
 May each heart be filled with cheer
 As the Christmas time draws near.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

-.-.-.-.-.-

Attention!

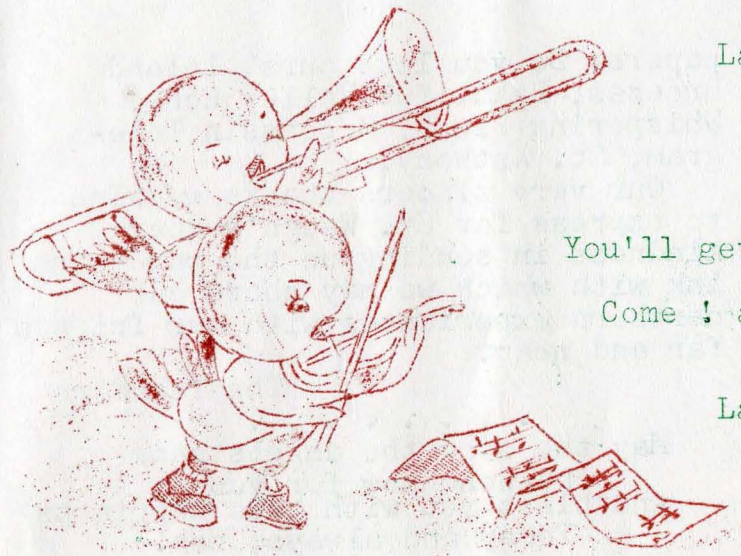
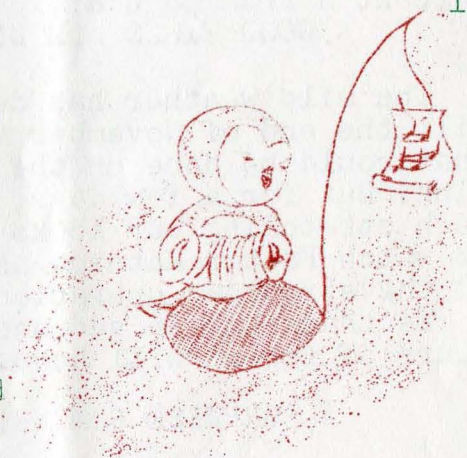
The children of the La Loche School
gladly invite their parents and friends
to their Christmas Program which will be held

at the
Lajeunesse Hall
at 7.30 P.M.

on December 25.

You'll get your money's worth!
Come ! and bring your friends.

La Loche, Sask.
December 1953.



(cont'd from page 8)

GOOD TIMES AHEAD!

The mild weather has delayed till the end of November any work that could be done on the skating rink. But for a few days, we have been stretching our looks downhill to watch Father Mathieu as he started the strenuous operation.

We thank him in advance for the hours of fun we will have.

A SURPRISE COMING!

We remember the kindness and generosity of good Mother A. Lachance when she came to visit La Roche in 1951, as Assistant General. She is still thinking of her missionary Sisters and their Pupils and has already sent fine parcels of Christmas Gifts.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our sincere thanks go to the editors of the school papers who have found our address again. It is always with pleasure that we read about your activities. We like your



papers. Do you like ours? Island Breezes, Beautiful Valley Echo, Whispering Pines, Moccassin Telegram, St. Anthony.

Our very sincere thanks we wish to express for Mr. Waugh's dear kindness in sending us the paper and ink with which we may share our northern experiences with our friends far and near.

The Teachers

.....
 May the song the angels sang
 Re-echo now for you
 And bless you with true happiness
 Today and always, too!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



NORTHERN NEWS

In early October many of our good people left for their hunting grounds some sixty-five miles north of our settlement. Some were flown out, others travelled on horse back, and still others walked, camping on the way.

Lately we were glad to greet some of our friends who have come here for more supplies. They say that all the men, women and children are well and happy. The squirrels, weasels and minks are making themselves useful by letting the people

catch them . Our little ten-year-old friend George Janvier who was forced to absent himself from school this year has bagged a bear cub. Three cheers for you George!!! There is yet no trace of caribou. Won't they come?

Unfortunately accidents do happen. George's father, Mr. Jules Janvier went through the ice, and had it not been for the presence and assistance of his son, he may have drowned. We are glad to think he is safe. Alex Jolibois was hurt when his axe slipped and cut his foot. We hope there will be no complice

tions.

Now we are looking forward to Christmas when all our good friends will return to celebrate the birth of our dear Saviour. In the meantime we pray our Lady that all may be well with them.

Zni

PEOPLE RETURNING FROM WATERWAYS

Fred. Fontaine's family came back from Waterways, Alberta. After staying six years there, they came back here. My sister Anne and her husband have also come back. They had left on June 6th. I was so happy to see my sister and her baby girl.

Edward Park who had gone as far as Athabaska Lake returned also. He and his family have left for the north to trap. Quite a few men went to Waterways to work, but all are back home.

Celina Janvier

GOODBYE

Mr. and Mrs. Poisson and little Reginald came here for one short week after their holidays. Mr.

Poisson was kept very busy selling licenses to the trappers going North.

Now Mr. Poisson and his family are posted at Ile a la Crosse.

Gilles Jolibois

OUR NEW FIELD OFFICER

Mr. Michaud and his family have come to stay here with us. They take the place of Mr. Poisson. We are glad to welcome them in our midst.

Meet our new little neighbours: Diane and Denis, Janet, Rita and Ronald are the sprightly little children of our new field officer.

Rosaria Janvier

SAD NEWS

On November 4, Mrs. Michaud and her sister Lena heard the sad news of their father's death. They flew home the next morning to attend the funeral. How sorry we felt for Mrs. Michaud. We prayed for her.

During her absence, the littlest twins took ill so they had to stay at the hospital. But Diane, Denis and Janet, though lonesome for their "mommy", stayed home with Daddy.

Now Mrs. Michaud has come home again, to the great joy of her little brood.

Rosaria Janvier

When the plane came on the 13th it was a misty day. The plane circled three times above our homes and finally landed without accident. We were glad.

Cecile Janvier

MARRIAGE

Mr. Michel Benjamin of Buffalo River was married to Mrs. Eleonore Janvier formerly of La Loche. They will make their home at Buffalo River.

Jules Park

TO ALL OUR DEAR FRIENDS
AT THE P.A. SAN.

May every Christmas joy be yours and may the New Year too
Bring every thing that means the most to those you love and YOU!

o - - o - - o - - o

What do the merry bells say when they ring?
Keep Christmas in your heart,
Keep Christmas in your heart.
What do the carolers say when they sing?
Keep Christmas in your heart
For Jesus.

Ring, merry bells! This is Jesus' birthday-
Go tell all the world
Go tell all the world
Jesus lies sleeping,
newborn on the
hay-
Go tell all
the world
Of Jesus

Noël
Noël
Noël



The long autumn season did not favor the people who live across the lake. Their provisions ran low, therefore they attempted to cross on the thin ice. Mrs. Leon Herman and Miss Eleonore Lemaigre came from West La Loche travelling around the lake and reached here safely.

They went shopping, and after a few hours decided to return home before the night. They attempted to cross from Yeanskkezhe to the island but the thin ice cracked, and the two ladies, their dogs and toboggan and their load went to the bottom. Fortunately Arsene Herman was with them to help them across so he rescued them. They were taken to his home, and Helen had a warm fire. Soon the ladies were as bright as new.

The following day they went home taking the longer route around the lake. It is always better to be safe.

Grade VI

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

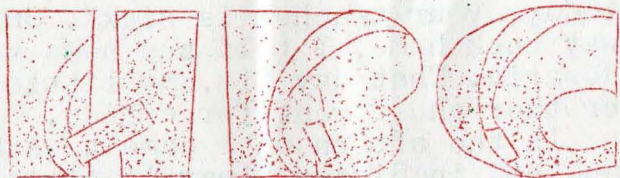
After many months of sickness Mrs. Angele Janvier quietly passed away at her home in West La Loche. As her good neighbours quietly knelt saying their beads, her soul took her flight to God. One more of our good people had left this world. She died in silence as she lived in these vast solitudes which were her home. Though ignoring the many complications of the modern world, Mrs. Janvier had lived contentedly and peacefully among her children and her grand children.

How these children will miss her peaceful, loving presence, but they will meet her again in the "Great Beyond", when they too will have "crossed the Bar".

To her sons, Isaac, Leon, Alex, to her many grand children, the expression of our deepest sympathy and the assurance that in our prayers we remember the beloved deceased.

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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



Dave Young left in October to clerck
in Ile a la Crosse.

Bill Bissett formerly at Brochet ar-
rived October 5, and James Watson, for-
merly at La Ronge arrived November 4,
complete with Scottish accent and oatmeal,
but no bagpipes, for which we are grateful.

- . - . - . -

May we take this opportunity to wish
all our friends and customers a

Very Merry Christmas

And a Prosperous New Year.

*Hudson's Bay Co.,
La Roche,
Management + Staff.*



(School cont'd from page 12)
GOD BLESS YOU NAP!

Our Grade VIII was brought to a sudden stop by the departure of its sole member, Napoleon Sylvestre.

As your teacher through all your school days, I want to express my sincere admiration for the good work you have done during your eight years of school, and also my wish that all pupils who are and will be, may follow in your footsteps. Your good spirit will live and inspire others to do better, and this will lead them on to success.

May God bless you in your new way of life, and when the day of the great Exam comes, may you still be found faithful.

Your Teacher

MY HOLIDAYS

Tuesday morning we were coming to school, and we arrived in the classroom we were surprised not to see our teacher as usual. Then we remembered that she had a very bad cold the previous day. But it wasn't until five to nine that Sister Simard

told us: "There is no school for you today, your teacher is sick". On my way back home, I told the news to Rosaria. That day Pio, my littlest brother and I went for a ride.

In the afternoon I came to school and hid in Sister Simard's class, but Sister dug me out, and she told me to go and help Father Mathieu on the skating rink. I was glad to give a hand to Father. Today I'm in school,

Lil' Alfred (Alfred J. Janvier)

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Our good Father Bourbonnais, director of the mission, paid a hurried but pleasant visit to our neighbours "down south"-Ile a la Crosse and Beauval.

At Ile a la Crosse Father met our kind Administrator Mr. Waugh who promised -guess what?? -a visit to La Loche for January. We are looking forward to seeing you before too long then, Mr. Waugh.

Had it not been for the terrible accident which took the lives of four persons the visit would have been ideal.

(con't on last page)

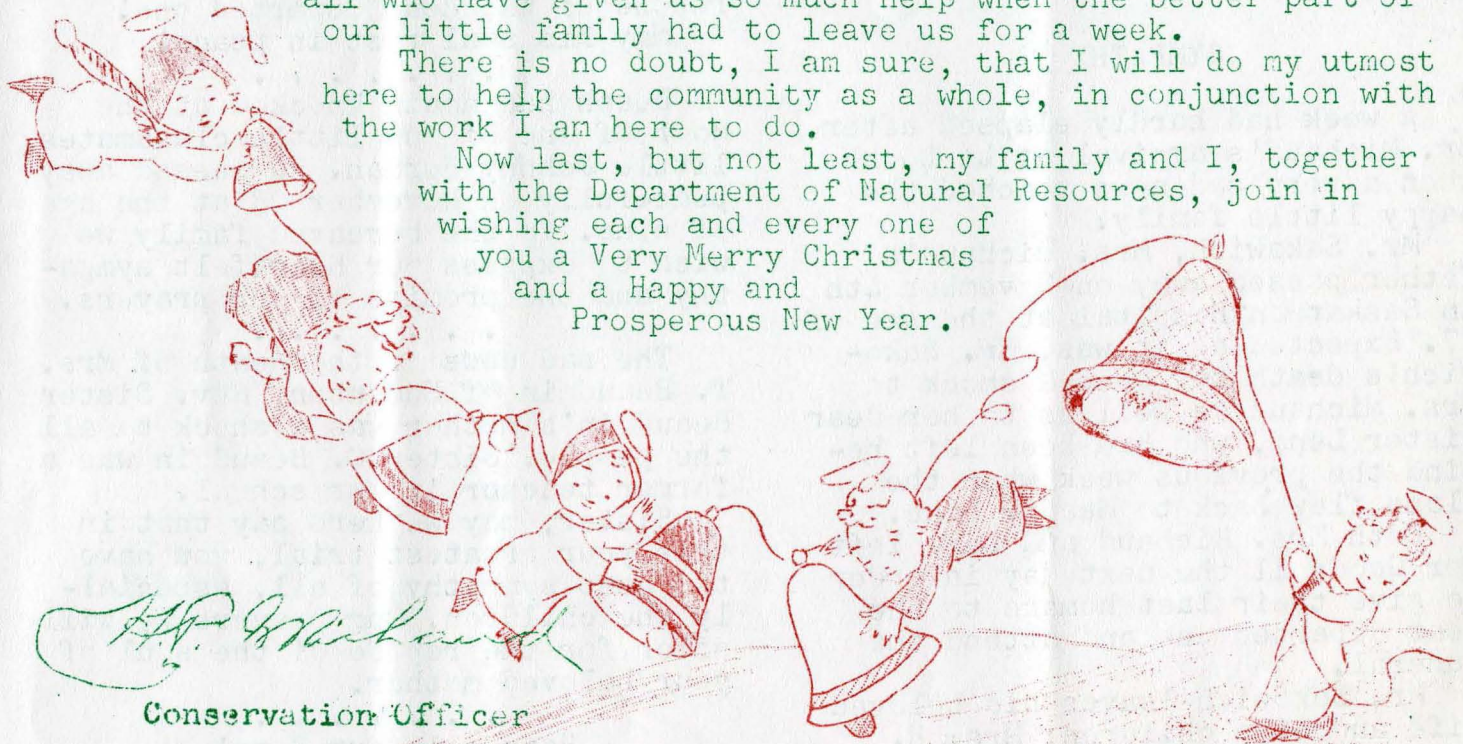
DNR

As a new member in your Community, I wish to thank each and every one who have extended us and our family such a favourable welcome.

We also take this opportunity to thank with our whole hearts all who have given us so much help when the better part of our little family had to leave us for a week.

There is no doubt, I am sure, that I will do my utmost here to help the community as a whole, in conjunction with the work I am here to do.

Now last, but not least, my family and I, together with the Department of Natural Resources, join in wishing each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



A. F. Wickham

Conservation Officer

The jeep which brought Father to Ile a la Crosse from Beauval was only fifteen minutes ahead of the one which went through the ice.

We are thankful God spared our devoted missionary, and we pray for the souls of those who lost their lives.

SYMPATHY

A week had hardly elapsed after Mr. Michaud's arrival at La Loche when a very sad news reached the happy little family.

Mr. Sakowich, Mrs. Michaud's father passed away on November 4th in Saskatoon Hospital at the age of 57. Expected as it was, Mr. Sakowich's death has been a shock to Mrs. Michaud as well as to her dear sister Lena, who had been left behind the previous week when the plane flew back to Meadow Lake.

Both Mrs. Michaud and Lena left for Goodsoil the next day in order to give their last homage to the dear departed one and attend the funeral.

Mr. Sakowich leaves his beloved wife and nine children: Mrs. H.

Michaud, La Loche - Mr. N. Sakowich, Goodsoil - Mary, living in Regina - Ann, Rosie, Lena, Walter & George, twin boys, and Nora.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Michaud and her family, with the assurance of our prayers for the repose of the dear departed one!

May his soul rest in peace!

Death has again knocked at the door of one of our little classmates, little Johnny Herman. He passed away peacefully on November 28 at the age of nine. To the bereaved family we wish to express our heartfelt sympathy and the promise of our prayers.

The sad news of the death of Mrs. T. Beaudoin of Edmonton, Rev. Sister Beaudoin's mother was a shock to all the people. Sister C. Beaudoin was a former teacher in our school.

Sister, may we here say that in this your greatest trial, you have the deep sympathy of all, especially the children. Our prayers we will offer for the repose of the soul of your beloved mother.

Heaven is our Home!



Soeurs Grises de Montréal
Prov. S. Albert
ARCHIVES