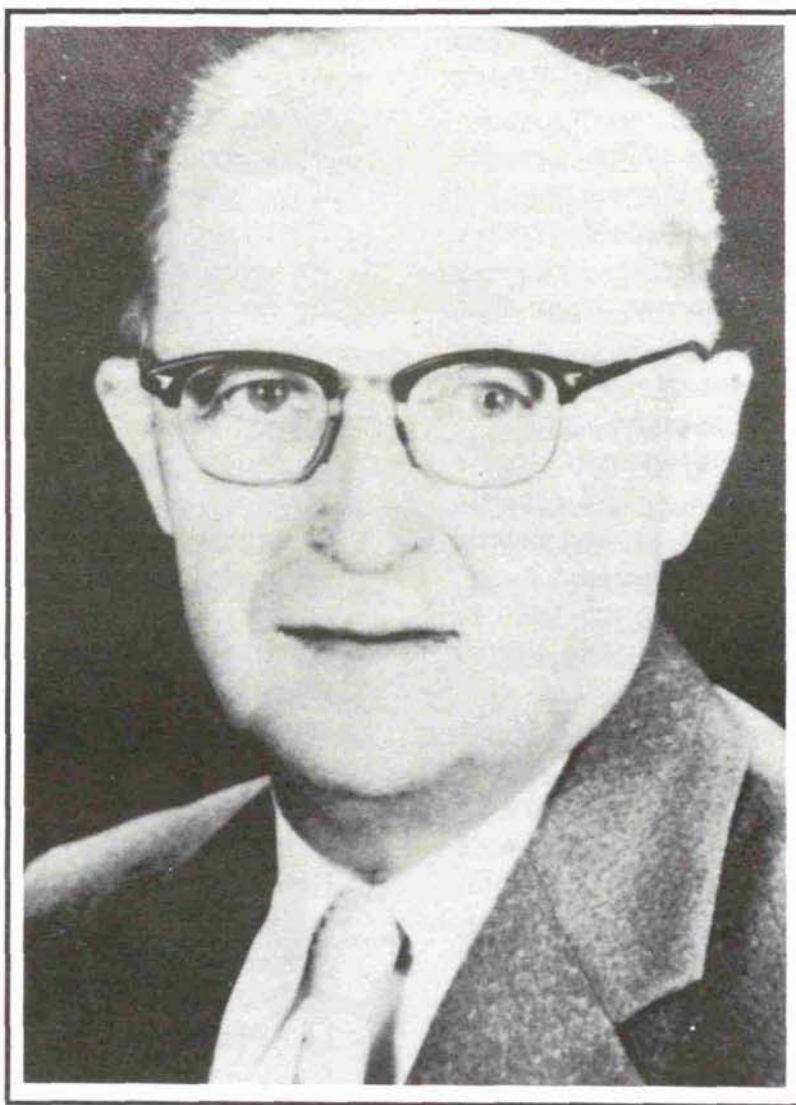


STE. AGATHE

Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

FALL 1993



Dr. Romeo J. Levesque (1898-1963)

DR. ROMEO J. LEVESQUE — RURAL DOCTOR AND BENEFACTOR

Valleyites and surrounding community people remembered their own country doctor fondly. In speaking with numerous people who knew him well and recall his home visits, he consultations, his expertise, his many acts of kindness, one cannot but be deeply touched by this humble, caring man. Following are a few

excerpts:

Mr. Rosaire Lagasse, a former school board member, remembers how he took such good care of his beloved Juliette. In the middle of winter, the good doctor would travel by horse and sleigh till roads did not permit him to ride further, then a group of neighbors went to

transport him to the ailing mother. Juliette had such faith and trust in her country doctor.

Another St. Agatha resident, Mr. Fred Marin, 90 years old, owner of the Naborhood Store for several years, has pleasant memories of Dr. Levesque. Both belong to the Union St. Jean Baptiste movement. The doctor would drop by the store and ask Fred to drive his nice big black Buick to North Caribou to a meeting. The doctor would sit contently smoking his favorite "Petit Wabons" relaxing after a number of deliveries, especially during that "temps de la lune" when babies like to come into the world. Ah! What a pair we were!

A Frenchville native, Mrs. Alma Cyr, recounted the countless hours he spent near her cherished daughter, Patricia's bedside, easing the pain of losing a child. Mr. Cyr was away fighting a war and Dr. Levesque knew how difficult it was for a war wife to cope with sickness and death. "It meant so much to me," said Mrs. Cyr. What a dear soul he was.

Mr. J. Paul Ouellette, the St. Joseph's Home Administrator, likes to tell how Dr. Levesque delivered 9 of the Ouellette brothers and sisters. He was there when my parents passed away, gently closing their eyes, asking the Lord to welcome them in heaven after a long life of labor and toil.

Mrs. Mabel Plourde, Mrs. Bernice Guerrette, Mrs. Aline Corriveau of Frenchville, tell about other good deeds he performed, how he travelled on muddy roads in the spring, how he managed to reach isolated homes in winter blizzards, never abandoning a suffering mother, an ailing child, a dying parent. He never asked much money for his services.

One could go on and on about our faithful, dispenser of healing powers. Everyone I talked to had only goodness, praise and favorable comments to relate. He died so young, after devoting his life to serve all his numerous patients in Frenchville, St. Agatha, Sinclair, Birch Point, Fort Kent and even as far as Stockholm. He had a loving family, very supportive of his medical practice. He was a pious man who liked to recite his rosary, sing in the church choir and think of Christian ideals.

Sleep well, gentle benefactor. You have

earned a deserved place in the Good Lord's paradise. Your loving family placed you where you can overlook the azure of the river, the picturesque autumn grandeur, where little ones learn and write at your namesake place, discovering all the awe and knowledge available.

Adieu!

A Tribute to Dr. Levesque by Connie Desrosier

He was a man from the land of medicine.
With humble heart, he nursed the dishearten.
Gave them strength, advice and glowing health.
Never for fame, reward, honor or wealth.
He helped so many infants come into this world.
He eased the care of the elderly, with a gentle word.

Loved and admired by people from St. Agatha,
Frenchville, Birch Point, Madawaska &
Montagne Platte.

Many miles he trodded in blizzards, stormy
nights
on muddy roads, to lonely hamlets, to cabins
out of sight.

Available all twenty-four hours, night and day.
He never dared refuse a call, they all say.
In tribute to his memory, many valley lasses
were baptized Rose-Marie, in honor of his Mrs.
Rumors indicate he was also blessed with a
resonant voice.

He loved to enrich the church choir as a matter
of choice.

A favorite son of Frenchville is he.
They named a school, a library, for thee.
In remembrance of your passage through this
vale.

For being a loving country doctor in this dale.
Where is he, this tireless dispenser of healing
powers?

He walks with God. He talks with God in this
hour.

He was a man from the land of medicine.

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER DAVID P. DAIGLE

The Town of St. Agatha now owns and operates a newly renovated waste treatment facility (originally constructed in 1968 at a cost of \$236,000).

In 1988 the Department of Environmental Protection (D.E.P.) notified the town officials of the violations which the aged facility was facing. In an effort to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act and State environmental regulations, town officials went searching for monies to fund the much needed rehabilitation of sewer lines and plant deficiencies. As a result of the search and several applications later, in January of 1991 the town received \$2,055,000 in grant funds from D.E.P., \$760,000 in grant funds from FmHA, \$277,400 in low interest loan funds from FmHA and in February, 1992 the town was awarded a \$69,000 grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development to begin the process of rehabilitating the town's Sanitary District.

Construction began in the fall of 1992 with replacement of the main line from the Town Office heading in a southerly direction to the A. Gagnon residence. In the Spring, 1993, the construction of a 5.25 mile pipeline to the receiving waters of the St. John River began. Downtown manholes were being replaced and plant upgrades were underway.

At present the District is in the process of requesting the addition of a second clarifier which would expand the capacity of the amount of gallons the plant could process. In essence, the District Trustees are planning for the future. The plant, once complete, could be modified to allow expansion of the town's sewer line.

Efforts are already underway to construct a sewer line to a business in town which provides jobs to area residents as well as injecting monies into the local economy and contributing to the local tax base.

Once the rehabilitation project is complete, Long Lake will no longer receive treated effluent from the waste treatment plant, therefore, water quality will further be improved. Effluent, after being processed at the St. Agatha Plant, will find its way to the St. John River where it will be discharged in fast moving waters and at the head of Michaud Island. At the point of discharge, the treated effluent will quickly be diluted within 500 feet of the outfall. (Studies have shown that treated effluent serves as a form of food for various species of fish.)

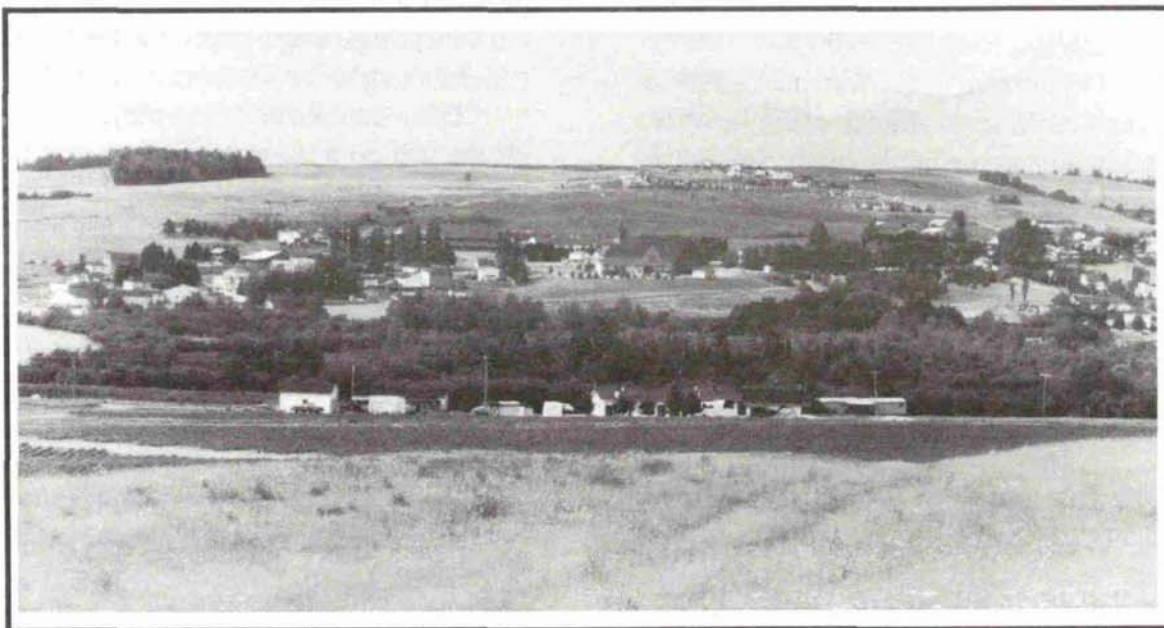
The Town Fathers wish to also mention their dedication and commitment to the continued renovation of our community's historical house. The local tradition and heritage of our ancestors are deeply rooted within the documents and artifacts of the house and the preservation of these resources are ultimately our responsibility. The Historical Society Directors have done a tremendous job of keeping track of important and significant documents and artifacts. We are encouraging you to support and visit the Historical House.

In closing, the Board of Selectmen and Sanitary District Board of Trustees wish to thank the citizens of St. Agatha for their continued patience and support during the construction season. *Merci Beaucoup a tous le monde de Ste. Agatha.*



St. Agatha Sanitary District Plant Operator Clarence Sirois, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Bob Michaud, and part-time Plant Operator Jean Guy Tardif.

WHAT'S NEW IN ST. AGATHA? by Paul Marin

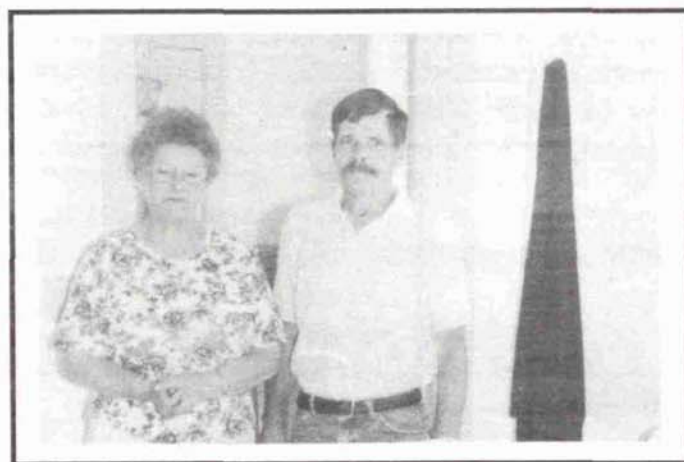


Over the years, people from here who have moved away, keep in touch, write, call, and even make it back on an occasional 4th. And when they do, the question, "What's new in St. Agatha," is a standard. And over the years, very little happened, very little changed. There is not much "of the new stuff" to report on. This past year has seen the creation of a few new business ventures. And that's what's new in St. Agatha.

A PLACE TO EAT



*Ma and Pa's Sunrise Cafe
Phil Dube, Marie Dube and, visiting from
Connecticut, Jean Paul Dube.*



*What's for breakfast?
Mathilda Ouellette and her son, Emile, who was
visiting from Connecticut.*

There are many sights of Long Lake that are perfect for picture post cards and getting people to "come back and visit". And one of those is now St. Agatha's newer (the other being the very popular Lakeview Restaurant) restaurant, Ma & Pa's Sunrise Cafe. You can't beat the sunrise nor the coffee, and the sight of Long Lake, mirror-like in the morning and full of white caps by the afternoon, is an entrancing sight.

Marie Dube, along with her sister Odile Earl, own the eating place serving home and Canadian style meals.

Marie has been involved in professional food preparation for over twenty-four years. She used to work at the Bean Pot in Hartford on Park, and worked in Berlin, N.H., La Guadeloupe and St. Ephrem in Quebec.

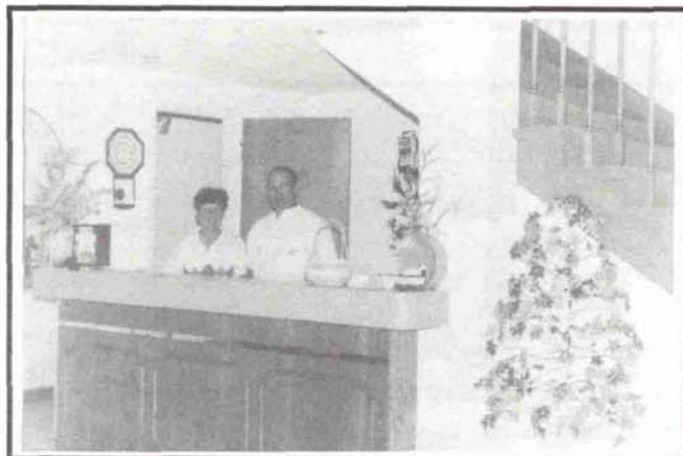
Marie loves to cook and is fond of repeating in Quebec French, "Il faut que le monde mange bien." And they undoubtedly do at Ma and Pa's. Marie says she loves to prepare food just as her customers like it. She takes pride in her varied list of pies and desserts and her crepes are tops.

The restaurant is located one mile from the village on the road to Birch Point. The building was once the home of Fred and Estelle Dube and their 13 children.

A PLACE TO STAY



Long Lake Motor Inn Entrance



*Arlene and Ken Lerman
owners of Long Lake Motor Inn*

Ken Lerman had a dream. After about twenty years, the dream has become a reality. He and his wife, Arlene, have built the first overnight accommodation establishment in St. Agatha in more than three-quarters of a century.

The business, The Long Lake Motor Inn, is a gleaming new, state-of-the-art motor lodge facing St. Agatha's beautiful Long Lake. There are 18 units, one of which being a very popular "honeymoon" suite.

The Inn sports a relaxful lounge for evening social gatherings and continental breakfasts are available in the morning. It has become a favorite stopover for tourists and sales representatives alike.

Years ago, relatives from down country visiting the folks back home had parents, grandparents, and all sorts of relatives who offered "the visit" accommodations. "You're going to stay here," insisted Mom or Memere, "and there's plenty of room for everybody. It's so nice to have you all back," Mom would say as she hugged her children's families and made preparations to start supper and mix a reunion-size batch of "ploys".

Times are that now, the older generation who parented those who sought work down country, are but fond memories and faded pictures in some family album. Yet, those who now live away, still yearn to "come back home". And for many, the family links in St. Agatha have diminished or vanished. Coming back, and seeking the roots, so to speak, remains important. And to many a returning native of this quaint village, staying at the Long Lake Motor Inn is a very pleasant way of almost "coming back home".

The Inn will no doubt be popular this winter with people coming up north to use the many fine snowmobiling trails throughout the county.

Ken and Arlene opened their doors to eager customers last May. The business provides full and part-time employment to 11 people including Doug, their son who will be attending Husson this fall, and their daughter, Amy, who is a Junior at Wisdom High. These young people were instrumental in helping Ken and Arlene achieve their dream and it is probably quite fitting that the inn's lounge is named the DougAmy Lounge.

In the early years of this century, it was possible to rent a room at one or two homes in the village. One such place, and this was probably the last such establishment until The Long Lake Motor Inn opened last spring, was the residence of Simeon and Ositee Martin. They sold to Israel Ouellette in 1906. Mr. Ouellette and his wife, Edith, sold the property to Stephen Sinclair in 1910 and in 1944, the house was bought by Joseph J. and Catherine Bourgoin. Robert and Patricia Bourgoin purchase the property in 1966 and to this day still have, "somewhere in the attic", an old door with the number 3 emblazoned on it. That door could very well be the last that welcomed a traveller overnight until one of the 18 at The Long Lake Motor Inn.

A PLACE TO CELEBRATE

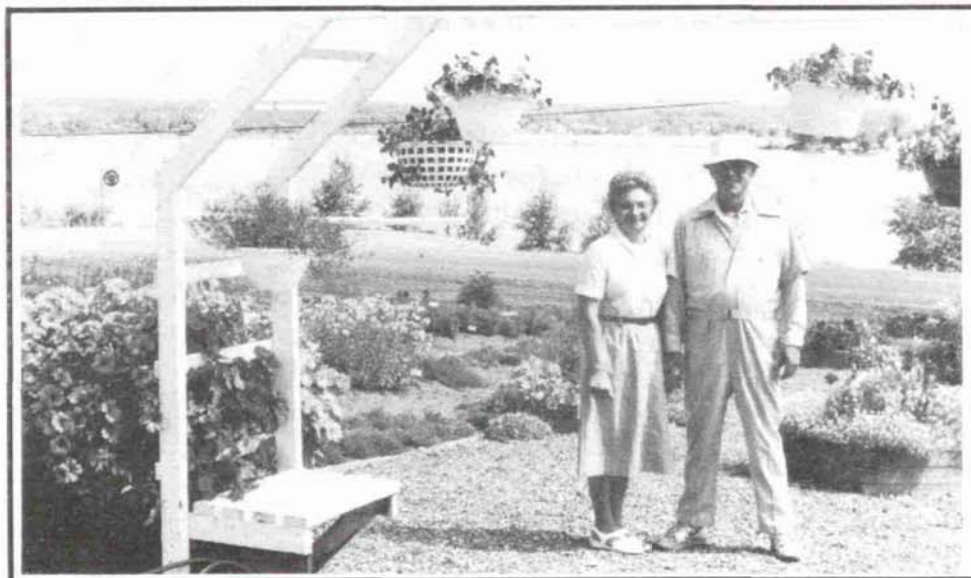


Dick & Carol Derosier, props. Lakeview Restaurant



In early September, Dick and Carol Derosier, along with about a thousand friends and friends of the Lakeview Restaurant, celebrated their 10th year in business. All tables were used and 35 picnic tables were also set up in tents on the grounds of the scenic hilltop eating place for a gigantic pig roast.

A PLACE TO STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES



Stop and smell the roses at Babe and Irma Landry's flower garden.

It wasn't in the last year that "Babe" Arthur and Irma Landry started their business, but it is such an asset to the community that not to mention it would be like not bringing a beautiful rose to one's nose.

Babe and Irma are in the business of making things prettier. Their place, by the shores of Long Lake overlooking the island, includes 2 acres of plants, shrubs, and flowers. The sun and Babe and Irma, along with fertilized soil, peat moss, lime, and manure and a balance of rain (not to mention aching backs) have turned the hillside plot into a traffic stopper. The array of color and the bright friendly smiles on this gardening couple's faces have helped to transplant beautiful plants in many parts of the country. A Boston lady started buying plants from Babe four years ago and says she has re-landscaped a churchyard in her native city.

All of Babe's plants have stood the test of at least one St. Agatha winter. Any plant that survives a St. Agatha winter will more than likely not wither almost anywhere else. Babe says that people from over thirty states have stopped at his roadside "bit of paradise" and has sold plants to people throughout the state of Maine representing 124 towns. And he can proudly corroborate this with letters and signature books.

Babe and Irma developed a love and interest in things that grow in the soil and "grace the landscape" over forty years ago. They used to live in Madawaska on upper eleventh and turned the rich soil of a cow pasture into a Sunday driver's place to see. "It's great therapy," says Babe as he turns his fingers, hand into hand, and smiles. He loves people and loves to meet new people. He doesn't mind sitting in his garage by his huge burl coffee table offering coffee and talking with customers. Whether they buy or not is not important. "Shucks," he says with a twinkle in his eye, "I used to give my plants away, anyway."

Babe and Irma went into full-time gardening when he retired from Fraser's nine years ago. Now, their busy season stretches from May 1 to October 1, sun up to sun down. Over the years, he and Irma have turned over acres of soil, hauled tons of manure, and watered thousands of plants. Irma continues to prepare clutches of beautiful dried flowers and in the off season, Babe is in his woodworking shop, making and painting lawn ornaments.

Babe says that he would like to do a little golfing. But then, he smiles as he surveys his acres of beautiful plants. He adds that he would not care to do a little fishing as he looks fondly at the lake. He prefers digging his fingers in the soil. Contentedly, he insists, "doing what I'm doing makes my day."

Publications for Sale

The History of Ste. Agathe Parish	\$10.00	Marriages de Ste. Agathe 1889-1989	\$5.00
St. Agatha Cemetery records 1889-1989	\$10.00	Ste. Luce Parish 1843-1993	\$12.00
Les champs et Les Forests	\$5.00		

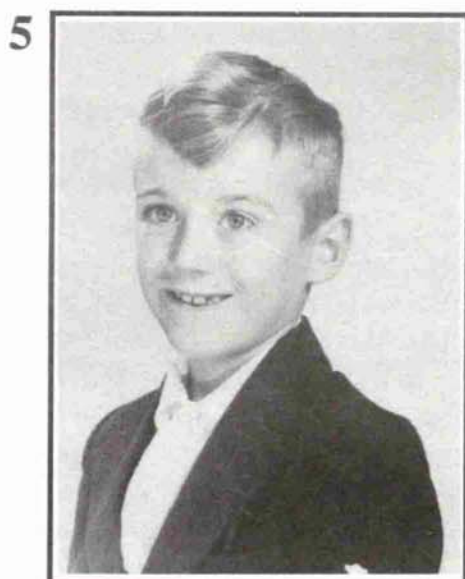
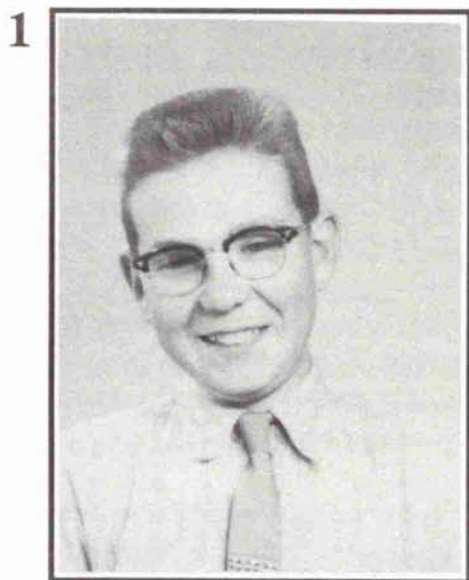
Mementos

Historical House plaque	\$10.00	Town Video	\$25.00
Sweat Shirts (white & maroon)	Reg. \$15.00	Desk Clock with Society Logo	\$15.00
	XXL \$17.50		

NOTE: Please add an extra \$2.50 for mailing costs.

Mail inquiries and requests to:
Ste. Agathe Historical Society
P.O. Box 237
St. Agatha, Maine 04772

WHO IS IT?



Answers

1. Joe Plourde
2. Patricia Gendreau
3. Gaylen Thibeault
4. Phyllis Martin
5. Sylva Guerrette
6. Shereen Thibeault
7. Alice Bosse
8. Rinette Chamberland

UN VIEUX JEU DU PASSE

by Gerry Morin

Last June, while a student in a French class, I had the pleasure of visiting several historical houses and museums in Canada. It was on one of these visits at the Site Historique de Clair, N.B. that a young guide showed us a fine example of a homemade checkerboard (un damier). He took great pride and pleasure in showing the ingenuity of our ancestors by flipping the checkerboard (damier) over to reveal a well drawn and grooved board game that he called "un barreau". The sight of that familiar board game (barreau) flooded my consciousness and recalled many fond memories of sitting around the kitchen table with my father playing this very game.

It must be over forty years ago that I learned the rules of this old game. My fond recollections were interrupted by the other participants of the course that laughed at my confession that I knew how to play this game. It was then that I realized that perhaps not everyone was as familiar with that game as I had been. It made me wonder what has happened during the last forty years. People do not play this old game anymore. It was that very day I resolved to research and find out some information about this game.

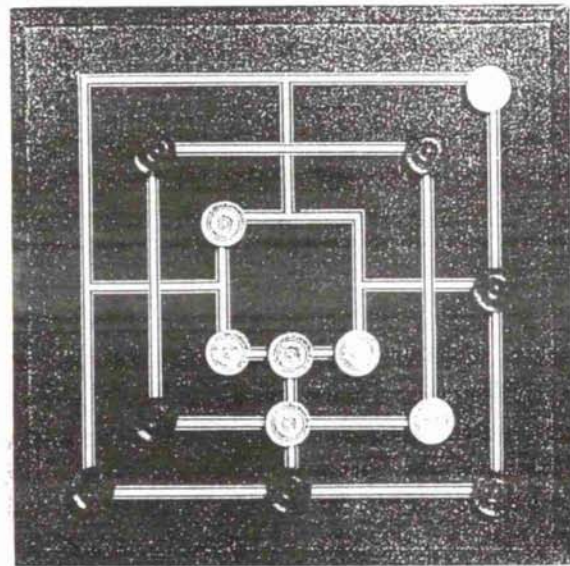
In August, with the help of an antique dealer, Mr. Lester Dumont of Grand Isle, I was able to purchase an old "damier" with "un jeu de barreau" on the opposite side. With the board and checkers in hand, I have since been teaching and playing this game with several family members and friends.

"Le jeu de barreau" is also referred to in many books as "Jeu du moulin" or in English as Nine Men's Morris. It is one of the oldest board games in the world. Examples of this game have been found in the temple of Kuma in Egypt built around 1400 B.C. A similar diagram was found on the first level of the old city of Troy. It gained immense popularity in the courts of Europe during the fourteenth century. It was brought onto the shores of North America by both the British and French explorers. Somehow some of us still enjoy the game without knowing its long and historic story.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

It is a game for two players, each having nine black or red checkers. The game is played on the twenty-four (24) points of the board. These points are the corners of the three squares and the intersections of the squares with the lines crossing their sides.

There are two parts to a game of "Barreau". First the players take turns placing a checker on any empty point of the board. In the second part, when all the checkers are on the board, a turn is taken by moving a piece to an adjacent vacant point. In both the placement and movement of the checkers, the object is to form a row of three pieces on a line or a "barreau". Every time a player makes a "barreau" he may remove one of his opponent's checkers. Unless there are no other checkers to take, a player may not take a checker from "un barreau" made by his opponent. Once a checker is removed from the board, it does not return into play. A "barreau" may be opened by moving one of the three checkers off the line, closed by returning the checker to its former position. Thus a new "barreau" is formed, and



the player is entitled to remove another opposing checker from the board.

The game is won when a player either reduces his opponent's forces to two checkers, or blocks all his opponent's checkers from making further moves.

One of the reference books on games cited a third part to this game which was new to me or that I might have forgotten that third level of playing. In the third level of playing, when a player is left with only three checkers, his moves are not restricted as before. He may "jump", that is, he may pick up one of his checkers and place it on any spot whatever on the board, whenever it is his turn to play. Thus the game has three distinct stages; placing the men on the board, moving, and jumping.

Get acquainted with "un vieux jeu du passé" and teach the game to one of your young family members to keep the history of this game alive for one more generation.

THE STE. LUCE — STE. AGATHE CONNECTION

The parish of Ste. Luce of Frenchville celebrates its sesquicentennial this year. The longevity of its existence is a product of the profound faith of its people and their determination to confront life's many challenges with perseverance and determination to survive. The people of Ste. Agathe join in the celebration and festivities of the 150th anniversary of Ste. Luce and recall a time when everyone along "Lac a Menon" received its spiritual direction from the priests of Ste. Luce. These were the days prior to their detachment from Ste. Luce and the establishment of Ste. Agathe Parish.

For many years, what we know today as Long Lake, was referred to as "Lac a Menon" after Alexandre "Menon" Ouellette who settled near the head of the lake in the mid-1800s. There are few existing sources that furnish detailed information on the very early settlement of "Lac a Menon". However, the records that have survived indicate that many people from the banks of the St. John River, in what is today Frenchville, staked claims and moved to the shores of the lake beginning in the late 1840s. Additional settlers arrived from other areas along both sides of the St. John River as well as from Quebec province.

The spiritual needs of the people of "Lac a Menon" was met by the cure of Ste. Luce. A resident pastor, Father Henri Dionne, had been appointed resident priest by the Bishop of Quebec in 1843. Father Dionne served all the settlers on both sides of the river from St. Francois to St. Basile. In 1858, on a visit to Rome, Bishop Connolly of St. John, N.B., appealed to a group of young seminary students to consider serving the missions in his growing French-speaking diocese in North America. Following his ordination, twenty-nine year old Charles Sweron, a native of Belgium, answered the call. He arrived in Ste. Luce in August, 1858, and was given responsibility for the mission of St.

Francois. Father Sweron became cure of Ste. Luce in January, 1860, following the resignation of Father Dionne due to a lingering illness.

Father Sweron served a vast geographic area. His jurisdiction included most northern Aroostook parishes as far south as Presque Isle. He visited the community of "Lac a Menon" to meet their spiritual needs. In fact, he established a small chapel along the lake to better minister to his people. The place of worship was located on Mr. Romain Chasse's land approximately one mile south of the present church building. The frequency of religious services at the chapel is unknown.

In 1888, the population along the lake had reached approximately 300 people. The desire and the need for a resident pastor increased along with the population. Growing lumber and agricultural pursuits also made it financially feasible for the people of "Lac a Menon" to support their own parish. Father Sweron was not eager to entertain the division of Ste. Luce. While the debate over the issue continued, great tragedy struck Ste. Luce. Its beautiful church building fell victim to a savage fire on May 19, 1889. The construction of a new church building was commenced immediately.

During the ensuing months, the residents of the lake continued to seek the blessing of Bishop Healy of Portland to sanction the establishment of a new parish. After a personal visit to the Valley, the Bishop gave his approval and the Parish of Ste. Agathe was born. Bishop Healy appointed Father Ernest Etenaud, originally from St. Martin, France, as pastor to the new parish. The first Holy Mass was offered on December 8, 1889 at the home of Mr. Elzear Michaud.

On this sesquicentennial year of the foundation of Ste. Luce parish, the people of Ste. Agathe are proud of their historical links to Ste. Luce.

ST. AGATHA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

OFFICE STAFF



Mary Ann Chamberlain, Manager



Phil Chamberland, Asst. Manager/Bookkeeper



Charlene Sirois, Loan Officer



Connie Cyr, Head Teller



Patty Michaud, Teller



Lise Sirois, Teller



Tammy Lou Bouley, Teller



Danielle Raymond, Secretary

ST. AGATHA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

P.O. Box 136 • St. Agatha, Maine 04772 • Phone (207) 543-7383



Major renovations to the credit union are now completed. Among the improvements recently made to the credit union facility were the construction of a drive-through teller window, new vault with safety deposit boxes, two new offices, and a ramp allowing access to handicapped members.

All of these improvements help us achieve our goal of expanding needed services and providing greater convenience for our members.

To mark the completion of the renovation project, the credit union will host a grand reopening celebration on October 24, 1993. Everyone is welcomed. If you are unable to attend that day just stop in whenever you are in the area we will be more than happy to show you around.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Director Earl McGlaughlin

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