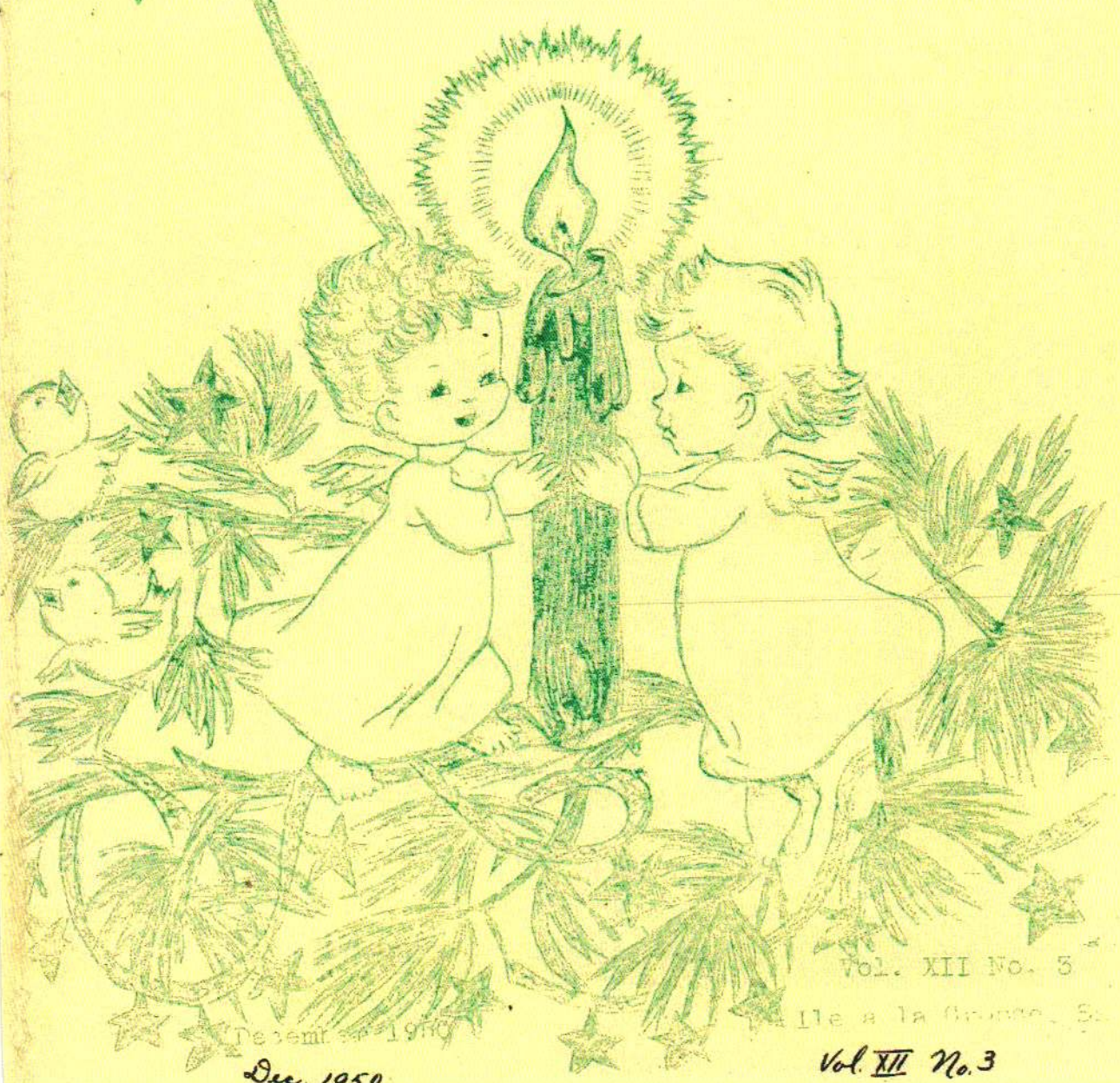


ISLAND BREEZES



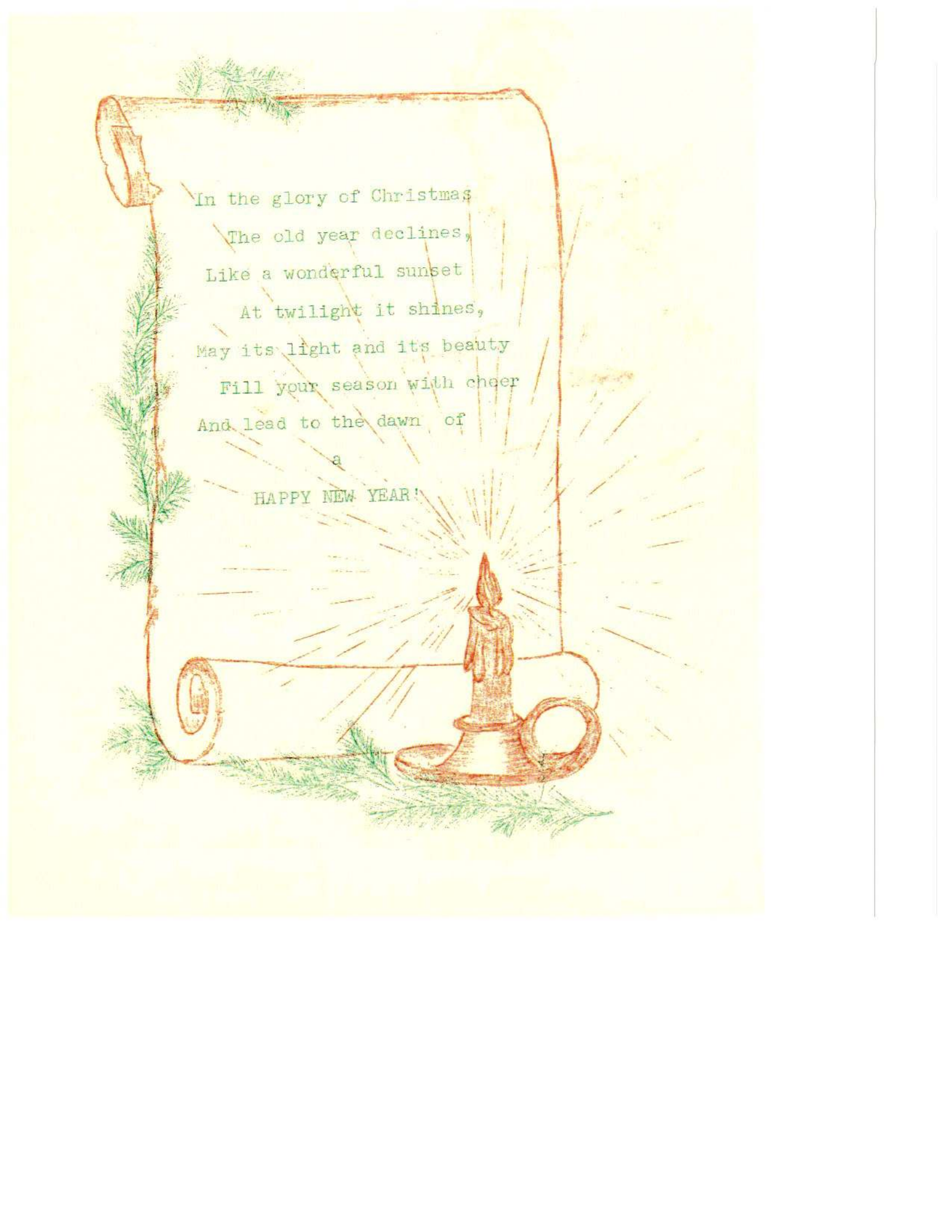
December 1950

Dec. 1950

Vol. XII No. 3

Ile a la Grande, St.

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A vintage Christmas card with a scroll border and a candle illustration. The scroll is decorated with green pine branches. The text is printed in a simple, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the scroll, there is a detailed illustration of a lit candle in a holder, with rays of light emanating from it. The entire scene is set against a light, aged paper background.

In the glory of Christmas
The old year declines,
Like a wonderful sunset
At twilight it shines,
May its light and its beauty
Fill your season with cheer
And lead to the dawn of
a
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Peter, John, James and the other friends of Christ were just ordinary men. They had enough patience to deal with the fish they caught in their nets, but of course not enough to put up with a crowd of excited Jews hustling each other to see and even to touch the Master.

One warm day, the children were worse than ever. They were naughty and noisy and got so well on Peter's nerves that he found a way of getting rid of them. Then, from the crowd, the clear voice of the Master suddenly said: "Let them come to Me..!"

You have a great friend, the best of Friends. It is a fact that He shall call to you: "Come to Me...." Say, are you

really His friends? You have known Him for so many years, and yet you are so different from Him. Show me now who are your friends and I will tell you what kind of a boy,-- of a girl -- you are. In our way of speaking, of acting, and even of thinking, we become like our friends. I can tell you what kind of company you keep: Are you good? Your friends are good. Are they bad? You too, will soon become bad.

Then since Jesus is really your greatest and your best friend, why should you not become somewhat like Him, kind, good, obedient? Does He not say: "Learn from Me.."? By these words, he means that He wishes you to become more and more like Himself every day of this New Year. By the way you speak, by the kind deeds you perform, by your patience when you suffer, by your love for those who are in sorrow, people should be able to see that Christ Jesus is truly your friend.

My sincere wish is that you daily grow in thought, word, and deed, more and more like your Friend who never ceases to Love and Bless you.

G. Remy, o.m.i.



ISLANDERS ON BEAUVAL ICE

First Booking

No words can depict the happiness expressed on the faces of the Juvenile Hockey players on December 9 when their devoted coach, Father Beaudet announced a booking with the Beauval Residential School for the eleventh. Their hearts skipped an occasional beat, and their every thought and word centered on the coming event.

Get Set -- Go!

The day dawned with weather made to order. Fidgety boys strode into class at 9: ... and sat through lessons but their minds were on the puck already! After an early dinner, 13 boys hopped into Doctor Lavoie's bug with Father Beaudet and Brother Courcy. -- The boys were secretly saying 'thank you' to God for making a Valley dweller sick enough to call the Doctor and thus afford a ride.

Being packed like sardines, smelling gas coupled with cigar smoke, some of the boys had an unwanted upset stomach... The girls travelled in greater comfort: Antoinette Roy, Annie Durocher and Clara Corrigan were with Pete Edson and J. Landry in Mr. Marion's bug.

Warm Welcome

At the Beauval Residential, Reverend Father Gagnon and Staff welcomed the Ile-a-la-Croix players and rooters. A most appetizing meal was served to all... The players --but one--managed to resist in order to keep in trim for the ensuing game.

The teams Meet.

Unfortunately, no official ISLAND BREEZES reporter was present to witness the game. Nevertheless, echoes of the fine play put up by both teams eventually reached the office.

Winning over last year's Champions was no easy play: During the first periods, neither the home nor the visiting team scored. Right at the beginning of the 2nd, Beauval shot into the net 2 times, but the Islanders retaliated and the period ended with a tie of 2-2. The last drive was 'hot'. The Island Juveniles went all out -- to the extent that at one time only four of the players were on the ice. Father Beaudet, acting as Referee was broken hearted at the sight of his 'men' on the fence... As soon as they got back into the

(Continued on page 6)

SCHOOL

WORLD WAR II



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

On December 22, Miss R. Mergen, teacher, left by plane for Prince Albert, N. Battleford, and Davidson to enjoy the holiday Season with relatives and friends.

Christmas day saw most of the boarders on the way home for a few days. Snowbugs loaded to capacity headed for Beauval, Buffalo Narrows and Cance Lake. The good old dog sleighs did their share too.

Holidays, like all good things, must come to an end. On January 3rd, most of the pupils returned for the re-opening of school. Miss Mergen was welcomed back on the 5th.

Although it's a known fact that school is dull the day after a Concert, circumstances presented no alternative for December 20-22. Fortunately, Father Remy thoughtfully lent his "Life's Picture History of World War II" for the Seniors to browse through. Father Superior's kindness helped some people through an impasse. Thanks!

LET THERE BE LIGHT

A better lighting system was a MUST for the rink, so when Brother Langlois went out he was requested to get all the 'light' he could on the subject. Very conscientiously, he sent the necessary information to Rev. Father Remy who immediately put in an order for a 500-Watt reflector. During the holidays Father Beaudet and Brother Courcy installed it on the north end of the school roof. Since then, on skating nights, the rink is flooded with light.-- This is a great improvement welcomed by all those who share Father Remy's responsibility of maintaining order and preventing accidents on the ice.

FIRST CLASS SURPRISE

CHRISTMAS SPECIALTY

Mr. T.H. Waugh, Superintendent of Schools, made a very unexpected and hurried call on Father Remy and at the school on January 9th. Mr. Waugh was on his way from La Loche to Beauval. His stop-over, though brief is another proof of our Administrator's interest in the school and all concerned. May the next call be a longer one!

NOTHING BUT SNOW

While truckers and Merchants put all their attention on the snow-filled roads, the girls and boys looked dismally at the skating rink which was just as full. Luckily, Father Remy has their interests at heart. Finding the job too heavy for the youngsters, he armed 3 of his hired men with shovels and scrapers. It took them several hours of hard work to reach bottom, but then skating was resumed on January 3rd.

The previous "fillings" had been shoveled out energetically too: the first by the boys, headed by Father Remy and Father Beaudet who set both the example and the pace. The whole place was cleared in a surprisingly short time. The Village Hockey players did the job for the Christmas game. Cooperation is still in style.

On Christmas Eve, the bigger girls decorated their sewing room, trimmed their tree, took out all the prettiest dishes they could find and, always under Antoinette Roy's able direction, set the tables and appropriately decorated them. The whole room took on a true Christmas air: all was in readiness for the after Mass lunch. That was a grand innovation, a cause of joy for the 13 privileged girls.

After having sung like angels at the three Masses, they probably were as hungry as bears... but gathered around the attractive tables, they were perfect little ladies. The jolly caps, the tasty food, the balloons, presents were so many surprises adding to the happiness of all. The pleasure of having Rev. Father Remy in their midst for a little while, and partaking of their lunch was all-important to the young Misses.

The younger fry were not neglected for all that. Although they assembled in the dining room, the Christmas spirit truly reigned among them. Balloons and presents awaited them all in the recreation hall at the sight of which some were literally jumping with glee. Father Superior's and the Sisters' devotedness contributed to the realization of the wish "Merry Christmas".



Music on Ice

In the skaters' opinion, an afternoon of Music on Ice is a must. Fearing, for some unknown reason, that the event might be skipped, they clamored for a date to be set. They all felt greatly relieved when the colorful posters made by Antoinette Roy and Lawrence Landry were hung up. December 10 would be THE DAY.

As early as 2:30, Reverend Father Remy had his record player, loudspeaker and all set up in the boys' dormitory. For more than three hours he supplied merry notes to the skaters... and wished he'd been able to lay hands on those famous Square Dances. It takes more than tending the Victor to keep Father Superior busy: while the young and not-so-young skated to his tunes, he too, kept time -- tapping the keys of his typewriter. At the end of the session, a fine pile of envelopes ready for the mail bag testified of his busy-ness.

The aroma of Sister Baert's coffee attracted the biggest crowd ever. The counter was assaulted at three. In less than two hours, the six hundred doughnuts had been drowned in twelve gallons of coffee... and the cooks had expected to get at least 150 doughnuts back untouched!

For a change, the weather was ideally mild. There were none of Jack Frost's bites to spoil the fun. The snow flurry of the last hour dampened the skates considerably but not the enthusiasm. A good number skated till the last whistle, and still others, many young 'uns returned in the evening for more ice-scapades.

ISLANDERS ON BEAUVAL ICE (Cont'd. from Page 3)

game however, not only the Coach took heart. In no time, the visitors surprised everybody, even themselves by scoring two more points, ending the game with a score of 4-2 in their favor. The telegram immediately sent to Father Remy by Lawrence Landry: "Victory for Ile a la Croix suffices to get the home-gang excited and started on making plans for a reception worthy of the WINNAHS.

As the time keeper, Brother Courcy, rang the finish signal, Father Beaudet led the cheer for the winners. It was taken up by the defeated team and all the bystanders. Besides the 180 school children some thirty adults left their various occupations to watch the game. Among these were Rev. Father Remy -- with Father Gagnon, he was a Goal judge-- Cst. Johnstone, Mr. Coronet, Mr. Currie, Mrs. Benoit, Pierre Daigneault, Brother Lefebvre, Vital Morin, Eugene Burnouf, J.M. Durocher.

Both teams now hope to meet before the month is over. WHEN? is the all important question.

UNFLINCHING SERVICE

Brother Auguste is still actively on duty. The care of the steadily increasing number of cattle (the 18th calf was born recently) requires a good part of the aging Brother's time. Keeping the chickens supplied with fresh hay, water and feed are also part of his daily chores. He has spent many days checking the vegetables in the root cellar. All the potatoes had to be sorted. In cellar temperature, this work would have been tough on the Brother's fingers had it not been for the coal-oil heater left at his disposal.

NO MORE SATURDAY

The weekly shows mean so much to the natives that had they a calendar of their own, the last day of the week would probably be labelled 'Picture Show Kisikaw' as it is called in current speech. All are grateful to Henry Schnieder for his faithful service. In spite of this season's road conditions, the weekly show was held on schedule. There was only one exception, and just one day late at that. 'The Last of the Mohicans', 'Tom Boy', 'Green Grass of Wyoming' and 'The Canadian Pacific Railway'-- the last two in technicolor -- rank among the best seen recently. Keep an eye on the posters... there are more good shows coming.

HOLD UP

Coming home with a cat-load of wood on January 13, Brother Lefebvre found Main Street in front of Benoit's Hotel jammed by six trucks. The truckers quickly made way for him and just as the Cat reached the center of the rows of parked vehicles, he was held up! The unidentified stanger standing in the middle of the road was armed with a Kodak --- he thought such a street full in a northern hamlet might be an eye opener up South.

At the first report of a bug on the Lake, Father Remy placed and lit two red tapers on the gateposts, and the whole group of boys and girls went out to greet the heroes. That bug, however was not the one wanted at that precise moment. It was Pete Edson bringing his load plus H. Schneider home. The latter gloried in the red lights thinking they were meant for him because he had driven the Cat safely to Port Black that day.

While waiting for the other bug, the girls gave a detailed account of the day's happenings -- spiced with personal remarks. When Doc finally drove in -- the red lights had long since burned out but the enthusiasm was still high. Their personnel hailed the players as they tumbled out of the bug. Bells, cheers, compliments, and merry laughter filled the air. In triumph the boys were escorted to the dining room and were waited upon as lords while they told their version of the event. All are agreed: It was a grand day.

The sixteen youngsters-- some of whom saw Beauval for the first time -- are very grateful to Reverend Father Remy, Father Beaudet, Doctor Lavoie and Mr. Marion, and all others who chipped in to give them such an unforgettable experience.

The choir loft of the parish church has been extended to afford more 'knee' room and breathing space to the singers. The graduated floor allows a better view of the altar, and the two 'goose necks' formerly in the sanctuary now give additional light to the director and the choristers of the front line.

Downstairs two lights have also been added at the back. The two confessionals now stand against the rear wall. This change made space for 4 additional pews. Of the same 'make' as the others they advantageously replace the assortment that formerly cluttered the back of the church. Yet, some humble parishioners still prefer squatting in the far corner between the confessional and the stairs....

New silken drapes hanging in the triple arches behind the altar added to the festive look of the sanctuary. The blue fleur de lys and cross design stand out clearly on a gold background.

The crib, representing a cave in a rocky cliff is roomy enough for all the people and animals of the Christmas story. The dozens of colored lights in the pine background and the flood light illuminating the Babe add the final touch of beauty to the scene.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Mary Tunstead, Anita and Muriel Benoit came home by regular plane for the Christmas holidays. Louise Marion flew in with her Dad-pilot on the 22nd. After spending an enjoyable two weeks with parents and friends they all left for school again on January 4. This time they were not traveling on 'air' but with Cst. Johnstone. Mr. A.E. Chilton, substitute operator during Mr. Currie's absent, went out by the same bus. The bombardier broke down 4 or five miles past Beauval. After walking back to that town, the gang again set out and reached Meadowlake with Mr. Sandherr's snowmobile.

Cst. Johnstone picked up other passengers to return: his immediate 'boss', Cst.

Gibbon and Miss R. Kergen returning to her post.

Wally Walcer and Germain Lavoie also came north for the Yuletide season. Jerry was met at Meadow Lake by Doc. and Mrs. Lavoie and Rodrigue. Both have gone back to Campion in Regina for the last semester.

WHAT'S TODAY

The question need not be asked in school for every classroom is well supplied with "dates" that can really be seen. Besides the downright practical angle the calendars kindly sent over by Mr. Watt and Mr. Marion are appreciated for their beauty. A variety was provided for the school, the convent, the boys' residence and the hospital--with a special one for Sr. Gaudette-- Just the type she likes!

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND EVERY GOOD WISH FOR
HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY
IN THE NEW YEAR.



HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
FINE RIVER POST
1670 to 1950
CANADA'S FIRST STORE

HIGHEST CASH PRICES PAID FOR FUR AND FISH



Happy Birthday

CONCERT - (Cont'd from p.11)

neur had found refuge, the shepherds (Lawrence Landry, George Roy, Glen Buckley) and the kings (Vic. Bouvier - Alfred Durocher, Gabriel McCallum) acclaimed the Babe as their King. Two angels, (Claire Maurice, Lena Couillonneur) completed the tableau. Appropriate hymns, carols or songs, coupled with the play of lights produced the desired Christmas effect in the various scenes. Other parts in the play were acted by Rosa Gardiner as Gabriel; Leon McCallum - Innkeeper; Napoleon Bouvier - Boy; George Raymond - Herod's Captain; Armand Murray - Caravan leader.

The choicest piece of the evening's program was Rev. Father Remy's word of encouragement to the pupils. Father recalled that Sister Lapointe had begun Christmas Concerts on a high scale when she came North four years ago. He noted with pleasure that the standard set by her was being maintained and congratulated pupils and teachers for the success of the evening.

JANUARY

Zephirin Morin	6
Aldina McKay	11
Leonie Desjarlais	12
Gabriel McCallum	12
Cyril Laliberté	18
Emma Aubichon	19
Simone Aubichon	29
Victoria Murray	31
Margaret Daigneault	29

DECEMBER CALLS

To visit his vast medical domain, Doctor Lavoie was waiting only for snow and ice. He got both with slush to boot. On December 6, 12, and 22 he drove the dog out to Canoe Lake. Buffalo Narrows was visited on the 15 and Beauval on the 21. He went to La Loche by the last 1950 plane to that outpost.

MISSION



ALL-TIME RUSH

Most people talk of a Christmas rush. For Father Remy, however, it's a case of a 'year-round' rush that drives on full - blast at Christmas time.

During Brother Langlois' prolonged absence, Father Superior has had to check many 'electric' details with the other brothers-- in the church nave, choir loft and crib. Connections for the new decorations in the parish hall were all planned, rigged and set up by him. Displacement and setting up again of the projector and accessories before and after the Concert and New Year's Eve, as well as installing the microphone whenever needed are all de-

tails that take time in a busy man's life. To 'help' matters a bad cold nearly got the best of the Pater but he missed his Catechism class only one day-- because he could not speak. Talk-less office work and other tasks were tackled instead --No holiday for Father'. At that rate, it is no wonder that he takes an occasional cat-nap during the show... these bits of shut-eye insure something new at the Tuesday projection. With all this, Father is bound to keep his "Galloping" title many a day.

THE GREAT LIFE

Reverend Father Guilloux was eager to spend the Yule tide season with his beloved Canoe Lake parishioners. He did, to the joy and satisfaction of all those who could not come to the Ile for the big feasts. On Jan. 8th, the aging missionary returned: it was high time that he did for two days later he was admitted at the Hospital where he still stays, with the exception of time off for daily Mass.



WHAT A FALL!

January 8th dawned as most Mondays do: blue with the prospect of a full day of work and study. Neither the Juvenile Hockey team nor any of the other pupils had dreamed of anything special until Father Remy unexpectedly strode into the classroom and broke the news that Beauval was coming that very afternoon.

The telegram had asked "Are you ready?" and like the good sports they are, Rev. Father Superior and Father Beaudet decided the answer should be affirmative. They expected that their boys would get a show-down however, for their best defense, Leon McCallum, was not yet back, and those who were present were really tired after playing hard against the men two previous days.

The sudden news knocked the spirit of the three R's squarely: with such an exciting experience coming up in 3 hours, it was hard to get to books and study.

As the dismissal bell rang at noon, the B.I.R.S. truck was nearing the mission. Rev. Father Gagnon, Principal, was himself the driver. Father D'Arche, brother Belanger, 17 boys, 12 girls and Sisters Mercredi, L. Thibert and A. Potvin were met on the spot and taken to the main Mission building for dinner.

At 1:30 the Players were on the ice. Father Beaudet, the home coach, extended a hearty welcome to Father X. Gagnon and the visiting team. Then as Father Gagnon dropped the puck the game was on.

Beauval made the first score but soon after George Roy retaliated and netted one for Ile a la Crosse. The opponents lost neither time nor opportunity. At the end of the 1st period, the score was 2-1.

The rest of the game was all to the glory of the visiting team. The scoreboard registered two more point in each period for them. George Raymond and Lawrence Landry, both Juveniles, also sent the puck in the BIRS goal--most unintentional gifts to the visitors and lifts that put the score off balance at the end of the game: 6 for Beauval against the Islanders' 1.



NEWSY BITS

The R.C.M.P. are kept on their toes and the Bombadier on the run. On Dec. 4, Cst. Johnstone returned from his freezing period at Buffalo; since then he has been here there and everywhere. During the first heavy snow-storm, Cst. Gibbon gave a prolonged ride to Mr. Currie and H. Coronet, driving around practically all the Islands before reaching Ft. Black... on their way to Meadowlake. Cst. Johnstone took over for the Christmas Season while Cst. Gibbon was out for a holiday in the Sunny province. Mrs. Gibbon and Patricia Lynn had gone out in late November; they would have returned with the Cst. the first week of Jan. Had Baby Patricia not taken hold.

After over a month's out-ings, Mr. Currie flew in on January 3rd. At the rate he delivers messages and by the way, he treated himself to

line 'uncoiled and up a-gain one can hardly believe that the devoted operator had just undergone an operation for goiter at Saskatoon City Hospital. His sister, Mrs. Latimer, is mighty glad to have him back home.

Mr. Coronet takes an occasional two days off to visit his family in Meadow L. The non-flying weather of Christmas week meant extra days at home for him... and so many more away from home for Mr. Marion.

In his spare time, Vic Marquis repairs radios and other gadgets, thus keeping up his reputation. His principal occupation is still driving the Bay's Bombadier in spite of his loathing for driving the thing in open water--a strong term for the slush on the ice. Jos Malboeuf, also employed by the Bay, accompanies Vic on his fish hauling trips.

Miss Joyce Holmes came from Regina Beach to spend Christmas with her mother, Mrs. McNeil. The local DNR Field Officer is kept busy with the fish business. He particularly 'enjoyed' the return of his recent trip to Canoe L. with Mr...



Ray of Hope

Somehow, word of the Northerners' plight struck sympathetic ears up south. Two or three times at least, CBK Watrous commented on the unusual, pitiable condition of the roads... and of the people in the district. The Saskatoon STAR-PHOENIX printed an article to the same effect. Then the D.F.R. was roused to action.

Truckers' Dream Comes True

The dauntless truckers had their hearts set on driving their loads 'home' to their clients. The D. F. R. made the realization of this ambition possible by sending a bulldozer to open the road into the snow-bound area, as far as Fort Black. Made bold by this initiative, the local store keepers agreed to split the costs of opening road from the Ile to the bulldozer terminus.

The Home Stretch

On December 26, the mission was asked to shoulder the work. The same afternoon, Father Remy was out walking in the deep snow, planning this unforeseen occupation. On the morrow, Daniel Morin, — the official driver of the mission team, set to work with the horses and a mammoth plow. It was no easy job; the slush spots were especially difficult. After almost two days of real hard work, he reached Ft. Black... feeling well-nigh as elated as Columbus reaching America!.. He had linked the hamlet with the outside world once more. It is little wonder that he was tired. It must be said too that he was grateful to Father Remy for his help in shoveling freezing slush from the plow and to Gilbert Laliberté who worked like a beaver. Together they made a good start on the road-to-be. The first night, an unloaded truck, towed by two snowmobiles, reached the hamlet. The next day, it was out, equipped with a snow - plow, widening the stretch and opening detours to avoid slush spots. Finally, on the 31st, a heavy cat and load coming across proved that the 'Highway' was fit for travel.

The surest way not to fail
is to determine to succeed.

-- Sheridan.

NEW LOOK FOR CHRISTMAS

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NURSES OUT

At Dr. Lavoie's request, Sr. A. Marien, R. N., took Baby Christine Herman back to LaLoche on Dec. 14. The experience was "healthy" in more ways than one.

Upon Sr. Marien's return the following day, Nurse E. (Russel) Theriau boarded the plane for P. A. The main purpose of the trip was to get her new teeth, but seeing her aged mother fitted well with other plans. Before returning, the Nurse thoughtfully visited all the Northerners at the P.A. San. No fooling, Mrs. Theriau looks like her young self again with that "Pep-sodent" smile.

MATERNITY

The last babes of the year have been equally dispersed--one to each locality:

Buffalo Narrows: Mary Jean, born on Dec. 8, to Mrs. M. Francois.

Canoe Lake: Bernice Anne, born Dec. 12, to Mrs. F.X. Couillonneur.

BEAUVAL: Gilbert Stephen, on December 26 to Mrs. F. McCallum (Mary Mispounas)
Ile a la Crosse: Rita Suzan on Dec. 15 to Mrs. Albert Daigneault.

Deep River: Marie Annette, born on Dec. 26 to Mrs. L. Malboeuf (Therese Raymond)

Compliments of

Dick Kirby - Proprietor

(Former Windbound Hotel)

DICK'S HEIGHTS



The Billy Goat

is home to stay.

But wants to help

in his own way.

WALLER

"B" STANDS FOR "BURNS"

AND THE REST

Lard



BACON

BURNS & CO. LTD. PRINCE ALBERT

Brooker and his bug-driver from P.A... The snow-mobile had to be left on the road and Mr. McNeil hitch-hiked home. He hiked ten miles before he hitched a ride on a load of fish.

Mr. Ausland overcame the dangers of crossing Deep R. by 'growing' an ice bridge in order to get to the other side and thence to the outside world.

Lawrence Landry at the Hotel and the boys and Velma in boarding School welcomed big sister Effie who paid them a pleasant visit in early January. After only two days here she returned to her work at Meadow L.

Sheila Ahenakew followed her sisters' example and is clerking for the Bay at B. Narrows. Lena is doing likewise at the local Post.

Mrs. Benoit finds the home quarters empty with Anita and Lauriel out at Sion in P.A. but she is not the kind to mope'. She was spotted at the rink for the big game on January the 8th but had to be back on duty before the end of the play: travelers coming in mean meals to serve. Mrs. Benoit's is no part-time job.

Even in mid - December, Dick Kirby insisted that nothing could get him away from his lodge for Christmas. However, he could do nothing but climb into the bombardier when Cst. Johnstone drove over to bring

him to Mr. Marion's to spend Christmas night. According to the old-timer, the trip wasn't all 'ride' but he had to walk at least two miles. He is mighty proud of his new home; it is so warm that in spite of his growing years Dick keeps the door wide open most of the time. Besides, the abundant snow has the old place all covered over-- 7 feet deep-- so he says. Although Dick is in an isolated spot people still can and do reach his hide out. During the holidays Louise Marion was one of those who went over -- not only to see her pet horse, King, but the keeper too.

ROUGH RIDING

Anyone wishing to see a new type of road should have rushed to the Ile a la Croise - Buffalo Narrows highway the second week of January. The novelty was introduced by a L. Waite-paid bulldozer trying to improve conditions. The finished job promises to be O.K. but after the first process, the resulting road was christened "Washboard" no other name could be more suitable.

Previous to this stage, a cat and plow had attempted at least twice to make the road passable but to little or no avail. The drivers' only hope lies in the evening-off of the washboard.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

HUDSON BAY

ILE A LA CROSSE, SASK.

Buy at the "BAY" and SAVE

BEST WISHES!

BENOIT'S HOTEL

All through the year
May you have a generous share
of Health and Happiness

May Christmas be simply
an opening door
To a season with many
new pleasures in store.

MARION

Best wishes
for all the Joy
that Christmas and
the New Year can bring.

BURNOUF'S

GREETINGS

and
the best of wishes
for the New Year.

AUSLAND

Every good wish for
Happiness

throughout the New Year.

SCHNEIDER

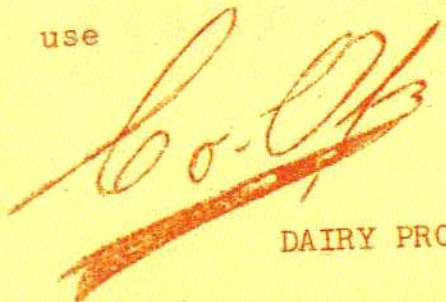
THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

May a bright and Merry Christmas just brimming with cheer.

Give a wonderful start to a Happy New Year.

O.B. McNeil, P.O.

For SAFETY and GOOD HEALTH
use



DAIRY PRODUCTS

BUTTER - MILK - ICE-CREAM
POULTRY - EGGS

SASK. CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERY
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CANADA'S FIRST STORE

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PINE RIVER POST

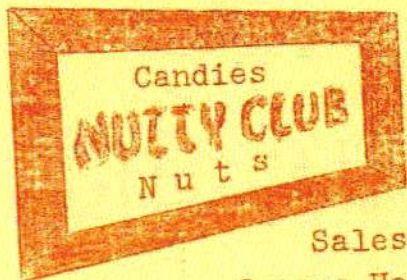
"Buy at the BAY and SAVE"

May your Christmas be glad
And may the new year bring
All sorts of good luck
your way.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

V **M** **A** **R** **Q** **U** **I** **S** **C**

Best Wishes for all the Joy
that Christmas and
the New Year can bring.
"Super" Bulldozer Service.

C.P. Jackman

gneault impersonating the Christ Child, and Elizabeth Murray, a Mother, played and sang their parts remarkably well.

Ten fleet-footed Grade 4 girls dressed in pink, white and green danced AH SI NOU MOINE chosen from Canadian Folklore. The whole class had evidently well learned the two-part choruses before the day. The melodies of A HEART OF GOLD and CAROLS OF PEACE are still heard up and down the halls.

The Senior girls' one-act play was well interpreted. Clarisse Caisse as 9-yr. old Dodie, and Antoinette Roy as her 16 year old sister, Georgina captivated the audience by their natural ways and easy speech. Jeanne Morin, Rose Belanger and Ber-

nadette Gardiner also contributed in convincing the audience that not only Aunt Polly (Claire Maurice) but EVERYBODY LIKES PRETTY THINGS... A vocal solo, LITTLE OLD LADY by Antoinette Roy was enjoyed by all - except herself'. Claire Maurice, Jeanne Morin and Clarisse Caisse sang CHRISTMAS ARITHMETIC. The Seniors also presented a pageant play of the Nativity, THE ADORATION. The scene of the Annunciation, views of the happenings at the shepherds' look-out and at the Bethlehem Inn preceded the final tableau. At the Grotto where Joseph (Francois Morin), Mary (Irene Daigneault) and the Christ Child (Baby Couillon-

(Please turn to p. 14)



SEASON'S GREETINGS AND EVERY
GOOD WISH FOR PROSPERITY AND HAPPINE
IN THE NEW YEAR

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

ILE A LA CROSSE

1670 to 1950.

HIGHEST CASH PRICES PAID FOR FUR AND FISH

VISITORS

Reverend Father Fleury of Buffalo Narrows was welcomed to the mission on Dec. 20; he had not shown up since Thanksgiving. Father Fleury and Mr. Stoeber drove up by bug with Mr. Brooker. John made a short stop here and thumbed a ride to Beauval with the Woodard bug. He was evidently determined to spend Christmas out of the 'bush'. The missionary called the trip an overnight rest; he went back to his Buffalo haunt the next day.

Rev. Father Moraud was aboard the plane from Chagoga on Dec. 28. He had barely enough time to trot over to the mission on urgent business and to exchange joyful greetings before he was told that the plane was waiting for him. Immediately he struck out for his beloved Cree Lake mission.

Rev. Father J. Perreault must have been snow bound: he did not reach the Capital on schedule the week before Christmas. His appearance on January 2 gave proof of his good will. Mr. Gauthier, on his way to Pachuanak, took the padre over. Having found a ride back for early afternoon, Father Perreault had to make his calls at the various departments brief but they were none the less appreciated.

FATHER D'Arche did not go back with the BIRS truck on Jan. 8. The extension lasted only for a couple of days. Then Father Gagnon was forced to take a break: he came in on Jan. 13 for treatment at the Hospital. Brother Croteau took Father Gagnon over and drove home all by his lonesome shortly after.

FAITHFUL HELPERS

There is no telling what work the Brothers have not been at these days. Brother Courcy is heading the repair gang; the improvements everywhere could be earmarked "Courcy and Co.". The slides put up recently are among the most appreciated services as far as the girls and boys are concerned. The two large radiators put up in the girls' dormitory also rank tops.

Brother Lefebvre's big responsibility is the transportation of the fuel supply for this and next year. Reconditioning the sleighs and racks was more pleasant than in past years -- thanks to the roomy hangar-shop. Washday finds him around the laundry checking on the motor, fire, water and other needs. At the Saturday night show, he gives a significant pat on the back of children who 'admit' themselves without their parents.

DOUBLE REJOICING

New Year's day is always a happy one. It was even more so this year: Wedding Bells added a special note. They were peeling for Mary Girard (widow) and Robby Gardiner, and for Ernestine McCallum and Joe Malboeuf.

The ceremony took place at the 7 o'clock Mass. Rev. Father Remy presided; hymns were sung throughout.

Relatives and friends were at a loss-- New Year's day coupled with a double wedding made too many wishes to be said in one breath! In the evening a dance was held to celebrate the double occasion. The party was neither quiet nor too noisy, but just right and everyone had a good time.

Joe Malboeuf did all in his means to make this day of days memorable. He even had a real wedding cake made by Sister E. Baert. At the dance everyone had a taste of it and the next morning Joe himself thoughtfully brought the top layer to Father Superior so that he might partake of it too.

In becoming Mrs. Gardiner Mary lost all her previous names, including "Waiyen"-- all in favor, or may "Fiké" -- Robby's nickname.

May the two couples enjoy lasting happiness!

BEAUTY AIDS

For major reasons, decorating the parish hall before the Christmas Concert was all a pleasure. Just before the Committee got to work Father Superior brought along four 'surprise' boxes -- each one containing a NO. 1 specialty. As a result the bare ten-test wall was transformed. At center hung an imitation branch of holly among the leaves of which were red bells bearing white letters to spell JOYEUX NOEL. On each side of this wish, was a holly wreath with red noma lights as berries. At the front center, the meeting point of the red and silver chenille streamers, a silver-leafed holly wreath supporting three red electric candles fitted perfectly. In the background, lit up by the candles was a silver and green 'Merry Christmas' telling of the spirit in which the whole touching up of the hall had been done.

Besides having pretty decorations to put up, the committee was inspired and spurred on by the beauty of Strauss' Waltzes played on Father Remy's recorder. By now, Sister Beudoin has solved the 'mystery' of the Square Dance slipped in between the other discs in the music box.

tisfy the audience. Cyprien added to the fun by a few wise crack in Cree

Mr. H. Coronet was master of ceremonies and basket auctioneer. He claims it was a new business to him but he excelled in it just the same. There were pretty baskets of different sizes, shapes and colors -- all attractive and valuable. Louise Marion's bird-house, birdie and all sold for \$18. H. Schneider, bidding for his son, maintains the amount wasn't too high since it was for a good cause. Kenneth Ahenakew was prepared to pay a fair price for the 'basket-with-the-bottle'-- A man's sight may be deceived... but not his sense of taste! Doctor Lavoie, MM McNeil, Watt, Benoit, Schneider, Geordy Maurice, Ambroise Morin were some of the other basket-buyers, and thus contributed largely to the evening's success.

Mrs. Evangeline (Russel) Theriau won the door-prize -- a dessert set. The five-piece camping set went to Jean Marie Durocher who says he's in a "fix" -- he now needs a wife to keep his prize sparkling!

Speaking for all, Doctor Lavoie offered appropriate wishes to Father Remy and presented the proceeds of the evening, \$360, to him. In well-chosen words, Father Superior thanked Doctor Lavoie and all the other Islanders and good neighbors for their kind wishes and for their generous contribution for the Church. At 12: Father requested that all stand and recite the Lord's Prayer after which all received his blessing. This was followed by countless handshakes and good wishes for 1951 which had just dawned.

The Misses Louise Marion, Anita Benoit and Matilda Morin deserve thanks for their efficient help at the Bingo tables and Lawrence Landry for selling tickets of all kinds at the door.

P.S. The Sisters were there too, directing the work and giving help wherever needed. After four years of research they hit upon a practical scheme for serving some 250 lunches quickly and efficiently.



BLUE
RIBBON
LIMITED
WINNIPEG



CONCERT

On Tuesday, December 19, there was much excitement around --- and inside -- the school: 7: 30 that evening had been posted as "Concert Time". This was the pupils' first opportunity of going on the stage since last May and the majority were eager to show off what they had learned and practiced during the preceding week.

The fair crowd of Islanders and good neighbors was welcomed by Leon McCallum Gr. 9, after which the Seniors opened the program with the chorus MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU, expressing in song the wishes of all the pupils for their parents and friends.

The beginners mastered their share of the entertainment. A group of them sang WHEN SANTA COMES with an aplomb surprising in little tots who knew only the Cree language in September. The Rhythm Band remains in high favor. Ceremoniously directed by Ti-Louis Morin, they played DECK THE HALL & CHRIST

MAS TREE to whose notes a tiny couple, Renée Burnouf and Laurent Roy stepped in time.-- Equipped with all the necessary tools, Paul Morin, Gr. 2, told the audience how he was going to make way for Santa to have a happy landing. Others of his class walked on the stage with RUDOLF, the RED-NOSED REINDEER, all set to sing the glories of that famous deer. Unfortunately, they had forgotten the words of all but one stanza--perhaps reindeer are supposed to forget ??? A group of girls from the same grade went through the actions as they sang SKIP TO MY LOO. They seemed to enjoy the game in spite of all the eyes fixed on them.

The Grade 3's first number was a playlet, WHEN SANTA SLEEPS. Many an onlooker wished he had Santa's (Francois Bouvier) knack of sleeping in spite of all the activity going on. The Wooden soldiers, the Brownies, the Mama Dolls and the Fairies, each group appropriately costumed, did all in their power to awaken tired Saint Nick but to no avail. It took the clown's feather to do the trick. THE GIFT, a dramatized song, was well rendered. Marie Ange Dai-

FREIGHT SERVICE

Early freeze-up followed by repeated heavy snow-falls spelled tough luck for the northerners. In the first part of December most of the mail and freight service from Beauval to the Island was assumed by bug drivers: Leo Belanger with the Sandherr snowmobile, Vic Marquis in the Bay's Blue Bombadier, the Burnouf in their own, Pete Edson in Mr. Marion's. Still, tons of Island freight lay in storage at Beauval. Two other bugs were converted into freighters: Johnny Midget, working hand in hand with Schneider, is hauling fish from Buffalo L. where he set the pace in higher prices. The Woodard bug, W. Gauthier at the wheel also joined the parade taking the Patchuanak freight home from Beauval.

A Brain-Wave

On December 9, Henry Schneider began thinking that the mission cat might get his truck throught to Ft. Black... but deliberated during two days before risking the heavy 'animal' on the ice. The minus-road made the going so tough that by the time he had reached Caribou's cabin, Henry had altered his plans; instead of dragging the fish-laden sleighs to the truck,

he and his associates left the unmanageable sleighs on the spot and went to get the trucks. Having finally reached Ft. Black, the men made a hurried call at the Ile then the RCMP bombardier took the drivers to their awaiting trucks at Ft. Black. Straightway the three drivers headed their vehicles toward Meadowlake. --A rising wind had already begun to fill the so-called road.

Fourteen hours after this departure, there was still no sign of J. Midget's or the mailman's trucks at Beauval, nor had they returned to the Ile. Something was amiss. The characteristic northern spirit of helpfulness went into play. Both the Marion and the Sandherr bugs were driven out to investigate and help. Men and trucks were found, unable to roll another foot for want of axles. Mr. Marion did more: He flew to Beauval, alighted on the 'strip' Schneider had prepared for him on Chris' Lake with Mr. Sandherr's snowmobile, From there, he took Schneider to Meadowlake. That lift enabled the mailman to get the necessary repairs for the trucks. Shortly after, freight service was resumed, but only as far as Beauval. Attempting to reach the end of the "Burma Road" was useless.

(Continued on next page)



1st Peek, at 1951

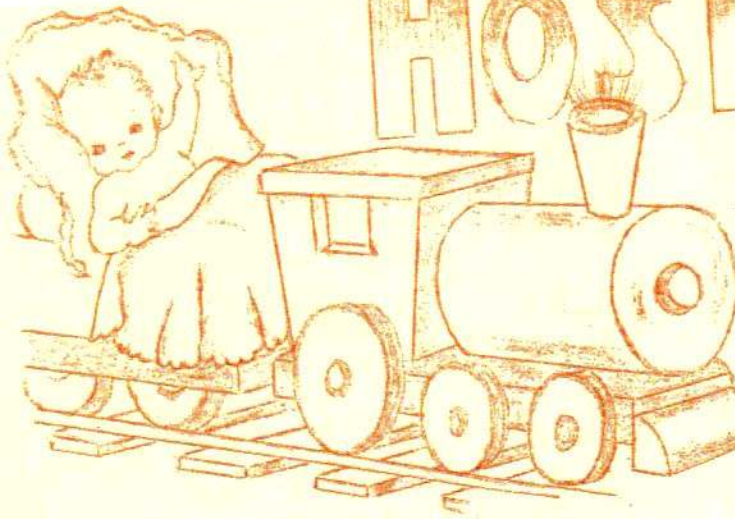
The New Year's Eve Bingo is now a firmly established tradition. It is sponsored for the benefit of the church, materially, and socially for the enjoyment of all. In every way, the 1950 gathering was a great success.

Benoit's Hotel having closed down early to favor the parochial get-together, a goodly crowd had already edged their way around the tables when, at 8 o'clock, George Raymond called "Let us play BINGO!" Then, for two consecutive hours he called numbers that added up to luck for some, bad luck for others, but fun for all.

A very entertaining variety programme was put up by volunteer-amateurs. Reverend Father Beaudet and Brother Roy sang LA BENEDICTION. Father also led a group of boys in a Cree song. The word "watchistakatch" seemed very meaningful indeed.

Brother Courcy's YOUNG YOUNG SUR LA RIVIERE had Doc Lavoie Reminiscing -so it seemed judging by his attitude throughout the song Anita and Muriel Benoit did not have their music books with them but they did find a lively duet which they played with ease. The Landry trio, Velma, Ernest and Ralph, sang CAROL, SWEETLY CAROL. Thanks to the microphone, even Ti-Louis Morin's sweet voice was heard singing SANTA CLAUS COMES. Cowboys with fine voices and guitars are found even in the North: Ovide Desjarlais was the first one up, singing and playing. Good example wasn't enough to induce Francois Corrigan to do likewise - but the promise of a green-back gave him enough nerve to sing clearly NEVER AGAIN WILL I KNOCK ON YOUR DOOR. When he walked off the stage, he immediately claimed his dollar -- he'd worked hard enough for it. Etienne kept his word and readily handed over the promised cash. Auguste Durocher with his violin and St. Joseph (Cyprien Roy) with his guitar played several tunes but not quite enough to sa-

HOSPITAL



rice, Albert and Norman Wolverine.

SNAKE LAKE: Mrs. J. Lariviere.

GREEN LAKE : Irene Morin

BRAUVAL: Jules Roy

LA LOCHE: Christine Herman and Judith Janvier.

LAST BOOST

The December admissions were a boost to the year's grand total-- Ile a la Croix alone has twenty-some: Mrs. M.C. Roy, Mrs. Aldina Durocher, Armand Bouvier, Eveline Lariviere, Rev. Sr.B. Levesque, Frank Petit, Alfred Durocher, Mrs. Helene Johnson, Albert Daigneault, Simone Durocher, J.B. Laliberté, Mrs. Ambroise Lariviere, Gabriel Mc Callum, Mrs. Alex Ahenakew, Jean Girard, Johnny Daigneault, Mrs. Ramsay, Mrs. Annie Iron, Joe Maurice, Annie Bouvier, Florence Belanger, Rev. Sister Goulet, Tom Daigneault, Vic Marquis, Rev.Sr. Chevrefils, and Juliette Gardiner.

BUFFALO NARROWS: Florence Moise, Francois Hanson, Patrice Desjarlais, Delia and Rita Jacobson.

PACHUANAK: Francois Bell, C.B. McIntyre, Gordon Mau-

HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

The Hospital Staff is justly proud of its achievements for 1950. During the period, 605 patients were admitted--and cared for, of course. This number is considerably higher than the total for 1949.

The X-Rays add up to 585 of which 147 were for the school children, and 317 for Admissions. The remaining 121 were for all other cases.

For the Northerners these figures are not mere numbers. They stand for the devotedness, care and attention bestowed upon them. For these kind services, the population is grateful to Reverend Father G. Remy, Superintendent, to Doctor Lavoie and to the Nurses.

