

(dec 1947)

# ISLAND BREEZES

1947  
1948



St Marie de la Croix  
s.v. p. rapporter à  
St L. Farland



Happy New Year

Dear Girls and Boys!

I cannot let this copy of "Island Breezes" go to press without expressing my sincere and heartfelt wishes for the New Year and without drawing your attention to the fact that you can easily find happiness in the everyday things of life.

Happy New Year! Good Health to you ALL! You know how lonely you feel when you are sick in bed, so my first wish is that you be healthy.

Happy also means kind and cheerful. A kind child is what pleases me most. To be kind is to be polite. Jesus taught us true kindness and politeness. A truly Christian girl and boy is polite. St. Philip of Neri, known as the lovable saint because of his politeness, never ordered anyone to do what he desired. He always said: "Please, or would you mind doing this?..." It was a sort of prayer.

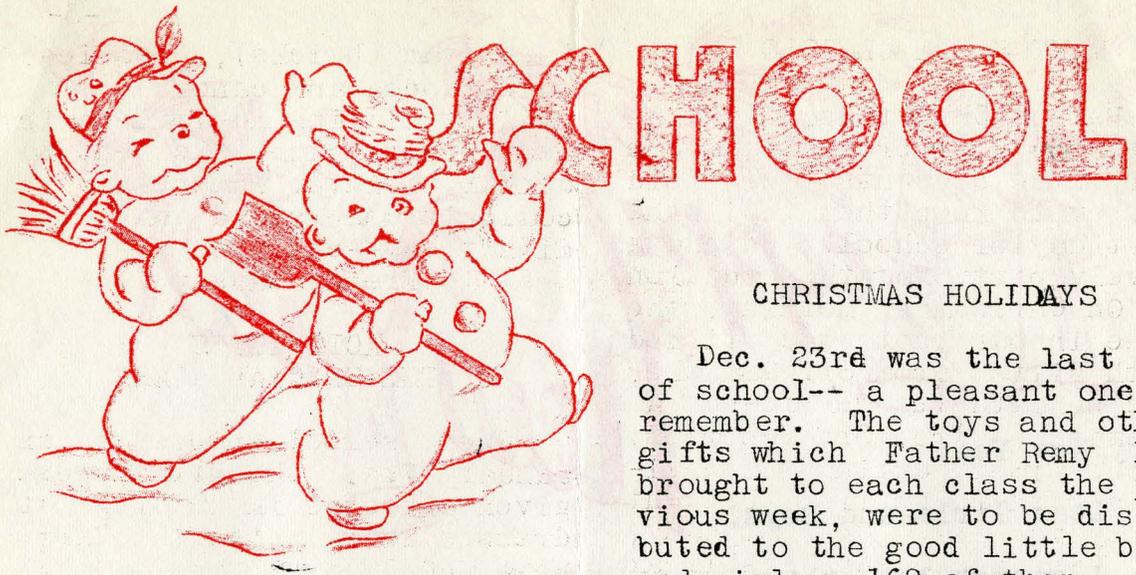
A good life and a sad face do not go together. The better the children are, the happier they are because our Lord Jesus loves them and they love Him too, and they have every reason to be happy. Not long ago there lived a young lady who was so cheerful that when she was too busy to meet her friends they would say: "There will be no laughing today, Sister Theresa is not with us." St. Theresa of the Child Jesus was so tenderly kind that every one felt at ease with her.

Be polite, be cheerful and your days will be filled with happiness and it will go out to those around you. Make this little verse your very own for 1948:

"Politeness is to do and to say  
The kindest thing in the kindest way."

These are the wishes of your Father whose one great desire is that you be HAPPY.

Father Remy, o.m.i.



### SCHOOL COMMITTEE RE-ELECTED

On Jan. 6, a meeting was held in the parish hall to elect the school officials for 1948. Last year's committee was maintained in office. Chairman: Mr. M. Marion  
Councillors: Dr. P. Lavoie  
Tom Daigneault  
Sec.-Treasurer: Rev. G. Remy

Many parents were present and all were satisfied with the treatment their children are receiving both in and out of school. They expressed their appreciation of the teachers' devotedness; of their children's progress and the many advantages which the latter are enjoying.

### THANK YOU

I thank Father Remy for the toys he gave us because we were good boys and girls. I was glad to have one of the toys. -Jeanne Morin (II)

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Dec. 23rd was the last day of school-- a pleasant one to remember. The toys and other gifts which Father Remy had brought to each class the previous week, were to be distributed to the good little boys and girls-- 168 of them, for who wasn't good one day or another since September? The celebration took a different form in each room, but celebration they had with Christmas tree, games and candy.

Miss Beatrice Smetka, grade II teacher, "unbushed" herself for the holidays which she spent at home in Aylsham. She flew back on Jan. 7th, the opening day of school, refreshed, and glad to be back on the job.

For the first time, many of the children in residence spent part of the holidays with their parents. Two-thirds of the girls and one-third of the boys went out and returned on the dot. The experiment will be repeated next year on a larger scale. Those who stayed behind had a merry time, skating, sliding, playing indoor games, and wished the others would never return-- as that would mark the end of the holiday

MANY SANTA CLAUS'S HERE

Before Christmas, Reverend Father Remy brought us some very nice presents and told Sister to keep them until the last day of school. We had a lovely party for the occasion.

On Christmas morning, the tree in our room was filled with gifts from Sr. Gamache, and beneath it we found a gramophone from Sr. Superior. Three times, during the holidays Father Superior brought candy for all. On Epiphany, the King and Queen, myself and Catherine Petit, received more gifts from Sr. Superior.

We sincerely thank Father Remy, Sister Superior and all the sisters who made our Xmas holidays so pleasant.

Christine Jacobson (VI)

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Dec. 23, we had a little party in the senior room. First Sister gave us the games, toys and nice prizes Father Superior had brought. Then we played Bingo. The winner did not know what he was choosing because everything was wrapped up. All the packages were opened at the same time. Luckily we could exchange gifts because some boys didn't know what to do with fancy barrettes.

The grade 8 and 9 girls then served us a surprise lunch given by the 3 Ahenakews Mary Tunstead, Antoinette Roy, Christine Jacobson and Philomene McCallum. We had

ice-cream (bricks), cookies, cake, cocoa and candy.

After playing musical chair and other games we went to dinner. Sister who served us couldn't understand why we didn't eat--can you?

Freddy Ramsay (V)

ACTIVITIES  
OF THE SPECIAL CLASS

When school re-opened on January 7th, the girls were given a lesson in cutting out dresses using patterns. Marie Rose McCallum (13 yrs) made the first dress, cutting it alone and sewing it on the machine given by Mr. Piercy, our school superintendent. Madeleine Couillonneur, 11, made the second dress. Jeanne d'Arc Bekkatla is now doing hers. The 27 girls in the class will each have their turn.

We thank Mrs. Roy Walther of Nevada, U.S.A. for giving us the patterns and much of the material to work with.

Mr. & Mrs. Walther also sent candy for the Christmas tree we had on Dec. 23rd. Father Remy gave gifts for everyone. Thank you, Father, and come again. We like you with and without gifts. Your visits encourage us to greater efforts.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I had a good holiday at home. I played a lot. I was so glad to see my little sister. All the time I tried to be good and help Mother.

Clara Corrigan (II)



# Christmas concert.

It's a two year old tradition now! The big Christmas concert was held on Dec. 21, in the parish hall gaily decorated with green, red and silver hangings and shimmering bells -- a surprise from Rev. Father Remy to his teachers.

The seniors opened the program with the well known song: "It Is Christmas Everywhere" whilst Sheila Ahenakew extended a warm welcome to the Rev. Fathers, Sisters, parents and friends.

The little ones then sang "Santa Claus is Coming Here" Jolly old Saint Nick couldn't have been very far away for he put in an appearance in the next playlet, "Santa's Toyshop" featuring three helpers, Leon McCallum, Alfred Petit, George Raymond and six live mechanical dolls impersonated by Sister Belley's beginners: Armand Bouvier, a Jack-in-the-box; Archie Daigneault, the clown; Kenneth Petit, the Indian doll; Margaret McCallum

the French doll; Amable Morin Black Sambo, and Jimmy Durocher, the King of the Cowboys. After being "cranked" they were put through their tricks to the delight of all.

A group of seven little "Wooden Soldiers" from Miss Smetka's class then gave us their action song. Each wore a shiny sword which they had whittled themselves from old apple boxes.

Sr. Brady's pupils then amused us with their playlet "Bravery". Williamina Ramsay, Delia Jacobson, Florence Belanger, Therese Raymond, who had boasted of their bravery were soon standing on chairs in fear of the imaginary mouse used by Thomas Hanson to make them show their true color--- a bit yellow the boys thought.

The seniors then played Jingle Bells on their tonettes and sang the new version which substitutes "The little jeep at 50 per for the one-horse open sleigh of grandma's day."

Sr. Levesque's class staged "The Christmas Story Books" spoken by Claire Maurice, Delphis Durocher and Gabriel McCallum. The choir in red cassocks and white surplices sang

the Christmas Carols illustrated on the screen with the help of the school opaque projector.

The Seniors finally put on a 3 act play, Dickens' "Christmas Carol" starring miserly Scrooge (Raymond Ayotte), Marley's ghost in a realistic skeleton attire (Ed. Desjarlais), the Christmas Spirit (Ant. Roy), cheerful Bob Cratchit (Louis Ayotte), efficient Mrs. Cratchit (Lena Ahenakew) their children: Peter (Alex. McCallum) Martha, (Annie Durocher) Belinda, (Mary Mispounas) Sammy, (Leon McCallum) Sue, (Clarisse Caisse, gr. III) and Tiny Tim, little Marcel Laliberté from grade II.

Between the acts a group from Sr. Brady's class performed a Star Drill; another from Miss Smetka's sang "The Little Town of Bethlehem" whilst a third from Sr. Levesque's recited "The Christmas Pudding". The Happy-Go-Lucky Club rendered a Christmas Hymn and "Dreaming of a white Xmas."

A Christmas Concert is not complete without a tableau of the Nativity. Christine Jacobson impersonated the Virgin, and Victor Desjarlais, Saint Joseph. Angels, shepherds and Kings took part in the final pageant; appropriate hymns were sung off-stage and all the colors of the rainbow were flashed on this impressive scene.

Rev. Father Superior addressed encouraging words to the children whose progress he was pleased to note; words of thanks to all the sisters

who have at heart the children's welfare and a Merry Christmas to parents and friends who had come to applaud the children's success.

Mary Tunstead was announcer and Florence Ahenakew collected at the door.

### MEN CAN BE USEFUL

Decorating the parish hall is a man-size job thought Brother LEFEBVRE. So he spent his only free afternoon reaching for the ceiling and sucking pins instead of his pipe.

"And Brother, would you have a look at the curtains--they refuse to slide back and forth." A pair of pincers, a man's hand and skill--and a set of rings replaces the awkward safety pins.

Then, who made the framework for the grotto, rang the midnight gong, tended to beards and mustaches--Brother Lefebvre, the handy-man to whom we say a well deserved "Thank you."

### PHOTO FLASHED

Another surprise from Rev. Father Superior. The photo-flash bulbs he had ordered came just in time to be tried out on the costumed actors of the Christmas concert.

Their pictures, taken right on the stage by Father Remy will appear on first page of the new school album donated by the Ahenakew girls. Marley's ghost is so natural that we can almost hear him moan: "Ooooooh! Woe is me!"



# HOSPITAL

1947 in REVIEW

The statistics of the past year will, at a glance, give us an idea of all the hospital activities:

Patients admitted: 465

Newborns: 79 (30 more than in 1946)

Prescriptions filled: 2718

Dressings: 1337; Operations, minor: 59; major 2.

X-Rays: 250; Ultra-violet ray treatments: 258

Lab. tests: 432

Free consultations: 1448

The Islanders are grateful to the Hospital Staff for their kind and faithful services and wish them a Happy New Year.

## MERCY FLIGHT

On Dec. 13, Doctor Lavoie called the Ambulance Plane and flew with it to White Fish Lake to rescue Ernest McDonald accidentally wounded by a gun shot. Having left Ile a la Crosse at 1 p.m. the mercy flight was over at 6 p.m. the same day, when the injured boy and his mother, Mrs. P. McDonald were hospitalized.

The mother returned by the mail plane, Dec. 17. The boy has recovered and expects to fly home by the first plane in January.

## LAST BABIES OF 1947

During December, 5 babies were born at the Hospital, but the year's quota for Ile a la Crosse remained at 32.

Cree Lake: John André, born Dec. 15 to Mrs. J. Clement

Laloche: Geordy, born Dec. 12 son of Mrs. Wm. Toulejour

Canoe Lake: Guy, son of Mrs. Jonas Lariviere was born on Dec. 15.

Canoe River: Marie Ange, daughter of Mrs. Eugene McKay, was born on Dec. 25.

## OPERATION

On December 9, Miss Irene Christopherson was operated for tonsillitis by Dr. Lavoie. The operation was successful and the patient was well enough to return to Buffalo Narrows by plane 2 days later.

Sr. S. CHAUVET, one of our devoted nurses, has been under treatment since mid-December. Although she is improving, her recovery is not as speedy as we would wish it to be.

### DECEMBER PATIENTS

The patients who received treatment here during the last month of the year are the following:

Ile a la Crosse: Mrs. Aldina Durocher, Elise Caisse  
Mrs. Francis Iron, Mr. Abraham Maurice, Ernest Landry and Yvonne Lari-  
vière.

Buffalo Narrows: Mrs. Louis Chartier, Mary and Rita Pederson, Mr. Joseph Beaulac, Jean Mongrand

Buffalo River: Mrs. Lazare Moise, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Billette, Mrs. Sarazine Akwatchas.

Portage Laloche: Mr. & Mrs. Henry Jolibois, Bernadette Fontaine and Alice Sylvestre.

Canoe Lake: Mrs. Victor Couillonar.

Green Lake: Mrs. William Roy  
Chagona: Mrs. Alfred Laliberte

### VACCINATIONS

Because of uncontrollable circumstances, it was not possible to vaccinate the newcomers at school before December. With a few babies on the Island, vaccinations numbered around 60.

Common sense and experience have long convinced the Doctor nurses and teachers that it does not suffice for them to ascertain the needs of the children. Something must be done.

Take for instance "EYES and TEETH". What good does it do to a child to have on his "Cumulative Record: Eyes 20/200 and 8 decayed teeth.... if neither dentist nor oculist ever come our way?

During December, another 64 teeth were extracted from the school children. Who will save the other decaying teeth? And the eyes?

It's the very few who have the means to go to Meadowlake--let alone Prince Albert, to see a dentist or an oculist. A 12¢ cheque from the Fishing Board doesn't help much either.

That will be a RED LETTER day when the MERCY PLANE will drop a dentist and an oculist at Ile a la Crosse.

### HE WAS A MARRIED MAN

Doctor: "You have a slight cold. Go home and take a still dose of whiskey."

Timid patient: "Er,-- can I have that in writing?"

### GRAMMAR

City Visitor: Which is correct a hen is "sitting" or a hen is "setting"?

Farmer: I don't know, and I don't care. All I bother about is when she cackles Is she laying or is she lying?



# SPORTS

## MUSIC ON ICE

December 14 was the date set for the opening of the skating rink. The loudspeaker installed in the boys' dormitory facing the rink, carried the MUSIC to the village and attracted a fair-sized crowd.

At 3 o'clock, Father Lemay Rene Lavoie, Leon Belanger, with a number of youngsters gave a half-hour exhibition of hockey-in-the-making. Then the girls and the other boys invaded the rink, skated by twos or played tag on ice. The oldsters watched with a glint of envy in their eyes--was it for the skates or the youth of the skaters. Mr. Joe Landry and Clement Roy both found a pair of skates and were seen cutting as graceful figures as any teen-ager.

Coffee and doughnuts were served at 4 o'clock to spectators as well as to skaters. Among the former, we noted Mr. & Mrs. Benoit, the pilot of the Ambulance Plane stranded here, Mrs. Marion, Mr. G. Ramsay and Mr. D. Morin.

## SKATE SHARPENER

As the skating stock increases, there are more and more dull blades to be sharpened--with a loss of time for want of equipment. So Father Remy calculated that a skate sharpener would be a useful gadget that would soon pay itself.. since time is money, even in the North. We have one

## BOB SKATES FOR LITTLE ONES

With part of the rental money, 15 pairs of bob-skates were bought for the little beginners. Sr. Belley's folks sent her another nine pairs. The tots are fast learning the feel of ice and no longer feel left out.

## APPEAL HEARD

"Skates wanted"-- that was the broad hint printed in the Nov. Island Breezes... and wafted to Falher, Alta, by a fair East wind.

Lionel Choquette picked up the message, packed his discarded skates-- a pair of 8's in fine condition-- and mailed them to Ile a la Crosse School. It is a Christmas present we gratefully acknowledge.

## FISHING A SPORT?--NOT HERE

## THE CHAMPION SKATER

Fishing in winter can hardly be considered a sport. It is rather hard work which deserves better than an 8 cent cheque after a season of it.

This is how we do it. We make a hole in the ice about 3 by 3 feet. Then we tie the fishing line to a jigger which we shove through the hole under ice. We push the line, a jerk at a time, until the jigger is 50 yards away. Exactly opposite we cut a second hole, pull out the jigger, untie the line and fasten it on to one end of the net. Then the net is pulled under the ice to the first hole and fastened there to a post in the ice.

Every two or three days, we visit our nets, generally with a dog team. Some use horses. The amount of fish we catch depends on the season and the weather-- we can depend very little on either. The average catch includes pickerel, sunfish, Jackfish, whitefish and a few salmon trout which weigh up to 26 pounds.

Sometimes we are very disappointed not to find anything (but suckers) in our nets, whilst on other days, we pick off as many as a hundred big "fellers"--the poor fish!

Raymond Ayotte (VIII)

"Character is not made in a crisis-- it is only exhibited."

There is a champion skater in Ile a la Crosse. She weighs three hundred sixty five lbs. She loves to play hockey and is learning the rules very fast, though it is pretty hard for a girl. The champion of Ile a la Crosse is none other than Elise Daigneault. Oh yes! she takes Cod Liver Oil.

-Leon McCallum (V)

P.S. A reward is offered to the first one who sees our champion on skates.

## TOGETHER

This is the parable of the acorn. A poet once picked up an acorn from the deep grass and held it to his ear. He seemed to hear it say: "By and by, birds will come and make their nests in me; I shall be fuel and warmth for many homes; I shall protect cattle from the blazing sun, and provide ribs for the seafaring ships, so that the storms of the oceans will beat against their sides in vain."

"What!" said the poet. "You poor, weak, insignificant, tiny thing! You will be able to do all this?"

"Yes," answered the acorn. "GOD and I."

Thus many dreams may be dreamed and many great things accomplished by him who is willing always to say:

"God and I."



# On New

but 2 days before, on his 63rd birthday, he had received a handkerchief to wipe away the tears of his disappointment. It was a pleasure to welcome Mrs. Watt and her son Bill. We hope that they will enjoy their stay in Ile a la Crosse.

At 10.15, p.m. a musical program was put on by a few of our local hidden talents. Nita and Muriel Benoit played the piano and sang. Louise Marion also played the piano and did a Polish Folk dance. These numbers by the children were greatly appreciated.

Mr. G. Ramsay sang "Annie Laurie". Thomas Daigneault also gave his voice while Cpl. Nightingale, too timid to appear on the scene, sang a touching alto behind the red curtains. Auguste Durocher played the violin and everyone enjoyed it. (Between us, he went straight to bed when the recital was over.) Our "Bing Crosby" Mawer, in spite of his six feet could not be persuaded to mount the platform. Strange how nearly all men seem to dread stage-lights.

Corporal Nightingale, with all the selling power and vim we know he has (and which he did openly manifest) sold 18 breath-and-appetite-taking Baskets. He also told us

On December 31st, ALL the people of Ile a la Crosse gathered in the parish hall for a Bingo, Raffle, Basket Social and lunch.

Mr. G. Ramsay, with his usual Scottish winning ways collected at the door, while Mr. Thomas Daigneault called out the numbers.

It was a pleasure for us to note that it was boy from Green Lake, Daniel Ross, who won the first game. Annie Bouvier won the last one--a free Bingo. At the end of the evening, Mr. Watt, H.B.C. manager, was presented with a surprise package of very special...cheese. The smell followed him home, we were told. Mr. Curry did not get his pillow cases this time,

# Year's Eve

about Dr. Lavoie's visit to Saskatoon. A porter came forward to help the Doctor and without saying "hotel" simply called, "King George"?

-- "No," said the Doctor, "Doctor Lavoie from Ile a la Crosse."

The Raffle results were as follows: a home-knit blanket was won by Clement Roy and his daughter, Antoinette, carried off a doll and 8 pieces of furniture to go with it. These articles had been made locally. Dr. Lavoie got the door prize-- a pitcher and a set of tumblers.

At midnight, Rev. Father Remy asked that all recite the "Our Father" together, and he blessed this first hour of the New Year, 1948.

Then it was a regular earthquake as hands were shaken, and everyone wished everyone else a Happy New Year.

The proceeds of the evening, \$200.90 were given to Rev. Father Remy to help pay the school janitor and school fuel bill--a financial burden which the mission should-ers along with many others.

Thanks to all who have made this social gathering a success. Special thanks to Corporal Nightingale.

Sr. A. Brady

## A NEW YEAR WISH

Not a store of wealth I  
wish you,  
Just enough for every day,  
And a laugh to win you  
friendship  
On the rugged, upward way.  
Take my wish, my earnest  
God-speed,  
Here beside the New Year's  
door.  
May the grace of God be  
with you  
This year, next year,  
evermore.

## RING OUT THE OLD

### RING IN THE NEW....

Ring out the old, ring in  
the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the  
snow;  
The year is going, let him go  
Ring out the false, ring in  
the true.

Ring in the valiant man and  
free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier  
hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the  
land,  
Ring in the Christ that is  
to be.

-Tennyson.



### DECEMBER MEET

On December 13, a regular meeting of the club was held. Mary Ahenakew was present. We thanked her for all she had done in the past for the club and expressed the hope that she would not go to Stanley-- we would miss her so much!

It was remarked that the Retreat of December 8th had been well followed. May it bear fruits.

### CHRISTMAS TREE

On the evening of Dec. 19, 46 young girls and boys met in the club room at school for the White Xmas Tree Party.

Rev. Father Remy presided over the feast. Father Burlot and F. Lemay accompanied him. Sr. Superior who was unable to attend, sent a gift for each boy and girl.

Games were played and the girls enjoyed seeing the boys being shaved. For some, it was a very close shave. Sheila Ahenakew was barber and Andre Kenny sharpened the blades.

At 10. p.m. all gathered around the brightly lighted tree. Father Burlot played the organ while all sang "The White Christmas". Rev. Father Superior gave out the gifts-- two for each one. The boys who had gone fishing had thoughtfully left their gifts for their girls.

At 10.30 lunch was served. The gathering broke up at 11.15 p.m. Several girls and boys washed the dishes and cleared the room before saying good-night.

Mrs. L. Belanger (Savage) sent us a big batch of buns and jelly. Thank you Elizabeth.

We also thank every one for their cooperation and for the fine family spirit shown on this occasion.

### IN THE LIMELIGHT

The Club's contribution to the Christmas concert, "A Christmas Song" was very well rendered and appreciated by all who heard it. What the audience enjoyed most was the row of beautiful smiling faces --- no kidding!

Elizabeth Mispounas.

## WE ACKNOWLEDGE

Miss E. Russell and Miss Winnie Nixon, two ex-presidents of the H.G.I.C. sent cards at Christmas. Thank you for remembering us and may you both have the happiest of New Years.

## MATHILDA ENTERTAINS

Vital Morin's birthday was on January 1st. That evening, Mathilda, his sister who works at the mission had prepared a cake and New Year's supper for Vital and wife, Therese. Little Patsy (9 months) also attended. Many happy returns of the day, Vital.

## NIGHT SCHOOL RESUMED

On January 7th, night classes were resumed. Nine pupils were present. They began leathercraft. Some are making billfolds; others belts or tobacco pouches.

Though it is the fishing season, more young people of the village could attend. Here's a chance to learn and enjoy yourself while learning.

A prize will be given for the best leather work. Who is going to get it?

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

On New Year's Day many people did shake hands with us. I was very happy. May God bless all the people and Father Remy, too.

Alice Jacobson (III)

## OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

There was a concert before Christmas. The people liked it. There was a play about Santa Claus, a clown with a funny face and a little cowboy named Roy Rogers. There was another number about the Nativity. Jesus was lying in a manger. Mary and Joseph were there. The Three Kings brought gifts to the baby Jesus: gold incense and RAISINS. The shepherds were there and I was the St. Joseph. V. Desjarlais (V) P.S. Before taking off their costumes and beards, St. Joseph and the kings ate all the "raisins" in the make-believe box of myrrh-- the greedy boys!

## HOW I SPENT MY XMAS HOLIDAYS

During the Christmas holidays, we went skating almost everyday and played as much as we liked. What fun!

Father Guy Remy gave us chocolates, candies and CIGARS. They didn't go to our heads-- because they were licorice.

On January 6, Feast of the Three Kings, we each had a little iced muffin in which were hidden one bean and one pea. Delphis Durocher had the pea so he was Queen for the day and Jean-Marie Maurice who found the bean was His Majesty the King. Sr. Superior Boisvert gave both their Majesties a present.

All the boys say thank you to Father Remy and to Sister Superior for being so good to them. Alfred Petit (V)



## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

### VILLAGE BINGOS

A first bingo organized by the men's committee, was held in the community hall on Monday, December 1st. About 50 people were present.

The prizes donated by the three stores, Hudson Bay Co., Marion's and Burnouf's, consisted of many useful household articles, such as tea, soap, glassware, etc.

The door prize, a lovely 3-piece dresser set, was won by Mr. Joe Landry.

The highlights of the evening were two free games in which each and everyone participated.

A second Bingo took place on Dec. 22. Most of the prizes were toys for the children. The door prize, a large doll was won by Mrs. L. Belanger.

The proceeds, approx. \$30. each time, were to pay for the lot on which the community hall now stands.

The men's committee consisted of Mr. Watt, Mr. Marion, Mr. Benoit and Cpl. Nightingale.

-Beatrice Smetka.

The Christmas vacations brought many of the Islanders to their "Home Sweet Home" especially our young scholars.

Germain Lavoie and Wally Walcer came together from Moosejaw. A demure young miss, Louise Marion, arrived from North Battleford, and jolly Nita and Muriel Benoit came from Duck Lake. These two misses made their first acquaintance with "Skipper" one of Mr. Curry's pups adopted by the hotel, and the little black dog grieved copiously to see them leave for school again.

Mrs. Wm. Watt, a long-awaited lady, arrived on the mail plane, on Dec. 18, to join her husband, Mr. Watt, H.B.C. Mgr. here. Their son, William, Jr., a mining engineer at Red Lake, Man., is still holidaying at home and giving a hand at the store.

Miss Joyce Holmes, daughter of Mrs. O.N. McNeil, arrived by plane on Dec. 24th and left the Island on the 31st as she was afraid to take a chance on the snowmobile and then not be able to return on time to take charge of her school. This was Miss Holmes first visit to Ile a la Crosse. She will be here next summer.

## OUTSIDERS WE SAW:

From BUFFALO NARROWS: Irene Christopherson stayed a few days at Dr. Lavoie's. Mary Pederson visited the Ahenakews Albert Maurice (Cheechuk) and Ray Beaulac were spotted out at the New Year's Eve Bingo.

From SNAKE LAKE: we saw

Mrs. John Roy (Exelie Gardener) and Monique Iron. Both were visiting relatives.

From CANOE LAKE: came,

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Morin, Mrs. Louis Bujold, Mrs. Christine Iron, Daniel Iron, Moise and Martin Couillonneur.

From ELBOW LAKE: Kenny Ahenakew and his wife spent two days here.

From BIG RIVER: motored Tony Erickson in his little truck. He stopped on his way to Buffalo Narrows (Father Remy informed us). Eugene Chartier accompanied him on the return trip.

From HALF WAY LAKE: Harry Ahenakew drove in by snowmobile one Saturday night and made a bee-line for the show. It wasn't a cowboy show!

( If there are any omissions, blame it on our reporters who took two weeks holiday.)

## MOTOR VEHICLES

The first big truck crossed the lake on Dec. 7th: it was Alec Burnouf's from Beauval. Since then have come from Meadowlake trucks of all sizes and colors, even an Imperial Oil truck. The children (who never see double) counted 20 on night near the hotel.

Schneider's mail truck has come in regularly every Thursday night-- except Christmas night-- since he took over.

Celus Carter also has a snowmobile which goes daily to Dipper Lake for fish whilst Mr. Marion's snowmobile, driven by Max Fiddler, picks up fish daily at Half Way Lake for L. Waite Co.

Finally, Mr. Broker, game warden, gets around in his snow-tractor known as "The Weasel". In short DOG-TEAMS are seen oftener in books than around Ile a la Crosse.

## ISLANDERS ON THE MOVE

Mrs. F. Burnouf and Philomene Jacobson spent a week in Meadowlake.

Dr. Lavoie went to Beauval by snowmobile and to Cree Lake by special plane.

Cst. Don Mawer flew to the Narrows on Dec. 10 where he spent a week as well as most of the Christmas holidays. He also visited Beauval in early January with Leon Belanger-- strictly business.

Mid-December Cpl. Nightingale flew out a prisoner from the Narrows to P. A. He returned the following week--- unaccompanied.

After a month's stay in Ile a la Crosse, Mr. Tunstead returned by chartered plane to headquarters in P. Albert.

On Epiphany, a crowd of Islanders crossed the lake to Fort Black. There was "open house" at Caliboo's that evening. All enjoyed themselves.

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# MISSION NEWS

## VISITORS

From Rome, via Ireland and Meadowlake, came Reverend André MEZZA, o.m.i., a new missionary to the Northwest Territories. Father Gagnon brought him here from Beauval on Dec. 31st. He spent a week with us, waiting for the Lalochebound plane. He was bringing to Father Bragaglia the latest news from home. With the latter's dog team he will cover the last stretch of his long journey.

On January 2, Rev. Father Gagnon was in once more--this time with Sr. A. Laramee, village school teacher, and Sr. I. Chartier, both in need of "urgent dental care". They returned with their aches.... and our sympathy.

From Buffalo Narrows hailed Rev. Father Bourbonnais, late one night as trucks don't run on schedule. Tall and solemn as ever (when not joking) is our visitor who left on Jan. 8th by plane with a big box of home-made doughnuts.

The same day, Rev. Sr. B. Weber, R.N. from Portage Laloche flew in and alighted on her way to Saskatoon. On the 9th the plane was to leave early. It did set out but after 15 minutes returned

## NEW CHRISTMAS MANGER SET

Thanks to the generous offerings of the people, a beautiful new Christmas manger set was bought for the parish church. Before Midnight Mass all eyes were turned towards the 18" life-like statues of the Virgin Mother, St. Joseph the shepherds surrounding the new waxen infant-- the gift of Sr. Superior Boisvert to the parish. The sheep, the donkey and the ox got a bit of attention too.

On Epiphany, the three kings arrived (from the Orient) on one huge camel led by a negro servant. Their traits and dress are as artistic as you can "dream them". (Father Superior ordered them). This year, Sr. Martel found it a real pleasure to make the crib.

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because of low ceiling. So the two motors were covered up while pilot and passengers waited for better weather. The big grey bird flew away 24 hours later-- but that's the North. We like it.

### ON MISSION

Early in December, Rev. Father Rossignol came by plane from Snake Lake where he has been on mission since Oct. 19. Just an overnight visit and back to his isolated post.

"The school that was to be opened at Snake Lake after New Year's is still far from completion," he reports.

Rev. Father Lemay spent Christmas with his "flock" at Canoe Lake. On the 27th, he was seen on the mission skating rink--testing the ice maybe. At any rate, he took the trouble to flood the rink before returning to Canoe Lake for New Year's and Epiphany. Back home on Jan. 7th.

### GIFTS FOR THE CHAPEL

The convent chapel now has a lovely red taffeta drapery behind the liturgical altar--a gift from Sr. A. Boisvert, superior of St. Boniface Hospital, which we appreciate.

Thanks to Father Remy, a wooden crucifix to match the chandeliers has replaced the metal one and a new sanctuary lamp with wax vigils has relegated the "coil oil lamp" to the attic with other souvenirs of pioneer days.

### MIDNIGHT MASS

It was a moonlight night with weather made to order. The church was already filled with faithful from far and near when the midnight bells rang out joyously the 1947th anniversary of Christ's birth in Bethlehem. The choir sang the traditional French "Minuit Chrétiens", in Cree:

"Ekwa anotch ka wi kitchi  
tipiskak

Manito ki pe yasistaknow"

The three Masses were celebrated by Father Superior who wore the golden Gothic vestments of the centennial. Father Burlot directed the two part singing of the children's choir.

An unforgettable Midnight service, pleasing to the New Born King, no doubt.

### THE CAT-- AT LAST

"Father Remy's CAT is here!" Everybody rejoiced that Sunday noon, January 11.

"Celus Carter just brought it in his truck", a second added. A dozen others chimed in: "It's yellow and it has a big light in front."

On back order for two years, no wonder the CAT-ERPILLAR created such a stir.

After dinner it was unloaded. Brother Boisvert fed it gas and tried it out. It has been on the go since, hauling wood, 13 cords at a time, to heat all the buildings on mission ground, employees' homes included. The horses are having a good rest.



# Happy Birthday

## TO ALL BORN IN FEBRUARY

Eugene Kenny	Feb.	3		
Arthur Daigneault		"	4	
Eva Buckley	Feb.	4	Etienne Leo Desjarlais	" 14
Alice Kenney	"	7	Antoine Laliberte	" 14
Elise Daigneault	"	7	Emilia Smith	" 16
François Morin	"	7	Victor Bouvier	" 19
Therese Morin	"	9	Samuel Raymond	" 26
Napoleon Bouvier	"	13	Alec McCallum	" 24
George Raymond	"	14	Rose Bouvier	" 29

### WHAT'S NEW

In our room we have new clothes cupboards with 28 doors which Brother Boisvert and Jean Marie Durocher made. Our dresses won't be dragging around now. We also have a new table in the sewing room. For our Christmas present, Sr. Superior Boisvert gave us a new gramophone. We like it and played it from morning till night during the holidays. Thanks to Sr. Superior and Brother Boisvert.

Elise Daigneault (V)

### DECORATIONS TAKEN DOWN

On Jan. 9, our teacher asked Alexandre McCallum to take down the class decorations. First he took the table, then put a chair on it and on top of that, he put a stool. He was shaking when he climbed up to get the centre bells.

Leon McCallum was Alexandre's slave and had to do whatever his boss asked. I think Alexandre was acting a little smart to make us laugh. That is what I call a little dope. George Raymond (V)

## FROM MOOSE TO MOCASSINS

Last summer while I was staying at Pachuanak with my father, I was interested in watching the women transform a moose's hide into beaded moccasins. This is how they did it.

The men had killed a moose -- a rare event these past years-- and brought the hide home to their women who immediately soaked it in a tub of water so that it would not harden before they worked on it. The men also made a frame with four poles-- and their task was ended.

The women punched holes around the hide to tie it to the frame which they stood upright against 2 trees. With a sharp bone, they scraped off the fur on one side, the flesh from underneath and let it stand for a night.

The next day they removed the hide from the frame and rubbed it on both sides with the brains of the moose which the men had saved. This takes the place of oil, I was told. It was then left to dry in the sun for a few days.

When it was dry, they soaked it again in water to soften it. They took the hide to the bush, hung it over a strong branch, and wrung it with a stick, turning it over and over until not a drop of water could be squeezed out of it. While the skin was drying, the women scraped it and beat it with covers of pails to make it fuzzy and soft on both sides. It was now ready to be tanned.

They sewed the skin together lengthwise, leaving both ends open. With three sticks they built a tepee, suspended the skin inside and made a fire with rotten wood directly beneath it. The smoke which curled in and out of the roll of skin, tanned it to a golden color.

Finally they cut out the moccasins according to a simple pattern of their own. Some sewed on the colored beads, scarce and expensive since the war, while others embroidered the floral designs which they had traced on the skin with a little stick dipped in a red solution made with a piece of crepe paper.

What patient labour it required--definitely a woman's work! Florence Ahenakew (IX)

## SASKATOON PLAYS SANTA

The Carter Trucks replaced the reindeer sleigh and Sr. A. Lachance, superior of St Paul Hospital, Saskatoon, substituted for Santa.

Guess what? She sent a Beatty electric washing machine to replace the wooden one that ran with "elbow grease" and plenty of it.

The machine was filled with gifts for the boys in residence-- the best one being an electric clipper. The older boys who had the task of keeping 62 heads in shape, will now find it a pleasure to be barber. Sincere thanks to Sr. Superior Lachance.

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"To get the best of an argument, keep out of it."

It would be worthwhile starting one to preserve this RARITY for future generations--this is no fossil we are talking about, but a cheque from the Provincial FISHING BOARD forwarded to Francis Bouvier, Ile a la Crosse, in a closed envelope, bearing a four cent stamp.

Amount of cheque:

ONE CENT ONLY. It's worth a frame along with Geordy Belanger's cheque for 8 cents only and George Murray's for 12 cents only -- all from the same source.

IT PAYS TO FISH -----  
BUT WHO??? That's the \$64 question in the North. One fact we can't deny: The Board is HONEST to the last cent!

### THE NEXT BINGO

Retain the date: on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 10, the next bingo will be held at the mission in the Parish Hall. There will be prizes..for all the winners and a good time for all players. You'd be missed--- but you ARE coming!

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To all their subscribers, advertisers and friends, the Staff of The Breezes wishes a Happy New Year.  
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