



THE GREAT PORTAGE

Soeurs Grises de Montréal
Prov. S. Albert
ARCHIVES

La Loche, Sask.
Vol. X No. 4
April-June 1956



To
 Father
 J. Bourbonnais

and
 Father
 B. Mathieu

We gratefully dedicate this issue of the Great Portage.

MISSION



Time is passing, but it often leaves behind it many memories that can never be effaced. Such is the case, in the quickly passed six years of dear Father Bourbonnais as pastor of La Loche church.

It is true, these years have passed into eternity, but some of the great and numerous works accomplished by him, who took such a vital interest in the La Loche district, will always stand out as a monument to his memory.

In March 1950, Rev. Father Bourbonnais took abode here at La Loche. Since then he has been for every member of the parish, an ever accessible and understanding counsellor, a devoted and faithful friend whom no complicated situation ever took unaware, a real Father, who was interested in all the needs of the souls confided to him.

To make a long story short, let us but mention the the greatest of all his accomplishment, the building of a beautiful new church, whose steeple points to all the Catholics of La Loche, the road that leads to God and life everlasting.

Father Bourbonnais has always taken keen interest in all scholastic activities and done his utmost to promote the advancement of the school for the general benefit and happiness of all

the pupils.

He was secretary of the school board during all his stay here. He has greatly encouraged the printing and perfecting of the "Great Portage", the school journal.

To facilitate the giving of little programs and regular concerts, 3
he made a useful addition to the Lajeunesse Hall.

God bless Father Bourbonnais for the grand work he leaves behind in leaving us for his new field of action, Ile a la Crosse! We know he still loves and thinks of us very frequently. His memory will never fade from ours.

OUR NEW PASTOR.

Rev. Father Mathieu has been elected to succeed Rev. Fr. Bourbonnais as director of the La Loche mission. To him we extend our warmest congratulations. Father Mathieu has spent the last six years at La Loche, and is known by all as an understanding missionary. Always he worked with zeal and we are sure that under his management, this mission will continue its march on the road to progress. May God bless and keep him with us and give him many joys and consolations.

OTHER CHANGES.

On June the 7th., Rev. Father L.Lavigueur, former missionary at Le Pas, Man., was welcomed to La Loche. As usual, this new arrival meant a departure; that of Rev. Fr. Clement who so generously spent himself here during the last two months. Grateful prayers accompanied him to his new field of labor: Buffalo Narrows.

MODIFICATIONS MADE TO HOLY WEEK.

We had a surprise during the week before Easter...On Holy Thursday, we had the mass at five o'clock in the afternoon, about the same hour that Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist.... On Good Friday we had the mass at three o'clock, hour at which Jesus died on the cross. On Holy Saturday, we had the mass at 9 o'clock at night. This was a great change for us, because we always till now went to mass only in the forenoon. (cont'd on p. 5)

HOSPITAL



HOME LEAVE.

While Sr. Webber was away to Montreal we had Sr. A. Rivard here with us. She stayed for two months and has now returned to her post at Ile a la Crosse. We thank Sr. Rivard for the work she did for us.

We welcome Sr. Webber back home and we wish success and joy in her work in our midst.

Celina Herman.

On May the 14th. at the Holy Family Hospital in Prince Albert, came Nancy to be the joy of Mark and Emily Lemaigre. As her mother is following treatment at the Sanatorium, little Nancy was flown to La Loche on June 2nd., to be confided to the care of her grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Maxime

Lemaigre. We hope her mother will soon recover to be able to come back to take care of her loving child.

Since the last Great Portage was printed, seventy-four persons have been cared for at the hospital.

Fred Fontaine from Clear Water River, came in having a two week old infected cut on his hand. Although very contraried by Doctor's orders to remain in hospital, he left after five days of treatment, his hand being

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The part which I liked best was where everyboby lit their candle, while the electric lights were out. The mass lasted about two hours as there were so many to make their Easter duties. We had a very nice Holy Week.

Alfred Janvier.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

How thoughtful of Mrs. Michaud to send us for Easter, a beautiful plant, a giant double petunia, all in bloom. As I help Sister at the church, I was proud to put this lovely plant at the feet of Our Lady.

Many thanks, dear Mrs. Michaud. May God keep you and bless you for your generosity.

Celine Janvier.

OUR FIRST BOAT RIDE.

Last Sunday, June 13th., what a surprise we had when we heard Father Mathieu call: "All aboard! for a boat ride!"

Eighteen of us jumped in the big barge. We went to and fro on the calm lake, but as some had been late and were waiting on the shore, Father went back to get them. We were then thirty-five. Rev. Father Lavigueur gave peanuts to all. We felt quite happy for we love boat rides.

Thanks, kind Fathers, for your devotedness!

Geordie Herman.

NEW CHURCH AT WEST LA LOCHE.

At the site of the very first H.B.C. Post at West La Loche, a new church is going to be built.

On June 14th., Rev. Fr. Lavigueur, Brother Vachon and three helpers started to work. We hope that when it is completed we will have the privilege of witnessing its solemn blessing.

VILLAGE

MERRY WEDDING BELLS.



Wedding bells rang merrily on Easter Monday, April 2nd., when Elizabeth Herman became the bride of Jean Marie Montgrand. Both promised fidelity to each other in the presence of their friends who wished them many years of happiness.

On the same day, Delphine Lemaigre gave her hand to Benoit Lemaigre. Rev. Fr. Bourbonnais blessed the two couples after which he celebrated the nuptial mass, during which a choir of volunteers sang appropriate hymns.

Many relations and friends shared the wedding festivities. The community hall was the site of evening's dancing and fun.

A third marriage ceremony was held on May 28th. That morning, Rita Herman became the bride of Cyprien Janvier. Rev. Fr. Clement officiated at the special mass. The wedding dance took place at the community hall.

On June the 19th., Josephine Lemaigre married Daniel Herman. Josephine left a few days after the wedding with her "best half", for their home at Garson Lake.

Congratulations and best wishes to all these happy married couples.

Marcelline Hainault.

TREATY PARTY.

June 14th. was the day for the annual payment of the treaty money to the Indians of our district.

Treaty time is always a merry time, as the "Party" uses our classrooms. We then have an extra holiday.

The T.B. Survey was also made, and from what we can see, many were kept busy throughout the evening till 10 P.M. and the whole forenoon of June 15th.

Due to unfavorable weather, the Treaty Party was delayed till Saturday. In the evening, it was flown to Clear Lake to perform the same duties there.
Marguerite Sylvestre.

LAST FLASH.

Sr. L.Gamache and Mr. N.L.Stasuik boarded the plane for Prince Albert as soon as school closed. We wish Sister, success in her University course and pleasant holidays to Mr. Stasuik..

AT WORK AND PLAY.

Our fathers and big brothers spent the long winter season at different points in the North. They made us a hurried visit at Easter time, but soon again all returned for the busy beaver and rat season ahead. Most of them remained on the trap line till the end of May. We gladly welcomed our friends again and we spent a week or two together, getting the gardens in shape and resting all the while.

Now again most able-bodied men, have left to seek their livelihood at Mc Murray or Waterways. Whole families have moved out, hoping to find their daily bread more easily at this neighboring point. May you be happy!

Where are all these people, little and big going? Everyone has a radiant face and seems anxious to see a picture show? the television? Oh no! All are going to a concert given by the children at the Lajeunesse Hall.

As a witness of many such programs given by the pupils of the school, one notices that the teachers' devotedness and patience has borne fruit. The actors are willing to please and satisfy the audience which is much to our pleasure.

The concert opens by a symbolic representation of best wishes to our kind pastor, Father Bourbonnais, who throughout his life has answered the call of Master.

The presentation of the Spiritual Bouquet is most charming. Five "rose" faces express their gratitude for all the kindness Father has for little children. In return, the pupils have offered prayers and sacrifices for the continued welfare of our Pastor.

The Crow, though crafty, was shot down and what delicacy, "Yum" is a fried crow! Grades two and three sing their song with great pep. Can you guess who Catkin is... a cat? no, a Pussy Willow! Miss Polly's doll was sick but a pill did her good. The beginners' action songs "This is East and this is West", shows that even they know how to please us But, "Can you hop" certainly stole the show, if one judges by the clapping that accompanied the final action, "Swing your partner". Three cheers for the little ones!



In "Laying the Ghost", Alfred Janvier, the Ghost, Ernest Moise, the professor, Jean Janvier, the butler, Abraham Moise, the housekeeper and Leon Janvier, the constable, show marked improvement in acting. Where did all this ale and those biscuits go? It remained to Abraham to find out that ghosts don't eat and that a tramp must be abroad.

In a final scene the "tramp" and "ghost" in one, is caught up by justice. As a final chorus "Bless this House" was very appropriate. We thank the actors for their right good will and wish them continuous success.

An Onlooker.

" CAT DRIVE"

We went for a picnic on April 13th. Mr. Stasuik was a good driver and we thank him for it. He drove about three miles and a half to the island. We then enjoyed a hot drink and tasty cookies. And of course, Father and Sister Superior had seen to the essentials..candies and Easter eggs.

To all who made our picnic so pleasant, our sincere thanks.

Beatrice Herman.

OUR FIELD DAY

There was a field day on May the 25th. What fun it was to race, jump and try our luck at one or another stunt. I was lucky to win five prizes. Many other children won and even three men who raced, each got a prize.

"I am anxious to be a man"!

Rev. Fr. Mathieu, Mr. Michaud and Mr. Simpson donated money to buy the prizes. We thank them very sincerely.

Ernest Moise.

BOOKS FOR OUR LIBRARY.

The first series of books we received were from Sr. A.Gamache, superior who is very interested in our school work.

Then Sr. B.Levesque also sent us some pamphlets and coloring books, which we greatly appreciate.

10 Last, but not least, was the gift Mr. Waugh sent of forty books to be distributed in four classrooms.

I like reading as it gives us some knowledge of ways of living of other folks around the world. To all our generous benefactors our sincere thanks.

Marguerite Janvier.

SWINGS

We are going to have swings for the school children. We did our share of the work by digging the five-foot deep holes where Father Mathieu and some helpers planted the poles. One morning we came to school and found that two swings were ready for use. We are thankful to all who make our school days happier.

Marcel Janvier.

4 H CLUB ACTIVITIES.

Throughout the spring season, we held regular meetings. We discussed ways and means of having the very best gardens ever seen around here. We shall each have our plot in our garden at home, so as to safeguard all neighbours' honesty.

After Mr. Michaud had ploughed our garden we sowed our seeds and now we hope that the rain and sunshine will make them grow.

Mr. Neilson sent us two hundred elms and twenty five red pines. In a special plot we put them till they have grown tall enough to plant around the school yard.

Surely when all is considered "we" shall become as good farmers as Mr. Neilson and Mr. Michaud are.

Abraham Moise, secretary.

On May 21st. we had a holiday in honour of Queen Victoria. My friends and I spent the day in the bush making arrows and shooting at this and that. We had a very happy time together.

Jean Sylvestre.

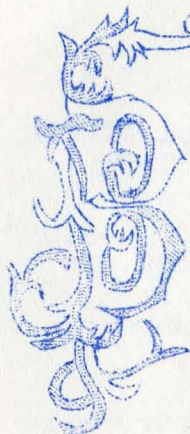
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TO FATHER BOURBONNAIS



-is for the GRATITUDE we extend to you
 R-is for the REWARD you are bound to receive
 A-is for the wise ADVICE you've given us
 T-is for the TREATS you generously shared
 I-is for the IMMEASURABLE GOOD you've done
 T-is for the TASKS you've performed
 U-is how UNDERSTANDING you've been
 D-is your DEVOTEDNESS to your work
 E-is your EFFORTS to have things just right.

T-is the TRIBUTE we pay to you
 O-is the OCCASION 'tis offered you



F-is the FATHERLY advices you gave us
 A-is the ADMIRATION we'll keep of you
 T-is the THOUGHTS we'll bear in mind
 H-is HEAVEN where we will meet
 E-is the ENCOURAGEMENT you've given us
 R-is for REMEMBRANCE fond and true

-is for the BLESSINGS heaven will pour on you
 O-is for the OBLATE family to which you belong
 U-is for the UNIVERSAL charity
 R-is the RESPONSIBILITIES you have endured
 B-is for the BONBON you gave us
 O-is for the fervent OFFERTORIES of all your masses
 N-is the NOBILITY of your character
 N-is for the nice smile you always wore
 A-is our ABUNDANT prayers for you
 I-is IMITATION of Our Lord
 S-is the SOUVENIR we'll keep of you.

12 in excellent condition. He was very grateful for what the nurses had done for him and found that the hospital was not a bad place after all.

Prosper Lemaigre also had a deep gash on his ankle which has responded so well to treatment that he has been able to leave for home, sweet home

On April 18th., Joseph Montgrand returned home from the San after a ten month' treatment. On June 25th., the ambulance plane came in for Joe Moise who has been called to the San in P.A.

In May, a mercy flight was made to Gypsy Lake to take Adeline, Isaac Montgrand's wife to Ile a la Crosse. She returned on June 20th.

CAME TO REJOICE THEIR PARENTS.

Mariette, to Mrs. Edward Janvier. Roy Lester, to Mrs. J. Marie Fontaine
Jules, to Mrs. William Piche. Shirley, to Mrs. Lionel Herman.
Madeleine Doris, to Mrs. L. Toulejour. Allen Pierre, to Mrs. J. Janvier.
Jacqueline, to Mrs. Billy Janvier. Mabel Joyce, to Mrs. G. Fontaine.
Donald Ambroise, to Mrs. Philippe Lemaigre.

School cont'd....

FIREWOOD

All our stoves are heated with wood. This means a great deal of work for all those who take the trouble to have wood at hand for the long winter months.

This year we helped piling the wood for the school. It was a big job. but we were glad to do it as it gave time to the men who were hired, to finish off our new swings.

Geordir Herman.

A PLEASANT RIDE

On Sunday after "Benediction" Geordie Herman and Jean Sylvestre were chosen to accompany Father Mathieu to West La Loche, to see how the work was progressing. They saw that the floor was already completed.

THANKS!

