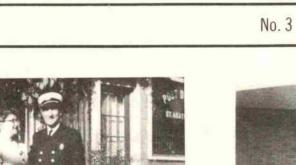
STE AGATHE

Volume 1





Fall 1982

A FIRE DEPARTMENT IS BORN

In relating the history of the St. Agatha Fire Department. I must permit the readers to note the following quotation:

... "at Albert Michaud's fire in August, 1945, a man across the street was fighting and praving to keep his property up. With a garden hose in hand, and a small stream of water coming out of it, his neck and back blistered, he could hardly stand the heat, and his heart was aching, afraid to lose the shelter he had worked all his life to build for his family. This man was making a promise, as he was thinking of all the people who are homeless on account of fires, and how many lives each year are lost by fires, right then and there a fire department was born for the St. Agatha Community.'

It is through this man's sheer determination and concern for his fellow citizens that the foundation of the St. Agatha Fire Department came to be. We owe George Emile Dugal. as well as others involved, a deep sense of gratitude. These courageous few were to play a significant role in the history of the town of St. Agatha.

Previous to the Albert Michaud fire, the community had seen two other fire disasters. In 1931, the Town Hall, along with eight other buildings burned down. Then in 1940, the good citizens were once again alerted by a fire at the Church. Their undying efforts to salvage their precious Church proved to be unsuccessful. The building was completely destroyed.

While these fires were raging, people were made aware of the necessity of a fire department. Nevertheless, the wellmeaning ambitions of the concerned few died along with the fire. However, in 1945, Mr Dugal decided to do something about it. Realizing the urgency for a fire department, Mr. Dugal consulted other interested citizens. The idea pleased many. Enthusiasm ran high! Town officials were contacted and the matter was discussed to great lengths, but to no avail. The town could not afford to equip such a fire department. This set-back was only temporary. A meeting was called. The 18 present were convinced of the necessity of a fire department. These men subscribed money for the good cause. It was Mr. Dugal's wish that these men be recognized so that their children as well as their grandchildren know and appreciate them. The charter members were:

Rev. E. Robitaille, P.P. Dufour, Sylvio Michaud, Wilfred Dufour, Emile S. Chasse, Emile T. Albert, Denis Ouellette, Fred Marin, Emile Ouellette, Donat Daigle, Noel Plourde, Rosaire Michaud, Henry Michaud, Bertrand Michaud, Gerard Chamberland, Philip Bosse, Claude Collin, and George Emile Dugal.

The pastor at the time was Rev. E. Robitaille. He gladly donated a portable pump and some 500 ft. of hose which he had purchased as a means of protection after the Church fire of 1940. This piece of equipment was well received by the struggling fire department. It gave the men the boost they had been waiting for. Shortly afterwards, these men organized and elected the first officers. They were as follows:

1. Fire Chief - George Emile Dugal

1. Asst. Chief - Fred Marin

3. Treas.-Sec. - Sylvio Michaud

With a portable pump mounted on a trailer, the firemen had a fire drill almost every Sunday afternoon. One day they were to demonstrate their efficiency when someone reported

Historical Society NEWSLETTER (1889 - 1979)

a fire at Ligore Marquis' residence. (Ironically, Ligore Marquis' house is presently the Historical House of St. Agatha.) Within minutes, the firemen arrived at the scene of the fire. The barn, full of hay and straw, was demolished. Fortunately, the firemen were able to save the house and the garage. Gratitude was written all over the proprietor's face. The firemen had shown ability and courage and all were satisfied for having done such a good job. The townspeople were also very impressed.

The new department took advantage of the recent fire to make a drive and raise money to buy heavier equipment. It proved to be successful. With limited funds, the search for a new pumper was short-lived until the Town Manager, Sylvio Michaud, located an old truck in the town of Dexter, Maine. It was an American LaFrance, which the fire department finally purchased at a price of \$1,000.00. The town of Dexter also agreed to send a man along with the truck. to demonstrate to the firemen how to operate the LaFrance. It was decided to deliver the truck in November of that year. However, on the way up, the cylinder head on the engine cracked and the journey was cut short. The truck was to remain in Houlton till the latter part of December due to the longevity of time needed for the repair parts to arrive. Finally, Emile T. Albert volunteered to fetch the truck. He arrived back on New Year's Eve. 1946. For the time being, the truck was stored in Denis Ringuette's garage for the winter. However, all knew the fire department would eventually have to find some future lodging for their truck and equipment.

Again on January 20, 1946, the firemen had the oportunity to justify their importance by responding to a school house fire called in by teachers Rolande Collin and Marie Michaud. Within minutes, the firemen had located the cause of the fire. which was a faulty stove pipe, and had managed to control it with minimal damage to the Blaine School.

During the summer of 1946, the town officials donated an old abandoned school house to the fire department. It was decided to relocate the building down by the lake where the present town office and fire station now stand. Volunteers helped to build a concrete foundation and in November of 1946 the old school house from Flat Mountain was moved on it. Necessary alterations were needed to accommodate and store the truck and equipment.

At the same time, the town officials requested a room in this building to establish town headquarters. After much deliberation, the fire department finally agreed to rent rooms for the town office. In exchange for the rent, the town officials agreed to pay for the heating and electricity bills for the entire building. A lease to that effect was drawn up with an option for ten years. As of today, the same agreement exists. In addition, the town also pays the insurance on the building.

On March 30, 1949, an application was made to the Secretary of State to incorporate the department. They received the papers on April 5th of that year.

The present fire department is always seeking better ways and methods of protecting the people from harm and keeping damage at a minimum. So was the case years ago. The fire department, in trying to update their equipment, noted that some sections of town were isolated from water sources. The fire department ventured on a campaign to remedy the situation. The department realized it needed a tank truck equipped with a pump and hose. A gift made by Wilfred Dufour and P.P. Dufour of a Chevrolet truck chassis was to give the fire department an initial start. The men working in Rosaire Pelletier's shop built and welded a tank at a cost of \$550.00. By April, 1950, the fire department proudly displayed a tank truck with a capacity of 750 gal. of water. However, with the addition of this new tank truck, providing space for it became a problem. With the help of all members of the department and other townspeople, a garage large enough to store four trucks was completed in 112 years. The present fire station can attest to that fact. Another truck with a 1,000 gal. capacity was purchased from the town of Caribou for \$1,800.00 in May of 1959.

In 1962, Chief Dugal, with 16 years of devoted time to the department, reluctantly retired. In his words, "to let some younger man take over the responsibility which I now feel is too heavy for my old shoulders. I regret to have the obligation of leaving you after so many years that we worked together. I enjoyed every minute I served as your Chief, and pray God to help you in your good work."

It was then that John D. Belanger was elected as the new fire chief. Chief Belanger proved to be worthy of his title. His involvement as Chief for 17 years has definitely contributed in making the fire department what it is today. John is a good-natured man liked by all who have the privilege of making his acquaintance. He continues to serve his community as an active member in the department.

In 1979, Joel Chamberland was elected as the new fire chief. It is with certainty that through his guidance and leadership, the fire department will continue to prosper and to faithfully serve the community of St. Agatha.

Being a fireman is not always an easy task. The labor, efforts, and devotion to the cause are immeasurable elements worthy of our attention. It is with well deserved pride that these men continue to conscientiously serve the community as members of the St. Agatha Volunteer Fire Department.

Mary Michaud

I would like to submit these few old ballads my father, Eddie Morin, used to sing. He claims he learned them from his maternal grandfather, Isidore Ouellete. I can still hear him singing the baby to sleep in his arms after a long tiring day in the fields. He was gifted with a deep baritone voice. How I wish we would have copied down these ancient songs. Here are a couple of remembered verses I wish to commit to his memory.

C. Desrosier

Le Départ

Un jour m'a prie envie de deserté de France (bis) Sur mon chemin recontre, ma tres chère bien-aimée Je me suis arreté, c'était pour lui parler (bis)

Et tout au loin, j'ai vu venire cinq ou six gendarmes (bis) J'ai mis mon fusil bas, mon epée à la main Je me suis battu là comme un vaillant soldat(bis)

Du promier coup tira, tua mon capitaine (bis) Mon capitaine est mort, il est mort en ce jour En ce jour il est mort, demain ça sera mon tour (bis)

Mon pritm'on emporté tout droite a la citizaine (bis) Mon procès fut jugé par quatre officeirs D'avoir la tête tranché ou bien d'être fusilé (bis)

O! percé-moi au coeur ou droite a la cervelle (bis) Mais quand je serai mort, vous envelopez mon coeur Dans une serviette blanche Vous l'enverai a Paris Vous l'enverrai a Paris a ma chère bien aimée Elle versera des pleurs por cher fiancé

Les gens de par chez nous, ne dites pas a ma mère (bis) Vous lui direz plutot, que je suis sur bord de l'eau Avec mes matelots, jamais je ne reviendrai

Dimanche Soir

C'est par un beau dimanche soir, un soir m'y promenant M'y promenant sur la grande rue, j'ai vu une clarté Croyant que c'était la belle que venait de se couché.

Arrivant a la porte, trois petit coups frappe Ouvrez'moi votre porte la belle, c'est votre amant Qui revient de la guerre sur un gros bâtiment.

Je n'ouvrai pas ma porte, il est minuit sonné Mon père, aussi ma mère sont dans leur blanc lit couchés Ils ont barré les portes, ils ont emporté les clefs.

Votre fenêtre, la belle, me l'ouvriez-vous? Je suis couvert de neige glacé jusqu'aux genoux Voilà la récompense, la belle, que j'aie de vous.

Les oiseaux chez mon père, ils chantent bien mieux que vous Ils disent dans leur langage, ils disent dans leur doux chant Gallant, tu perds tes peines, tu perds ton temps.

Si j'ai perdu mes peines, j'ai bien passé mon temps T'en souviens-tu la belle, quand nous veillons tout deux Au beau clair la chandelle, comme des braves amoureux.



La Barbière

C'est en Paris qu'il y a une barbiere, qu'elle est cent fois plus belle que le jour (bis)

Il me dise qu'elle si belle, pourtant j'irai la voire un jour (bis)

Je partirai vers la minuit pour arriver à l'heure du jour (bis) La barbiere par la fenêtre, lui dit monsieur, ou allez-vous? (bis)

Je suis venue me faire faire la barbe, mademoiselle qu'en pensez-vous? (bis)

Entrez, entrez, gentil jeun homme, tout mes rasoirs sont prêts pour vous (bis)

C'est en lui faisant la barbe, le visage lui change de couleurs (bis)

Sont-ils mes rasoirs qui vous bless? ah non la belle, c'est vos amours (bis)

Ah mes amours, gentil jeun homme, ils sont bien éloignée d'ici (bis)

Ils sont sur la mer qu'il navique, autant la nuit comme le jour (bis)

Le capitaine dedans la barque, c'est habits sont couleur de rose (bis)

Et celui là qu'il commande, c'est celui qui a mes amours (bis)





"CHEZ-NOUS: THE ST. JOHN VALLEY" Saturday, May 22, 1982 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Fourth Floor Gallery MAINE STATE MUSEUM Augusta, Maine (Open Till February, 1983)

Left to right: Blanche Collin, Cecile (Tardif) Albert, Arthur Albert & Sheila McDonald.

Among the many projects carried on by the Ste. Agathe Historical Society in the past year has been a study of handwoven blankets made in the area. This blanket study was part of a larger project, "Chez-Nous: The St. John Valley" that has resulted in an exhibit at the State Museum in Augusta.

Blanche Collin, who conducted the study, photographed and documented well over fifty examples of blankets from Ste. Agathe. Many of them have been donated to the Ste. Agathe Historical Society and are on display at the historical house. Others are on loan in the "Chez-Nous" exhibit at the State Museum in Augusta, and many of these blankets are still in the homes of their owners. Wherever they are, they represent an important and very beautiful aspect of life in Ste. Agathe's past.

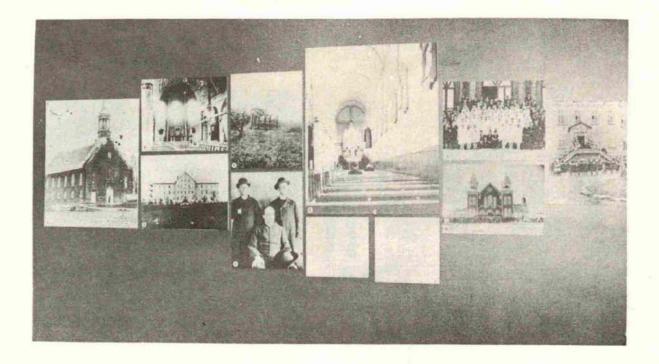
As the information gathered by Mrs. Collin shows, weaving blankets was an activity of many of Ste. Agathe's women. For example, we have learned about Mattee Marquis Michaud, Mrs. Donat Gagnon, Anastasie Lagasse Albert, Mrs. Levite Hebert, Mrs. Thaddie Chamberland, Glorieuse Ouellete, Anais Martin Guerrette, Mrs. Josephelt Paradis, Ozithe Cyr Dumond, Marie Fongemie Chasse, Salome Fongemie Dionne, and Amanda Marquis Tardif - all of whom made blankets that were part of the study. Some of these women perhaps wove blankets only for their families, making them for household use or for wedding gifts to children or grandchildren. Others, such as Anais Martin Guerrette, made them for neighbors as well. Often, if a weaver made a blanket at the request of a neighbor, she would use the neighbor's spun wool and weave it according to the neighbor's request for a particular pattern or color. According to Patrick Guerrette, the son of Anais Martin Guerrette, his mother would often make "une piece" for her customers, with "une piece" consisting of enough woven material to make eight to ten blankets.

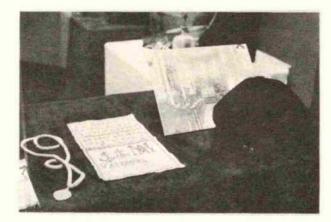
Besides finding examples of the work of many different weavers. Mrs. Collin also recorded the different types of blankets made. The most prized blankets were generally those made of new wool. These were usually almost all white with two sets of colored bands at the top and bottom, and were often given as wedding presents or used as christening blankets. Another type was made of recycled wool. In these blankets, wool that had been unravelled from sweaters and socks was reused in weaving a blanket. Often such blankets had colored bands throughout their entire length. Yet a different type of blankets were made of re-processed wool. In these, bits of wool that had already been woven or knitted were pulled apart, re-washed and broken up in a "barrette". re-spun, and rewoven into a blanket. Oftentimes, since the reprocessed wool fibers were short, they were spun together with new wool to add strength to the yarn. Re-processed wool blankets were generally a mottled grey color with variously colored bands at either end.

Women in the family were most often involved in weaving blankets, but other family members helped as well. Sometimes husbands or fathers built looms, for example. Or, when the family gath@red in the kitchen after supper, the young girls often pulled yarn apart for re-processing, or washed the re-processed wool in a "barrette". A son might help his mother with the job of putting the warp threads on the loom, or a daughter might begin to learn the fine points of spinning and weaving from her mother.

Because of the study such as the one begun by Mrs. Collin, something as seemingly ordinary as blankets can almost "come alive", and tell us a great deal about Ste. Agathe's history, the people who lived here, the way of life, activities and crafts, as well as traditions and values. These blankets certainly tell a story that can help us understand and take pride in the heritage of St. Agathe.

> Sheila McDonald, Curator Augusta State Museum







Azilda Michaud Albert, resident of Ste. Agathe, Maine, pictured on her solemn communion, 1900.



Savons du Pays Recette par Delima Desjardins

Madame Desjardins se souvient de la recette du savon du pays que sa mère lui avait apprise étant jeune fille. Maintenant que son marie est décédé, "la famille est plus petite" elle dit. "J'en ai fait en masse pour utiliser la vieille graisse. Quand on élevait une famille nombreuse on fabriquais pour économiser."

Cette bonne dame est aussi une couturière adroite et possede beaucoup d'autre talents que plusieurs de nos mamans Acadienne avaient.

6 livres de graisse fondue

1 boite de castique

212 pintes d'eau froide

plat de granite

Faire fondre la graisse dans un plat de granite et mesure. Fonde le castique dans un cruchon clair.

Ajouter l'eau froide.

Mettre sur un papier.

Vidé tranquillement dans la graisse fondue.

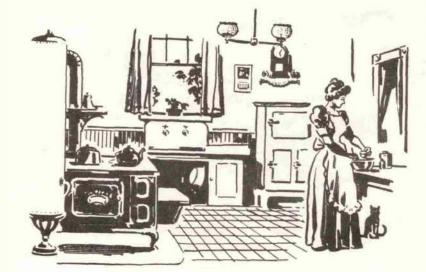
Brassé longuement jusqu'à ce que la solution épaississe. Vidé dans une boite de carton après 5 ou 6 heures. Couper en carreau.

The 50th Anniversary Class for this year is the class of 1932. They were the twenty-second class to graduate from St. Agatha High School. Class members included: front row left to right: Anne Marie Chasse, Claire Cyr (Sister Emma), Simone (Marin) Barwikowski, Lena (Cyr) Trask, Claire Lavasseur, Jeanne (Sirois) DeParie, Jeannette Chasse, Jeanne Martin, Aurela Chasse.

Back row: Yvette (Collin) Ford, Blanche (Morneault) Collin, Annette (Lavigne) Lauzaire, Marie Ange (Corbin) Morino, Annette (Plourde) Leblanc, Albert Ouellette, Armand Chasse, Sinai Albert, Yvette Daigle, Lillian (Michaud) Ouellette, Cecile Sirois (Sister Flavie), Jennette Sirois (Sister Emile Marie).

Terry Ouellette







At the St. Agatha Historical House this summer a popular attraction is our census record, where people can search for their roots. We have at hand the 1850 to 1900 census record with an information guide book, to help you trace your ancestors.

In photo left to right: Blanche Collins. Maria Chamberland with her children peeking over.

New Lifetime Members For 1981-82

Sr. Marie Celene D.W. Mary Immaculate Convent Litchfield, Conn. 06759

Wallace Bosse Bristol, Conn.

Dale E. Kathleen E. Braeuminger Silver Springs, Maryland

Richard Morin St. Agatha, Maine

Cecile Cyr St. David, Maine

Leo N. Albert Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

Joseph & Juliette Tardif St. Agatha, Maine

Leo James & Ida Morin Madawaska, Maine 04756

MONTFORT HEIGHTS



20 UNIT PROJECT FOR THE ELDERLY James Chamberland Prop., Francis Morin St. Agatha

GOOD LUCK!

St. Agatha Firemen

CONTINUED SUCCESS

St. Agatha Federal Credit Union

BEST WISHES

Anonymous,

St. Agatha, Maine

ITEMS DONATED IN 1981

LEONIE LAGASSE	1930 and 1936 class rings, graduation	IRMA DIONNE	
	photos of 1926-29-30-34-36, Echos de la Sagesse yearbooks, photo of Father	LEO & CATHERINE MORNEAULT	cards.
	Cloutier, newspaper clippings of convent.		
	1953 Echos de la Sagesse, photographs	ALAN & PAT DOW	1944-45 report card of Ralph Dow, 1942
	Holy pictures with frames, family photos.		convent photo.
	Photo of Mount St. Carmel Church, Lille. Manual milk separator, cremeuse,		Oval picture frame, photo of 1st church.
MR. & MRS. REGINALD MICHAOD	granite-ware coffee pot, buck-saw handle.		tle with porcelain cap, needle to sew
JEANNE & VALERE CHAMBERLAND	Newspaper clippings of the Hebert family		potato bags.
	and Albert Martin, moule a mitaine, pic-		1961 yearbook
	ture with frame of Mr. & Mrs. Honore Martin, crucifix, statuettes of: a nun, St.	BEA & JEAN P. CHAMBERLAND	Pince-nez, class picture a p'tite ecole,
	Joseph & Mary, war ration stamps, 1930	STANLEY ALBERT	hayhook. 1953 National Geographic Magazine
	commencement program, photos of: Fred	MARIE-BLANCHE SAVOY	Father Robitaille's beret, collection of
	Bouchard, family of Jos Chamberland,		post card albums, personal scrap books.
	Monseigneur Dugal of St. Basil.	BLANCHE & CLAUDE COLLIN	Photo of Joe Chamberland's 50th Anniver-
RAYMOND & JACKIE DUMAIS	Home-made pancake spatula, canning jar holder.		sary, tape interview of Mrs. Annie Martin, booklet, "Chanson de chez nous, Au coeur
LILLIAN (GAGNON) BUSSIERRE			du vent des legendes,'' 1929 graduation ex-
JOAN GAGNON	Manuel de chant de la Messe.		ercise program, suspenders.
JOHN & LAURETTE VAILLANCOURT.	Rev. Corriveau's Webster Dictionary, col-		Newspaper clipping of 60th Convent An-
	lection of town, school and convent photos, picture of Father Corriveau as Priest and		niversary, braided palms, picture frame of Romeo Junior with crucifix and coffin
	as doctor.		handles.
YVETTE PELLETIER	Family photos.	JOS & IDA MORIN	Collection of funeral cards, and holy pic-
JOS & ANNIE SIROIS	Photo albun of friends and family.		tures.
ARMAND & EDWINA DUFOUR	Cast irons, shoe stand with forms, home-	BOB & LOUISE ROY	Homemade quilts, razor, collar box.
MR. & MRS. LEONARD BOURGOIN	made blanket and king bolts. Milk strainer	(Father Audibert)	Brass cross, 1978 Church album, um- brellina, Chalices, Monstrance, consecra-
CHRISTINE GERVAIS	U.S. service certificate of Paul Ayotte,	Trainer Audioert/	tion bells, banners, "Circle Jeanne
	photo of Paul Ayotte, American Flag.		D'Arc'', "Congregation des Enfant
IMELDA BOUCHER			Marie," church vestments, alb, amice
	homemade blanket, kerosene lamp, col- lection of family photos, newspaper clipp-		stoles, surplis, hand crochet lace, proces-
	ings, photos of: Father Buhrer, and		sional voiles, ceborium and monstrance veil, purple crucifix covers.
	Father Sweron.	BOB & PAT BOURGOIN	
ARMAND & THERESE CHASSE	Hand woven basket.	FRED & ANNIE MARIN	
PIT & URSULA LANGDO	Fruit juicer.	DANNY MICHAUD	Wooden ironing board, door stopper
LEONA CHASSE	Hand-made crib by Albert, razor, funeral card.		Yearbooks, Echos de la Sagesse, prayer
LEO & DELIA PARENT		DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM	book, "The Love of Eternal Wisdom".
LUCILLE BOURGOIN	Photo of Jules Marquis.	PATRICK & LILIAN GUERRETTE	Homemade straight chair, hand-made
IDA ROY	Une cremeuse. Picture of Servule Desrosier with frame,	IOO & WHIDDEOD AL DEDE	blanket.
LORRAINE (DUBE) THIBEAULT	photos of: Grandmere Thibeault, Israel &	JOS & THERESE ALBERT	Thread shuttle, bits of metal from first church bells.
	wife, un parasol.	ROSAIRE & LUCILLE MICHAUD	1922 communion certificate, 1942 High
ANNIE BOUCHER	Picture of parents, Emery Chasse.		School photo, family photos, jewelry box
BLANCHE (DOUCETTE) POULIOTTE	Picture of Father Gory with oval frame.		of Mattie Michaud, hand-made blankets,
JOEL & CLAUDINE VOISINE REYNOLD & LORRAINE DUBOIS	Manual sewing machine	REID & ALFREDA CHAMBERLAND	rug, bottle. Pitch fork hav fork
EARL & MURIEL McGLAUGHLIN	Wooden level, gas welding torch.		1923 graduation class photo, ordination in-
MARIE-MARTHE LAGASSE	Handmade blanket		vitation cards, family photos.
OMER & ANGELA RAYMOND	Candy dish	SISTER GABRIELLE MICHAUD	In Memoriam article of Sr. Patrick,
CANDIDE DEROSIER	Missal, handmade doily, manual hair clip- per, metal hair roller.		album of "Les Filles de la Sagesse aux Etats-Unis"
ARTHUR & CECILE ALBERT	Package of dye, photo of Arthur & Patrick	NORMAN & CECILIA MICHAUD	Family photo of Jos Michaud, and
	Guerrette.		genealogy.
ANN-MARIE & CLAUDE OUELLETTE	Handmade chair	BERNADETTE MAYHEW	Rev. Albert Long certificate of Apprecia-
SADIE LEVESQUE	Dry sink, medicine cabinet, wooden cash	ONEZIME & HELENE DUMOND	tion.
MARIE & JOED CHAMDERLAND	register, electric iron, gas operated		Wooden rake, boiler, milk bottles, hand
	washing machine, woolen mittens, socks,		welder.
	bonnet, rocking chair, doilies, pants with	JACK & FLORINE MICHAUD	Old glasses, "Hommage a notre cure"
	suspenders, diploma of St. Agatha gram- mar school, un catechisme, holy pictures,		from St. Luce, pipes, annual reports, Frenchville Bank book, Vital Lagasse
	tin box, tablecloth.		local board card, and registration card,
ST. JOHN VALLEY TIMES	3rd annual breakfast photos.		books, by-laws of St. Agathe starch fac-
LOUIS & LAURETTE LABRIE			tory, photo, 1911 graduation exercise pro-
PAUL-EMILE & YVETTE MICHAUD DOROTHY & BURNIE MCARTHY		CONRAD & JEANNE CYR	gram. Doilies
MRS. ANTIME DUMOND	Straight razor, ball of rosin, family		Buckwheat roll pan, un carcan a vache.
	photos.	GILBERTE BOUCHARD	Salt and peppers shakers.
ST. EUTROPE PAR. (Rev. Picard)		CAMILLE & NORMANDE MORIN	
SR. BERTHA DOUCETTE GLENN & JESELAINNE ZETTERMAN		RONALD & NANCY DAIGLE	Meat grinder.
GLENN & JESELAINNE ZETTERMAN	Sleigh seat		