

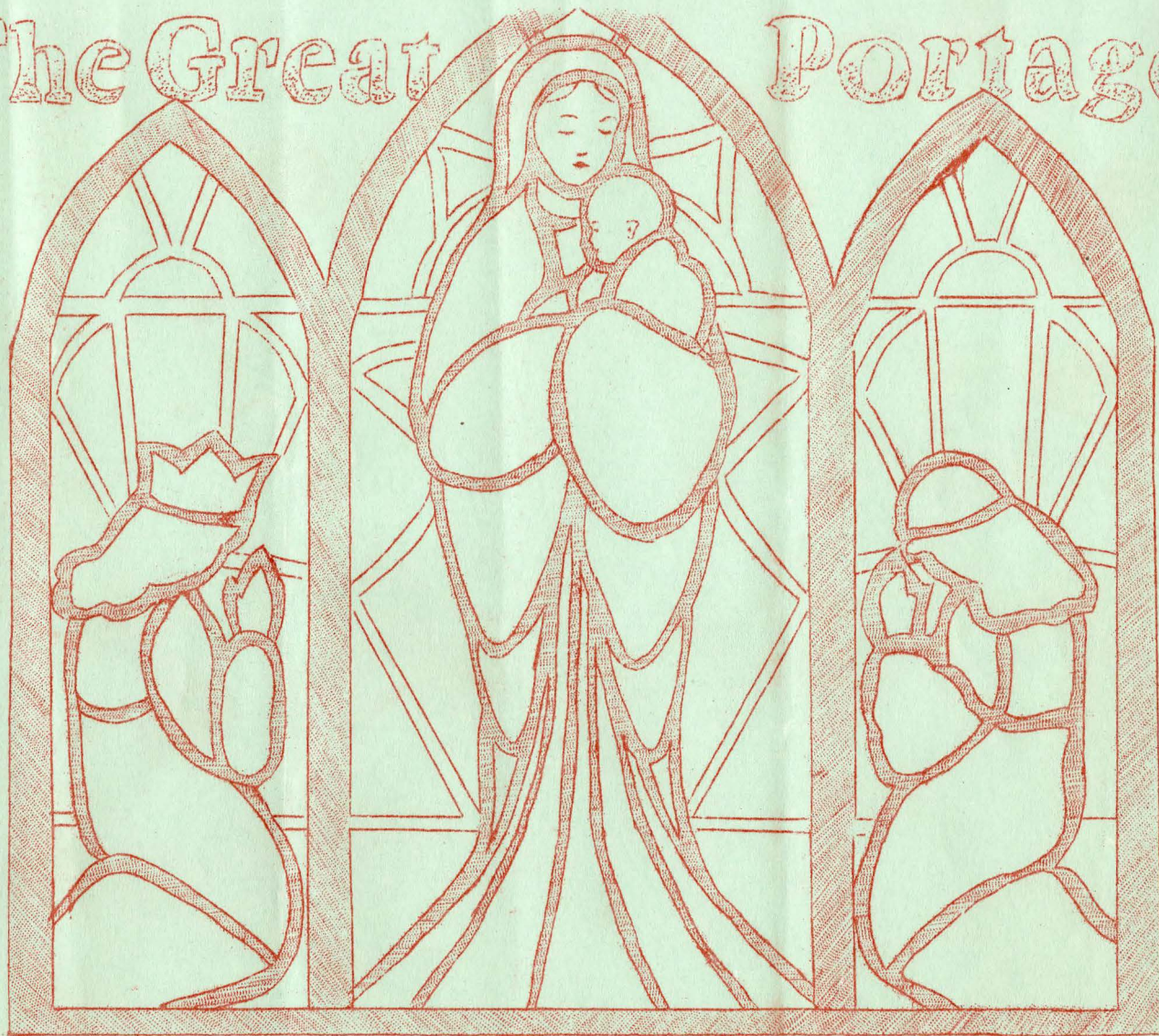
The Great Portage

Soeurs Grises de Montréal
St-Albert, Alta.
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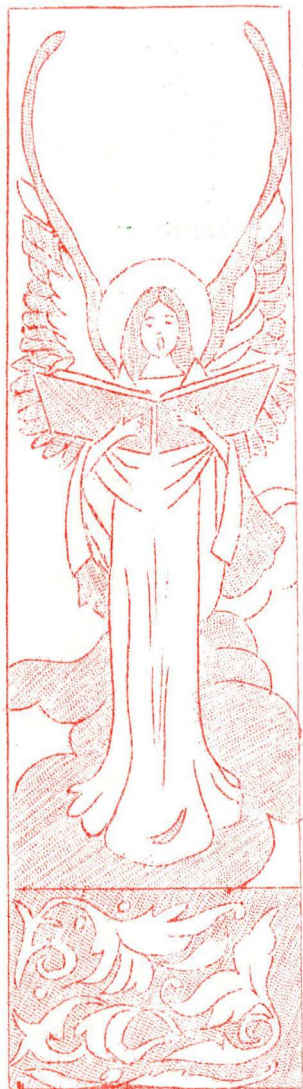
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CHRISTMAS

is for the Christ Child; in a manger born

is that Holy, glorious morn

is for Royal, for He was a King

is for Infant, His praises we sing

is for Shepherds, who sought their King

is the Tidings, the angels did bring

is for Mary, His Mother adored

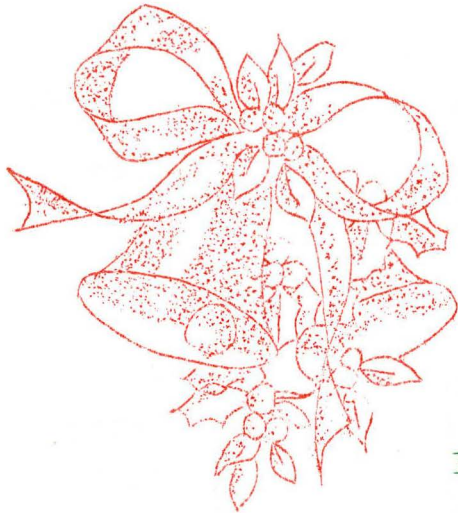
is for Angels; announcing the Lord

is for Saviour, who loves us all

*Sœurs Grises de Montréal
St-Albert, Alta.
ARCHIVES*



Our Pastor's Message



Dear readers of the "Great Portage," peace be to you! This is the wish Our Lord would address you, should He appear to you on the approach of this coming Christmas.

It is not especially riches, nor honors, nor pleasures that I desire for you; all this, without peace cannot bring you happiness.

Peace! a short word indeed but containing the real joy. Peace to men of good will! This wish comes from Heaven and therefore cannot be but full of truth.

Christian peace has not changed since the first Christmas. This earth continuing to be a vale of tears and trials, true peace has always been found in victory. Peace is the satisfaction of duty fully accomplished. Peace! it is the harmonious meeting of human liberty and divine Will.

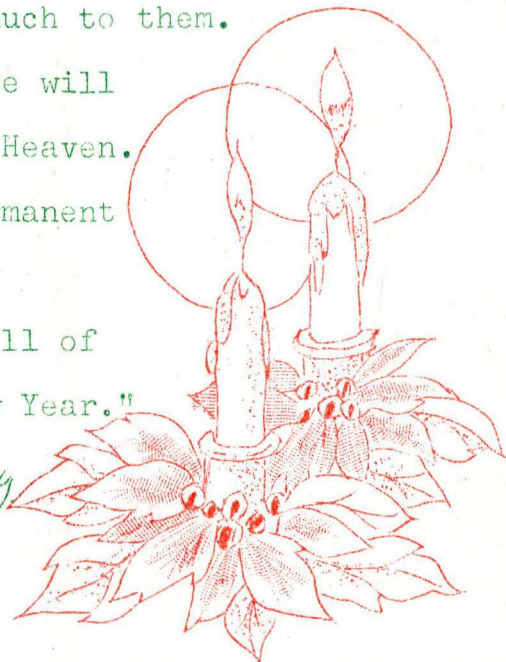
Let us not fall a prey to delusion. If so many people are unhappy it is due to their failure to live as christians. We shall remember these words of the Gospel: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His justice and all the rest will be added unto you." Why is it that so many seem disinterested in life? Because they have placed too much confidence in earthly things; they longed for an earthly paradise, void of suffering and filled with pleasures. Then, because they failed to see beyond these earthly illusions, life doesn't mean much to them.

Be true christians and your faith and love will shield you. Live not only for earth but for Heaven. With Saint Paul, you may say: "I have no permanent city on earth."

With these suggestions, I am wishing to all of you a sincere "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

La Loche, Sask.
December, 1952.

J. Bourbonnais O. M. 9



A Joyeux et Bon Noël

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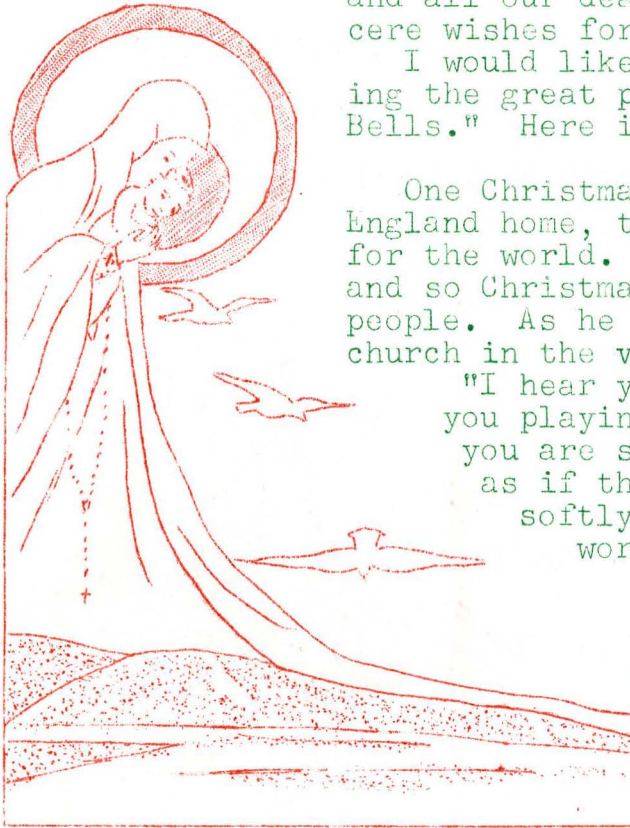
To the dear readers of the Great Portage, our generous Benefactors, the kind Parents of our dear Pupils and all our dear Pupils, I wish to address my most sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a bright New Year.

I would like to let you share the joy I had in reading the great poet Henry W. Longfellow's "The Christmas Bells." Here it is for you:

One Christmas morning a poet sat in his little New England home, trying to write a new poem with a message for the world. He was very sad for there was a war on, and so Christmas that year was not a happy time for the people. As he sat thinking, the bells in the little church in the valley began to ring.

"I hear you, bells," the poet said aloud. "I hear you playing the old familiar carols. I know what you are saying so wildly and sweetly." It seemed as if the bells heard the man, for they rang softly then, as if they were listening for his words.

"Peace on earth, good-will to men," said the poet. "That is your message. It was the message of the angels who announced the birth of Christ so long ago in Bethlehem. It is the message of the bells of all Christian lands." The bells



rang louder, as if they agreed, and the music echoed throughout the whole snow covered valley.

"But don't you know there is no peace on earth?" He spoke sadly. "What a wonderful promise it was when the angels sang of peace from the heavens to the shepherds in the hills.

Then the bells rang louder and deeper than ever. They seemed to be in the very room with him and their message was clear. "You must have faith," they cried. "God is not dead nor does He sleep. Believe us, for we know."

"I will believe it," cried the poet. "The wrong shall fail and the right shall win," called the bells. "There will be peace on earth for those who are just and kind and good. This is our message. Let it be yours too."

So the poet went to his desk and began to write a poem about the message of the Christmas bells, so that all the world might read and find comfort. Thus he wrote the lovely words:

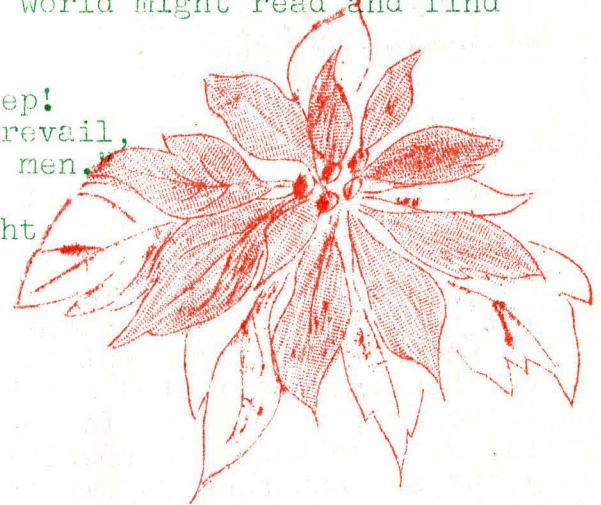
"God is not dead; nor doth He sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Dear friends, to help us in having a bright and happy year, let us keep in mind the last words of the great poet:

"God is not dead; nor doth He sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

La Loche, Sask.
Dec. 8, 1952.

Souralida Gamache, s.g.m.
Superior



MISSION



WE HONOR CHRIST OUR KING

On October 26 we gave special honor to Christ the Ruler of the world. At the seven o'clock mass many received holy communion. At the Solemn Mass celebrated by Rev. Father Bourbonnais at 10 a.m., Rev. Fr. Mathieu was deacon and Br. Dionne sub-deacon. At this mass also a great number received in their heart Jesus their King. During the whole mass we prayed in a very special way for the triumph of the King of Kings. There are men in revolt against God, they refuse to recognize Christ as King.

Father told us that we are soldiers in the army of Christ the King, and that it is our duty to help defeat the enemies of God. And the first thing we should do is to see that Christ rules supreme in our hearts.

The Blessed Sacrament was exposed from eleven to four; there, in the Sacred Host, Jesus was waiting for us, His subjects, to pay homage to Him our King. The whole day, Jesus had many worshippers. We took turns but we all went to adore and thank Him for all He has done for us. At Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament Father Bourbonnais read a consecration to Christ the King. We dedicated our body and soul to Jesus to show him that we adore Him, to make up for our sins, to thank Him for all the graces received. We also begged a special favor from our King: to be always loyal subjects so that some day we may live forever in His kingdom with Him.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

All Saints' Day was a great celebration at La Loche. One was really edified to see all the people who attended the two high masses sung by Rev. Father Mathieu respectively. A great many received Jesus in their heart also.

Let's thank God for the great gift of FAITH which he has given to our dear people. It is the greatest gift that He ever made to man.

A GREAT FEAST

The feast of Our Lady on December 8 was indeed very beautiful. Father Mathieu officiated at the High Mass at which we all assisted. Our good Father Bourbonnais gave a wonderful sermon about Our Lady who loves and protects us if we pray to Her.

We all joined in the singing of love and praise and in praying to Our Lady.

Celina Janvier.

TRAVELING FOR SOULS

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On the fourth of December Reverend Father Mathieu left for White Fish Lake. He was one of the first ones to cross the lake after the late freeze-up.

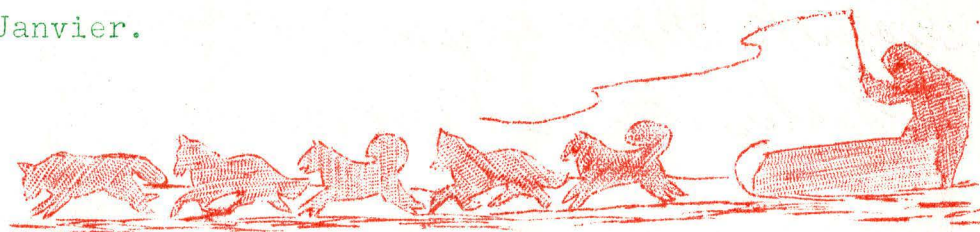
On his way home, he stopped at West La Loche to say mass for the people there. Late that same afternoon he returned home, only to get ready for a longer trip to Island Lake. He will return home by December the 12th.

We know Father do much good to the people he visits.

Napoleon Sylvestre

Just stopping long enough to say

"HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS DAY!"





HOSPITAL

NEW COMERS

Oct. 31 born to Mr. and Mrs. Jean Lemaigre a daughter Yvette Marie;
Nov. 6 born to Mr. and Mrs. Elzear Laprise a son Arsene Martin;
Nov. 23 born to Mr. and Mrs. Ligouri Toulejour a son Joseph Emilien.

PATIENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Mrs. E. Laprise, Dorothy Fontaine, Susan Lemaigre, Tarcisius Herman, Gabriel Herman, Pauline Janvier Daniel Herman, Arsene Montgrand, Mrs. Ligouri Toulejour, Mrs. Sophie Moise, Ernest Montgrand, Moise Janvier, and Cecilia Toulejour.

A VISITOR

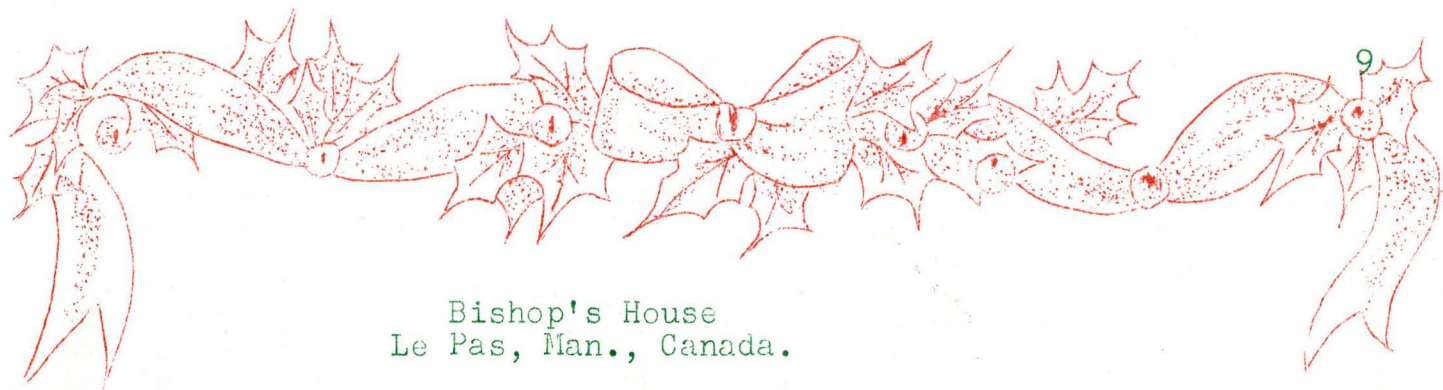
What a wonderful surprise the hospital staff had when no less a visitor than Reginald came to see them. The parents Mr. and Mrs. Laurier Poisson of the D.N.R. certainly have a right to be proud of their blue-eyed first born son.

Our sincere congratulations!

OUR WISHES

Nothing but the best of cheer
And joy in every way
Is wished for you - and everyone
Within your home, to-day,
And then throughout the New Year
Here's sincerely hoping, too,
That happiness will always bless
The ones you love and YOU!

Sister B Webber s.g.m. R.N.
Sister Marie Maclean
Reg. Nurse



Bishop's House
Le Pas, Man., Canada.

My dear pupils,

Your letters of November 5. remain unanswered, but long ago I told Jesus to thank and bless you all for me.

Now Christmas is at the door and I anticipate the joys that will be yours then. I wish for you and yours parents and teachers, all the holy joys of the season. May the Infant Jesus bless you and help you and increase divine love in your hearts.

I thank and bless everyone of you, because if I did not write I know that all remember me, and I am deeply touched indeed.

Thanks to the Sisters for the Great Portage. I read it with great pleasure, because it reminds me of the past, and I congratulate you for your constant progresses. Well done boys and girls!

Some Brothers that you have known, Brother Boisvert and Langlois enjoyed too the reading of your Magazine.

Jonas Lemaigre says that "the best thing is to pray for one another" I agree with him and I try to do it the best I can.

Napoleon is now 14, he must be tall??? if not in body at least in mind, because he is in Grade VIII; but he talks lot of squirrels... I hope he will not let study for them.

Louison is looking far and high, I wish he keeps on the right way. May God bring his mother back soon and in good health.

Pascal Janvier seems to keep on the go and that is nice. Thanks for the prayers he offers for me, I need them indeed.

Gilles promises to write and I am surely pleased to read his letters. Hope grandma is not getting old too fast.

Please tell Marie-Agnes that I got her letter and I thank her for it. It is nice for her to go to night-school, she can learn a lot that way. Thanks for the news she gave me.

Here winter has come at last, this morning it was 10 below zero.

I do not see Chipewyans very often here, but I go to two places where I say mass and teach catechism to the children. I promised to go to Cranberry Portage for Christmas, it will be the first time they have the mid-night mass and I am pleased for them.

A good catholic there gives me light from his electric plant and I will have colored lights for the crib, I am sure many children never saw a crib before and will be so pleased. When you go to mid-night mass, remember me and my catholics of Cranberry.

Our Bishop is yet in Montreal where he will take part in the festivities for the 25th. anniversary of the proclamation of Se. Theresa of Lisieux as Patroness of the missions. He will be back for Christmas.

I have not seen Mr. Waugh for a long time. It should be nice to see the plane landing at La Loche on wheels. Long ago Mr. Blackhall and I were planning of what happens now. Keep going ahead.

Say hello to everyone for me at La Loche. I pray for you and your parents. Happy Christmas to all. I bless you and will always be looking forward for good news from you.

I remain your Father in Christ and Mary Immaculate.

J. B. Ducharme O.M.I.



VILLAGE

MRS SOPHIE MOISE DIES AT
LA LOCHE

After a few days of illness Mrs. Sophie Moise passed away very peacefully on the 8th of December, feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Some short days ago our dear Sophie was still active and carrying her humble work as mother, grandmother and great-grandmother of many of our good people. May God receive into his eternal peace the soul of one who unfailingly did her duty to God and her neighbours. Her funeral took place on December 11.

To all her numerous children we express our most sincere sympathy and the assurance of our prayers.

Last year the lake froze in late October, but this year it was on November only. We were all longing to go skating but we just had to wait. We had mild weather the whole month of November; the ice was quite thin at certain places, and nobody dared go across the lake. Billy Janvier was the first one to cross the lake.

Mary Sylvestre

May the Lord fulfil your every wish!....

ACCIDENT AT JACK FISH LAKE

On November 13 Daniel Herman, twenty year old son of Leon Herman of White Fish Lake was fishing at Jack Fish Lake. While passing along a forest trail he fell down and some branches pierced through his knee. With much difficulty he was brought back to White Fish Lake there he waited nine days hoping all the time for a snow fall. After nine days of waiting they decided to try to get to La Loche. They came in dogsleigh along a snowless road. It was a very difficult and tiresome journey as the patient was suffering very much. His knee and thigh were badly swollen but after a good nights rest his pain was somewhat relieved. The Nurses spoke to Doctor Lavoie on the phone. Upon his instructions they made an incision under a local anaesthetic taking out a piece of wood about one inch square and one quarter inch thick. Hot compresses were applied. As the knee and thigh were still swollen the Nurses decided to send him to Doctor Lavoie at Ile a la Cross. He left here on November 20 by plane.

Good luck Daniel! Come back soon.

Sister Webber

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It was with great pleasure that we read the interesting magazines which we received since the first publication of our modest pages.

We certainly appreciate the link which the exchange of papers makes with your schools and our school. Specially welcome was the "St Anthony News" from Onion Lake, Sask.

Do come again and in the meantime, may we extend our best wishes of the season to all our old and not so old friends.

The Editors

A NEWCOMER

How glad we were to welcome Robert Russell after his first trip from Prince Albert to La Loche.

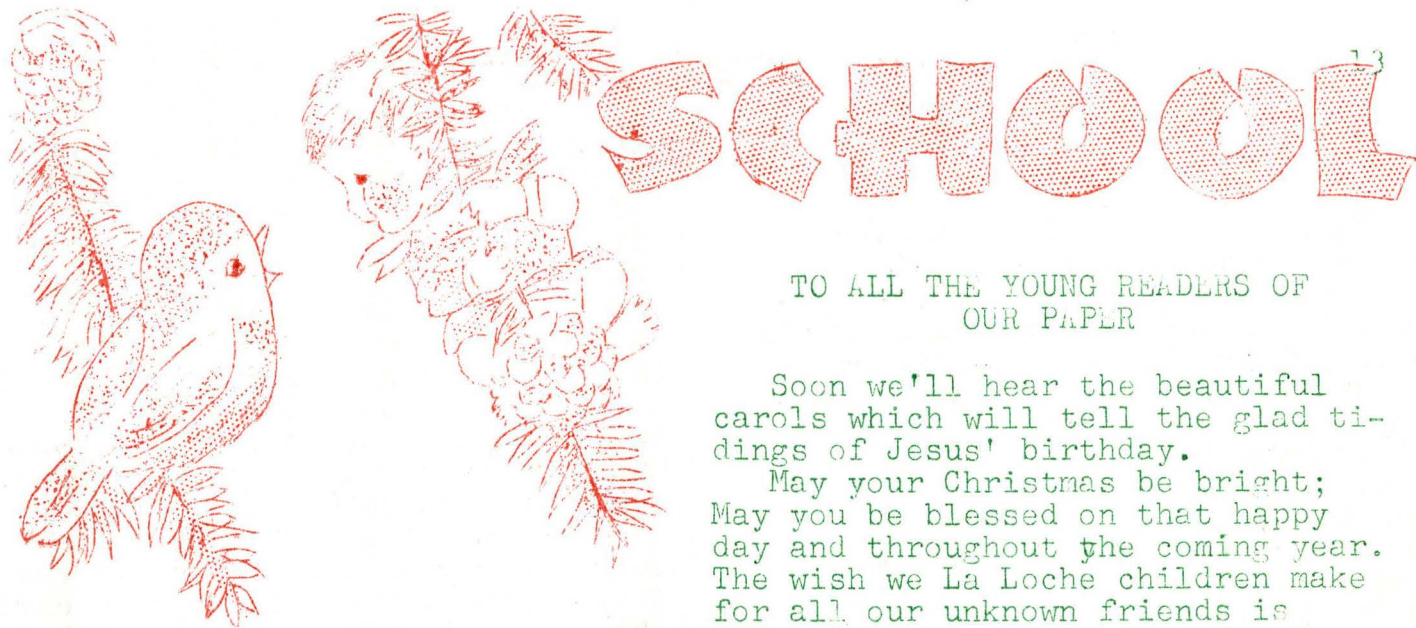
Robert was born at Nipawin in early November, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Woodard, H.B.Co. post manager here.

We offer our sincere compliments to the happy parents.

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Paradise is always where love is!

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TO ALL THE YOUNG READERS OF
OUR PAPER

Soon we'll hear the beautiful
carols which will tell the glad ti-
dings of Jesus' birthday.

May your Christmas be bright;
May you be blessed on that happy
day and throughout the coming year.
The wish we La Loche children make
for all our unknown friends is
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your friends by
Louison Hainault

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

November 11 had been set apart as
a day for all the people at La Loche
to remember with pride the outstand-
ing contribution that Canadians made
in World Wars 1 and 11.

At ten o'clock Father Bourbonnais
the Sisters, all the pupils, many of
the parents, women only -- men are
gone squirrel hunting -- gathered in
Sister Arcand's class-room. The Sen-

iors gave us a well-prepared concert
all the items had a military or pa-
triotic note. Here is the program:

O Canada

O God Our Help

In Flanders Fields

Our Country

I Pledge Myself

Immortality

Address by Rev. Fr. Bourbonnais

Prayer and Hymn
Two Minutes Silence
God Save the Queen

All the actors really put their all into their roles, and we enjoyed every bit of it.

Father Bourbonnais in well-chosen words addressed the audience. The text will be found in this paper. Louison Hainault told us words to remember: "As I am, so is my country. Each one of us may help to change this world for good."

On this Remembrance Day we all pledged ourselves to grow better and so hold high the Torch passed on to us by the soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives that we might have freedom.

Rev. Father Bourbonnais' Address

Every year on the eleventh hour of the eleventh month in all places there are gatherings, similar to the one you witness here today, to honor the brave soldiers who gave their life for their country.

During the First World War, every boy from the age of nine to seventeen had to be ready to go.--Here Father told us about one of his

brothers who, being exempted from enlisting, was obliged however to go and report every month. And the dear mother would cry every time for fear of his being taken.--

Yes, war means a great deal of sufferings. We already had two great World Wars. One is still going on in Korea, and a third one seems to be very near. Why must we always hear about that dreadful calamity? The only answer to that question is this: God's laws are not obeyed! If people would humbly submit to their Master, peace would reign all over the world.

But what can we do about it! As Louison has just told us in his recitation, you must try to be good christians and good citizens; be loyal to your country, pure in thought, word and deed. You must first be loyal to God, adore Him, and obey His commandments; secondly you must be loyal to your neighbour: never talk against him, respect others, and listen to those who have authority over you.

By so doing, you will be good christians, good citizens, and your life will be happy.

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Let us not forget why they sleep...



THE SKATING RINK

It has become a great reality, the skating rink at which our kind Father has worked for many a day. Some of the boys gave a helping hand.

This is what they did before they started the rink: Father Mathieu ploughed the field with two horses, then they levelled the ground, put sawdust all over and levelled it again. The weather grew colder and colder so every night for four or five days Father Mathieu and Brother Vachon flooded the rink. Now the ice looks like a mirror. I am very happy, and not only I but all the children are also.

Oh! the hours of fun we shall have skating with our friends.

We, the school children, all thank Father Bourbonnais and Father Mathieu for that fine skating rink. May God bless you, kind Fathers, for all you do for us.

Thank you.

Napoleon Sylvestre

- - - - -

Bring your skates, it is crisp and cold
Sun shines bright and the rink is waiting

All join hands in a merry row,
One, two, three and away we go.

- - - - -

OUR NEW SLIDE

There is a slide..
The hall bedise...

Reverend Father Mathieu with Br. Dionne's help has made the grandest slide for us. They placed it beside the Lajeunesse Hall, and what fun we have going way down past the wharf and over the ice.

The slide is built of heavy planks to remove all danger of collapsing, the front is guarded by two even rows of ice blocks which stretch way down the lake. All one has to do is sit, and let oneself go down, down, down.

We have some small sleds but not quite enough for all the school children. So we take turns; in the forenoon recess the girls go sliding, and the boys have their good time in the afternoon.

We are so glad to have such a wonderful slide, recesses are now too short. Thank you, dear Fathers and Brothers.

Louison Hainault

NEW SLEDS

What a surprise we had when we came to the slide the other day.

Twelve brand new 35 in. sleds were waiting for us, sleds which our kind Fathers were giving us, and which were made by Brother Vachon. There will be no more legs or feet bumping down the slide. We are ever so glad to use them.

Thanks a million Fathers!

Cecile Marie Herman

- - - - -

In winter when the fields are white
And there's sunny weather,
We take our sleds and climb the
hill....

Boys and girls
together..
Up, and up, and up
we go
Over hills and over
snow...
Boys and girls
together.

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THE GREAT PORTAGE

EXTRA !



A "THANK YOU" MESSAGE

Yesterday, December 13, a special plane was landing here on a business trip and was bringing at the same time the wonderful box of Christmas stockings that you, kind little friends of Brocket, have sent us. Thanks ever so much, dear boys and girls, and may the Little Infant of the Crib bless you, your dear Teacher, and all your parents on this coming Christmas and throughout the Year.

This SPECIAL PAGE which we add to our paper "just for you" will tell all our friends and readers how, in a certain little corner of "Sunny Alberta" there are generous little hearts who think not only of themselves but others also.

Our pupils will certainly be delighted when each gets his or her pretty gift with his or her own name on it coming from X, Y, and Z... It was sweet of you, indeed!.....

When Sister Frohlich wrote on her last letter that you were raising a little fund "to make some people happy on Christmas", we never suspected that you had us in your mind. There! you certainly gave us a great surprise!

Once more, thank you, dear little friends, and be assured that on Christmas we will also be thinking of you and praying for you so that God may lavish upon you and your loved ones His choicest blessings!

Your La Loche friends

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On the following page you will find the lovely letter which Elsie One Owl wrote in the name of the grades III and IV pupils of Brocket to our dear pupils.

Sacred Heart School
Brockton, Alberta
December 8, 1952

Dear Pupils,

I am very happy to be chosen to write to you. First of all I want to wish all a very Merry Christmas and the best for the New Year.

Our teacher and us have planned since a long time so as to be able to do something to make you happy at Christmas. At last our desire is fulfilled, and we are so happy to send you this little treat.

After a project on "Food", Sister gave us a play, and she said that if we did it nicely we would invite the other classroom and Staff to come and see it. I guess we did it quite well because Sister told us we would give our concert on a Sunday night. Many outsiders came. We were so pleased because we knew that the more people, the more money, as each paid 5¢ to get in. We made \$4.90 which was very good. With it we bought what you will find in your stocking.

I am thirteen years old and am in Grade 1V. We are nine girls and one boy in my grade. In Grade 111 there are 13 pupils. We have only two classrooms here. On the 23rd we are all going home for ten days. We are always anxious to be with our dear ones.

We will be thinking of you on the 17th and at Christmas also.

Your little friends
Grades 111 and 1V

By

Elsie Mae Owl



St Thérèse

de

l'Enfant-Jésus

December 14 th. was a great day for the Missionaries of La Loche. They celebrated the 25th. anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Therese as "Patroness of all Missions".

Rev. Fr. J. Bourbonnais had a three day's preparation for it. Every evening he preached on the life and favors granted everywhere by this great Saint. We had the recitation of the Rosary and ~~benediction~~ of the Blessed Sacrament and then sang a special hymn to our dear Saint.

On Sunday morning, the Sisters decorated beautifully a shrine for Saint Therese, with plenty of beautiful roses and vigils. In the afternoon the Sisters sang a French hymn to their Patron Saint before Benediction.

The children had their turn to sing in English, asking Saint Therese "To let drop one little rose upon them," as everyone went to venerate a relic of the saint.

The ceremony ended by the singing of the special hymn to Saint Therese in Chipewyan, composed by Rev. Fr. Pioger.

We all love dearly the Little Flower of Jesus and hope she will continue to shower her favors upon each one of us.

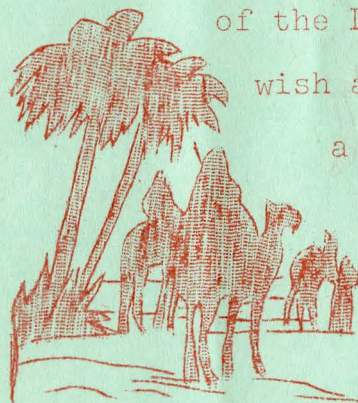




D.N.R.

Wishing you
All the Joy and
Blessing of the Yuletide
and
A Very Happy New Year!

Laurel Pearson

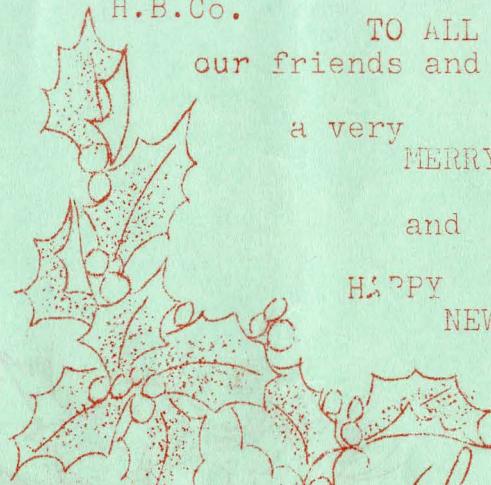


The Teachers and Pupils
of the La Loche School
wish all their readers
a holy and joyful
CHRISTMAS
and a very happy
NEW YEAR

H.B.Co.

TO ALL
our friends and customers

a very
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR



Wm. Woodard



The school children
will give a
concert
to be held
at the
LAJEUNESSE
HALL
On Christmas Day
at 8.00 p.m.
Come!
and
bring
your
friends.

