

La Loche, Sask.

July-October 1957.

J. Sylvestre

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THE GREAT PORTAGE



IN APPRECIATION
for FOURTEEN CONTINUOUS YEARS

of generous devotedness
and unselfish pioneering

this issue of THE GREAT PORTAGE is gratefully and respectfully
dedicated to SISTER THERESE ARCAND, S.G.M.

La Loche School was two years old in 1943 when Sister assumed teaching responsibilities as its third teacher. In 1944 she became the first Principal, position which she has held until last June. Now on leave for studies at the University of Ottawa we wish Sister Arcand success and happiness with hopes that she will be with us again next year.



MISSION

PASTORAL VISIT

In the late afternoon July 17th an S.G.A. Norseman alighted on the smooth waters of the lake facing the mission. From the shore to the rectory the crowded and eager people exchanged greetings with their First Pastor His Excellency Bishop Paul Dumouchel, C.M.I., Vicar Apostolic of Keewatin. The gay multi-colored decoration of banners, flags and streamers expressed to his Excellency the happiness of his flock to have him in their midst. The mission bells chimed merry notes of welcome all the while the slow-progressing procession lasted.

Our devoted Bishop gave himself wholeheartedly to the spiritual needs of the people giving them instructions every morning and evening during his five-day stay. On Friday His Excellency accompanied by the Rev. Fathers B. Mathieu and L. Lavigueur motored across the lake to West La Loche, to bless the newly-built Chapel.

On Sunday 21st, Our Bishop celebrated a pontifical High Mass assisted by Rev. Fathers L. Lavigueur and G. A. Hupe. In the afternoon His Excellency confirmed thirty boys and girls.

July 22. in the afternoon, the people crowded the mission grounds to say farewell and give the traditional hand shake to our Bishop. Luckily cameras clicked thereby keeping vivid recollections of our First Pastor's visit to remote La Loche.

Dear Children

You are lucky to have the opportunity to attend school but do not forget this: School time is not the best time of your life. School time for children is similar to spring time for a farmer. In the spring the farmer has to plow, to harrow, to disk, to seed his land; he has to work really hard, and in fact in the

spring the farmer does not see the fruits of his work. He is working hard in the spring with the hope that in the fall he will have a good crop.



Therefore, dear children who are attending school now, even if you do not see the importance of your daily work, and even if you do not understand the usefulness of a good education, keep on doing your best, fall time will come for you too, and the work well done now will have its fruits.

Listen well to your parents and your teachers who have authority over you from God; doing so, you will prepare for yourselves a happy life.



DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

DEPARTURES

-- Aug. 3. The Sisters were delighted to greet their Provincial, Rev. Mother B. Dorais, s.g.m., accompanied by Sisters E. Plotkins and L. Gama-che. Mother Provincial spent three days enjoying the missionary life with her Sisters.

-- Aug. 14. The Very Reverend Father Stanislas Larochelle, O.M.I., Assistant General, accompanied by the Reverend Fathers Fernand La Palme, Lynn Lake, Man.: and Rev. Father B. Mathieu; piloted by the Rev. Father William Leising, O.M.I.; paid the Oblate Missionaries a five-hour visit.

WELCOME FATHER GEORGE!

Father George A. Hupe, O.M.I., came here this summer to learn Chipewyan and help Father Mathieu. I think he learns the language well. Father comes to our classroom every Thursday afternoon. He teaches us about God and the Bible. I think Father is good and kind to us. We are all happy to have you with us, Father.

Pascal Janvier, Gr.7.

On July 18, Reverend Brother A. Guimet, O.M.I., who had been stationed here for a year left for Island Lake.

Sincere thanks for the good services rendered here and best wishes accompany him to his new post.

--On July 22, we were all surprised and sorry to hear that kind Father L. Lavigueur, O.M.I. was leaving La Loche. He had spent a year here learning Chipewyan and devoting himself to the children whom he loved and by whom he also was loved. We thank Father for all the help he gave us and pray that he will be very happy in his new field of labor.

Father is now stationed in Brochet Manitoba.

IMPROVEMENT

Sept. 29. Rev. Brothers G. De-Grandpre and G. Croteau, O.M.I., came here to install the machines in the laundry. Although the work was not finished the Brothers left for Ile a la Crosse on October 5.

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HOSPITAL

and Mrs. Francois Fontaine, Les Bains.

THANKS

The best of good wishes to the following proud and happy parents and a loving "Hello" to the dear BABIES too!

Mr. and Mrs. Philippe Lemaigre, Angel Marilyn; Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Montgrand, Mathilda Josephine; Mr. and Mrs. Cyprien M. Janvier, Rudy; Mr. and Mrs. Clement Montgrand, Bertha Dora; Mr. and Mrs. J. Marie Montgrand, Giles Karl; Mr. and Mrs. Aime Bobby Clark, Leslie Thomas; Mr. and Mrs. John Lemaigre, Harvey Ivan; Mr. and Mrs. John Lemaigre (Herman) Alice Cecile; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sylvestre, Leonard Harvey; Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Herman, Rita Joan; Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Montgrand, Richard Thomas; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Herman, Mary Shirley Bernice; Mr.

Our sincere thanks to Sister Ant. Rivard who relieved at the hospital from June 9th to August 3rd. Your good services were greatly appreciated, Sister!

-- Sept. 4th. Sister Ant. Gaudet was welcomed home after her three-month stay in Montreal.

-- Beside his routine trips to La Loche, Doctor M. Hoffman has been in several times since June giving the Salk vaccine.

-- We were pleased to have had the short visit of Doctor I. Haniffy and Mr. J. Kerr of the Indian Hospital, Battleford.

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FOR CHRIST AND HIS FLOCK

In spite of all the ministerial and administrative duties to perform in the hamlet Rev. Father B. Mathieu, O.M.I. Sup., has found ways and means of bringing Christ to more distant members of his flock.

Beginning August 18 until freeze-up, favorable weather permitting navigation, the Padre headed alternately every Sunday toward West La Loche and Black Point. Because of the recent new regulations for the Eucharistic fast he can offer Holy Mass late in the afternoon. When possible two or three Sisters accompanied him being thus privileged to be of some assistance to the missionary.

On October 28th Garson Lake radioed that John Laprise was very ill. The following morning Father left early over the summer road with Maggie the old black mare who proved "she ain't what she used to be." However it must be said in her favor that muskegs are never very inviting. ...It was impossible to cover the twenty-four miles in the day and Father had to camp that night without his sleeping bag. He reached desti-

nation Wednesday forenoon.

All afternoon he ministered to his flock among whom were many sick. Early Thursday morning he hit the trail so as to be home for All Saints' Eve. He soon found that Maggie had run away on him. With Philippe Laprise and Mrs. Marguerite Fontaine he was across the lake at 5:00 P.M. but unfortunately no one saw the fire signal. Around eight o'clock children informed Brother Vachon that Maggie was at the barn door. At ten Father George and Robby Fontaine crossed the lake with the mission skiff and reached the party around midnight. With no moon, no wind, no waves, but a heavy mist over the lake, all had lost the sense of direction and for hours they circled the lake before they finally reached home cold and weary at 4:00 A.M. All Saints Day.

"Time is--

Too Slow for those who Wait,
Too Swift for those who Fear,
Too Long for those who Grieve,
Too Short for those who Rejoice,
But for those who Love
Time is not."

"On A Sun Dial."



Abraham Moise

SCHOOL OPENING

School opened again for us on September 3rd. Of course we were all happy to be back to school. (But I don't know if others like school the way I do.)

SCHOOL

There was a new teacher for us, grades 5,6 and 7, because Sister T. Arcand is gone. I hope she will come back next year to teach us again for we all miss her. Our new teacher's name is Sister B. Levesque.

Leonie Lemaigre, Gr.7.

Sister C. Beaudoin, who teaches grade 1, is the Principal of our four-room school. Sister G. Simard teaches grade 2 and Sister L. Gamache grades 3 and 4. The enrolment is 108 pupils.

PRIZES FOR ATTENDANCE

On September 30 and October 31, Sister Superior B. Gamache visited the classrooms. She came to our class first and we sang a song for her. She told us not to miss school too often. She gave prizes to those who had not missed school. I did not miss yet. We said thank you to her.

Abraham Moise, Gr. 7.

SCHOOL PUTS ON NEW ATTIRE

During the summer holidays, Mathias Herman, and Jean-Marie Le-maigre painted the interior and exterior of our school. The four classrooms are attractive and neat in their new coats of light green pink and white.

Sincere thanks are extended to Mr. T.H. Waugh, Administrator of Education for Northern Areas, for financing the school decorating project and to Rev. Father B. Mathieu for supervising the enterprise.

A NEW GRAMOPHONE

Right now the new gramophone is in Sister L. Gamache's classroom. It is very nice to hear it. We had it in our class once. It belongs to the Mission. Sure is nice to get the gramophone for school use! Thank you, Father Superior.

Therese Sylvestre,
Grade 5.

HOT LUNCH

We have a hot lunch at 10:30 each morning. We all like it. Sister Prevost of St. Margaret's Hospital, Biggar, Saskatchewan, sent us cocoa soup(vegetable). They are Stafford Foods. We like cocoa best of all. We all thank Sister Superior of Biggar for sending us some Stafford Foods; and Sister M.C. Gervais who prepares our lunch every day.

Jean Janvier, Gr. 6.

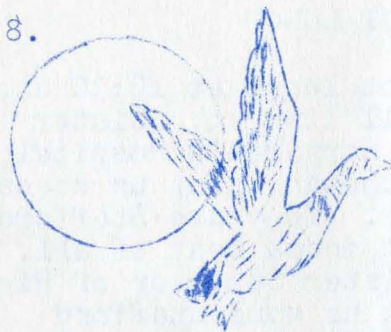
Ed.'s Note: On Sister Prevost's request Stafford Foods donated the goods which she graciously forwarded. So, many thanks to her and Stafford's for their good deed so beneficial to our pupils! If others wish to join them it will be appreciated likewise.

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One northern autumn day after the last bell:

Teacher: Let's form a nice strait line, Boys.

Abraham: We can't Sister. It's too windy.



VILLAGE

WEDDING

On October 4th Albertine Morin became the bride of Jimmy Herman. They were very happy. There was a dance for them at the hall. Everybody was very happy to dance till midnight. Raphael Janvier played the violin and Jack Park the guitar. Albertine is a good girl.

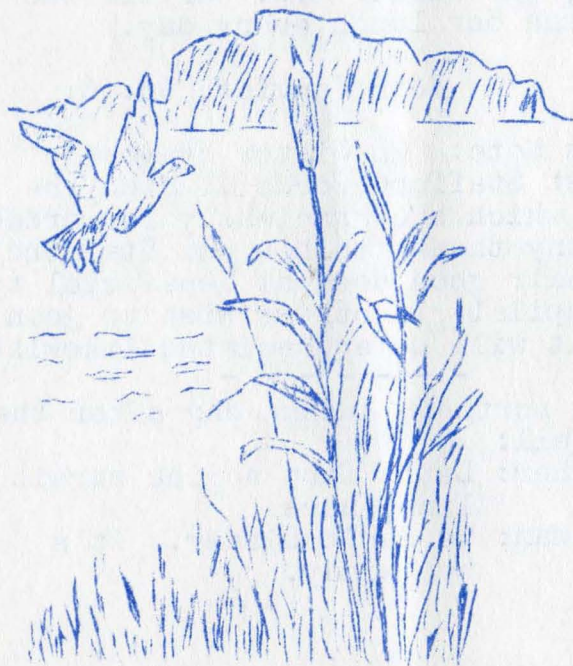
Ernest Moise, Gr. 7.

HOME AGAIN

Roby Fontaine and family stayed at Mc Murray all summer. Many people were there too because they were working. They came back in September. I think that many of them will go again next year.

Leonie Lemaigre, Gr. 7.

On Sept. 10. Alex Janvier came back from Waterways with all his family. Jean was very happy to be back. On Monday he was in school so happy to see us again. --Ernest Moise.



AT THE BAY

--July 11 Mr. Charlie Kleine arrived to take the responsibilities of Local Manager at the Hudson's Bay store.

--Sept. 4. Mr. Donald Thompson came to La Loche to clerk at the Bay.

Best wishes for a pleasant and happy stay at La Loche are extended to Mr. Kleine and Mr. Thompson.

-- In August, Mr. Kleine coasted the lake in a dandy new speed boat --the first of its kind to disturb the quiet waters of Methy Lake.

TRAPPERS' MEETING

On September 14, there was a meeting at Lajeunesse Hall. Most of the trappers were there. Beaver and muskrat season opened October 15 and closes May 20, 1958, moose, July 1st to March 15. Each trapper will pay \$3.00 for a license. Mr. Bobby Clark is the new Councillor for the Fur Block. I hope the trappers will have good luck this year.

Pascal Janvier, Gr. 7.

FISHING SEASON

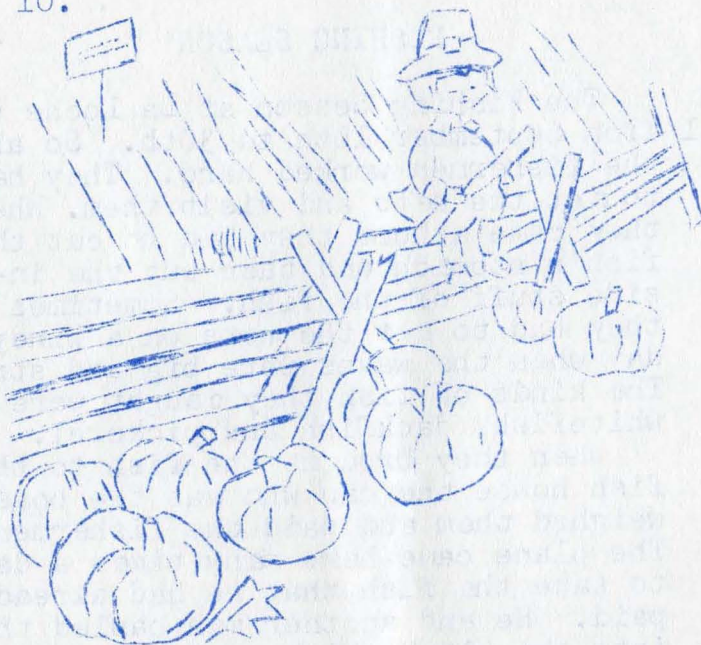
The Fishing Season at La Loche was from September 16th to 30th. So all the fishermen worked hard. They had to set the nets and visit them. When they came ashore they had to cut the fish's stomach and take out the inside stuff of the fish. Sometimes they had to get the nets on a windy day when the waves were big and strong. The kinds of fish they caught were whitefish, jackfish and pickerel.

When they brought the fish to the fish house the man who was the boss weighed them and paid the fishermen. The plane came here many times a day to take the fish that he had already paid. He and another man hauled them into the plane which took off and came back for more fish. When it was all the pilot could take he said thank you and took off. Well, I hope I will be a fisherman one day.

Abraham Moise, Gr. 7.

On Sept. 16. the Fishing Season was opened and all the men were happy to set their nets on the lake. They made money and bought food with it. They went fishing even if it was

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ACHIEVEMENT DAY

We had Achievement Day Friday, September 13th. Mr. J.D. Neilson, Agricultural Representative, and Mr. D.R. Robinson from the University of Saskatchewan, judged our vegetables and potatoes. I was first in the Garden Club and for the Potato Project Pierre Mont rand was first. All the club members

4-H CLUB

received a little money and we are all satisfied. We would like to thank Rev. Father B. Mathieu, O.M.I. Sister Superior Gamache, Mr. Don Neely and the HBC boys for their donations to our 4-H Clubs.

Pascal Janvier, Gr. 7.

PRIZE WINNERS

Garden Club:

1. Pascal Janvier
2. Blandine Herman
3. Cecilia Herman
4. Jean Sylvestre
5. Albertine Morin
6. Suzanne Sylvestre

Potato Project:

1. Pierre Montgrand
2. Cyprien Herman
3. Louis Herman
4. Geordie Herman
5. Norman Fontaine
6. Ernest Montgrand.

HEMOCRAFT CLUB

KNITTING and RAFFIA PROJLCTS

After Achievement Day the activities of the 4-H Club became knitting for the girls and raffia craft for the boys. Here are a few words of appreciation from the children themselves. Ed.

Every Thursday we knit. Sisters G. Simard and L. Gamache teach us. Sometimes Sister Superior comes to look at our knitting. Knitting is good for us. I thank the Sisters for teaching us. The girls like knitting.

Blandine Herman, Gr.5.

This is our first year of home-craft. The teachers of the Raffia Project are Sisters C. Beaudoin and B. Levesque. The first time it was very hard for us to make a picture frame with raffia. Now that we have made it it is pretty. I hope we will keep on doing this kind of work. I would like to say a big thank you to our teachers.

Pascal Janvier, Gr.7.

windy or rainy. They fished at Black Point and West La Loche too. The plane took the fish away to Buffalo Narrows where it was canned and sold at a higher price.

Ernest Moise, Gr. 7.

NORTHWARD BOUND

Since the trapping season is opened the following families have gone to the north: Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Clark, Alfred Cheecham, Martial Herman, Philip Lemaigre, Pierre Lemaigre Boniface Janvier, Simeon Janvier and Edward Park, Jean-Marie Montgrand, Pierre and Ernest Herman, Abraham and Eugene Janvier. Some trappers have gone by plane, some on horse back, others took the cheapest way-- they walked.

They all said "Goodbye" till December. Then will return to spend the Christmas season at home.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL and safe return home.

BACK FROM P.A. SAN.

A hearty WELCOME HOME again to: Mr. J.D. Herman, Mrs. M. Rose Herman, Jane and Alice Lemaigre and Jimmy Montgrand.

12. CONSERVATION CORNER

Welcome to the Conservation Corner! This is the first story, in what I hope will be a regular feature in THE GREAT PORTAGE. In these stories I will try to tell you of things which happen in my Department, which might affect you people.

Most of you older folks have probably hunted the Barren-ground Caribou, and will remember the time, seven or eight years ago when they came through La Loche. At that time you likely never thought that there would ever be a time when there would never be any caribou. Unfortunately though the caribou are dieing off, where there used to be millions of caribou, there are now only mere thousands, and these are getting fewer each year.

All the Governments in Canada are worried about the Caribou. This past year men have been counting and studying the Caribou, trying to find out why they are dieing. They found that the cows just are not able to have enough calves to replace those killed by hunters, wolves, and other causes. Forest Fires which have

burned a part of their range is another thing which is causing them trouble.

It has been decided that permits will be needed to hunt Caribou this year, something the same as you use for moose. These permits will be given only to trappers, and will let him kill two Caribou for himself, and two each for his wife and children. We hope that this meat will not be wasted or fed to dogs.

Caribou cows and calves are not to be killed between January 1, to August 1, this will allow the cows to have their calves without too much trouble. The bulls can be seen at this time because they do not have horns after January 1.

We hope we will have your help in this job, the Caribou means a lot to the people of the north, because it is such an easy meat supply. It would be a bad thing to let them all die, but with your help they may be brought back, just like the beaver and the moose.

Don Neely,
Conservation Officer.



JEAN SYLVESTRE