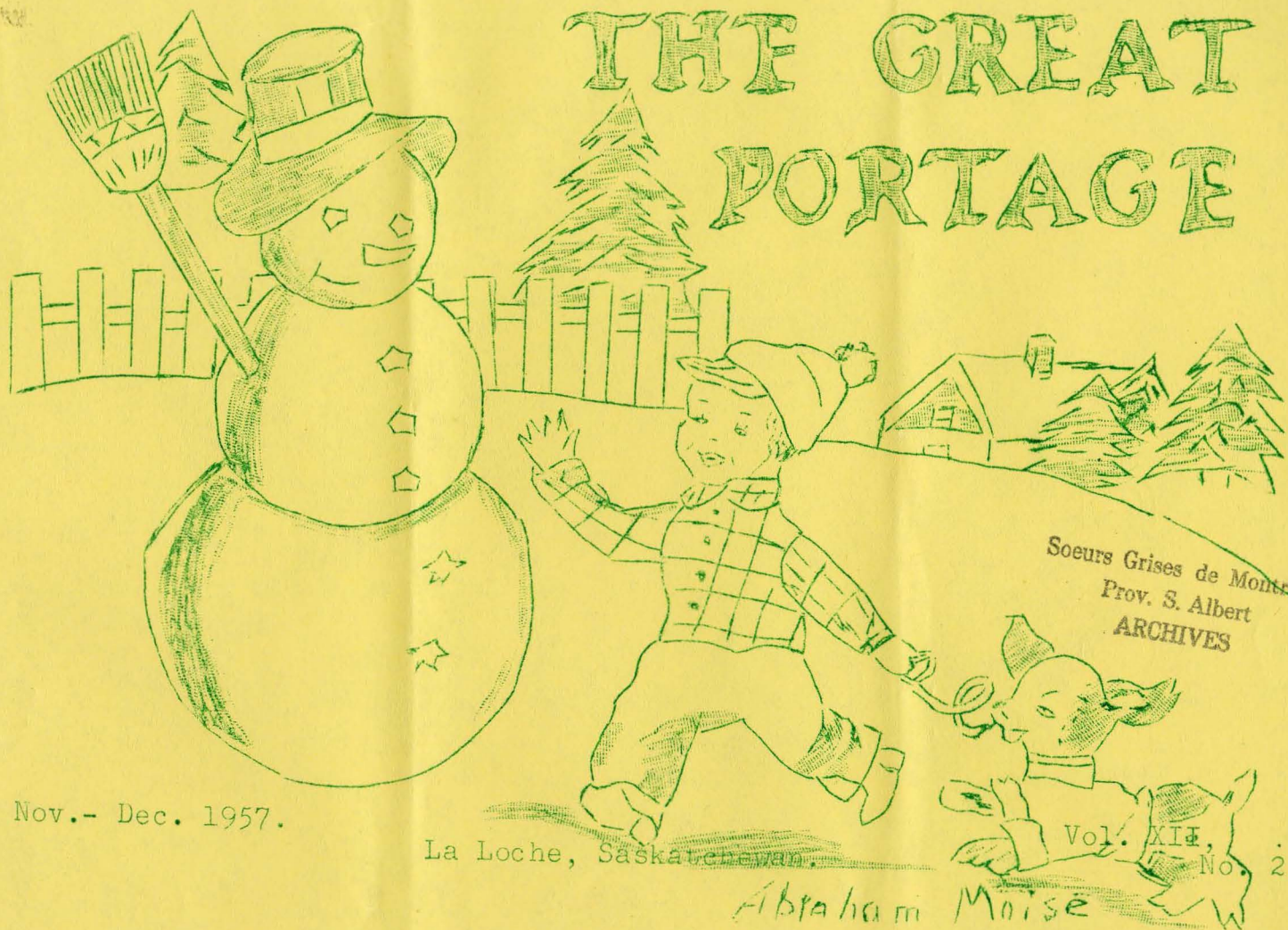


THE GREAT PORTAGE



Nov.- Dec. 1957.

La Loche, Saskatchewan.

Abraham Moise

Soeurs Grises de Montréal
Prov. S. Albert
ARCHIVES

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Father's Message

Dear Children,

For the poor as well as for the rich, for the child as well as for the old man, Christmas is a real joyful feast. Jesus our Saviour is born.

Look at Jesus and listen to Him in the crib. He speaks a language understood by everybody. Jesus, Son of God, in His infinite humility, was born in a poor crib to save our soul from the punishment inflicted upon us by the pride of our first parents. We know how miserable we were before the coming of Jesus and also know

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which reward is reserved to those who will live according to His teachings. That is why the feast of Christmas is a cause of great joy.

Dear children, when we remember the sufferings of Jesus for us and when we consider His love for us we cannot help being thankful to Him. The best way is to be faithful to His teachings.

This is my wish to all of you, for the coming New Year.

La Loche, Saskatchewan.

Bernard G. G. G. G.

December 27, 1957.





Dear Children,

Like all other children, you have been looking forward for Christmas. You have been waiting, counting the days before the great day. Why were you so anxious for Christmas?

There are many reasons that you would be able to tell me. You have nice holidays giving you plenty of time to play; you receive toys and candies; there are nice decorations in your homes, school and church; everybody seems to be so happy on Christmas Day.

Why all this at Christmas? Because it is the day on which Jesus was born. In the church at Christmas time we see the Infant Jesus in a manger, lying on the straw, already suffering. It is a very great day, full of mystery.

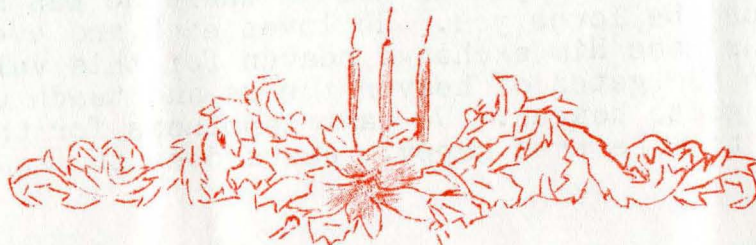
Did you ever stop to think why Jesus is there as a child, suffering when He could very well have stayed in heaven where He was happy? Dear children, it is because He loves you. He loves each and everyone of us. This great love for us made Him exchange heaven for this valley of tears, to enable Him to open the gates of heaven for us and teach us how to behave to be able to go to heaven. We want happiness for those we love and we do all we can to make them happy. Jesus does the same for us.

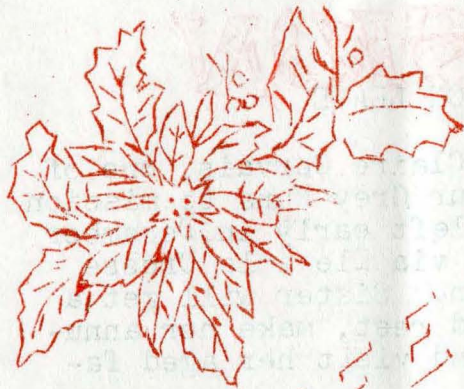
When you go to church, dear children, and kneel near the crib do not forget to tell Jesus how happy you are for all He did for you. Tell Him that you want to follow His teachings the best you can, all the time, to make Him happy, to show Him that you love Him also.

Jesus too, was counting the days and looking forward for Christmas. He was looking for "His" Christmas present too. He was anxious to see what you would give Him on this great day. Are you not going to give Jesus a very nice present? Yes, I am sure you will. I can see in your eager eyes that you are willing to do so. What will be this gift that will please Jesus very, very much? It is your heart, your love, your good-will. If on Christmas Day and everyday of the year you always try your very best to make Jesus happy, you will be happy too. May you find happiness in your daily duty done the best you can to please Jesus. This is my wish for you all, dear children.

I wish to extend my sincere wishes of a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to all the readers, friends and benefactors of The Great Portage.

La Berthe Samashe s.j.m.





WISHES

God bless you at this special time,

And through each coming day,

God give you many precious gifts

To cheer you on your way...

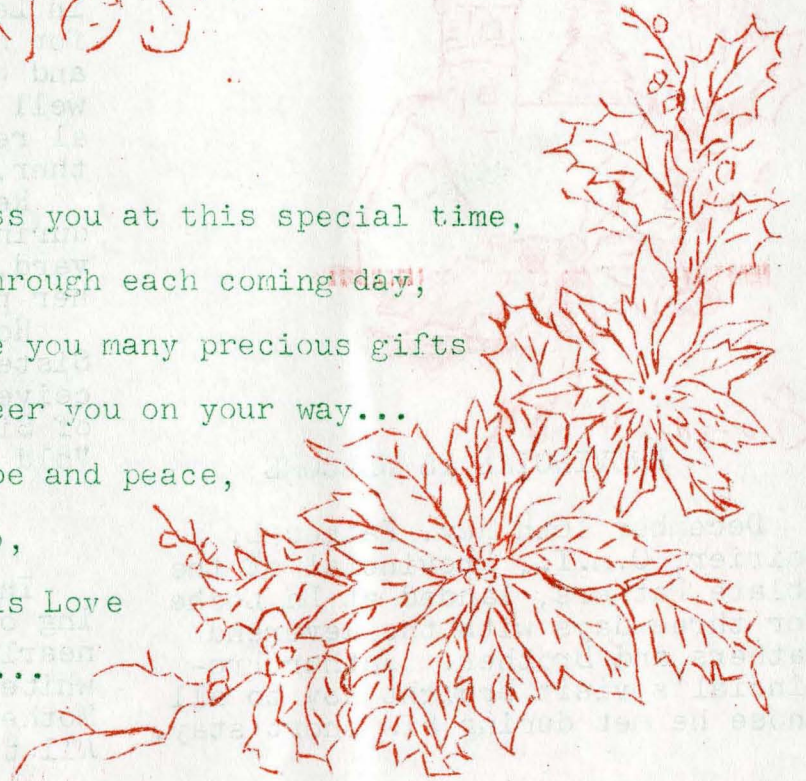
God fill your heart with hope and peace,

And make each pathway too,

A path where, day by day, His Love

Will always shine on you...

La Loche School Staff.



MISSION

ON LEAVE



PROVINCIAL IS WELCOME

December 16th Rev. Father L. Poirier, O.M.I., Provincial of the Oblate Fathers, landed at La Loche for three days with the Reverend Fathers and Brother. Father Provincial's visit brought joy to all those he met during his short stay.

Sister M. Claire Gervais, one of the first four Grey Nuns to mission in La Loche left early in December for Montreal via Ile a la Crosse and Saskatoon. Sister will get a well deserved rest, make her annual retreat and visit her aged father.

Relieving her in the kitchen during December was Sister L. Rivard, who proved as efficient as her predecessor.

However the community, especially Sister Rivard, was most happy to receive reinforcement in the person of Sister M. Rose Gosselin, also an "old timer".

MY FIRST CHRISTMAS

In La Loche there is no "dreaming of a white Christmas". For nearly two months already a thick white blanket of snow protects old Mother Earth and speaks of purity. All the wilderness sparkles under

the touch --(I have passed the age of belief in elves like Jack Frost) --of the Divine Artist. If one has heeded the lesson given by Nature he has shunned all sin and awaits with a pure heart the coming of the Messiah.

For the few days preceding Christmas there is a little more activity in the hamlet. Dog sleighs glide over the lake bringing in the parishioners of Garson Lake and West La Loche. The school pupils give a concert taking care to feature a nativity play. Many trappers hit the trail for home. Women like the world over except perhaps for cooking, are busy cleaning house and preparing holiday attire. The Sisters see to the festive decorations of chapels and church and the setting up of cribs, while the Reverend Fathers prepare sermons and dispense the Sacraments.

Christmas Eve at Midnight is the culminating point when the population kneels and sings before the altar to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and partake of It in Holy Communion. Honoring the mystery of God and man and of "His light on earth" all beseech to

"attain the enjoyment of His happiness in heaven."

In the silence of our eloquent wilderness this prayer is often repeated by all the missionaries for the souls they have come to serve and for the dear ones at home.

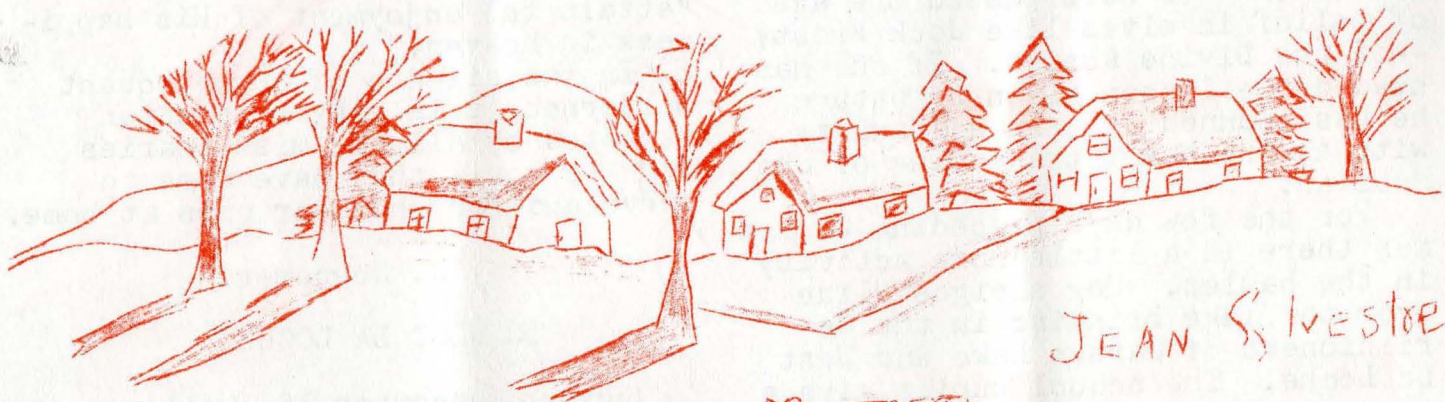
A. Newcomer.

TO WEST LA LOCHE

Sunday, December 15, will remain a memorable day for Father George. It marked his first missionary outing and it was to West La Loche for Sunday services. He appreciated the company of Rev. Father Mathieu and also his fraternal initiation.

The Padres travelled by dog sleigh. It was the dogs' first excursion of the season and for Brownie and White the first time they were harnessed. (Young Sputnik stayed home) Need it be said the dogs were frisky! If Father George that day got an insight of what is most important to him: missionary life, he also got an idea of what a dog's life is like.

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JEAN Sylvestre

VILLAGE

AT THE BAY

In December Colin Mac Coll came in to clerk at the store. The more the merrier!

NEW STORE

There was a new store before Christmas. The man who opened it went away to Buffalo Narrows to get more stuff. He is not back yet I do not know when he will be back. He will bring the goods by truck or snowbug. He had brought lots of stuff with him which

he sold. His name is Mr. Fournier.

Geordie Herman, Gr.5.

SKATING RINK

We are very happy to skate from seven to eight o'clock. Sometimes the girls skate too. I flooded the rink with Father George from four o'clock to six o'clock. We are very happy when Father George lends us some skates. Even the little children from Grade 1 skate. Sometimes the Sisters skate too.

Jean Sylvestre, Gr. 5.

DOUBLE WEDDING

On the 26th of December Cecile Sylvestre became the bride of Chrysostome Herman and Cecile Janvier of Edward Lemaigre. Rev. Father B. Mathieu, O.M.I. blessed their vows and offered Holy Mass for them.

I guess they were happy on their wedding day. There was a dance for them at Lajeunesse Hall. The dance started at 7:30 until midnight. We hope that they live together happy and have a good home of their own.

Leonie Lemaigre, Gr.7.

NEW YEAR DANCE

The first day of 1958 we had a dance and everybody was welcome. Raphael Janvier and Moise Piche played music for waltzes and square dances.

Around eleven o'clock a lunch was served to everyone. All returned home filled with joy.

We thank the Fathers for the lunch and especially the Sister who cooks.

HOME SWEET HOME

"Be it so humble...
there's no place like home."

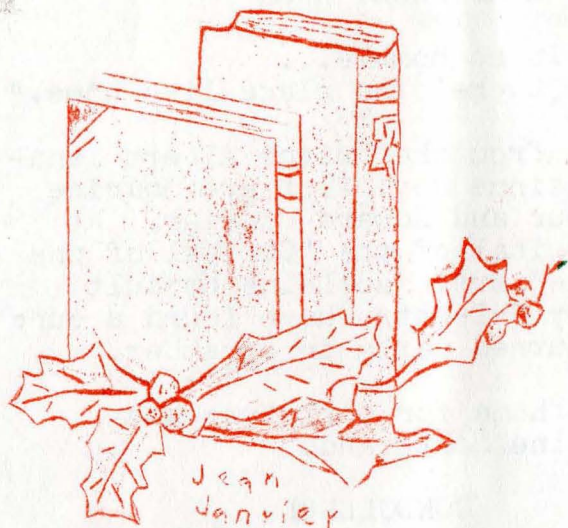
Back from the Prince Albert Sanatorium since Nov. 21st are Maurice Toulejour and Edward Janvier. At the hospital of the "Capital of the Solitude" Mrs. Madeleine Henault and baby Sylvestre have found a cure and returned early in December.

Also home for Christmas was Marcelline Montgrand.

CONDOLENCE

Mr. and Mrs. Jean Marie Montgrand were bereaved of their baby, Carl on November 10th, after a short illness. Burial services were held Nov. 11th with Rev. George Hupe, O.M.I., officiating. Relatives and friends joined in expressing their sympathy to the mourning parents.

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We are greatly honoured to
publish the greetings received

from Our First Pastor, Right Rever-
end Paul Dumouchel, O.M.I., Vicar
Apostolic of Keewatin, and Rever-
end Mother Beatrice St. Louis,
Superior General of the Grey Nuns
of Montreal.

SCHOOL

Bishop's Residence,
THE PAS, Manitoba,
Dec. 27th, 1957.

Dear Leonie,

Will you thank all the boys
and girls of La Loche for the kind
wishes they have asked you to send
me. I appreciate them so much.
May your continued prayers help to
see them all realized.

I pray that the coming year
will see all my Children of La Lo-
che grow in grace and in wisdom.
This is the prayer I say for all
of you.

I bless you all and all your
dear parents and teachers.

Yours in Our Lord.

+ Paul Dumouchel
and

The Superior General of the Grey Nuns of Montreal conveys sincere thanks for your New Year's greetings. As a grateful return, she calls upon your families and your studies God's choicest blessings.

ADMINISTRATOR VISITS

Our Administrator, Mr. T. H. Waugh visited La Loche, Nov. 21st. Unfortunately school was closed at the time due to the epidemic of Asian flu. However the teachers had a fine opportunity of talking shop with him. He also had time to confer with Rev. Father B. Mathieu O.M.I., Secretary of the School Board. But true to northern tradition--either stranded or rushed--the plane was then ready to take off and Mr. Waugh had paid a short visit, yet greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS TREE

There was a Christmas Tree in the afternoon of December 25. The Christmas tree was in the center of the stage and lots of presents were

all around it. Father George gave out the presents to all the school children. My present was a paint box. It is a nice one. Some small children had dolls and boats and balls. The children were all glad to have presents. We sang carols for Father George and the Sisters.

Suzanne Sylvestre, Gr. 5.

The Principal and teachers wish to express their sincere appreciation to Miss Hazel Lawrence of the Junior Red Cross for the numerous gifts sent expressly for the Christmas Tree. With such a donation and the presents and stockings received from the Superiors of the Grey Nuns' houses in Brocket, Cardston, and Legal the children of La Loche had a more cheerful Christmas.

Rev. Mother A. Trottier, Assistant General of the Grey Nunnery in Montreal sent a cheque to be used for the hot lunches. This donation is also greatly appreciated and heartfelt thanks are extended to all our benefactors who make the sunshine brighter in La Loche.

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 22, was the culminating point of three or four weeks of special activity. The pupils of the La Loche school presented a Christmas concert to a very sympathetic audience of parents and friends.

Christmas Concert

The Grade 2's of Sister G. Simard set the mood by singing a happy Welcome Song and reciting Our Christmas Wish. For an intermission Jack Sylvestre and Martin Jolibois sang Snowflakes and all were heard again later on the programme in the carol "I Saw Three Ships"

Two Action Songs were performed by Grade 1. Six girls were sweet in their white costumes and gracious in action mimicking the Song of the Snowflakes. Twelve lively boys performed in Happy Little Gnomes. To this day their teacher Sister C. Beaudoin has not solved the mystery of a group of (green or brown) gnomes who after a quick and lively dash to the center of stage retreated to the wings for singing. Oh! these unpredicted events of the stage! All the class joined later in a song entitled Tovland Town.

Grades 3 and 4 did very well in presenting the short play Santa

Sleeps Gabriel Janvier as Santa Claus and Gabriel Sylvestre as the Clown deserve a special mention. Sister L. Gamache's pupils also sang a carol The Holly and the Ivy.

Cooperating together Sister Simard and Gamache had a group of nine cowboys, who really looked smart singing "The Cowboy Song". They represented boys of grades 2 and 3.

The Nativity Play: There Was One Who Gave a Lamb was given by the Seniors of Sister B. Levesque. All performed and sang to the best of their ability and with their costumes the proud and happy actors seemed to enjoy themselves as much as the audience.

Reverend Father B. Mathieu, O.M.I. in English and Chipewyan, thanked the teachers and pupils for their evening of entertainment. Addressing the parents, he urged the necessity of cooperating with the School for the education of their children.

After singing God Save the Queen it could be said that the Christmas holidays had begun.

THANK YOU

We thank Sister A. Gauthier, Superior of Edmonton General Hospital, for sending the girls some knitting needles for they will learn how to make some thins to wear.

We also thank Sister M. Lamy, Superior of St. Mary' School, Cardston; Sister C. Frohlich, Superior of Sacred Heart School, Brocket; Sister O. Lamontagne, Superior and Sister D. Simard of Sacred Heart Convent, Legal; for sending us school children gifts and candies for Christmas.

A sincere thank you also to our old teacher Sister T. Arcand for sending us ribbons (candies too) of very nice colors which the angels wore in the concert.

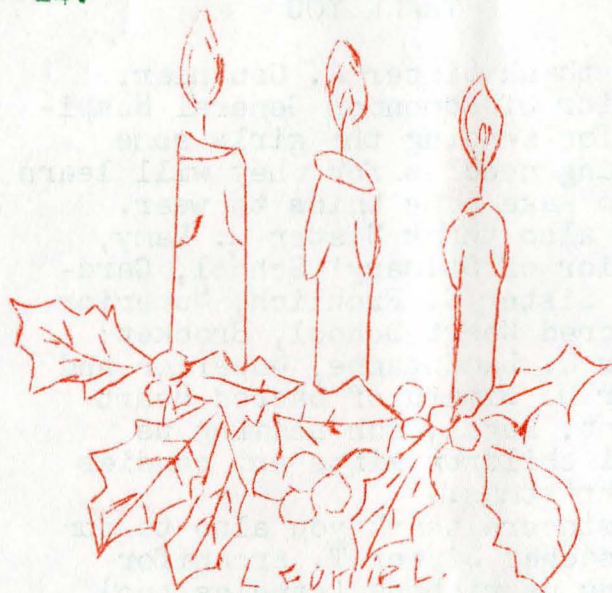
Abraham Moise, Gr. 7.

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DID YOU SEE IT IN WEBSTER'S?

Teacher --What is the meaning of engagement?

Bright Pupil -- Love.



May all the season's
brightest joys
And choicest blessings, too
Combine to make
this New Year
A Happy One For You!

Sister B. Gubler Sg. M.R.N.

Sisters A. Gaudet Sg. M.R.N.

Hospital

ASIAN FLU

Asian Flu started here on Nov. 12, and ended on Nov. 25. School has been closed for eight and a half days. The children have been very sick, some had to be admitted in the hospital. Not only the children had the flu all our parents took sick too, in some houses the entire family had to stay in bed. We were very lucky to have the Sisters to look after us. Our teachers, helping the nurses brought us pills and medicines. One of the Nurses, Sister Gaudet gave injections to those who needed some.

Now at the exception of Dorothy Fontaine who is still at Ile a la Crosse hospital all the pupils have recovered and are trying their best to profit a 100% of the last weeks of school before Christmas.

NO SHADOW!

Doctor M. Hoffman was in La Loche Nov. 6 to give the second shot of the Salk vaccine. He returned for a routing visit on Nov. 18. On Dec. 1 he was aboard the Mercy plane, and made a presto round of the Hospital taking back with him to the Hospital in Ile a la Crosse, Dorothy Fontaine and Baby Janvier. Flown by Meadow Lake Air Service on Dec. 22 he "appeared" again and Mrs. Marie Janvier left for treatment at Ile a la Crosse. Back on Dec. 30. the Doctor spent the long evening in consultations.

The good M.D. usually arrives after sunset and departs at sunrise or is in such a rush that his shadow is a rarity. Don't depend on it to find your directions in La Loche!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the happy parents who have a brand-new boy or girl!

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Herman,

15.

John James, Dec. 18; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lemaigre, Jimmy Patrice, Dec. 18; Mr. and Mrs. Elzear Laprise, Mathilda Marie, Dec. 30.

UNDER TREATMENT

The sched plane of Dec. 4th flew Flora Jolibois to Ile a la Crosse, for treatment at St. Joseph's Hospital. At the same institution is Julien Toulejours who left aboard the sched on Dec. 21. Best wishes to both for a speedy recovery.

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SOCIAL STUDIES

Teacher -- Who is the Prime Minister of Canada?

!!!!!!

Teacher -- He was elected last June

!!!!!!

Teacher -- He was from Prince Albert.... Put on your thinking caps..

Pupil -- Mr. Waugh!

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CONSERVATION CORNER

Now that old man winter has turned the deep-freeze on, and the fishermen are pulling their nets through holes in the frozen lakes, it is time to give some thought to the selling of these fish.

Commercial fishing in Saskatchewan is a million dollar business and thousands of people make at least part of their living from it. The better the market is for these fish, the better will be their living. In the past few years steps have been taken to make a better market for fish. This has been done through better laws, to control the handling of fish, and for making fish packing and filleting plants cleaner. More people are now eating fish because the fish they buy are better to eat.

But all this can be changed just by selling poor fish. The fisherman himself can either keep the market good, or let it get bad just by the fish he sells.

Fish should be treated, and handled, as food. They should be carefully dressed, the insides should be taken out and scraped with a spoon, and the gills should be taken out. Fish tubs should be washed and kept clean, and the fish should not be left on the ground where they will get dirty, and the dogs might chew them.

When fishing in summer, the fish should be kept cool, and out of the sun. They should be sold as soon as possible after they are caught. In winter they should be frozen, unless they are to be sold fresh. Even then if they are not picked up in a few days they should be frozen.

The main thing to remember when caring for fish, is that they are food for people, and should be kept clean, and free from spoilage. It is up to the fisherman to sell good fish if he wants more money for his fish.

Don Neely,
Conservation Officer.

