

# THE GREAT PORTAGE



Jan.- Mar. 1958.

La Loche, Saskatchewan.

Vol. XII No. 3.

# EASTER

May the Giver of Gifts give unto you

An Easter that's blessed

the whole day through

And then, through the days of the springtime too,

The will to help and the courage to do,

A heart that can sing each day anew,

Whether the skies are gray

or blue...

May the Giver of Gifts

give these to you.





## Father's Message

Dear Children;

The more a being achieves entirely the purpose for which it is made, the more perfect it is. For example a watch if it keeps time, a knife if it cuts well, a rifle if it insures a great accuracy of fire, will all fulfill the end for which they were made.

There is also a reason why a human being exists. It is to love God and in doing so he will attain his perfection, and his happiness.

During the Holy Week many episodes in the life of Jesus: His Passion, His Death, His Resurrection, gave us a good lesson on love which we should meditate often.

It was the love of Jesus for His Father which gave Him the strength to accomplish so perfectly His Will; it was also His love for us which gave Him the courage to redeem us on the cross. There is no greater love than to give one's life for the one loved. When we love somebody, we try to please him in everything we do. To please God we must observe His Commandments, we must do His Holy Will without any human respect. Following the example of Jesus we will surely realise the purpose of our life which will give us the reward of Heaven.

April 7, 1958.

Bertrand Mathieu O.M.I.

# SCHOOL

## WELCOME VISIT

Mr. Ivan Church, Assistant Administrator came to visit us. He sent us, only grade seven and six to the blackboard to do Arithmetic. He taught grade five at their desks. He visited also the classrooms of Sister Gamache, Sister Simard and Sister Beaudoin.

Mr. J. Archer came here too. He examined the children's eyes. He is going to give glasses to the children who need them.

Virginie Toulejours, Gr. 7.

The teachers sincerely appreciated the first visit of their new Assistant Administrator as well as the prospect of improved vision for their pupils. Thanks to the Department of Education. Ed.



## KISSES!

Sister Superior visited the classrooms January 31st. She gave prizes for good attendance during January. Because it was the feast of Saint John Bosco she gave each pupil two good sweet kisses... We were happy to have some candy.

Geordie Herman,  
Grade 5.

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The La Loche Road project was started in February of this year, by the department of Natural Resources. The main idea of the project was to open an overland trail to Buffalo Narrows, which perhaps could be used in summer time by jeeps, and horses. Also it was to make jobs for the men in La Loche, so they could buy food for their families.

## Village

The men were guided by Conservation Officer Harold Thompson, as they cut the trail south east towards MacLean Lake, then east to Lynval Lake, and then south to the shore of Big Peter Pond Lake. Fifty miles of road had been cleared when wet snow conditions forced the men to quit on March 28.

About thirty men from La Loche, helped in the project. Mathias Herman, Pierre Gun Janvier, Michel Montgrand helped as guides along the way. Martial Montgrand and Sammy Herman did a very good job of cooking for the men. The snow bug which carried the men to and from work was driven by Norman Tinker of Buffalo Narrows. Other men helping in the work were Robbie Fontaine, Jules Montgrand, Pierre Marie Sylvestre, and many others too numerous to list here. The men worked very hard, and can be proud of the road they made. It is hoped that some day it will be cleared all the way to Buffalo Narrows, and built better so that cars and trucks will be

able to drive all the way to La Loche.

Don Neely.

### ISLANDERS VISIT

The Misses Bernadette Grimard, and Marcella Young, teachers at Ile a la Crosse School and Miss Betty Aldred, Registered Nurse at the Hospital, "discovered" La Loche February 14. They enjoyed a pleasant evening at the Hudson's Bay house and visited the next morning all the important sites of La Loche including the kennel. One of their wishes materialized when Father George Hupe, O.M.I., gave them a dog-sleigh ride.

Snow flurries retarded their departure for an hour and we hoped they didn't miss the important Beauval meeting. Can it be that what was missed in the Beautiful Valley was compensated in La Loche?

From this venture north the Great Portage Teachers surmise that the next Churchill sub-local meeting could be held in La Loche. It appears the conditions are good for chartering Meadow Lake Airways...

Just Teasin.

### WEDDING

On Feb. 12 Caroline Montgrand became the bride of Jonas Montgrand. Father B. Mathieu blessed their promises and offered Holy Mass.

There was a dance in the evening. We children were happy to look at the dance. The bride and groom are from Island Lake. I wish they live happy forever.

Jean Janvier, Gr. 6.

### WEDDING BELLS and BELLES

Easter Monday wedding bells pealed loud and merry for a triple wedding ceremony. "For better or for worse until death do us part". Couronne Toulejour and Eugene Janvier, Monique Janvier and Michel Necroche, Alice Fontaine and Marcel Lemaigre mutually promised fidelity.

After blessing their vows Reverend B. Mathieu, O.M.I., offered a nuptial Mass.

All day the newly weds received congratulations and best wishes from relatives and friends. In the evening a dance topped the rejoicings.

Fortunately a kodak recorded for posterity this memorable event.





When on Feb. 21 the mail plane true to its winter schedule of two days late, zoomed over La Loche, little did the Mission personnel suspect the great surprise awaiting it and the population. Which distinguished guest alighted? None other but our devoted Bishop Rt. Reverend Paul Dumouchel, O.M.I. D.D.

# MISSION

Moccasin telegram soon informed the hamlet and surprise cleared the way for joy.

His Excellency occupied a prie-dieu in the sanctuary for the Lenten evening service. On Saturday at 7.30 A.M. he offered Holy Mass assisted by the Rev. Fathers B. Mathieu and George Hupe, O.M.I.

After attending to business and bringing comfort and encouragement to his missionaries and flock our good Bishop left Feb. 22 aboard a chartered plane. His short stay of one day is now treasured among the pleasant memories of 1958.

I. Witness.

## TOO SHORT VISIT!

In the afternoon of Feb. 22 we were happy to greet our former Pastor, Rev. Father J. Bourbonnais, O.M.I. He came by plane to get His Excellency Bishop Dumouchel. His stay was very short but we enjoyed seeing him. Please come again, Father, and stay longer!

Pascal Janvier, Gr. 7.

## MOTHER LAFORCE VISITS

On March 5, Mother M. Laforce and Sister J. Laporte arrived to visit the Sisters.

March 7th they visited the classrooms. Mother gave us a medal and a balloon. She told us not miss school from now until the end of June. She likes us because she was very kind to us. Mother Laforce and Sister Laporte left on March 11.

Couronne Lemaigre, Gr. 5.

## ON THE AIR

Rev. Father E. Rheume, O.M.I. of Edmonton came here to record some singing because he wanted the La Loche people to be "on the air" too. (Indian Religious Program over CHFA) We school children sang hymns in Chipewyan. Rev. Fathers M. Landry, and B. Mathieu, O.M.I. sang the solos.

Father Landry came with Father G. Labonte and so did Father Rheume of Edmonton. We were happy to see them all, and to sing.

Abraham Moise, Gr. 7.

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## MOTORCYCLE ZIPS OVER NORTH COUNTRY

7.

If press and radio reporters of large dailies and radio stations had been in La Loche or Buffalo Narrows on February 14th, Rev. B. Mathieu, O.M.I., would certainly have made the headlines.

With business to attend in the northern metropolis, the weather being relatively mild but sunny, the Padre decided to motorcycle to Buffalo Narrows. He travelled the sixty mile truck road, including the bumps, in six hours over Methy and Peter Pond Lakes. Unfortunately it is impossible to report the impressions and reactions of the wild Life country habitants but we are sure this trip was a first.

From Buffalo Narrows Father Mathieu got a car ride to Ile a la Crosse, and visited shortly in the hospitable capital. Minus his beard--which he shed sometime before Christmas--the Padre was amused at not being recognized by many of his friends. He returned Feb. 17th zipping again over the north country. He encountered no misfortune but gained a sun tan plus a few sore spots. All in all it was really a memorable journey.

A. Newcomer.





Doctor M. Hoffman was in a number of times, since January. On the February 18th visit Mrs. Hoffman accompanied him for recording purposes as he administered the Salk vaccine. His good and kind services are always appreciated at least by the hospital staff.

# HOSPITAL

## BIRTHS

Since January the stork has paid at least fourteen visits bringing ten boys and four girls.

Jan. 2. Mr. and Mrs. William Park: Sedley Frank; Jan. 13. Mr. and Mrs. Clement Janvier: Arnold; Jan. 25. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Janvier Charles Paul; Feb. 7. Mr. and Mrs. Magloire Janvier: Walter Harold; Feb. 24. Mr. and Mrs. Zehirin Herman: Conrad Raymond; Feb. 25. Mr. and Mrs. Moise Janvier: William Reginald; Mar. 16. Mr. and Mrs. Tobie Jim Montgrand: Karl; Mar. 28. Mr. and Mrs. Jean Marie Lemaigre: Johnny Michel; Mar. 29. Mr. and Mrs. Tobie Lemaigre: Ronnie Pierre; April 5. Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Montgrand: James Andrew.

Not the least proud of their girls are:

Jan. 8. Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Herman: Dorine; Feb. 2. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Janvier: Marie Claire; Feb. 24. Mr. and Mrs. Jean Marie Fontaine: Audry Eleonore; Apr. 9. Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Marie Jolibois: Grace Evangeline.

## "OUT" FOR TREATMENT

Since January eighty nine patients have been cared for at the Hospital. However it was necessary for Mrs. Monique Piche, Miss Bernadette Montgrand and John Laprise to spend sometime in St. Joseph's Hospital, Ile a la Crosse, where they have recovered.

Still under treatment there are Mrs. Edward Park, and babies Ivan Lemaigre and Danny Laprise.

Mrs. Rosalie Janvier left Feb. 21 and Mrs. Alice Laprise, March 20 for the Sanatorium in Prince Albert. We hope the treatment given there will be short and effective.

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## PARTICULAR JUDGMENT

Judy (tearfully running into the house): "Mama, Mama! God doesn't love me!"

Mother: "O, surely He does, Judy. Why do you say that?"

Judy: "I tried Him on a daisy."

Sacred Heart Supplement

May 7, 1951

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## COOKS TRANSFERED

9.

When Sister M. Claire Gervais obtained a leave of absence and Sr. M. Rose Gosselin accepted to substitute little did they dream that a transfer would occur. On returning from the East Sister Gervais was instructed to remain in Ile a la Crosse while Sister Gosselin was to set up permanent residence in La Loche.

The mission staff thanks very sincerely Sister Gervais for her past services and gladly welcomes Sister Gosselin. They are the only two cooks the hospital and mission staffs have known since the Grey Nuns came in 1943. The first has served from 1943 to 1945 and from 1952 to 1958 and the latter from 1945 to 1952.

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Jesus, tell me what to do,  
When my childhood days are through;  
Whisper thou to my poor heart,  
And thy plans to me impart;  
Though I am yet young and weak,  
Still I will thy counsel keep;  
Say the word and I will be,  
Jesus, what you ask of me.

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## MORE SCHOOL NEWS REWARDS

Father B. Mathieu came to school on February 7. to give rewards to the school children who were first in their grade and good at work and who do not fight with the kids. He also gave prizes to the children who did not miss school. Blandine Herman and Jean Sylvestre did not miss school very much.

I was first in grade seven. Father gave us our report cards for our parents to write their name on it.

Abraham Moise, Gr. 7.

## MY VALENTINE PARTY

All week we made Valentines for our friends. Everyone made a party hat. The best one would get a prize. The party started at 1:30. We played games. I like "Musical chairs" best of all. We laughed very much when we played "putting a tail on the donkey". After we had all our valentines we had our prize and then we had lunch. We had a very good time.

Elsie Janvier, Gr. 4.

## THOSE WONDERFUL TRUCKS

Trucks came here many times this winter. They brought freight for the stores which means goods for the people. We were happy to see them coming on the lake.

Sometimes we see two, three, four, or five black spots on the lake, and that means trucks are coming. Sometimes when we are still in school we want to go and meet them but we can't because the sisters say "no" to us.

When school is over nearly all the children go to the trucks. We boys help to unload the freight, and we get paid for helping the men.

Now they are bringing material so as to build two classrooms. They brought two loads. The trucks are coming back again for the last time this year. Each time I can hardly wait to see them back.

Abraham Moise, Gr. 7

On February 3, at 7 o'clock, we all saw the lights of the first trucks. We were happy for we had not seen the trucks since last year. They make a good road. We went to meet the trucks and to help unload

them. They left at midnight.

One day they gave us a mile ride. We were happy and we walked back from the lake. It was a very good ride too!

I wish the trucks would come every day.

Jean Janvier, Gr. 6.

The first trucks came here on Feb. 3. We met them at 7 o'clock P.M., and we went home around 11 o'clock. When we saw the trucks coming we ran after them and we had a little ride to the store. The trucks bring much flour and many things for the store.

Last week the trucks on their way to Buffalo Narrows got stuck in the snow. Brother Vachon with his tractor brought them a snow plough and they went back on Friday.

Jean Sylvestre, Gr. 5.

THANK YOU

The School staff wish to express their sincere appreciation to the Alumni of St. Paul's School of Nursing for the carton of soups and co-coa received recently. Their traditional shipment brings cheer and

fosters better health for the school population.

### MY TRIP TO WEST LA LOCHE

I had a good time with Father George on our trip to West La Loche Feb. 23. We went by dog team. Father George offered Holy Mass there. Some twenty-five people were present and many received Holy Communion. After we had had our supper we came back. We were home before nine P.M.

Jean Sylvestre, Gr. 5.

### VALENTINE PARTY

On St. Valentine's Day we had a party.

We made pretty hats with red hearts on them.

We played many games. We had lots of fun.

The game I like best was the musical chair.

All the winners had prizes.

Sister Superior gave us some candy. Thanks to Sister Superior and to our teacher.

Florence Toulejours,  
Grade 2.



## CAT-TRAIN

The Mission "cat-train" got in full swing Monday, March 24, around 4:00 P.M. and headed for Buffalo Narrows. What is a "cat-train"? No more nor less than a number of sleighs drawn by a Caterpillar tractor. The purpose of these annual trips to Buffalo Narrows is to bring in the yearly supply of food, wares, gas, and so forth for the hospital, the mission and occasionally the school.

When Brother Vachon, the pilot and the engineer of the outfit, was interviewed, all he had to say was that the trip this year had been good and very ordinary. Brother very humbly stated that after ten years one no longer remarks the details of such journeys. He suggested however that Father Geoge Hupe, O.M.I., his captain, cook and moral support, who rode the train for the first time, may have kept some record of the passage. In fact he had, and we are thankful for it will give us some idea of a good journey by "cat-train"....

With Brother and Joe Janvier at the controls, they travelled night and day, except perhaps for a four

hour stop at night. They reached destination Tuesday evening covering eighty miles in eighteen hours. The roads were good except on the La Loche Lake.

The welcome bestowed at Buffalo Narrows by Father Levasseur, O.M.I., was most cordial, and very typical of the Oblate Charity. It appears to be the high light of the journey.

Wednesday was loading day. The sleighs were a bit overloaded this year because only one trip was made.

Thursday morning at four the train left Buffalo Narrows and halted at the Little Portage until 7 o'clock when it resumed its turtle like pace north. Five miles out of Dillon they left some merchandise for Father Dufault, O.M.I.

Reaching the La Loche River they loaded a fifth sleigh with hay and hit the Portage at 11:30 that night. As there was little or no snow on the Portage they decided to rest until six o'clock Friday morning.

The pace that day was snail like. In places each sleigh had to be hauled separately. The eighteen miles were chugged in twenty-two hours.

By 10:15 Saturday morning the "cat train" was heading along on the La

Loche Lake at the speed of two miles per hour on second gear. Shortly after they met the D.N.R. Bombardier which carried for them bread, boots, and the portable altar. A rumor had reached Father Mathieu at home that the travelers were stuck and most probably would not arrive before Sunday. Being an experienced voyageur Father Mathieu foresaw that if the news was true the crew would appreciate re-inforcements.

The train was in at 3:15 Saturday afternoon, March 29. The excitement was now all for the boys who helped to unload in a drizzling rain.

#### MY TRIP TO BLACK POINT

One Sunday afternoon in February, Father Mathieu asked me to go to Black Point with him. He was going to say Mass for the people there. We harnessed five dogs and we put our dinner in the sled. I did not go to Benediction that day because we left at one o'clock. It took us three quarters of an hour to get there. Many people came to confession and communion. At seven o'clock we came back. It was quite cold coming but I was happy to have gone with Father Mathieu.

Gabriel Sylvestre, Gr.4.

#### DECEASED

Flora Jolibois died at St. Joseph's Hospital, Ile a la Crosse, on January 15th. Her brother Lucien and her brother-in-law Simeon Janvier went by dog team and got her body back, on January 27.

Funeral Services were held on the 28th. Rev. Father B. Mathieu, O. M.I., officiated.

R.I.P.

Pascal Janvier, Gr.7.

#### DECEASED

Isaac Janvier left February 14 for Ile a la Crosse. He got treatment there for a couple of weeks. He came back home although he was not much better. His family was happy to have him back.

After many days of illness he died March 27. A Mass for the dead was offered on March 31st and burial followed. We all prayed for the repose of his soul and we all felt sorry for Mrs. Janvier and her family.

Pascal Janvier, Gr. 7.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the bereaved families.



## CONSERVATION CORNER

## There's money in Muskrats!

Many trappers make a good year's wages out of muskrats alone. But some trappers aren't getting as much as they should out of rats. This is especially true of the part time trapper who would like to make a few extra dollars.

Many trappers miss out because they cannot catch rats. Even more fail to make top money because they don't skin and stretch their pelts properly.

In this article I am going to deal with caring for the pelts, because this is one of the most common faults of the trappers in this area. If a rat is caught while in a prime condition, and is properly pelted, it will bring several times as much as an average pelt. During the past few years, prices for top pelts have been as high as two, or even three dollars. On the other hand if a rat is under prime or over prime, or is not pelted properly, the pelt may bring as little as fifteen cents.

If a large number of top grade pelts are to be harvested the trap-

pers must be willing to get out during winter, for this is when the muskrat pelt will be fully prime, and undamaged. After the ice goes in the spring the mating season begins, and many of the pelts will be damaged in fighting.

Several other things will lower the value of the pelt, one of these is Grease-Burn. If too much fat is left on the pelt, it starts to spoil, and burn through the skin. This loosens the hair, and causes it to fall out when the pelt is tanned. This condition can only be avoided by scraping the pelt thoroughly, leaving little or no fat.

Taint is another thing to be careful of, in caring for your pelts. Taint is caused by the rotting of any flesh, or tissue left on the pelt. When a tainted pelt is tanned the fur will probably fall off.

Tainted pelts are even worse than grease burned pelts, because if they are packed in with good pelts, the taint will spread through the whole shipment. The only way to avoid tainted pelts is to dry the pelts thoroughly before packing, and also do a good job of fleshing the pelts.

If a pelt is dried too quickly in the sun, or in a room where the

temperature is too high, the pelt will crack when handled, and the hair will slip off when it's tanned. There should be plenty of cool air around the pelt while it's drying.

Over-fleshing or scraping the pelt too much exposes the roots of the hairs. When the pelt is tanned these poorly anchored hairs will fall off.

Old scars cut down the grade of the pelt, but there is not much the trapper can do about them, except try to keep the muskrat marshes trapped down so the rats are not fighting for food.

Over-stretching cuts down the grade of the pelt. Rats should be stretched at close their normal size. In fact under-stretching is better than over-stretching.

Matted fur reduces the value of the pelt. If there is mud or blood on the pelt, it should be washed in warm water, then hung up to dry for two hours before stretching.

More information on caring for muskrats can be obtained from any office of the Dept. of Natural Resources. The Conservation Officer there will be glad to help. You

15.  
make your muskrats worth more money.

Don Neely,  
Conservation Officer.

## NORTHERN LIFE

I went north on September 18th. I had many good times there. I picked cranberries and went swimming. I played outside with a little tent. I saw a moose and a porcupine. I ate moose meat and rabbits. I also saw a truck, a "snowbug" and a tractor. I had a ride in a truck a snowbug and a plane. I played with the dogs but also visited the rabbit snares. After all this I came back to La Loche.

Beatrice Herman.

## VALENTINE PARTY

We had a party on Valentine Day. How we enjoyed our party! We played games, Sister gave out the Valentines sent to us.

Sister Superior and Sister Gosselin visited all the classes. They played some games with us. We are always happy when we have a party. We hope we will have another one.

Leonie Lemaigre, Gr. 7.



Jan.18.-- Robby Fontaine left by Bombardier to visit his daughter Dorothy in the P.A. Sanatorium.

Jan.22.-- Both out on business since Jan. 17 Don Neely, D.N.R. Officer and Charlie Kleine, H.B.C. Manager returned.

Jan. 27.-- Father George Hupe, O.M. I., returns from a ten day in Buffalo Narrows and Ile a la Crosse, with Mr. Glass, H.B.C. District Supervisor on a routine trip to La Loche.

Feb. 4. Mrs. Don Neely and baby Creig who had been "out" since Jan. 17 returned. She visited her sick mother in Big River for a few days while her husband accepted to bach.

Feb.19.-- At the Hudson's Bay store an exchange of clerks was made in January when Donald Thompson transferred to Buffalo Narrows and was replaced here by Bob Hogeweide. By the sched plane of this date Colin McColl left La Loche bringing down to three the bachelors at the Bay.

On Jan. 17 Julien Toulejour, Clementine Montgrand, Elise Lemaigre, and Emilie Bag came back on the mail plane. They all returned from the hospital in Ile a la Crosse. They were happy to be home.

On Feb.5. Augustine Montgrand came back from Buffalo Narrows where she visited her son. Lina Montgrand also came back the same day from Ile a la Crosse and Emilie Lemaigre from the San in Prince Albert. We were all glad at home to see Emilie, after more than two years that she was away.

Jean Janvier, Gr. 6.

#### SKATING TIME IS OVER

This winter we skated many times. Sometimes we played hockey which made us very happy. Many children know how to skate. I am one of them. The Sisters too sometimes skate. Two of them are very good skaters. Now the skating season is over so we can not skate any more.

Thanks a lot Father Geoge for all your trouble.

Geordie Herman, Gr. 5.





