

Ste Agathe

Historical Society Newsletter

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The Ste Agathe Convent

by Jack Michaud

On December 8, 1889, the parish of Sainte Agathe was founded. A Church was built in the spring of 1890 under the supervision of the first pastor, the Reverend Ernest Etenaud. Reverend Etenaud administered the parish from 1889 to 1899. In September of 1899 the Rev. Henri Gory replaced Father Etenaud and remained its pastor until 1910. Father Gory, a French priest, who had known the Daughters of Wisdom work in France and desired to have religion at work in his parish, made the initial contact with the Superior General of the Daughters of Wisdom at Ste. Laurent Sur Sevres in France. His request for sisters was granted, but final arrangements had to be worked out with Rev. P. Bouchet, the Father Provincial of the Sisters in Canada. Favorable events insured Father Gory's request.

The expulsion laws deprived the sisters of their right to teach in their own land; therefore, they encouraged the founding of missions abroad. In the summer of 1904 Rev. Gory received news that four Sisters would be sent to Ste. Agathe in the fall of that year.

On September 16, 1904, Sister Marie Therese, Superior, Sister Anseleme, Sister Victorine and Sister Euphrone answered the call to established a mission in Ste. Agathe, in the State of Maine.

On September 17, the four Sisters boarded the ship "La Bretagne" at Le Harve and headed for America. On September 25, 1904 the Sisters arrived in New York and continued their journey to the provincial house at Montfort, Canada. After a few days of rest, the four resumed their journey accompanied by Rev. P. Bouchet and arrived in Ste. Agathe on Saturday, October 1, 1904. The outlook was more than disconcerting in a strange and undeveloped land with neither home nor money. That afternoon a large number of parishoners gathered in the church yard to greet the newcomers. The church bells rang and some people were on their knees thanking God for this blessing. Father Gory offered the Sisters the hospitality of his rectory. This was quite an event for these good people and that day was to be remembered for many years to come.

During the winter of 1905, the Sisters remained at the rectory helping Father Gory with the every day tasks. Sr.



Victorine, a nurse, visited the sick throughout the parish, while Mother Marie Therese and Sister Anselme taught catechism and Sr. Euphrone was housekeeper.

During these winter months, the Sisters purchased a parcel of land next to the church for \$350. The plans for building a convent were being finalized. After much consideration it was agreed that the land the Sisters had purchased was not adequate to build on. On April 12, 1905, Father Gory bought the farm of Mr. Israel Roy-dit-Voisine for \$3,225. This farm was situated across the road from the rectory and was donated to the Sisters. In May the Sisters moved in the small house which was situated on that farm.

The walls of the new building were rising slowly. Later this building would house a District School, a boarding school, and a hospital with a home for the aged.

A contractor, Leonide Gagne of Edmundston, was put in charge of the construction. The work started on May 2, 1905 and part of the building was ready for occupancy on October 22 of the same year. The main building with its facade 100 feet long and four stories above the basement comprised three divisions; the West end class rooms, the Center with parlor and chapel and the Sisters rooms; the East end reserved for the hospital and the elderly. This building, including the furnishings, was constructed at a cost of \$29,184. Some \$22,000 was borrowed and the balance was donated by the Mother House. This building was demolished in March of 1968.

In 1906, more buildings were constructed. The Sisters had built their farm, barn, hogstable, wood shed, fences, heating and water systems some landscaping for a total cost of \$8,914.20.

On June 16, 1906, more land was purchased for \$100 from Mr. Sy Ayoob. Since this huge buildings' heating system consumed a great deal of firewood, the Sisters were

obliged to purchase some wood lots. On January 23, 1908, four lots were purchased from Mr. Israel Roy for \$1000.00. These lots consisted of 716 acres.

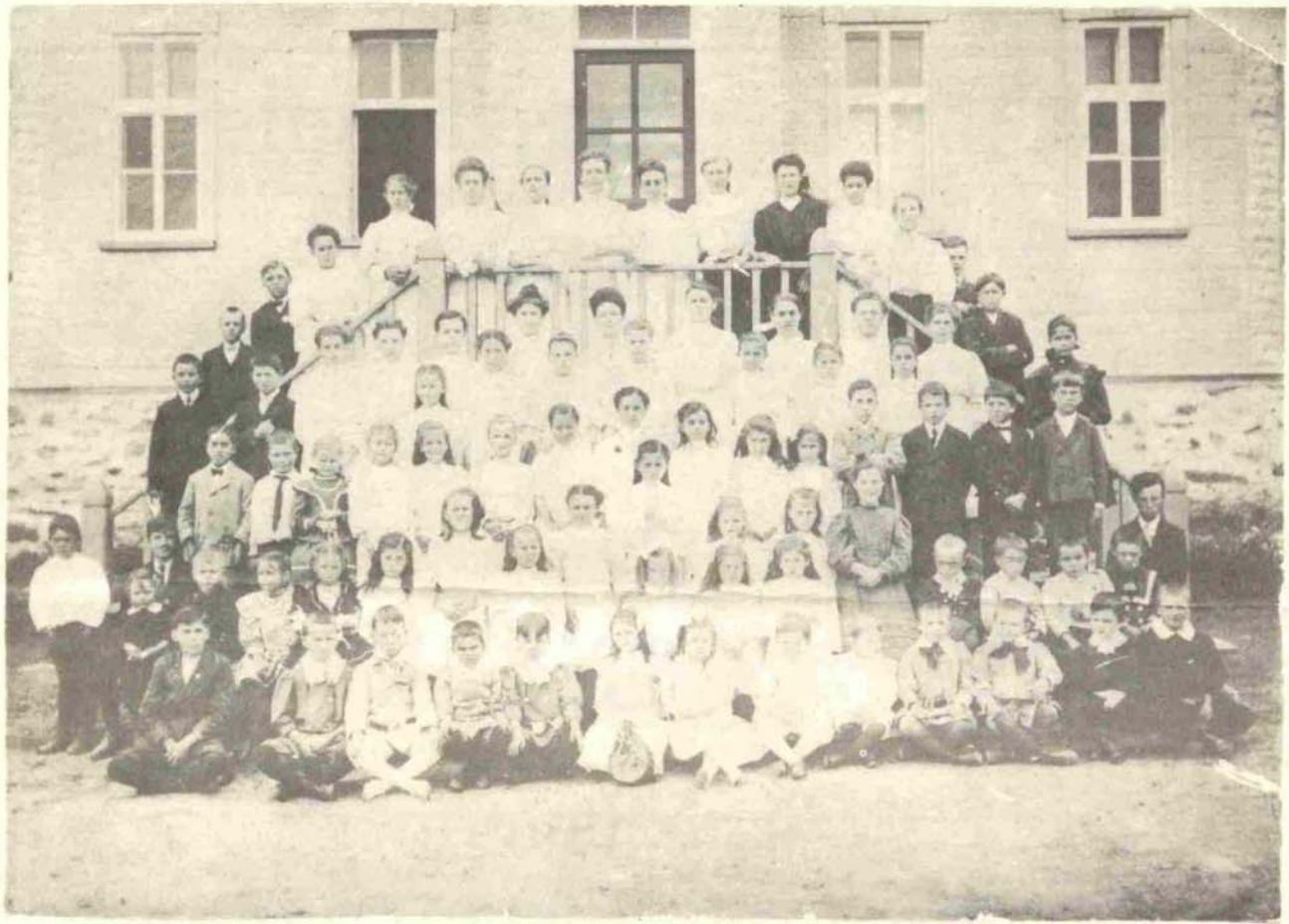
In 1906, the school enrollment was 160 pupils. Due to a large demand for boarding students, the Sisters decided to add a new wing to their building. In August of 1912, the service of Mr. Gagne was again required.

History tells us that on September 27, six stones were engraved with a cross by the contractor and were placed at the four corners of the foundation and two alongside the entrance on the south side of the building. Rev. Raoul Bourbeau who was pastor at the time, blessed all the stones and placed a small jar full of medals in the foundation also near the entrance. Some of our older Sisters still remember the occasion.

This new addition contained an auditorium, a chapel, music rooms, a complete floor reserved for elementary grades and dormitories. The total cost of this new building with all furnishings amounted to \$22,576.60. This building was torn down in the summer of 1953.

On May 24, 1940 another addition was planned. This building was constructed in bricks and was to measure 140 feet on the facade and 65 feet wide with two stories above the basement. The two floors above the gym were identical. On each floor were three dormitories with large windows and a central washroom. The plans of this building were drawn by Mr. A. Gravel and they were executed by contractor J. Delisle and J. Cyr of Fort Kent. The building still stands today but, has been vacant since 1967. The latest plans are that it will be turned into an apartment complex.

The few Sisters remaining have moved in a new modern building which was constructed in 1967 and which is situated near the little cemetery where two of the founders now repose in peace.



The children pictured above were the first students attending the convent school in Ste. Agathe. All children lived in the vicinity of the convent. The Society has identified every one of them. Due to this very rare picture we do not want to number each individual on this snapshot which we found would spoil it. We have listed the boys together and the girls maiden name plus their husband's name to those we knew who they've married.

If you should recognize some of your relatives and you would desire a photo with their identity the Society has on hand this information which would be sent to you at the small fee of \$3.00.

We wish to thank Miss Clair and Elsie Chasse of Auburn Maine for the contribution of this photo and the great task in identifying each individual.



A Brief History of the Ste Agathe Historical House

The most important fact about our historical house is that it is an actual site home; that is, it was not moved there from some other location. Based on oral testimony from some of the oldest citizens of the town, the society started its research into the actual building and property which makes up the site of our historical house. From Mr. Donat Michaud (age 89), Joseph Morin (age 86), and Joe Chasse (age 83), we learned that they had always remembered the house wing where it is now located. They also kept referring to it as "la vieille place a Andre Pelletier." At the Registry of Deeds in Fort Kent we found a deed for the said property and house from Andre Pelletier to his son, Leandre. The deed was dated December 11, 1888. Even more interesting was a descriptive phrase in the deed describing the property as, "...being my homestead on which I have lived for the last thirty-four years past." That being so, we can therefore assume that perhaps the actual structure of the house could date as far back as 1854. [The structure being thus described is the left portion of the actual historical house. The right side, "la grand maison" was actually built much later.] In 1876, the residents on Long Lake were all foreclosed by the Hinckley family for being squatters on their property. The case went to court, and finally in the late 1880's the court

ruled in favor of the squatters and the state of Maine then gave warranty deeds to the inhabitants. At this time Leandre Pelletier was the owner of the property. The State of Maine deed was granted to a Leon Pelletier. (Another example of a French name being Anglicized.) Two years later, 1892, Leandre Pelletier died unexpectedly and he willed his property to his surviving brothers and sisters. One of these sisters, in 1911 sold the house and adjoining property to Nere Picard. He held on to the property until 1916. It is within this time span that Nere Picard built on the extension to the house, known to us as "la grand maison." Later the property was sold to the Rev. Raoul Bourbeau, who in turn sold it to an Xavier Deschaine Jr. The Rev. Bourbeau also kept part of the adjoining property which he sold to the diocese of Portland to make a new parish cemetery. When Mr. Dechaine was unable to pay off the balance due on the house, the Rev. Bourbeau foreclosed and then resold the property to Jules Marquis in 1927. Jules Marquis' widow, Lucie deeded the property to her son Ligorie, who held in with his wife Annie until 1966. At the time of Mr. Jules Marquis' death, he had willed the property to his wife, Annie and her son Clarence Marquis as cotenants. In 1978, being the sole surviving tenant, Clarence Marquis sold the property for \$4,500.00 to the newly established Ste. Agathe Historical Society.

Father Etenaud's Last Will

by Gerry Morin

As promised in our last newsletter, we are publishing Father Etenaud's last will and testament. We are printing the original version in French, and the English translation as found in the Houlton Court House Files. To truly appreciate the full impact of this document, one should be reminded of the events which led up to this writing of such a will. Therefore, what follows is an abbreviated sketch of the history of the parish of Ste Agathe from 1889-1899. In our last newsletter, we published a short history of the parish as written by Msgr. Dugal. In the sketch a few events were hinted at, but never really developed. Most of this history was whispered about, but through these many years the story was kept alive by oral tradition. Based on these stories plus with the help of the diocesan archives we are able to put some of the pieces of this puzzle together. In the first years of the parish's history, our first curate, Fr. Etenaud pushed vigorously ahead with his plans for the construction of a church and an adjacent rectory. To secure the finances necessary for these dual project Father Etenaud taxed each family with a sum of money (we are told it was close to one hundred dollars) or in lieu of the money one could promise 26 days of labor on the actual construction. In the case where people refused or defaulted on this tax, Father Etenaud reserved the right to refuse them the church sacraments. In some instances the threats were actually carried through which created an atmosphere of animosity and resentment toward the pastor. Also found to be unacceptable to the parishioners was the selling of church pews. Rules for the disposition and purchase of these pews were published and posted in the entrance of the church. So that people could understand these regulations, they were read and explained to the entire congregation once a year in church. Two constables were in church every Sunday to make sure that these regulations were observed. Churchgoers who were unable to afford a pew were expected to stand through the celebration of the High Mass. In 1894, with some of these issues fermenting for years in the minds of the parishioners, a group of inhabitants referred to as "les rebels" banded together and made their displeasure known to the priest by actually taking over the rectory and occupying it for the span of four days. The laying of hands on their priest caused the Bishop of Portland to excommunicate all these people from the

Church. The rebels actually only gave up their occupation of the rectory when local law officers came to the help of the parish priest. Fr. Etenaud made use of the law and pressed charges against all these people. He sued them for the sum of ten thousand dollars. Whatever happened as a result of the suit is quite unclear. We have found no court order for the defendants to pay anything. It apparently was settled outside of court. As far as their excommunication, retreats were held and the offenders were welcomed to make their peace with God and the Church. Nevertheless, from that time of 1894, until the year of his departure 1899, no further work was done on either construction. For those four years, Fr. Etenaud tried to carry on the business of the church, but found it extremely difficult due to the fact that the people of the village never forgot or forgave him for what he had done. Finally, in 1899, the issue exploded again and this time the rebels were better organized and armed. They told the curate to take his belongings and leave or else there was going to be a confrontation where people were going to get injured. There was a segment of the population who defended him and would have come to his defense. To avert any more trouble, Fr. Etenaud drove to the St. David parish where he took refuge under Fr. Gory's auspices. Fr. Gory was to be named later to the parish of St. Agathe and Fr. Etenaud replaced him in St. David. He stayed in St. David for six years and upon his resignation due to his health he retired in 1907 to his native parish of Ste Agathe. He purchased a house which adjoined the old rectory and faced the newly constructed convent. (Today the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Chasse). He lived in this home until his death. The parish which had rejected him came around to accepting him in his later years as an old stubborn Frenchman. His generosity toward his parish and his parishners are well documented in his will. Today, Fr. Etenaud lies buried in the little hillside cemetery of the Daughters of Wisdom. It is ironic that his is the only parish curate of ours that lies buried within the confines of the parish. He was an innovator who probably moved too fast and who failed to try to understand the mentality of the pioneer stock of the region. Hopefully, with the reading of the will completed, people may gain a sense of appreciation for a man who founded our parish and returned to see it flourish under the care of another fellow French priest.

Father Etenaud's Will

ST. AGATHA, MAINE, ETATS-UNIS

Je soussigné Ernest Etenaud, Prêtre, jouissant de toutes mes facultés et de mon entière liberté, déclare que les lignes suivantes écrites entièrement de ma main, contiennent l'expression de mes dernières volontés, autrement dit mon testament. Prêtre de l'Eglise Catholique Apostolique Romaine je suis, Prêtre de l'Eglise Catholique, Apostolique, Romaine je veux vivre et mourir.

Je demande pardon à Dieu de mes nombreux peches, Le priant d'user envers moi de la plus grande miséricorde. Je demande aussi pardon à mon prochain des peines que j'ai pu lui causer; comme je lui pardonne de bon coeur les torts qu'il a pu avoir envers moi.

La Divine Providence, sur mes vieux jours, m'ayant confié le sort de deux pauvres orphelins, Rene et simons Daniaud, enfants des defunts, Edmond Daniaud et Berthe Etenaud, personne j'aime à le croire ne trouvera mauvais que je donne mes faveurs et des avantages à ces deux chers enfants. (des orphelins de père et de mère ne sont-ils pas dignes de toute pitié?) Ces deux chers abandonnés m'ont été d'ailleurs recommandés par ma chère nièce Berthe Etenaud, leur defunte mère, avant de mourir. Son experience de la vie l'avertissait que personne d'autre que moi dans la famille ne prendrait soin des orphelins qu'elle lais-sait après elle en ce monde avec tant de chagrin. Qui d'ailleurs aurait le coeur assez dur pour être jaloux de ces enfants et cher-cherait à arracher de la bouche le petit morceau de pain qu'il m'est donné de leur laisser? Celui-là ne serait-il pas digne d'être rejeté de Dieu et des hommes? Je dois dire ici que, quoique né en France, ces enfants sont devenus presque américains à cause de jeune âge (dix et quatre ans) auquel ils sont arrivés aux Etats-Unis, et surtout à cause du mariage de leur mère en deuxième noce avec un ditoyen américain. Ces enfants n'ont aucun autre parent que moi sur ce vaste continent que j'habite depuis plus de vingt sept ans, âgé que je suis aujour d'hui de quatre vingt ans passés, après avoir fondé, au milieu de grandes et nombreuses difficultés,

la paroisse et le Town de S. Agatha qui n'existaient pas à mon arrivée ici, raison de plus pour moi d'avoir pitié d'eux et de les remettre à ma mort, à des personnes vraiment dignes de ma confiance.

Aussi, pour toutes ces raisons, je nomme et j'institue présentement comme ma légataire universelle, mon exécutrice testamentaire et gardienne tutrice des enfants susnommés, la Révèrende Soeur Mère Marie Thérèse (en famille Brin) de Filles de la Sagesse, actuellement supérieure du Convent de St. Agatha, Vaine; et à son défaut, son successeur es-qualités formant légalement, avec quelques unes de ses associées, la corporation autorisée et reconnue par un acte de la Législature du Maine, Etats-Unis, en date des 3 et 9 mars de l'an du Seigneur mil neuf cent sept. (1907) révisé et complété par un nouvel acte notarié en date du 8 novembre mil neuf cent dix (1910). Ayant pleine et entière confiance dans cette honorable personne et dans la Corporation dont elle fait partie et pour éviter autant que possible, toute difficulté et procès, je la dispense autant dumsins que la Loi peut le permettre, avec la bonne grâce des Juges de la Cour de Probates, de toute obligation de rendre compte de son mandat à qui que ce soit; Je sais à l'avance qu'elle agira en bonne mère envers des orphelins qu'elle aime et qu'elle a élevés; je sais qu'elle suivra scrupuleusement les instructions présentes. C'est pourquoi je déclare nuls et non avenus les legs que je fais en ce jour si mes légataires quel- qu'ils soient soulevaient des difficultés à mon exécutrice testa- mentaire.

Dans ce cas les legs ainsi contestés reviendraient, de par ma volonté à ma légataire universelle et exécutrice testamentaire.

Comme les filles ont plus de peine que les garçons à se faire une position dans le mond, elles ont besoin à mon avis, qu'on leur fasse quelques avantages. Pour cette raison seulement, car j'ai autant d'affection pour l'un que pour l'autre de ces chers orphelins, je lègue à ma petite nièce Simone Daniaud ma maison de St. Agatha et ses dépendances ainsi que les deux morceaux de terre qui l'en-vironnent et que j'ai acquis de M. M. Massé Daigle et William Lagacé

In Etenaud's Will, Grand et Honorable Probate Court - Feb. 21, 1922 - General Penin

Father Etenaud's Will

(continued)

Dufour. Cette propriété sera donc celle de Simone Daniaud, mais elle ne pourra en disposer par vente location ou autrement, sans le consentement de mon exécuteur testamentaire et seulement à l'âge de 21 ans accomplis. A titre de compensation Simone versera à son frère René la somme de trois cents dollars, (\$300.0/100), quand elle le pourra, sans intérêt, mais pas avant l'âge de vingt et un ans accomplis, âge où elle pourra seulement sortir du Couvent où je veux qu'elle perfectionne, autant que possible son instruction sous la direction de ma légataire universelle et exécuteur testamentaire.

Mon argent, mes valeurs, qu'on trouvera chez moi dans un petit coffre en fer, barré par un cadenas en cuivre à secret, seront partagés également, par les soins de mon exécuteur testamentaire, entre René et Simone Daniaud qui pourront les toucher s'ils ont vingt et un ans accomplis, mais dont ils ne toucheront que les intérêts s'ils n'ont pas cet âge. Le mobilier de la maison, literie, meubles meublants, batterie de cuisine, vaisselle, linge, couverts, argenterie, instruments divers, denrées et objets de consommations, conserves, vins, liqueurs, etc...seront partagés par moitié, entre René et Simone, par les seuls soins de mon exécuteur testamentaire, les enfants devant accepter sans réclamation les décisions de cette dernière. J recommande à mon exécuteur testamentaire de bien veiller à ce que le vin et les liqueurs ne soient pas l'occasion d'abus de la part des enfants ou de toute autre personne; qu'elle prenne à cet égard les dispositions qu'elle jugera nécessaires et aux quelles tous devront se soumettre; je l'autorise même à prendre les clefs des meubles et appartements dans les quels ces provisions se trouvent. En case de besoin elle pourra même prendre les clefs de toute la maison. Si René ne voulait pas emporter ce qui lui reviendrait du mobilier qui lui serait accordé dans le partage fait par mon exécuteur testamentaire, cette dernière estimait les objets laissés à un prix très modéré, et Simone, si elle le voulait, en paierait le montant, quand elle en serait facilement capable, par à compte à sa volonté et sans intérêt. Qu'il soit bien compris que je m'oppose rigoureusement à toute vente publique aux enchères de quelque nature qu'elle soit. Les enfants, sur les

conseils et consentement de mon exécuteur testamentaire, pourront cependant céder et vendre à l'amiable ce qui leur appartiendra, mais sans aucune publicité, par respect for le pauvre mort que je serai à l'ora ~~elle~~ pourront, et je le leur recommande, donner quelques souvenirs à des personnes amies, à des pauvres à ceux qui m'auront aidé et soulagé dans mes derniers moments. Quant à ma bibliothèque il en sera fait trois parts dont je pense laisser la nomenclature à mon exécuteur testamentaire; un part aux enfants qui pourront Choisir ce qui leur plaira sous la direction de mon exécuteur testamentaire; une deuxième part aux Révérendes Soeurs du Couvent de St. Agatha qui pourront choisir après les enfants; et une troisième part à la paroisse de St. Agatha à l'usage du Curé, part qui devra toujours rester dans la bibliothèque du presbytère. A titre de souvenir special, je laisse à mon exécuteur testamentaire le crucifix en bois sculpté qui est à la tête de mon lit, et le tableau (la Vierge aux Anges) qui se trouve dans la salle à diner. Après avoir pris connaissance de mes papiers personnels ou autres, mon exécuteur testamentaire pourra faire brûler ceux qui n'auront plus aucune nécessité et garder pour les enfants seuls ce qui pourrait un jour leur être utile. Il se pourrait qu'en présence de certaines circonstances, de certains faits ou événements qu'on ne peut pas prévoir, je sois porté à faire quelques changements, retouches ou additions aux présentes dispositions; en ce cas je rédigerai et laisserai des codicilles ou notes signés par moi et aux quels je veux qu'on donne la meme va leur qu'au présent testament.

En témoignage de quoi j'appose ici ma signature et mon cachet, en présence des trois témoins requis par La Loi, déclarant que tout ce qui précède est mon expresse et dernière volonté et testament. St. Agatha, Aroostook County, Maine, Etats-Unis. Ce vingt neuvième jour du mois de décembre de l'an du Seigneur mil neuf cent seize.

Rev. E. Etenaud

Father Etenaud's Will

(continued)

Signé, publié et déclaré par le susnommé Révèrend Ernest Etenaud, Prêtre, tenant lieu de sa dernière volonté et testament, en présence de moi qui, à sa requête et en sa présence et en présence de Chacun de nous ice signons nos noms comme témoins; certifiant que le dit Révèrend Ernest Etenaud est sain d'esprit, jouit de toutes ses facultés et de son entière liberté. A St. Agatha, Arcoostook County, Maine, Etats-Unis, ce vingt neuvième jour du mois de décembre de l'An du Seigneur mil neuf cent seize.

(L.S.)

Rev. R. Bourbeau

B. S. Dufour J. P.

J. U. Cariveau M. D.

Translation of Above Will

St. Agatha Maine, United States.

I the undersigned, Ernest Etenaud, Priest, enjoying all of my faculties and being absolutely free from any undue influence, declare the following lines, written entirely by my own hand, to contain the expression of my last wishes, otherwise called my testament. A priest of the Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church I am, and a priest of the Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church I wish to live and die.

I ask pardon of God for my many sins, praying to Him to use towards me the greatest of mercy. I ask pardon also of my neighbor for any sorrow that I may have caused him, as I heartily forgive him any wrong that he may have done to me.

Divine Providence in my old days having entrusted to me the lot of two poor orphans, Rene and Simone Danisud, children of the deceased Edmond Danisud and Bertha Etenaud, no one I wish to believe, shall find it wrong that I extend my favours, and give certain endowments to these two dear children. (Should not orphans of father and mother be deserving of pity). These two dear bereaved ones, were entrusted to my care by my dear niece

Bertha Etenaud, their deceased mother, before dying. Her experience in life, forewarning her, that no other than I in the family would care for the orphans that she was leaving behind her in this world, with so much sorrow. Who would have a heart so hardened as to be envious of these children, and would seek to take from them the small morsel of bread that I have to leave them? Would not such a one be deserving to be cast out by God and man? I must say here that these children though born in France have become almost American, owing to the tender age (ten and four years) that they came to the United States, and especially owing to the marriage of their mother, on her second marriage to an American citizen. These children have no other relative but me on this great continent, which I have lived in for over twenty seven years, being of the age, as I am today of eighty years past, after having founded in the midst of great and numerous difficulties, the parish and town of St. Agatha, which did not exist when I arrived here, thereby there being a greater reason for me to have pity on them and to entrust them on my death to persons really worthy of my confidence.

Therefore, for all these reasons, I name and appoint by these presents, my general legatee, my executrix and guardian of the children herein named, the Reverend Sister, Mother Marie Therese (en famille Brin) of the Daughters of Wisdom, actually mother Superior of the Convent of St. Agatha Maine, and at her death her qualified successor, being a member with some of her associates of the corporation created by an act of the Legislature of Maine, in the United States, dated March 3rd, and 9th, 1907, completed and revised by a new notarial act dated Nov. 8, 1910.

Having absolute faith and confidence in this honorable person and in the corporation of which she is a member, and to avoid as much as possible all difficulty and lawsuit, I exempt her, so far at least as the law can permit it, with the consent of the Judge of Probate, from all obligation to render

Father Etenaud's Will

(continued)

an account of her trust to whomsoever it may be; I know beforehand that she will act as a good mother towards orphans that she loves and that she has brought up; I know that she will scrupulously follow the instructions herein contained. It is why I declare nul and void the legacies which I make this day, if my legatees whoever they may be, should stir up any difficulties for my executrix.

In which case the legacies thus contested shall revert by my wishes to my general legatee and executrix.

Since it is more difficult for girls than for boys to gain a position in the world, it is necessary to my viewpoint, that we extend to them some advantages. For that reason only as I have as much affection for one as for the other of these dear orphans, I bequeath to my little niece Simone Danioud my house and its appurtenances in St. Agatha, as likewise the two parcels of land which adjoin it which I had of M. M. Masse Daigle and William Lagace Dufour. This property shall be therefore that of Simone Danioud, but she shall not be empowered to dispose of the same, by sale, lease, or otherwise, without the consent of my executrix, and then only at the age of twenty one years. In consideration thereof Simone shall give to her brother Rene the sum of three hundred dollars, when she shall be able to, without interest, but not before the age of twenty one, at which age only she shall be able to leave the convent, where it is my wish that she perfect as much as possible her instruction under the guidance of my general legatee and executrix.

My money, my valuables that will be found in my home in a small iron safe, locked with a combination padlock in brass, shall be divided equally under the care of my executrix between Rene and Simone Danioud, who shall be able to take possession of them if they are twenty one years of age, but of which they shall have the interest only if they are not of that age. The household furniture, bedding, kitchen utensils, dishes, clothing, coverings, silverware, divers instruments, all foodstuffs, preserves, wines, liquors, etc., shall be equally divided between Rene and Simone, under the sole supervision of my executrix, the children being obliged to accept without objection the decisions of the latter.

I recommend and charge my executrix to see that the wine and liquors shall not be an occasion of abuse on the part of the children or any other person; that she take whatever steps that she sees proper with regard to the disposition of the same, to which all must submit; I authorize her even to take the keys of the rooms in which said provisions are kept. In case it should be necessary she may even take the keys of the whole house. Should Rene not wish to take what belongs to him as his share of the furniture which shall be awarded to him in the division made by my executrix, the latter shall estimate at a

very moderate price the objects left by him, and Simone if she wished, might pay the amount, when she could conveniently do so, by her free will and without interest. Let it well be understood that I rigorously oppose any sale by public auction of whatever nature. The children under the counsel and with the consent of my executrix, may however by friendly agreement, sell whatever belongs to them, but without any publicity, with respect for the poor deceased that I shall then be; they may, and I recommend that they do so, give some souvenirs to friends, to the poor, to those who may have helped and comforted me in my last moments. With respect to my library it shall be divided in three parts, the list of which I expect to leave to my executrix, one part to the children whomay select what they wish under the direction of my executrix, a second part to the Reverend Sisters of the Convent of St. Agatha who may select after the children, and a third part to the parish of St. Agatha for the use of the parish priest, which part shall ever remain in the library of the pastor's residence. As a special souvenir I leave to my executrix the cress in sculptured wood which is at the head of my bed, and the painting (la Vierge au Anges) which is in the dining room. After having inspected my personal and other papers, my executrix may burn those which are of no value, and keep for the children those which might some day be of value to them. It might happen that under certain circumstances or certain events occurring which we cannot foresee, that I might be disposed to make some changes or additions to the present disposition, in which case, I shall redirect and shall leave codicils or notes signed by me, and to which I wish that what the same value be given as to the present testament.

In witness whereof, I have herunto set my hand and seal, in the presence of three witnesses required by law, declaring that all that precedes this is my express and last will and testament.

St. Agatha, Aroostook County, Maine, United States, this 29th. day of the month of December in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

(sgd) Rev. E. Etenaud.

Signed, published and declared by the above named Rev. Ernest Etenaud, as his last will and testament in the presence of us, who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of one another here sign our names as witnesses, certifying that the said Reverend Ernest Etenaud is of sound mind, possessing all of his faculties and entirely free and uninfluenced. At. St. Agatha, Aroostook County, Maine, United States, this 29th. day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

(Sgd.) Rev. R. Bourbeau.

(sgd) B. S. Dufour.

(sgd) J. A. Cariveau M. D.

Caretaker's Annual Report



I spent an interesting and rewarding summer. Our historical house is a living memory of all our ancestors who have passed before us. All visitors cherished objects that really touched them.

To my surprise young children and young adults showed a great interest in preserving our antiques and artifacts.

Visitors came from California, Nova Scotia, Michigan, Illinois, and even Africa. As they toured the place all of a sudden they wanted to talk of the good old days, how their parents and grandparents made all they owned with their own hands. It was like seeing two or three passed generations alive again.

As many told me, "We are so proud of our ancestors, our culture, their values." How come we have rejected a part of ourselves that is so real and so much alive in us?

The beauty of living loses its meaning with the accumulation of material possessions. People of a certain age group repressed the part of their lives that had to do with the days of the horse and buggy and of handmade objects. The artifacts to them were like a shadow representing a certain shame. These people were brought to the Historical House by their children who had usually graduated from the St Agatha High School or who had to leave at an early age to seek work elsewhere. The minute they started touring the place you could see a glow in their face, a resurgence within their own being. All of a sudden they talked of the good old days with a new found pride. For the listener it was even more interesting. History came to life.

It was a most interesting summer. I'm actually looking forward to next summer.

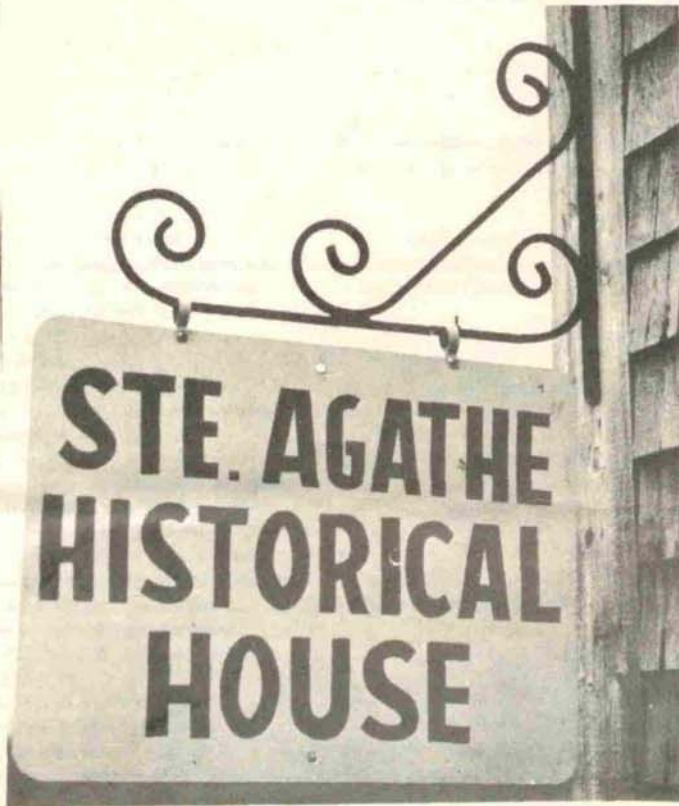
Blanche Collin

Class Rings

With renewed interest in the value of gold, newspaper advertisements from specialized dealers, have lured the readers into turning in their old class rings for its melted down monetary value. Being very sensitive to this disturbing phenomenon, since this guarantees for us a general disappearance of rings associated with our local school. It was for this reason that the society decided to study closer this issue of class rings. To our dismay, we found that the first class rings were purchased by the class of 1924. Prior to that date, the graduating students wore class pins. A search for these rings was begun in the month of March.

Luckily, we were immediately encouraged in this endeavor when Mrs. Leonie Marin Lagasse generously donated her school ring (class of 1926) and that of her husband, Armand Lagasse (class of 1930). These rings and others are on display at our historical house in Ste. Agathe. At this time we are still actively searching for rings from the other school years. How about looking through old school memorabilia to find your class ring? We would be proud and appreciative to add your class ring to our growing collection. Why not insure the preservation and exhibition of your graduating class ring for future generations?

Special Thanks



Special thanks go to the following people who have so readily and willingly given of their time and effort and also made use of their heavy equipment to accomplish these tasks. For the beautiful landscaping of the grounds, we want to cite the following workers; Mr. Conrad Plourde, Mr. Camille and Reid Chamberland, and finally to Danny Labrie for the plowing, disking, and leveling of the land. Finally, to Mr. Arthur Albert who raked and seeded the lawns.

For the new historical house sign, we want to thank the town of St. Agatha for the steel plate; Mr. Earl Cowie for the printing and painting of the sign; and to Richard Michaud for providing us with appropriate iron work upon which to hang the sign. Also, thanks to Jean Paul Michaud and Stan Albert who decided one warm summer night to actually do the hanging of the sign.

Special thanks go to our Mid-Valley Jaycees and their wives who generously helped us in making our second annual breakfast the great success it was. To John Charles Michaud and his wife Karen, also to Bob and Juliette Michaud who were in charge of the Jaycees, thank you for your leadership and work done that day.

Lifetime Members

Lifetime members of the Ste Agathe Historical Society

Gerard Morin, St. Agatha
Terry and Bob Ouellette, St. Agatha
Jean Paul & Bea Chamberland, St. Agatha
Clarence Michaud, St. Agatha
Philip Morin, St. Agatha
Sister Gabrielle Michaud, D.W., St. Agatha
Jack & Florine Michaud, St. Agatha
Sister Lily Martin, D.W., St. Agatha
Stanley Albert, Fort Kent
Barbara Maynard Martin, St. Agatha
Nathalie Cunnene, Connecticut
Paul & Avril Marin, St. David
Paul & Mattie Guerette, Upper Frenchville
Armand & Therese Chasse, Los Angeles, Calif.
Jean Guy & Karen Cyr, Gurley, Alabama
Willard & Blanche Lajoie, East Hartford, Conn.
Fernande & Robert Gauvin, Burlington, Conn.
Leo & Catherine Morneault, St. Agatha
Jean Paul Michaud, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Rinette & Lewis Michaud, Brewer, Maine
Greta & Pat Martin, Bangor, Maine
Babe & Yvette Michaud, St. Agatha
Rev. Claude Albert, Presque Isle
Alma & Bert V. Michaud, St. Agatha
Cleo & Jean Paul Ouellette, Frenchville
Rev. L. James Michaud, Augusta

Charles & Irene Belanger, Miami, Fl.
Rose Marie & Jos Lapointe, St. Agatha
Bernadette & Sam Michaud, St. Agatha
Therese M. Sirois, Cucamonga, Calif.
Pat & Bob Bourgois, St. Agatha
Patricia Morin, Carmel, New York
Vi & Gerald Michaud, Madawaska
Fred & Annie Marin, St. Agatha
Blanche & Claude Collin, St. Agatha
Lillian & Henry Parent, St. Agatha
Maria Chamberland, St. Agatha
Jeanne & Valere Chamberland, St. Agatha
Laurette & Louis Labrie, St. Agatha
Jean & Alan Crabtree, Berlin, N.H.
Rita & Bertrand Collin, St. Agatha
Germaine Dugal, St. Agatha
Maude Marin, Sinclair
Therese & Carl Michaud, St. Agatha
Roberta & Ronald Guerrette, St. Agatha
Marie Candide & William Levinstone, Oakland, Me.
Florence Laliberte, Lewiston, Me.
Albertine Martin, St. Agatha
Leon & Lenore Corriveau, Algonquin, Illinois
Eugene & Jackie Michaud, St. Agatha
Onezime & Omerine Bourgois, Newington, Conn.
Reid & Alfreda Chamberland, St. Agatha
Angela & Omer Raymond, Southington, Conn.
James & Pat Morin, St. Agatha
Louise & Conrad Cyr, St. Agatha

Items Donated

Items donated between 1979-1980

Patrick & Lilian Guerrette	Kerosene lamp, hand plain, iron with plate, spuds.	Philip Morin	steel pot, ice saw & hook, wooden snow shovel, hand washing machine,
Rita & James Chamberland	Small ink bottle		flour barrel, dough board, rolling pin, picture frames, wagon wheels.
Joseph U. & Therese Albert	Statues, pair of oxen shoes	Therese & Bob Ouellette	Montfort school albums, work books.
Paul Morin	Hand made sled by Mr. Jos. Marin	Bea & Jean Paul Chamberland	Tin photos, serving dish, class picture.
Philip & Therese Pelletier	Un credle	Maria & Olivier Chamberland	Holy pictures with frames, missals, pictures of priests, Fort Kent centennial book, picture of Mr. & Mrs. Jos Bossie
St. Joseph Parish	Church vestments, statues, wooden carved cross, canleabra, latin Mass book, grave marker, incense holder & spoon, candles.	Marie Blanche Savoy	school year books, collection of newspaper clippings, Father Robitaille's Chalice
Louis & Anna Coulombe	1860 white lace wedding dress, picture of Pope Benedict XV, glass butter churn	Holy Rosary Sisters	index file, statues, records, church vestments, religious books, altar cards, coal holder & picker, incenser, Holy Oil holder, burette, brass & wooden cross, Father Bergeron Holy Bible plaques, holy pictures, sanctuary lamp, holy water sprinkler, collection of flags, candle sticks, missale romanum ritual romanum & defunctorium
Reginald & Pauline Guerrette	wooden butter paddle	Blanche & Claude Collins	taped interview, booklet "WITH JUSTICE FOR ALL."
Alma & Benoit Chasse	steel pant strecher, coffee pot, ink well, hand mirror.	Rose Levesque	bookcase, curtain stretcher, metal tray.
Yvonne Cyr	Madawaska centennial booklet, Mass anniversary celebrations, St. David centennial book.	Jos & Ida Morin	school year books, violin case.
Richard & Lucille Rossignol	sleigh, school bell, un cribble, bottle collection	Dr. Levesque School	trunks, world globe, books.
Rosaire & Lucille Michaud	yarn winder	Robert & Patricia Bourgoin	school desk & chair, yarn winder, hand made walker, lace drapes & rack, shingle splitter, cicle, gas lamp base glass jars, bowl.
Johnny & Aurella Belanger	nativity set from convent	Fred & Annie Marin	leather punch.
Bob & Roseann Gervais	glass rolling pin	Danny & Betty Michaud	wooden stick for washing
Reid & Alfreda Chamberland	linen flour bags	Catherine Michaud	family picture, sewing machine oiler, 1953 class picture, iron.
Walter Fournier	yarn winder stands	Montfort School	school sign, school books, table black board erasers, school bell, jar.
Wisdom High	Papal flag, portable altar, school tam	Richard & Mary Ann Michaud	collection of liscense plates
Irene Michaud	Photograph of Rev. Albert Long, Rev. Eugene Cramillon, & town group photo.	Helene Bickford	book collection
Priscilla Frank	Collection of St. Agatha High School pictures	Daughters of Wisdom	collection of "ECHOS DE LA SAGESSE" record albums, school year-book, issues of M T L C, memories of WHS, alumni file, founding papers of L'Amicale, collection of school pictures, beret, radio, slide collection of Father Cramillon, salt dippers, finger bowl
Sister Gabrielle Michaud	Taped interview of Sister Marie Celine, Sister Patrick, Sister Christine, Photo album of American province sisters Diamond Jubilee booklet	Camille & Rinette Plourde	Grain shed, rocking chair, straight chair
Donald & Rachael Daigle	First minutes of the Knights of Columbus in St. Agatha	Reginald & Imelda Tardiff	Home made sled, butter barrel, sleigh.
Paul Emile Bossie	Spinning wheel & devoidor	Warren & Juliette Michaud	Picture and frame of Rev. Bourbeau, photograph of priest (unknown)
Bernadette Mayhew	Rev. Albert Long pen set donated by the people of St. Agatha.	Jean Paul Michaud	Historical pictures
Ste. Luce Parish	Church vestments	Sylvio Martin	Kerosene can, gold pan, chain, hook, iron cow collar.
James T. Clair	1891 Temiscouta freight bill	Annette Levesque	Violin and case
Onézime & Helene Dumont	Motorola battery radio, hand made soap	Conrad & Jeanne Cyr	milk bottle caps, jar covers.
Jos & Jeanne Tardif	un chat de laine	Donat Hebert	rocking chair
Valier & Aline Chamberland	Photograph of Rev. Father Sweron	Lawrence & Irene Ayotte	Picture with frame of David Albert, photo of unknown man.
Jack & Florine Michaud	Scale	Diane Pazderka	Collection of tin photo from Mrs. Jos. Hebert.
Octave Cyr	picture frame, collection of pocket books.	Joseph & Albertine Fradette	ironstone dishes
Brian Plourde	statue	Marietta Martin	iron cow collar
Richard & Therese Ringuette	wooden high chair	Leonide & Clorinth Ayotte	dome-lid trunk
Louis & Claire Michaud	cedar posts	Ronald & Roberta Guerrette	cedar posts
Paul Cyr	cultivater	Bob & Rachel Couture	cedar posts
Bernard & Judy Michaud	hay rake, stump puller		cedar posts
Conrad & Joyce Plourd	horse drawn plow		
Eddie L. Paradis	coal stove boiler		
Edward Paradis	iron with steel plate, moulin a foucher, ironing table, lawn mowers, hand saw, bottles, jugs.		
Sister Lily Martin	Religious books & missal		
Rose & Gerald Nadeau	Collection of dishes & bottles		
	1925 Newspaper "Le Soleil" Books, hand wringer, utensils, large cast iron pot, camera, salt & pepper shakers, bowls.		
Gerard & Agnes Pelletier	small electric washing machine		

In Memoriam

The following artifacts were donated to the Ste. Agathe Historical Society in memory of departed loved ones and friends. We are grateful to the donors since their donated items will be cherished and viewed by the many people who visit our town's historical house.

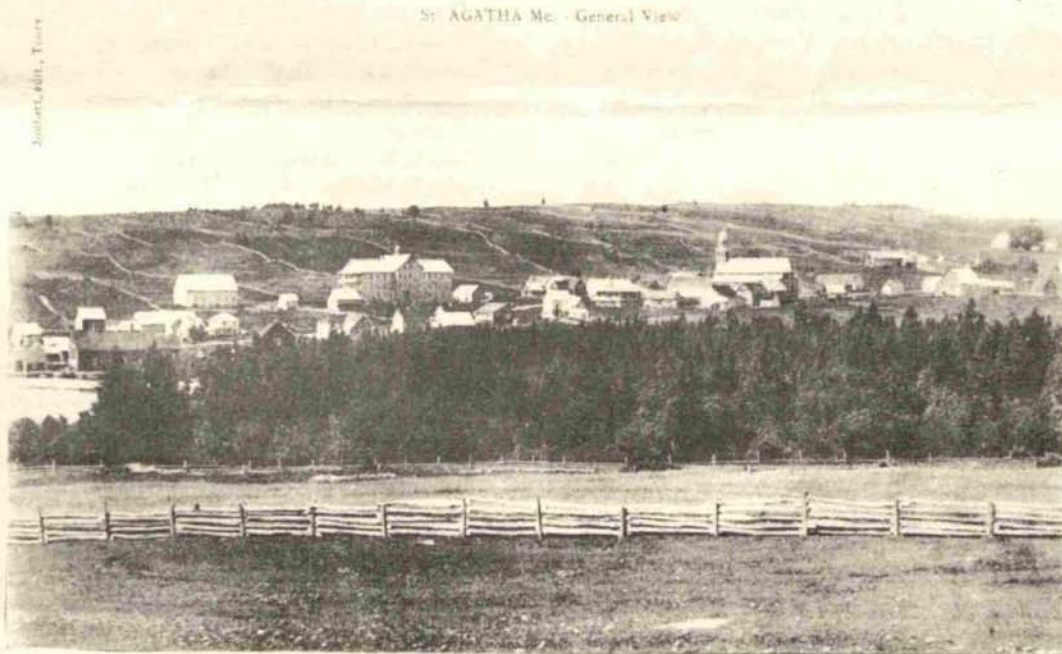
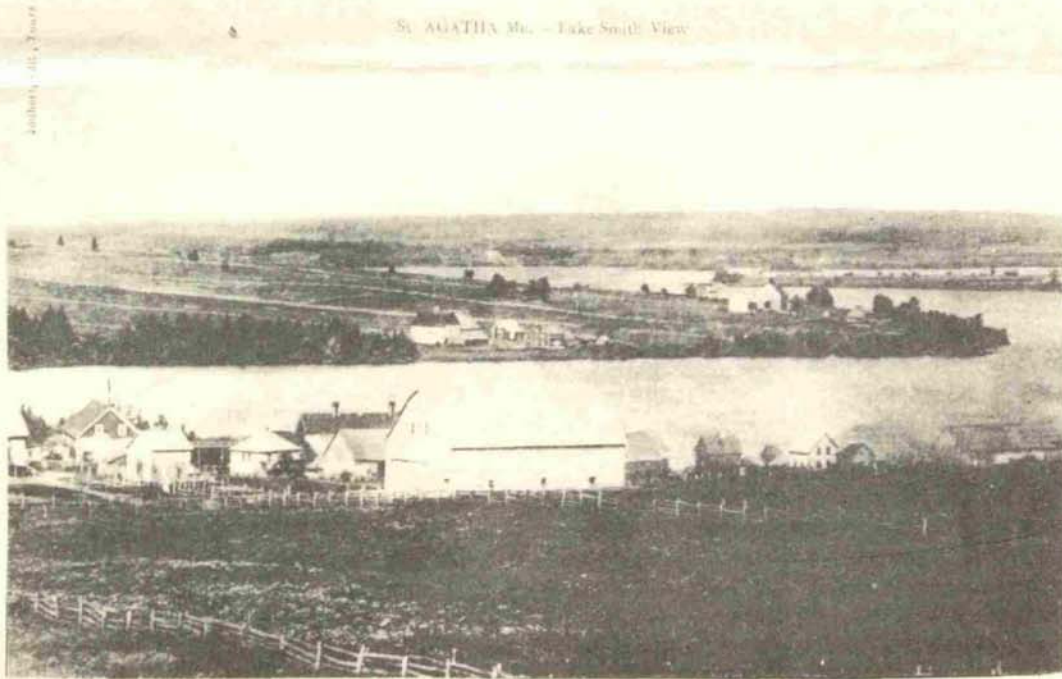
Mr. Donat Hebert has donated a rocking chair in memory of his wife Azilda.
Mr. Gerard, Philip, and Richard Morin have donated a manual milk

separator in memory of Mrs. Amanda (Chasse) Michaud.

Mr. Paul Emile Bossie from Caribou has donated a spinning wheel and a devoirdoir in memory of his wife Prissile, daughter of Ligori and Annie Marquis.

Again, we wish to thank these donors for their contribution to our historical house.

General Views of Ste. Agathe



A Community Credit Union

by Therese Dubois

The Town of St. Agatha, Maine, situated along the shores of Long Lake in Northern Aroostook County, is as scenic a location as Northern Maine has to offer. In relating this piece of information, we feel obliged to report that as members of the community, we tend to be very favorable concerning the town of St. Agatha.

A town is a combination of individuals working on their separate goals and in many cases preparing to have the dreams of the future become the reality of today. In assisting those ideas toward completion, financial consultation and good judgment from our friends is essential to all of us. In St. Agatha we often depend on the experience and dedicated personnel of the St. Agatha Federal Credit Union. Expertise in finance does not come overnight and it's this growth process that we would like to relate to our friends and members.

It is hard to separate the Town of St. Agatha from the History of the Credit Union, because the Credit Union is a response to the needs of the community it serves. Our Credit Union was founded on May 5, 1952, with the approval from then Federal Examiner — Mr. James Gratto. We were signed into organization by the Director of the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions along with the Social Security Administration and the Federal Security Agency providing support. The Founding members were Mr. Gilbert Martin, Mr. Sylvio Michaud, Mr. George E. Dugal, Mrs. Irene Michaud, Mr. Emile S. Chasse, Mr. Leo D. Parent, and Mr. Onzime Dumont, comprising the Board of Directors.

The purpose of the Credit Union as envisioned by its founders was "to promote thrift among its' members by affording them an opportunity for accumulating their savings, and to create for them a source for provident and productive purposes". Even in the beginning it was an organization owned and operated by members for members. Membership was originally open only to the residents of St. Agatha — but in "Union there is strength" and in September 1958 membership was extended to residents of T-17, Range 4 (Sinclair, Maine), followed in 1965 by opening membership to T-17, Range 5 (Guerrette, Maine). The extended membership can be attributed to the substantial growth experienced by the new Credit Union. As an example — Our physical growth shows that in 1952 we began with 173 members and assets of \$17,329.13 from our facility located in the Town Office in St. Agatha. By 1967 our assets had reached \$383,838.85 and necessitated a move to Emile Chasse's vacant store, where one room, a safe, and a mimeograph machine was the meager beginnings of our present facility. In 1973 we extended our lease and acquired the lower store area and remodeled the facility to add a managers' office and the facilities we now enjoy. In 1976 we reached our one million dollar milestone in assets and in 1977 our Board of Directors purchased a parcel of land which we hope will be the site of our new Credit Union facility. In 1980 we handled share accounts for 1057 members and \$1,647,006.98 in assets.

Our Presidential Leadership has exchanged hands four times during our organizational history. Beginning with



Mr. Sylvio Michaud, Founder

the founding President:

Mr. Sylvio Michaud — 1952 to 1956

Mr. Emile S. Chasse — 1956 to 1971

Mr. Joseph Frank — 1971 to 1976

Mr. Daniel LaBrie — 1976 to Present

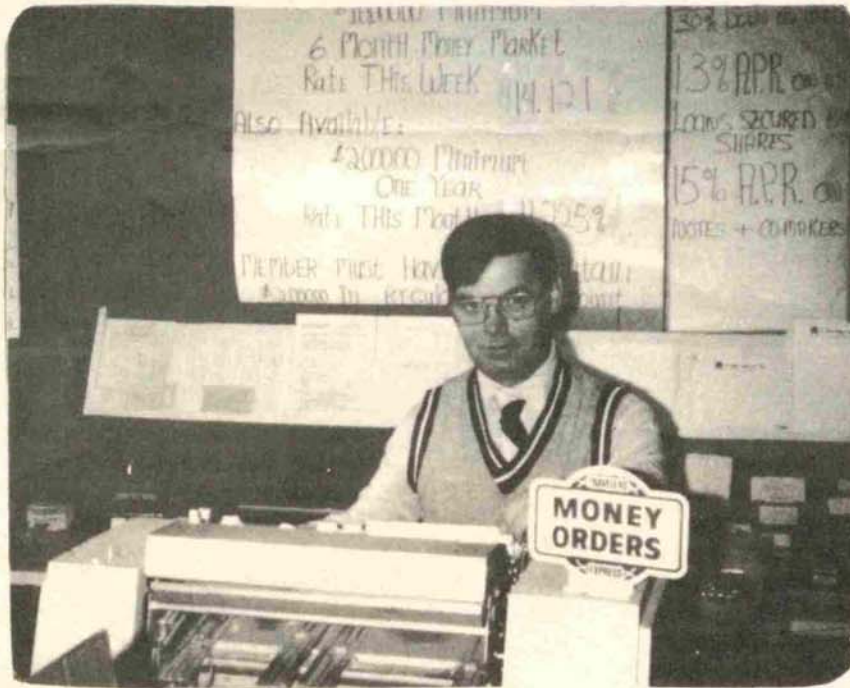
It has been the enlightened guidance of members-directors as those mentioned above, which has produced our present level of efficiency and provided our members with the benefits and services we now enjoy. Among services provided: 1966 - we began making Educational and Vocational loans; 1968 - Real Estate loans; loans to other Credit Unions; 1973 - Payroll Deductions program; 1975 - On Line Date Processing; Quarterly dividends; 1980 - Federal Share Insurance Program; Loan Protection; Life Insurance (Savings); Notary Service; Share Certificates; Christmas Club; Social Security Direct Deposit; Cancer Insurance; Group Accident Insurance; Temporary Disability Insurance; Money Orders; Banking-by-Mail; Money Market Share Certificates and Auto and Personal loans.

A very impressive past brings us to our current staff and community involvement. We employ three full-time and one part-time staff members. Each is a dedicated individual working to insure the continued success of a growing member-oriented organization. Insuring that the shares of members will be safeguarded and given the personal attention to which all are entitled. Each account is insured up to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration for savings. You are assured that your savings will be paid in full up to \$100,000.

We are members of the Maine Credit Union League of Portland which provides us with direction and trends in services, as well as seminars, workshops, and con-

ferences designed to keep us informed and better able to provide the best financial assistance to our members. We receive local support and cooperation through our membership in the Northern Aroostook Credit Union Chapter and we are supervised through regular examinations and Audits by the National Credit Union Administration. We are a community service-minded organization and look to show our support through donations, prizes, contributions, church bulletins, and sponsorship of community activities of merit.


One's organizations' past history, its yearly growth, and its ability to provide for the needs of its members are good indicators of its direction and goals for the future. We firmly believe in our organizations ability to reach its goal while providing for our members. We have moved from the Town Office to computers. We intend to move into Share Draft Accounts (a checking account service), as well as continue to look at options toward building our new facility. Credit Unions are a reflection of the community, and we feel we present a strong, confident image of scenic St. Agatha.



Mr. Albe Dubois, Present Manager

Publication of this newsletter was made possible through the generosity

Each member account insured to \$100,000



NCUA
by Administrator,
National Credit Union Administration

of the St. Agatha Credit Union

Page Fifteen

Ste Agathe Historical Society

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