

Fall 1990

The Great Fire of 1940

by David Raymond



St. Agathe Fire by George Roy, Fort Kent. Now hanging in "the other room" at Lakeview Restaurant.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of fire that destroyed the beautiful Ste. Agathe Church building. "Deja 50 ans! Ce n'est pas possible!" These are the immediate reactions of those who recall that fateful evening of August 13, 1940. Indeed it was difficult to believe. What makes it more unbelievable and perplexing is the irony that less than one month earlier the entire parish had celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Ste. Agathe Parish in their beautifully renovated church.

On April 20, 1938, Rev. Father Emile Robitaille, a former "Vicaire", arrived at his new parish of Ste. Agathe. He replaced Rev. Father August Alvery. Fr. Robitaille found the church in dreadful need of repair. In one of his many letters to the Bishop of Portland concerning the physical condition of the church building, he wrote, "The population considers it a disgrace and is ashamed of its church, which they call the "barn of the Lord."

Repairs and renovations to the church building had not been a priority during most of the 1930's due to the economic situation. The Great Depression severely

frustrated much of the town's economic activities. For instance, in April of 1935, the public schools in Ste. Agathe struggled to remain open. Potatoes sold for ten cents per barrel. Violent storms destroyed most of the crop in 1937. Most of the money in circulation was largely due to Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

Despite these adverse economic conditions, Fr. Robitaille and the good people of the parish undertook the arduous task of renovating the church. Fund raising began immediately. In August of 1938, a church bazaar netted the parish \$2,000.00 for that purpose. Bishop McCarthy also allowed the parish to borrow \$5,000.00, providing the parish sufficient funds to repair, restore, and refurbish the interior of the entire church. Local people shared their talents during the renovation period. The workers raised the sanctuary and constructed a baldaquin of gold cloth and silver relief over the altar. A striking scarlet velvet cloth provided a backdrop to the sanctuary which automatically focused the eyes of the devout to the altar. A splendid crucifix, a gift from a parishioner, suspended before the red backdrop. The pews were refinished

with a new veneer covering. Polished hardwood floors replaced the drab original rough boards of years past. The walls were painted a soft ivory with silver trim along the arches. Not since the days of Fr. Ernest Etenaud had such enormous and painstaking attention been given to the house of God.

Fr. Robitaille's attention then turned to his rectory. The rectory, built by Fr. J.M. Catagnon in 1920, was now showing its age. Substantial monies were allocated to its maintenance over the years, however, certain essentials were neglected. In February 1940, the 20 year old furnace exploded, forcing Fr. Robitaille to replace it at a cost of \$500.00. This unfortunate occurrence alarmed the good pastor in such a way that he sought a method of improving the fire protection system for the rectory. In a letter to Bishop McCarthy he wrote, "I have bought 300 feet of hose to permit us to take the water from the great reservoir" It is ironic that this transpired a few months before one of the greatest fire catastrophies the parish had ever experienced. (Another was the August 1931 fire that destroyed many of the homes in the southern section of Cleveland Road).

In July 1940, the parish of Ste. Agathe had much to celebrate. Many months earlier Fr. Robitaille had targeted July 16 as the date for the celebration of the parish's golden jubilee. (The parish dated back to 1889 making it 51 years old in 1940. I speculate that because of the intense renovations in 1939, the celebration was not held that year. Nevertheless, 1940, did signify the 50th anniversary of the church building completed in 1890.) Also the Daughters of Wisdom were ready to consecrate the grounds for their planned Queen of Peace Hall (Red Convent). Building materials were already on the site across the street from the church.

On that July day, church bells pealed as Bishop McCarthy passed under the beautiful arch erected over the street for this special day. Invited guests included Fr. Buhner, a former pastor. Fr. Gerard Dugal, a son of the parish, led the congregation in a jubilant High Mass. Bishop McCarthy confirmed 217 children that afternoon. He also blessed the ground of the future building of Les Filles de la Sagesse. A festive banquet at the convent brought the perfect day to a close.

There are very few certainties in this world. Besides those of death and taxes, change is the other inevitability. The direction of an individual life or the life of an entire community can be abruptly altered by the passage of a minute of time. August 13, 1940 started off as a rather ordinary day. Farmers meticulously tended their fields, mill workers conscientiously reported for their shift work at Fraser Paper Company. Children celebrated their summer sabbatical from school romping with friends; their voices generating the usual mixture of shrieking frivolity and occasional petty petitions that required the arbitration from mom. Suddenly living within a certain radius of the church, focused on the unusual commotion developing in the proximity of the church.

Au Feu! The community was jolted from its routine to an unexpected and unwanted reality. At 5:30 p.m. a

gasoline stove had suddenly exploded in the house of Joseph and Adel Bouchard (the former "bedo's" house next to the church.) The home was quickly engulfed in flames fueled by a blustery wind. Men, women, and children dashed to the fire while the volunteer fire department hurried up "la cote d'eglise" with their fire equipment. There was no hope of saving Mr. Bouchard's house. Everyone's attention turned to the immediate threat the fire posed to the pride of the faithful, the newly renovated church, the convent and other homes in the vicinity. Without delay firemen placed an immediate call for assistance. Fire departments from as far away as Presque Isle responded.

The eaves of the beautiful church experienced the first lapping of the wind-driven flames. Quickly the fire darted across the eaves resisting arrest from the firemen's hoses. Smoke was now permeating the interior of the injured structure. A brisk inspection revealed the need for immediate action. Men and boys began the effort of removing statues, linens, vestments and pews from burning edifice. Fr. Robitaille concentrated his attention to protecting the Blessed Sacrament and the other holy articles. Numerous articles were thus saved by the time fire had spread to the extent rendering it impossible to proceed with the evacuation efforts. Minutes later the steeple succumbed to the overpowering inferno. The column of fire fell, sprawling across the road, missing the Van Buren fire engine by inches.

Despite the outstanding efforts of the firemen, the blaze could not be immediately contained. The church was lost. The gusty northwind generated additional problems for restraining the spread of the catastrophe. The homes of Mr. Denis Dufour, Hilaire Chasse, Henri Chasse and the rectory itself required constant surveillance. (The former residence received the most damage.) Flames leaped 500 feet across the road to consume some 200 cords of wood in a large storehouse belonging to the Daughters of Wisdom. Building material belonging to Mr. Joseph Deslisle for the soon-to-be constructed Queen of Peace Hall were the next victims. Forty tons of cement, tons of coal, and a cement mixing machine were consumed.

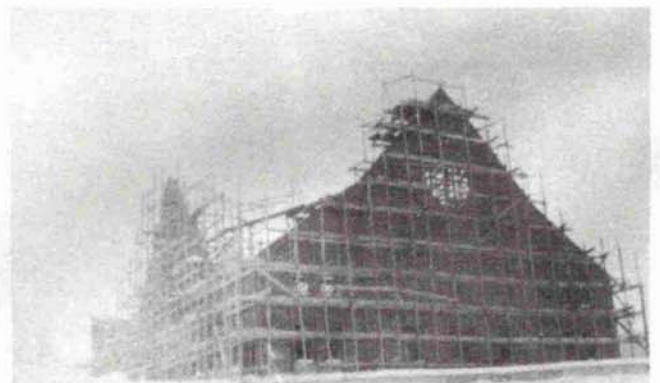


Photo by Marie Blanche (Albert) Savoy

People old enough to remember this momentous

milestone in our history recall it with vivid detail. Fifty years after the fact it continues to provoke discussions scrutinizing the who, what, and how of that infamous late summer day. The present church structure, constructed immediately after the fire, reminds

us that life is a process and that some changes do not allow people time to prepare. Fifty years ago, a few isolated hours in time produced instant change in many lives.

The Martin Family

O'Neil E. Martin B: 15 Aug. 1912 - son of Jerome and Annie Thibodeau Martin of Lille, ME. Married Albertine Marie Chasse B: 8 July 1920 - daughter of Stanislaus and Alphonsine Deschesne Chasse of St. Agatha, ME. on 11 Nov. 1936. They had 14 children; 3 died in infancy, 11 are now living.

No. 1 — Florence Rose Martin B: 15 March 1938. Graduated from N.D. de la Sagesse H.S. in 1956, then moved to Lewiston, Maine. She married Richard Paul Laliberte on 28 June 1958. They have two daughters. On 7 Dec. 1989 the marriage was annulled by the R.C. Church. Florence does quilting and needlepoint as hobbies. She loves books, sings, and collects old French songs. Florence is self-employed with rental properties. She resides at 70 Old Greene Road, Lewiston, Maine 04240.

A) Darlene Rose Laliberte '77 B: 24 January 1959, married Andrew Mark Kritzman on 3 July 1982. They have 2 children: Emily Katrine Kritzman B: 26 May 1986, and Franklin Andrew B: 22 April 1990. Darlene is a mother and homemaker. She is also a singer, songwriter, and musician. In 1978, she won the award "New Artist of the Year" in the state of Maine for a song she wrote and recorded: "Don't Throw Stones". Andy is an Engineer Associate at Honeywell in Annapolis, MD. He also has his realtor license, and is doing well in that business. They own their home at: 748 Match Point Drive, Arnold, MD 21012.

B) Daurene Anne Laliberte '81 B: 28 Jan. 1963, graduated from Wells College in Aurora, NY Cum Laude in May 1985, and from Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science with a Master's Degree in 1988. On 30 Aug. 1986 she married Ross Allen Jerome Jr. Daurene loves reading, caring for pets, and doing needlepoint and hand quilting. She's a librarian in Stoneham, MA. Ross is a pharmacist, and enjoys bicycling, reading, and cooking. Daurene and Ross plan to build a house in Damariscotta, ME in the near future. They own their home at: 50 Jamaica Way, No. 2 Boston, MA 02130.

No. 2 — Cyr Joseph Martin B: 7 July 1939, graduated from N.D. de la Sagesse in 1957. He served with the Maine National Guard, then moved to New Britain, CT where he married Nancy Florence Gorneau of Grand Isle, ME on 19 August 1961. Cyr had his own company building houses in CT until 1980. Today he is employed

by the State of CT as a General Construction Inspector. Nancy works as an Executive Secretary/Purchasing Agent for a mortgage company. On 19 April 1969 they adopted a three week old gentle little boy. They own their house at: 162 Farmington Ave., Plainville, CT 06062.

A) Bruce Guy Martin was born on 27 March 1969. He is a Diesel Technician who enjoys working on cars and motors.

No. 3 — Jacqueline B. Martin B: 13 Nov. 1940, graduated in the class of 1959. She moved to CT, and on 8 Sept. 1962 married Guy Roy Landry of Madawaska. He owned Landry Service Station in New Britain, CT from Jan. 1970 until his death on 25 Sept. 1984. Jackie had been a housewife until then. Jackie is now Receptionist/Secretary to the president of United Centerless Grinding Co., Inc. of East Hartford, CT. Jackie and Guy had three children. Jackie and her children reside at: 104 Fifth St. Newington, CT 06111.

A) Michelle Katherine '82 B: 27 April 1964. Michelle is employed by the State of Connecticut in the Division of Special Revenues in Newington, CT.

B) Mark Donald Landry '86 B: 16 May 1968 is in the US. Army stationed in Germany.

C) Martin Guy Landry "Marty" B: 6 Sept. 1973 is a Junior at Newington High School. He loves sports and has the "gift of gab."

No. 4 — Marcel Joseph Martin B: 8 Oct. 1942 was in the class of 1960 at N.D. de la Sagesse. In July 1960, he moved to CT and worked with his brother Cyr in housing construction. On 10 Oct. 1964 he married Joan Audrey Charbonneau of Hartford, CT. Marcel is a Welder/Fabricator and lay-out man for Dyco Steel Industries of So. Windsor, CT. He loves to read and listen to old French music. Joan works at Automatic Data Processing of Hartford part-time. Joan plays guitar and piano, and loves to sing. They have three children.

A) Kimberly Joan Martin '83 B: 31 Aug. 1965. Kim works at Automatic Data Processing. She loves country music and dancing.

B) Michael Marcel Martin '85 B: 9 May 1967. On 3 January 1987 he married Cindy Bennett of Enfield, CT. They have three sons: Peter Bennett Martin B: 9 June 1980, Jason Michael Martin B: 10 June 1988, and Alex Ryan Martin B: 19 March 1990. Michel plays guitar and keyboard, and songs as a hobby. He works as a

sales manager. Cindy is a mother and housewife.

C) Timothy Joseph Martin "TJ" B: 23 March 1976 is a Freshman at Bloomfield High School. TJ lives at home with his parents at: 12 Daniels Blvd. Bloomfield, CT 06002.

No. 5 — Bernice Marie Martin '65 B: 24 Feb. 1947. On 6 July 1968 she married Aldeo Martin Nadeau in CT. Bernice worked at Black and Decker Co. from 1965 to 1985. She is now employed at Otis Elevator Division of United Technology as Customer Service Representative. Al has been self-employed as a general contractor since 1968. They reside at 141 Slater Road, New Britain, CT 06052. They also have a 5 bedroom cottage in central Massachusetts. They have one son.

A) Glenn Martin Nadeau B: 2 May 1973 is a Senior at Mary Immaculate Academy in New Britain, CT. Glenn is a basketball coach at M.I.A. and is also a budding artist and cartoonist.

No. 6 — Richard Lucien Martin '66 B: 6 Sept. 1948. In July 1966 he left St. Agatha for Connecticut to work for his brother Cyr. On 31 May 1969 he married Jennie Mary Mary Theresa Tardif of Frenchville, ME. Richard is now self-employed as a general building contractor. Jennie is employed at Aetna Life and Casualty Insurance Co. of Middletown, CT. as a pension analyst. They have two beautiful daughters, and live at: 5 Lover's Lane, Bristol, CT 06010.

A) Lisa Marie Martin B: 9 April 1972 is a Senior at Eastern High School in Bristol, CT. Lisa is a hard-working teenager who has two part-time jobs.

B) Tanya Lynne B: 5 March 1977 is a student at Memorial Blvd. School in Bristol, CT. She loves to read, and listen to music.

No. 7 — Rachel Anne Martin '68 B: 25 July 1950. On 12 November 1971 she married her classmate Larry P. Morin of Frenchville. Rachel was a housewife until 1985. Now she is a receptionist at Allen O'Brien Insurance Agency in Farmington, CT. Larry owns and operates "Morin's Excavating". In June 1990, Rachel and Larry were divorced. Rachel and their two sons live at: 143 Maple Street, Bristol, CT 06010.

A) Paul B: 29 June 1972 graduated from Eastern High School in Bristol. He was an A-one wrestler for three years in High School. He is working with his father in the family business.

B) Peter B: 15 Oct. 1977 is an 8th grader at Northeast Middle School. He is a good student and loves all sports.

No. 8 — Arthur Roland Martin '69 B: 11 September 1951. On 24 Nov. 1969 Arthur joined the U.S. Marines. He served for one year on Hill 55 in Da Nang, South Vietnam as a Combat Engineer M.O.S. 1371. He received medals and was honorably discharged on 23 Nov. 1971. On 7 July 1973 he married Francine Dumas of Frenchville, ME. in New Britain, CT. Arthur is owner and President of AA Siding in Woonsocket, RI.

Francine is Vice President and Bookkeeper of AA Siding Co., Inc. Arthur and Francine also own a store selling party goods in Woonsocket, RI. in addition to 18

apartment rental units. They reside at 378 Chestnut Hill Road, Blackstone, MA 01504 with their two children.

A) Tammy Ann Martin B: 22 May 1974 is a straight-A student in the Junior class at Blackstone-Millville Regional High School. She plays softball and field hockey, and does computer programming for her school.

B) James Roland Martin B: 16 March 1977 is also a straight-A student in the 8th grade of the same school. He loves all sports, and plays basketball. He also enjoys bowling and 4-wheeling. He is a computer whiz-kid.

No. 9 — Philip Leo Martin '71 B; 12 November 1952. In July 1971 he moved to Plainville, CT and worked for his brother's construction company. In 1973 he joined the Barnes Group Co. in Bristol, CT. Philip loves music, dancing and reading. Buying a new home is one of his planned projects for the near future. He owns a condo at: 141 Skyridge Drive, Bristol, CT 06010.

No. 10 — Phyllis Ann Martin B: 3 July 1956. On 5 April 1974 she married Denis Richard Levesque of St. David, ME. They lived in New Britain, CT until the Summer of 1977. They lived in St. Agatha until 1980 when they bought land and a home in St. David. Phyllis works in the Meat Department of Madawaska I.G.A. She has a talent for painting and making wood crafts. Denis is a paper maker 5th hand at Fraser Paper Mill in Madawaska. The Levesque's reside at Box 118B Little Mountain Rd., St. David, ME 04773 with their four children.

A) Douglas Neil Levesque B: 14 Sept. 1974 is a Junior at Madawaska High School. He loves sports and ski-dooing.

B) Denis Gedeon Levesque B: 7 Nov. 1975 is a freshman at M.H.S. He also loves all sports and ski-dooing.

C) Davis Charles Levesque B: 12 June 1978 is in the 7th grade at Madawaska Jr. High School. He loves to read, and playing sports with his brothers.

D) Danielle Anne Levesque B: 5 Aug. 1979 is in the 6th grade at Madawaska Jr. High School. She likes to do arts and crafts with her Mom. She loves dolls and books.

No. 11 — Kenneth Daniel Martin '77 B: 4 March 1959. Ken could not get used to city life in CT, so he came back to St. Agatha, lived at home, and worked at Fraser Paper Mill. On 22 May 1981 he married Deborah Louise Peterson and moved to Frenchville. In August 1981, he moved to the family house when his Mom moved to Madawaska. Ken is an accomplished carpenter, and in 1989 also became Chef and Manager of the Long Lake Sporting Club of Sinclair, ME. The club is owned by Mark and Pierrette Peterson. Ken enjoys fishing and motorcycling. Debbie loves skiing, reading and knitting gorgeous sweaters. Ken and Debbie Martin live with their two children at: Box 112 — Brook Road, St. Agatha, ME 04772.

A) Stacy Lynn Martin B: 1 March 1982 is a

straight-A student in the 3rd grade. She loves pretty clothes, and loves to read and draw.

B) Neal Mark Martin B: 8 Nov. 1983 is in the first grade. He loves to play, read, write and color beautiful pictures.

O'Neil E. Martin B: 15 Aug. 1912 died at home on 6

June 1967. Mrs. Albertine Chasse Martin remarried 16 years later on 3 June 1983 to Mr. Leonard Beaulieu of Lille, ME. They summer at Lille, ME, Box 73 04739. The winter in St. Petersburg, Florida. Albertine loves to knit, crochet, and making braided rugs. She loves the company of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



This photograph was taken in Florence's house on 11 November 1966. All 11 children were present to help celebrate their parent's 30th wedding anniversary. Also present were their three oldest grandchildren. From left to right: Florence; Cyr; Jacqueline; Marcel; Bernice; Richard; Rachel; Arthur; and

Phillip. Sitting: O'Neil and Albertine. Standing in middle: Phyllis and Kenneth. Three young girls in front are granddaughters Darlene Rose Laliberte 7½, Daurene Anne Laliberte 3½, and Michelle Katherine Landry 2½ years old.

St. Agatha Fire Station

*"In the beginning it was merely a
fleeing thought...
Which gradually turned into a
desired dream...
Then eventually became a fulfilled
absolute reality."*

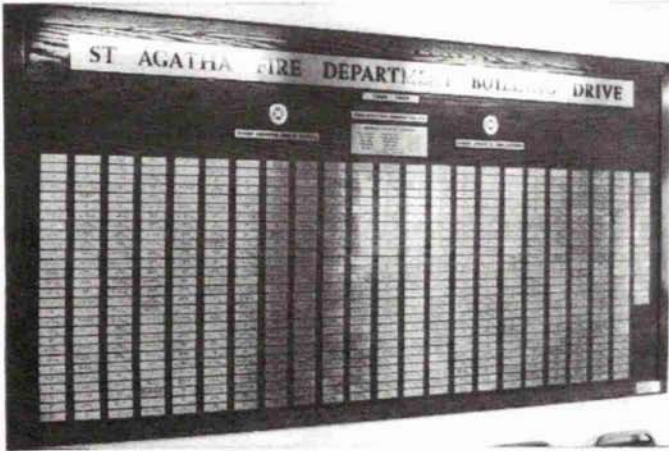
The above clearly expresses the overwhelming sentiment of the townspeople of St. Agatha since the completion of the new fire station. The firemen, the Ladies'

Auxiliary, the town fathers, as well as many other well-meaning citizens all contributed countless hours of planning various fundraisers and projects in efforts

to make this dream a reality. All this devotion has at last paid off for we now have a beautiful new fire station!

From the beginning we understood that in order for things to happen we had to work together as a team to make it happen and that we most certainly did. At last count, over \$30,000 was raised through actual money donations and another \$10,000 was collected through the "in-kind service fund". As you can well imagine, we are very proud of this accomplishment!

An "Open House" took place on October 8, 1989 at



Pictured above is the plaque engraved with the names of the generous people who donated over \$30,000 towards the construction of the new fire station.



which time the fire station was dedicated to fire chiefs George Emile Dugal and John D. Belanger, as well as to the original charter members: Rev. E. Robitaille, Pierre Paul Dufour Sylvio Michaud, Wilfred Dufour, Emile S. Chasse, Emile T. Albert, Denis Ouellette, Fred Marin, Emile Ouellette, Donat Daigle, Noel Plourde, Rosaire Michaud, Bertrand Michaud, Gerard Chamberland, Philip Bosse, Claude Collin and Henry Michaud.

Mary Michaud



The new fire station as it looked on October 8, 1989.

Present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the "Open House" on October 8, 1989 were: L-R: Selectmen Maynard Martin, Bob Chamberland, and Bob Ouellette; County Commissioner, Danny Martin; Senator Reynold Theriault; Belanger Representative, Therese Michaud; Chief Joel Chamberland; Dugal Representative, Gabrielle Dugal; State Representative Judy Paradis; Original Charter Members: Fred Marin, Rosaire Michaud and Gerard Chamberland; and Town Manager Dave Daigle.

La Musique

by Connie Morin Desrosier

The Montfort Sisters use to tell us that "singing" was praying twice, the language of the angels. If you ever have the opportunity of hearing Martha Michaud sing her Ave Maria, you will certainly agree she has the voice of an angel.

My dad, Eddie Morin, perhaps not possessing the voice of an angel — but nevertheless blessed with a fine voice introduced us (16 of us) to music at an early age. It always played an important role at family gatherings, Christmas season, festivities and especial-

ly during long winter nights before the advent of television. I can still picture him, rocking the baby gently to sleep. My mother would teach him the words of old french ballads, handed down from one generation to another. Some of these folksongs were about the songbird (le rossignol) a lonely soldier, an abandoned sweetheart or about the sea. We were told who sang those haunting arias, or on what occasion they were hummed.

My dad would have enjoyed singing in the church choir. He always measured the worth, beauty and meaning of a funeral by the number of voices in the choir and on how many hymns were sung. In my family there are a number of instrumental players of music, two guitar strummers, piano player, a harmonic player and several singers, many music lovers.

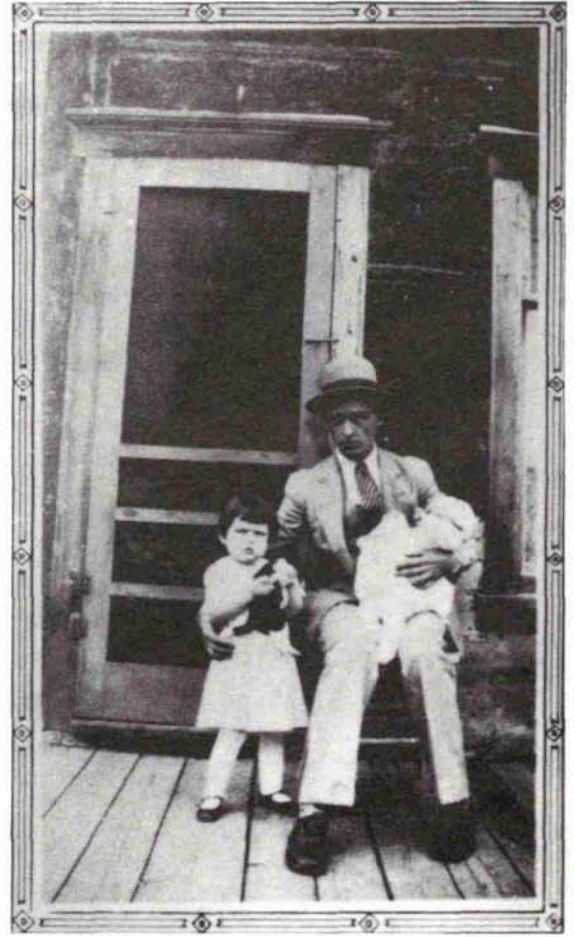
My papa learned to dance "jigs" (jigues) in lumber camps which he frequented at the age of 14. Though none of his eight sons attempted the intricate steps, he had a grandson that did.

It is believed that in heaven one does what he loves best. I'm sure there he is able to join the eternal choir, play all sorts of heavenly instruments and sing to the angels.

Following is a sample of one of the old chant he used to sing to us:

Le Beau Dimanche Au Soir

C'est par un beau dimanche soir
 Un soir, m'y promenant
 M'y promenant sur la grande rue
 J'ai vu une clarte
 Croyant que c'était la belle
 qui venait de se coucher
 Arriva a la porte
 Trois petits coups frappa
 Ouvrez-moi votre porte, la belle
 C'est votre amant
 Qui revient de la guerre
 Sur un gros batiment
 Je n'ouvrai pas ma porte
 Il est minuit sonne
 Mon pere, aussi, ma mere
 Sont dans leur blanc lit couches
 Ils ont barre les portes
 Ils ont emporte les clefs
 Votre fenetre, la belle
 Me l'ouvriez-vous?
 Je suis couvert de neige glacee
 Jusqu'au genoux



Eddie Morin with daughter Connie (3 years old and Connie's brother, Tom.

Voila, la recompense, la belle
 que j'ai de vous
 Les oiseaux chez mon pere
 Ils chantent bien mieux que vous
 Ils disent dans leur langage
 Ils disent dans leurs doux chants
 Gallant, tu perds tes peines
 Tu perds ton temps
 Si j'ai perdu mes peines
 J'ai bien passe mon temps
 T'en souviens-tu, la belle
 Quand nous veillions, tous deux
 Au beau claire d'la chandelle
 Comme des braves amoureux

PAUL MARQUIS REMEMBERED

Most people in Ste. Agathe, in the valley for that matter, share something in common; relatives who moved out of the area for economic reasons. Some relocated in nearby towns. Others sought employment

in cities to the south. Few valley people today are without family in Connecticut or other places "dans les etats". For many, the lack of economic opportunities in the valley provided no choice but to move. The Paul

Marquis family is a good example of a family forced to leave its beloved Valley in order to provide a better life for the family.

Paul, son of Pierre Marquis and Louis Caouette, was born in Frenchville on April 15, 1880. He married Delina Martin on July 1, 1906 in Ste. Agathe. They parented 11 children. Pierre Marquis arrived in the Madawaska territory with his family in 1810 or 1811. Pierre married Desanges Pelletier and gave life to 13 children. Desanges died in 1868 and Pierre remarried Louise Caouette in 1871. They had three children of which one son, Paul, survived. Pierre died in an unfortunate drowning accident at Mud Lake in 1883 leaving his wife and Paul alone. Paul and his mother lived with various relatives after the tragedy. Paul, at the age of 24, purchased a small farm in Frenchville. He worked



Paul Marquis, son of Pierre Marquis and Louise Caouette Marquis. Born: Frenchville, Maine, in 1880 and died 1964. Married Delina Martin in 1906 in St. Agatha, Maine, and was the father of eleven children. Picture: 1954. Buried in Bloomfield, Connecticut.

in the woods during the winter to supplement his income.

In 1924, his father-in-law made it possible for Paul to obtain employment in a factory in Stockholm, Maine. When the depression struck, the family, like most others, relied on F.D.R.'s New Deal programs for help.

Paul's family grew and left home and moved to the city to shape their own lives. By 1942, Paul and Delina remained together in Stockholm. One day Delina fell while going down to her home cellar. She was forced to move to Connecticut to live closer to her children. She died in 1951 and is buried in the Catholic cemetery in Bloomfield, Connecticut. Paul went to live in Greenville, Maine until his death on November 29, 1964. He was buried next to his beloved Delina in Connecticut.



Delina Martin, daughter of Basile Martin and Clarisse Michaud. Born: 1885 and died 1951. Place of birth was Frenchville, Maine and place of burial is Bloomfield, Ct. Married Paul Marquis in 1906, in St. Agatha, Maine, and was the mother of eleven children.

THE MORE WE CHANGE, THE MORE WE STAY THE SAME.

By Terry Ouellette

When John D. Belanger, Jr., was four, he could get around. Now that he's much more than four, his responsibilities have changed and more people get around with him. His Dad had helped him build this novel, motorized four wheel drive and John proudly drove it around the driveway. Now his daughters,

Mandy and Michelle, along with his wife, Eileen, accompany him onto the highway in this motorcycle and side car combination, have John will travel. What next? On workdays John gets around in his business truck.... Belanger's oil heating sales and service.



Young John!



Hi! Young daughters, Mandy and Michelle ride with Mom and Dad.



Mrs. Judy (Gagnon) Chasse holds a glass jar full of that delicious late summer delicacy — “des noisettes”. She's picked buckets full of those noisettes and simply puts them in the screened cylinder. The days of beating them in a burlap bag are gone. Remember seeing the hazel nut enthusiast swinging that burlap bag and hitting the edge of the tar road? This contraption Judy has was put together by Bee (Lawrence) Bouchard. The motorized cylinder gets the “picky” stuff off the hazel nuts.

Going price this year was anywhere around \$2.00 a glass. You may have seen Judy “dans les chemins du large” — she's picked seven barrels full this year.

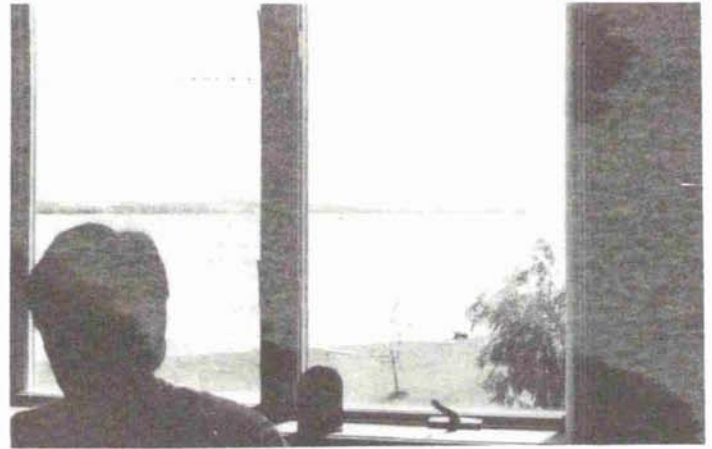


from the town office...

It's been approximately forty years since the town office has had a "face lift" and so we decided that this was the year. We've worked for many days to finally complete the interior of the structure so that we may better serve you. We are adding a computer in hopes that it will insure accurate and efficient service to the community.

I extend an invitation to you the citizens of St. Agatha to come in and inform us of your concerns, gripes, and yes, we welcome your praise.

from the Town Manager



David Daigle sits incognito and enjoys the privacy and view from the "old fire station" now new Town Manager Office.



Joan Ouellette, secretary, organizes new town office layout. She just loves it.



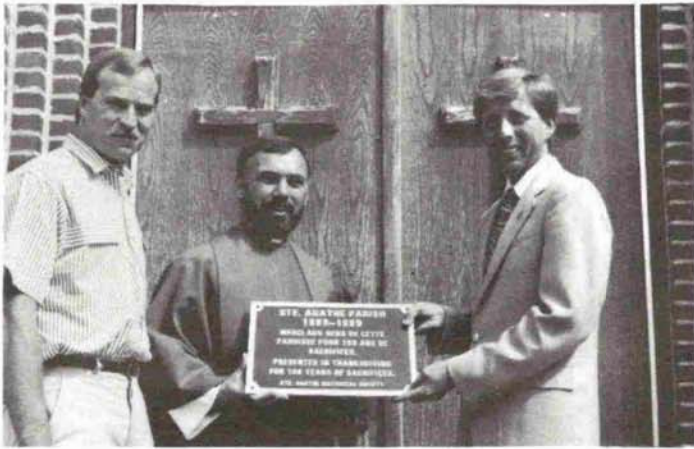
Nicole Levesque, C.D.B.G. secretary, appreciates new surroundings in her new office.



Denise Bouchard, part-time secretary, is typing away as she looks at the camera.



St. Agatha Board of Selectmen, left to right, Joel Thibodeau, Robert F. Chamberland, and Chairman Bob Ouellette.



The Ste. Agathe Historical Society presented this bronze plaque to Father Jim Plourde, pastor, to be hung in front of the church. The plaque was presented in Thanksgiving for 100 years of sacrifices.

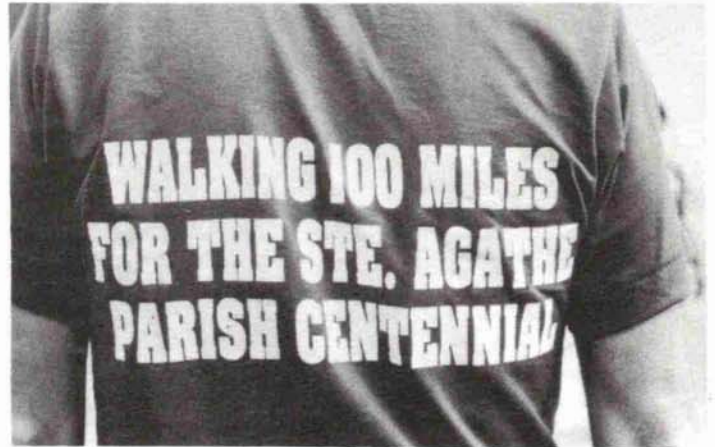
Left to right are: President of the Parish Council, Roger Gervais, Father Jim Plourde and President of the Historical Society, Dave Raymond.



The young set Kelly and Trisha, also did some walking with their mom, Louise Cyr.



That's what Armand Chasse did during the Parish Centennial Year - Walk 100 miles for the Parish. He accompanied St. Agatha's own "Golden Girls" Mathilda Ouellette, Orilla Belanger, and Lucille Michaud.



For your information....

You may order from the —

Ste. Agatha Historical Society
P.O. Box 237
St. Agatha, Me. 04772

1 — Video Album of the Town of St. Agatha — 1986 — \$20.00

2 — Vol. II Nos Saisons/St. Agatha Video — 1987 — \$20.00

3 — History of the Ste. Agathe Parish — 1989 — \$8.00
by Dave Raymond

4 — Burial Records of St. Agatha Parish — \$12.00
100 years compiled by Ste. Agathe
Historical Society 1889-1989

Note: Please add \$2.00 per item for postage and handling.

Officers and Board of Directors

- President David Raymond
- Vice President Lise Sirois
- Secretary Connie Desrosiers
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- Gloria Gervais
- Terry Ouellette
- Jackie Thibeault



The organ from the chapel with the "Fille de Sagesse" figurine were on display at the House. Standing left to right are: David Raymond, Sister Yvette Raymond, D.W., Sister Lorette Chamberland, D.W., S.C.S.P. Enrollee, and Sister Abella Corbin, D.W.



The newly constructed tool shed stands proudly behind the Historical House. The shed was built by Ward Thibeault of St. Agatha and it will be used to shelter artifacts.

This summer the Society was proud to feature two special acquisitions. The first was a beautiful hand crafted doll of "une Fille de la Sagesse." Mrs. Theresa (Albert) Cyr made and donated the doll dressed from cloth from an original dress. She donated the doll in memory of Sister Denis Marie and Sister Marie Claire. The second acquisition with such special meaning and value was the original organ from the old gray convent's chapel. Mr. Arthur Albert Jr. of Windsor Locke, Conn., brought it back to St. Agatha. The organ, manufactured in the late 1880's was removed from the area when the gray convent was demolished in 1967.

The Ste. Agathe Historical House opened its doors in the middle part of June. The House was kept open one to five daily except Mondays. The visitors (over four hundred during the 1990 summer) were welcomed by Sister Lorette Chamberland, SCSP enrollee. The House is an original homestead formerly owned by the Jules Marquis family. In 1978 the Ste. Agathe Historical Society purchased the House in an effort to preserve its beauty and simplicity and to shelter the Society's artifacts. The Society's collection expands each year thanks to the generosity of its many supporters.