



Volume 43 Number 4

The Alaskan Shepherd

May 2005



Some give by going to the Missions

Some go by giving to the Missions

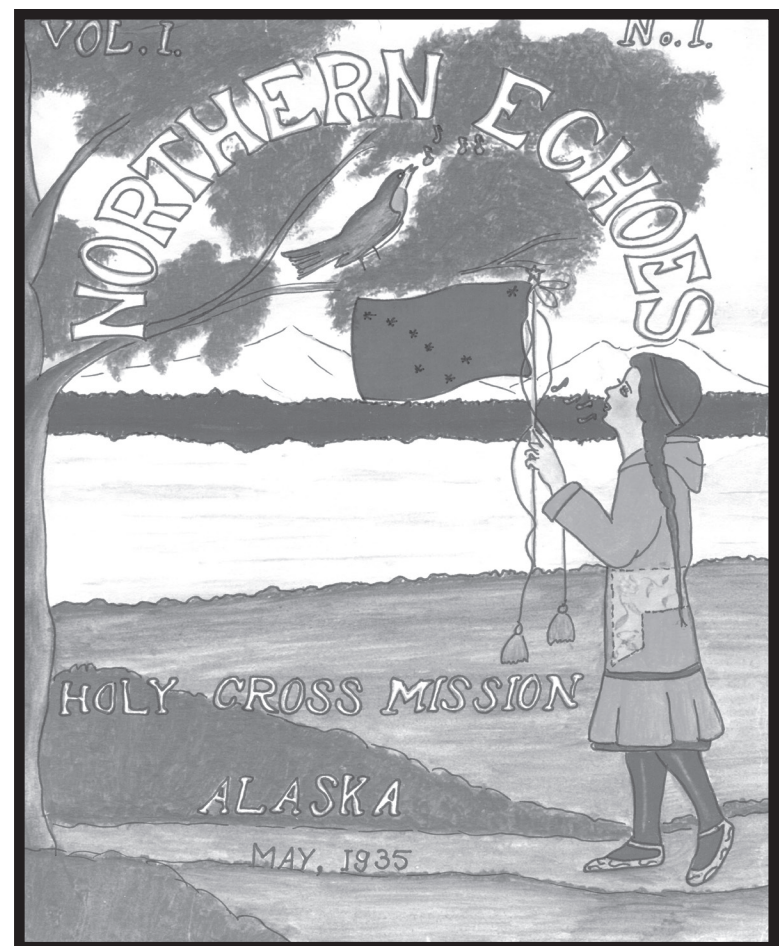
Without both there are no Missions

HOLY CROSS MISSION Selections From "NORTHERN ECHOES" Volume 1

The village of Holy Cross, Alaska, grew up around a mission located on the right bank of the Yukon River 279 miles upstream from the Bering Sea. The mission was across the river and a little down from the Indian village of Koserefsky.

The Holy Cross Mission boarding school was officially closed on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14, 1956. By then the mission and its school, opened in 1888, had seen the service of 95 different Jesuits— 28 Brothers, 42 priests, and 25 seminarians—for a total of 503 years; and of 58 different Sisters of St. Ann for a total of 557 years. A total of 1,457 children—727 boys and 730 girls—had been cared for at the mission.

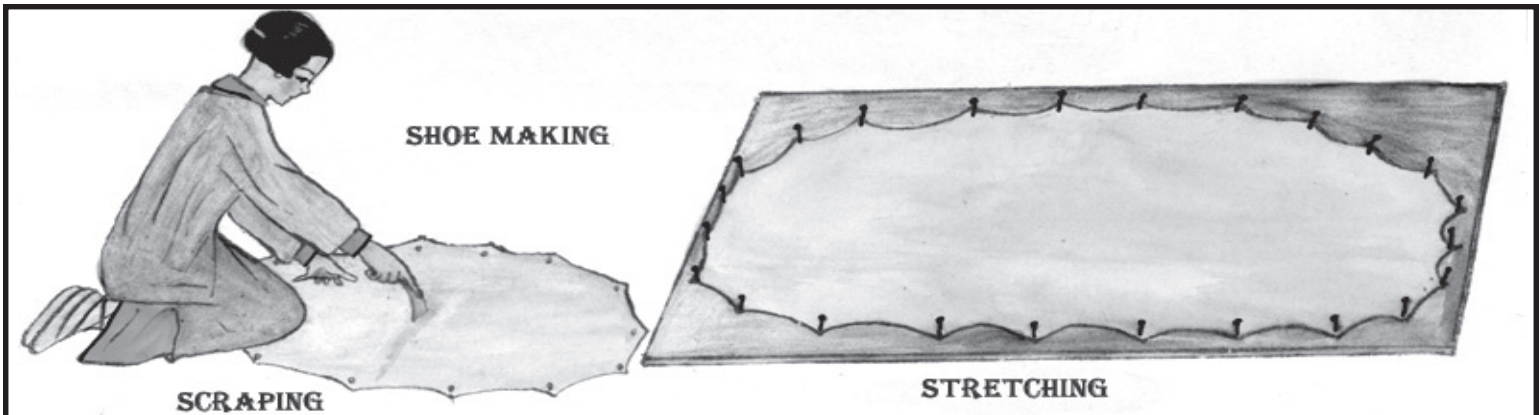
The following are selections chosen from a publication entitled, "Northern Echoes." Hand drawn and typed by children of the Holy Cross Mission in 1935, it is a collection of the school year--a type of yearbook. The "book" is richly illustrated, delicately colored, and lovingly written. Many of the pieces are dedications of gratitude to the Missionary priests and sisters serving then in bush Alaska. Some of the entries describe the making of boots, celebrations, sports, projects and society memberships, such as the Children of Mary. The children responsible for the artwork and story submissions would now be about 80 years old.



--Patty Walter

CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA
1312 PEGER ROAD FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709
Phone: 907-374-9532 <http://www.cbna.info>

Special Masses are offered throughout the year for you and your intentions by our Missionary Priests. Please pray that God may bless us and our work.



SHOE MAKING

The sole of the shoe is made of laftak, which is the hide of the sea lion. It is so hard that it must be soaked and scraped before it can be used. The sole is then attached to seal or reindeer skin, made to reach the knees, or even a little shorter. They sometimes have pretty borders of fancy designs made with fawn, calf or wolverine skin. The sole is sewed on to the leg with sinews of animals. It is pleated at the toes and heels for better fitting. The pleats which are very hard to make are done with Indian knives. These shoes have strings at the ankles and at the top. With straw in them, they are very comfortable and warm.

SHOE DAY

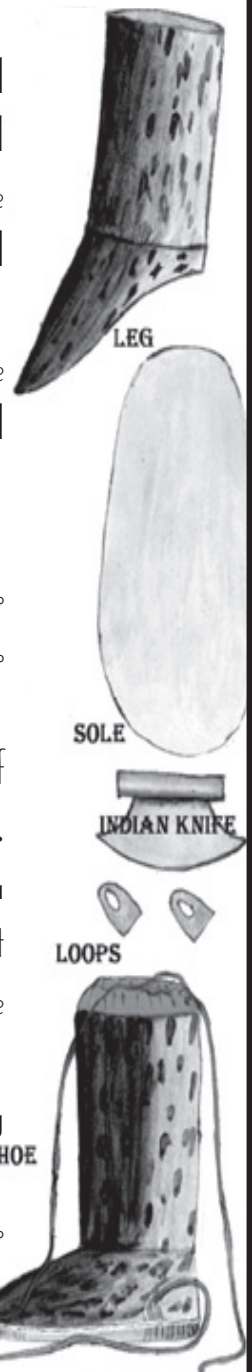
In Alaska the weather is so intensely cold, that it is impossible to wear leather shoes in winter because our feet would freeze in them. This accounts for the odd footwear one sees on pictures of Eskimos.

Friday is our shoemending day. When we enter the sewing room, a heap of Indian shoes meets our gaze. The needles we use are made purposely for these shoes. They are like ordinary needles, except that they have three filed edges which come to a point, making the sewing much easier. The shoe thread is made by the girls who wax it before it is used for sewing, which makes the thread stronger and the patches more durable.

The girls who do not go to school prepare the shoes. After examining them, they cut the patches a little larger than the hole; they then stitch them on the shoes.

When they are finished and well examined by the supervising Sister, the smaller girls put straw in them. What a sigh of relief we breathe when our shoe mending day is over.

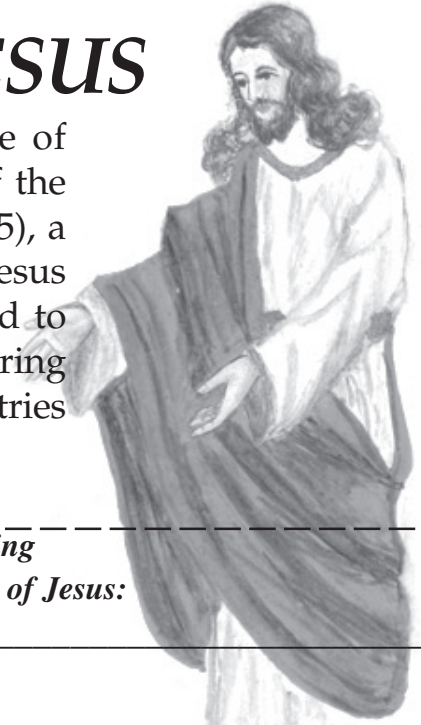
--Rose Ray



We want to thank in a special way those of you who have included the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska (our legal title) in your bequests and wills, and those of you who, at the time of the deaths of dear ones, have suggested that, in their memory, contributions be made to the Missions of Northern Alaska or to the Alaskan Shepherd Endowment Fund. For more information, please contact Tom Buzek, Business Administrator: 907-374-9528.

NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

To the friends and benefactors of the Missionary Diocese of Fairbanks: On each of the eight days preceding the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and on the feast day itself, June 3, (2005), a novena Mass will be offered in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for our benefactors and their intentions. You are invited to submit petitions to be remembered during the novena. No offering is necessary. Any received will be used to support our ministries here in Northern Alaska.



*Please remember the following petitions during
the Novena of Masses in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus:*

You are also invited to join us on the novena days
(May 26-June 3, 2005) inclusive by praying the following prayer:
O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, you said: "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you." With confidence in your loving, compassionate Heart I come to you as the fountain of every blessing. I ask you to make my heart humble and holy like yours. Grant me to live a holy life and to die a happy death. During this novena I humbly ask also for certain spiritual and temporal favors: _____.



Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
have mercy on me!

"Today as ever, the living Christ loves us
and offers us His Heart as the
source of our redemption."

—Pope John Paul II

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Gleeson,
The Last Vicar Apostolic of
All of Alaska
The First Bishop of Fairbanks

Carol Louise Hiller



Gleeson, The Last Vicar Apostolic of All of Alaska may be ordered from
The Alaskan Shepherd, 1312 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5199
for \$20.00 a copy. This includes postage and handling.

Please send me _____copy/copies of
Gleeson, The Last Vicar Apostolic of All of Alaska.
I am enclosing \$20.00 for each book ordered.

Send to:

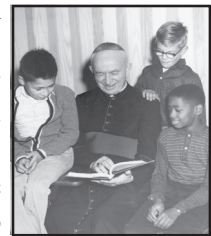
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

This personal story of Bishop Gleeson unfolds against the backdrop of early American growth and expansion, with special focus on Alaska as it evolved from a territory, was purchased by the United States and then achieved statehood. This part of the globe is explored from the earliest introduction of Christianity into the territory by the Russian Orthodox priests until the growth leads to division into three dioceses by the Catholic Church along with scattered Protestant development within the frigid climes.

The life of Bishop Gleeson and his insights into the future of Alaska are woven together into a fabric that lets readers see a metamorphosis of Alaskan Natives from hunters and gatherers toward a cultural subgroup that can cope with the demands of today's world. Gleeson served as the Last Vicar of All of Alaska, and one can capture a glimpse of a man with a servant-heart who was a Joyful Frontiersman for God.



***The book includes a Foreword by Father Louis L. Renner, S.J., currently residing at Gonzaga University, where he has completed "Alaskana Catholica," an encyclopedia about all things Catholic in Alaska.**

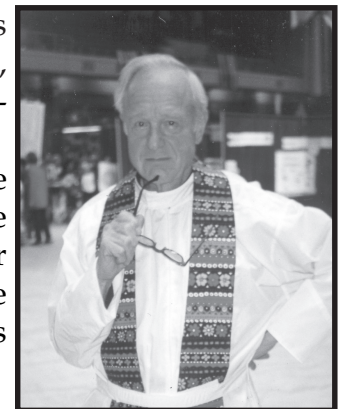
About the Author:



Sister Carol Louise Hiller, O.P., after several years of teaching in elementary schools, altered her educational emphasis to high school librarian. As a librarian she lived in Fairbanks, Alaska, and ministered at Monroe Catholic High school. During her last two years at Monroe, Bishop Whelan requested Bishop Gleeson to speak to her about his life and work, especially as Shepherd of the Church in Alaska, for the sake of an historical record. Calling upon her love of literature, creative writing talents and persistent research skill, she adeptly wove together the events in the life of a man who helped shape the Alaska frontier and Catholic community within it. Sister presently resides at the Dominican Life Center, in Adrian, Michigan.

After some 20 years of research and writing, Father Louis L. Renner, S.J., has reached the publication stage for his history of the Catholic Church in Alaska, *Alaskana Catholica*. We are talking here of a big volume, 744 pages, richly illustrated.

Though the exact date of the book's availability and its purchase price are not yet known, we will gladly reserve your copy hot off the press. As soon as we know the date of the book's availability and its price, we will send you an order form. Your response to this will give us some advance idea of how many copies we will need to have on hand here in the Alaskan Shepherd office, since the book has been so greatly anticipated by so many.



Yes, please reserve _____copy(ies) of *Alaskana Catholica*.

I understand that, when the book's date of publication and its price are announced,
I will be sent a follow-up order form.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ PLEASE DO NOT SEND PAYMENT WITH THIS BOOK RESERVATION*



Original poems by Rose Ray, Frances Frank, and Mildred Durgan, Grade 8, (1935) in tribute to Bishop Joseph Raphael Crimont, S.J. (1858-1945) Bishop Crimont placed the missions, the Church of Alaska, under the patronage of Therese of Lisieux, "the Little Flower," even before she was declared a saint, to whom he had a great personal devotion and to whom he attributed many favors granted, both to himself and others. He was in Rome in 1925, when the Sacred Congregation decreed St. Therese the Queen and Patroness of Alaska.

THE LONE MISSIONARY

The way was long, the wind was cold,
Young Father Crimont, brave and bold,
With whispered prayer, straight on his way
He hastened on that bitter day.
The Cross, his sole remaining joy
Its comforts were without alloy.

At last he reached his destiny!
Close to the fading frame was he,
Safely he guided that precious soul
Straight onward to its heavenly goal;
While he full weary and oppressed,
Knew not that he had passed the test.

Oh bless the Pastor of thy fold,
Pour down on him Thy joys untold.
A strong, staunch form we see him now,
Silvery hair has decked his brow,
O Lord, give him Thy heavenly grace
When he beholds Thee face to face!

--Rose Ray

A SOLDIER OF THE CROSS

A giant vessel once lay moored
In the far off, sunny land of France,
Anchored safe in the steamship's wharf,
While waves were merry with swirl and dance.

And somewhere in the busy town
Was a young man full of ardor and zeal,
Willing to work for his loving Lord,
Whether it be for woe or weal.

It was with a sad but happy heart
That he left the fields of the Fleur-de-lis,
Well did he know his mission field
Was out beyond the splashing sea.

For forty-one long years now past,
He labored in our frozen North,
Saving the souls that Christ redeemed,
Exchanging his life for their priceless worth.

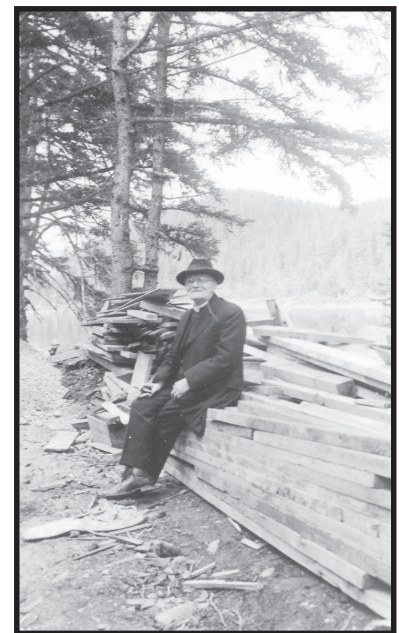
His garden he has kept with care,
And rooted out each harmful weed.
May God reward his faithful work,
And ev'ry noble thought and deed!

May diamonds which bedeck his brow,
Be turned to countless rubies rare;
May St. Ignatius, smiling down,
Rejoice that he was in his care.

--Frances Frank

*In the right corner sits Bishop Joseph Crimont,
S.J., pausing for a photo,
while resting on a pile of wood.*

--CBNA Archives



GRATEFUL TRIBUTE

Orphan hands our hearts are lifted
Choicest favors to implore,
And a hundred voices echo:
"Crown the pastor of the poor!"
Weave a chaplet for our Bishop,
Ever watchful, ever mild;
Sixty years have found him faithful
To the lonely orphan child!
Crown then, crown with highest honor,
Him whom Thou hast made Thy priest;
Oh! How noble is his title--
Chosen of Thee, Prince of Peace.

--Mildred Durgan



MOTION PICTURES

We sometimes have motion pictures. All day long we wonder what we shall have, as it is nearly always kept secret to give us a surprise.

At about four o'clock we open the sliding doors between the seniors' and juniors' recreation rooms. Then we gather benches which we place on both sides of the room. One side is for the men and boys, the other, for the women and girls, the smaller children being seated in front.

At 7:30 every one is all attention. No one in the village would miss the "Movies", for they are always free of charge, and there is no other means of amusement in Holy Cross, except what is given at the Mission.

All the pictures are strictly censored by one of the Reverend Fathers or Brothers, so that no one is ever uneasy of what might appear on the screen. So the enjoyment is always pure and wholesome.

As soon as we see the title, we all clap, and then settle down to watch, but not in silence, for we often have occasion to laugh at some funny character represented. Sometimes the screams of the children are deafening, but the Fathers and Sisters never stop us. On the contrary, they seem to be happy to see us enjoying ourselves.

Once, in a picture called "The Blot", a woman, to hide her poverty, stole a chicken from a more fortunate neighbor's window. When the smaller children saw that she was about to steal it, they cried out: "Don't steal it! It's a sin! Put it back!" Their disappointed Oh's! when she stole it in spite of their advice was amusing to hear.

About eight reels are shown; then heavily drooping eyelids are glad to close in sleep.

The following day we have lively topics of conversation all about the picture shown last night, some imitating to perfection the funny movements of some actor or actress. We then settle down to our ordinary tasks until the next enjoyment, which we await in eager anticipation.

--Lillian Meinhart



Fr. Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J.

BEADWORK

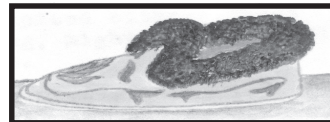
"Saturday afternoon. What shall we do today?" Then Sister Mary Gustave gently informs us that we shall do beadwork. Naturally, beadwork does not appeal to all the girls, for the livelier ones would much prefer housecleaning, for beadwork is rather a slow quiet occupation. Notwithstanding, we all prepare for an afternoon of well done work. Sometimes we are allowed to play the phonograph, which makes the work much more pleasant.

The different objects beaded by us are--slippers, mocassins, gloves, mittens, doilies, bureau runners, cushions, babies' booties and wall pockets. We also dress little dolls in Eskimo furs and these are generally in great demand. The designs on mooseskin are

drawn by some of our young artists, but practically each of the senior girls can make her own design. Some are conventional, and others are illustrations of Alaskan scenes, flowers or animals.

In 1931 the Sisters of St. Ann presented Reverend Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J., with a beaded mooseskin jacket, which most of our readers have seen. It was made in 740 hours by 11 first class beadworkers. How happy we were to please the dear "Glacier Priest" who has done so much for Holy Cross Mission.

--Catherine Cristo



Lillian Meinhart, Mildred Durgan, Rose Ray, Frances Frank, and Catherine Cristo.

--CBNA Archives 1935

Again we assure you that we never, under any circumstances, sell, exchange, or give out the names of our benefactors. This has been and continues to be our sacred pledge.

Special thanks to those of you who have sent stamps! These 37¢ first class gifts are of great use to the Alaskan Shepherd.