

STE. AGATHE *Historical Society*

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2000



MONTFORT SCHOOL

1948 - 1979

The 1940's experienced a teacher shortage in St. Agatha. The problem could be traced to low wages. In fact, the town of St. Agatha went bankrupt in 1939 and remained in receivership until 1944. Teacher salaries remained low until the town of St. Agatha became solvent. In this period, the town couldn't afford to pay its teachers competitive

salaries. Teachers were taking positions in larger school districts where they taught but one grade. In response, the district hired "sanction" teachers who lacked normal school training.

In 1946, the superintendent of schools, Mr. Lawrence Violette, urged the building of a new school to help lessen the overcrowded

classrooms in the Convent District School.

Superintendent Lawrence Violette wrote in the town report of 1947 that:

"The town of St. Agatha still has seven rural schools, including the Blaine School, which is a two-room building; and four of these schools are in the back settlement. Since we needed an extra room for the beginners and part of the first grade, we were fortunate that the Sisters offered us one room in the boarding school. No rent is charged for the room, and the only expense to the town is the salary of an extra teacher. Many families have asked to have their children transferred to the Convent District, but all requests have been denied for no other reason than that the district would be too crowded by accepting other pupils. There is no hope of granting such a request until we have a new school building."

A temporary solution to overcrowding was needed and pursued.

In the fall of 1947 the town manager, the selectmen, the school committee and some members of the Chamber of Commerce, discussed the possibility of a central school in town. Such a school would have cost \$30,000 to \$40,000. The town did not feel ready to undertake such a project at this time. (From Superintendent's Report of 1947-1948).

St. Agatha had many schools to upkeep in 1947-48. Their schools consisted of St. Agatha District #1 (162 students..Sr. Denis Marie, D.W. in charge); Blaine School (67 students..Marie V. Michaud in charge); Coolidge school (17 students..Jeannine Chamberland in charge); Grant School (17 students..Juliette Michaud in charge); Lincoln School (18 students..Noella Parent in charge); Riley School (21 students..Anne Marie Ouellette in charge); Webster School (22 students..Bernadette Chamberland in charge); Wilson School (23 students..Esther Chamberland in charge); St. Agatha High School (101 students..Sr. Nathalie Marie,

D.W. in charge) St. Agatha Convent (190 students..Rev. Mother Mary, D.W. in charge).

Superintendent Lawrence Violette stated in his annual report of 1948 that Blaine School was filled to capacity and one classroom in the District School had too many students.

In 1948, while the town felt it could not afford a new school, it was Fr. Robitaille who came up with a way to build the school. This also gave him a chance to address the March, 1948 Supreme court ruling that said religion could not be taught in public schools. Rev. Emile Robitaille, pastor of St. Agatha Church, devised a plan that would take care of catechetical problems. Fr. Robitaille persuaded the selectmen to consolidate all the rural schools and locate them in the center of St. Agatha. Father sold the land for the schools to the town for the sum of one dollar. He also lent \$30,000 of parish funds to the town to move seven rural schools to the new location. It was understood that the Daughters of Wisdom would teach in the consolidated school. Religious instruction was to be provided. The school was to be located next to the convent and in front of the Church. This plan would become Montfort School.

Five of the seven rural schools were built in standard form in 1927, making them easy to connect. The names of those schools were: Coolidge, Lincoln, Riley, Webster and Wilson. Grant School was said to be of a different architectural design and not part of Montfort. It is not known for sure that these were the building actually used in consolidating Montfort School. It was rumored that one of the schoolhouses had been transferred from a location outside the town. The seventh school, Blaine School, was a two-room schoolhouse. Blaine was used to form the front of the new school facing the Church. Construction was begun and completed in 1948. The cost for the site and

building was \$34,000.

Superintendent Lawrence Violette states that:

"My schools in St. Agatha (including the rural schools) opened on August 23, 1948 and were in session for 4 weeks. We then closed the schools for potato harvest during which time we discontinued all the rural schools to consolidate. I transferred all the certified teachers to the new school and dismissed all but one sanction teacher. Hence, the reason that some teachers in the rural schools had but 4 weeks of teaching during this school year."

Montfort School was named after St. Louis Marie de Montfort, the founder of the Daughters of Wisdom. Montfort School opened its doors in October 1948. The staff consisted of several sisters and a few lay teachers:

Sub Primary: Esther Chamberland,
32 students
SP& Grade 1: Bertha Michaud(Sr. JulieMarie)
32 students
Grade 1: Yvette Bouchard
36 students
Grade 2: Corrine C. Martin (Sr. Dolores)
33 students
Grade 2 & 3: Maude Marin
29 students
Grade 3: Marie V. Michaud
34 students
Grade 4: Elsie Chasse
49 students
Grade 5: Irene Marin Michaud
40 students
Grade 6: Camille L Chasse
32 students
Grade 7: Bernice Doucette (Sr. Bertha)
38 students
Grade 8: Lucie M. Albert (Sr. Denis Marie)
25 students

The school had a seating capacity of 403. In the center of the school was a boys

room and a girls room as well as an office. The average salary of teachers at the elementary level was \$1,479.23; at the secondary level, the average salary was \$1,716.66. Most teachers at Montfort had at least 2 years of training.

In 1947, St. Agatha purchased its first school bus. Sylvio Michaud and Fred Marin went to get the bus in Cambridge, Mass. They drove the bus from Cambridge to Augusta Maine (in October) with no heat. The heat problem was repaired in Augusta and they picked up their first passenger, Joe Marin. They arrived with the uninspected bus on a rainy November 1st. The first bus driver for the 26 passenger bus was Denis Ringuette. This bus, as well as another bus and a panel truck was used to transport students to Montfort School. (Story told by Fred Marin in April 1985.)

The school continued to operate until 1953 when Superintendent Violette said that Montfort could not meet all the educational needs of St. Agatha and that a new school was needed. Land was bought in back of Montfort School and the construction of Memorial School was started. Memorial School went into operation in the fall of 1953. The expansion helped decrease the amount of students at Montfort. Some students in Sub Primary, first, second, third and fourth grade attended Memorial School.

In 1958, the Sisters decided to discontinue the private elementary school that they had maintained since 1906, because they needed to expand the high school. These students were absorbed by Montfort and Memorial School.

In June, 1964, an addition to Memorial School was approved so it could be used as a high school. So in the fall of 1965, the old Memorial School building became a Junior High School. The new addition was called Wisdom High School in honor of the sister. That same year, the convent was condemned.



Staff of Memorial School (1954 - 1955)

*L-R: Marie Michaud, Irene Michaud, Rita Collin,
Rachel Ringuette, Maude Marin & Lillian Parent*

Prior to 1965, the schools of Frenchville, St. Agatha and Madawaska were part of Union 127. With the Sinclair Act, the Union was broken up. St. Agatha and Frenchville decided to for SAD 33 in April 1964.

In 1964-65, the principal of Montfort School was Sr. Ange Marie. The school housed grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. Other teachers were Sr. Victor, Grade 8; Sr. Elizabeth, Grade 7; Mrs. Cecilia Michaud, Grade 6; Rita Collins, Grade 6; and Sr. Henry, Grade 5. Memorial School housed Sub Primary and Grade 1 through Grade 4. The custodian for both schools was Mr. Fernand Gagnon.

In 1965-66, as part of SAD 33, Montfort School's supervising principal was Melvin Labbe. One of his jobs was to coordinate the programs at both Bailey in Upper Frenchville and Montfort School. Montfort School now had Kindergarten through Grade 6. Sr. Jean Marc was the Kindergarten teacher; Mrs. Imelda Boucher,

Grade 1; Miss Marie Michaud, Grade 2; Mrs. Irene Michaud, Grade 3; Mrs. Bernadette Albert, Grade 4, Sr. Celine, Grade 5 and Mrs. Cecilia Michaud, Grade 6. The new custodian for both Wisdom and Montfort was Mr. Onezime Dumond.

This same staff continued through the 1966-67 school year, while adding a teacher's aide, Miss Lorraine Morin, as well as a clerical aide, Miss Muriel Chamberland.

1967-68 saw Mr. Omer Picard as supervising principal. Other changes included Mrs. Imelda Boucher teaching third grade, Miss Jeannine Ouellette in Grade 1 and Mrs. Theresa Ouellette as the Kindergarten teacher.

Montfort enrollment taken from the 1971-72 Census was 142 students. Montfort School had a 7 1/2 member instructional staff; 5 1/2 teacher aides/tutors and a part time secretary. Title VII was involved in Grades 1 and 2.

The breakfast program was started in 1971 while Reynold Tardif was principal.

Cost for a breakfast meal was 10 cents for students and 25 cents for staff. Breakfast and lunch was prepared and served at Wisdom. Students walked the very short distance to eat.

Having no access to a library in the 1970's, Montfort School was visited by the State of Maine Bookmobile. It would park next to the school and students could borrow books like a regular library.

During the 1970's, educational programs were shown on PBS (educational TV) and schools were encouraged to watch selected programs to enrich their curriculum. Montfort had the necessary TV hookup.

Religion was still being taught during the first half hour of the day. Students in second grade prepared for the sacrament of Holy Communion and Penance during school time.

In August, 1975, a newspaper article was printed which mentioned that Montfort School had been recently designated as one of the top 10 schools in the state needing replacement. A plea was made to the public in the local newspaper to preserve the school as a unique segment of Valley history.

By 1975-76, Montfort classes, including Grade 6, were part of the Title VII program. Teachers were asked to put in many extra hours, bilingual training and attending workshops on Saturdays. All extra work was reimbursed by Title VII. Books were written by some of the staff members as well as staff from other districts and became part of the Title VII program.

1978 was a hard year financially for the town. Evaluations rose for property owners, high inflation hit everyone, and it was a bad year for farmers. The pressure was on for curbing educational expenditures. The superintendent made extensive studies in school building needs and future enrollments. The decision was made to consolidate the elementary schools of St. Agatha and Frenchville.

During Montfort School's last year, 1978-79, the staff consisted of 7 classroom

teachers, 2 full time aides, 2 half time teacher aides, a half time school secretary, a custodian and two bus drivers. Students also received services of a music teacher, a physical education teacher and a school nurse. The last teaching staff at Montfort School was:

Grade K..Theresa Ouellette
Grade 1..Linda Bouchard
Grade 2..Helen Melvin
Grade 3..Fernande Desjardins
Grade 4..Rita Collins
Grade 5..David Hartt
Grade 6..Cecilia Michaud
Custodian..Benoit Chasse
Busdrivers..Benoit Chasse and Robert Gervais
Supervising Principal..Thomas Scott

Montfort School closed its doors in June 1979. Grades K - 6 were consolidated into the Bailey School and the Frenchville 7th graders were moved to St. Agatha Junior High. Montfort was demolished that summer and all of Montfort's students and staff were moved to Bailey School in Frenchville (now Dr. Levesque).

Having served the district as seven single schoolhouses, prepared generations of students to face the challenges of a new world and having come together under one roof to school hundreds more, Montfort School fell to the wrecker's ball in the summer of 1979. Montfort School contained a lot of history within its wall. The demolition of this school was truly a great historical loss for the town of St. Agatha.

by: Helen Melvin

Montfort School

Grades 7 and 8

1950



Front Row L-R: Anne Marie Bouchard, Therese Chamberland, Alfreda Dube, Gloria Plourde

2nd Row L-R: Louise Dumond, Dorilda Thibeault, Mathilda Dube, Louise Martin,
Sylvia Ouellette, Jeanne Sirois, Therese Paradis

3rd Row L-R: Sr. Bertha Doucette, Yvette Hebert, Laura Desrosier, (?), Florine Morin,
Bernice Lagasse, Rena Michaud, Richard "Pete" Collin, Rita Gagnon, Therese Caron

Back Row L-R: Robert Guerrette, Roger Bosse, Onias Martin, Paul Marin,
George Emile Chamberland, Robert Plourde, Guy Michaud, Fernand Albert,
Joel Marquis, Rosaire Theriault

UN GROS MERCI !!

We would like to thank the Reunion Committees of the Hebert Family, the Dube Family and the Plourde Family for their generous donations to the Ste. Agathe Historical Society this past year. The Plourde Family Reunion Committee has also contributed it's supply of Plourde Family memorabilia. Plourde Descendent Books (\$10.00) and Plourde Family Crest wall plaques (\$5.00) are available for purchase from the Ste. Agathe Historical Society, PO Box 237, St. Agatha ME 04772.

WEATHER BEATEN CROSS FINDS REPLACEMENT

On Saturday, June 24th, 2000, six Knights of Columbus, came to erect a new wooden cross in the Daughters of Wisdom Cemetery in St. Agatha, Maine. The beautiful photos themselves tell the story of their dedicated services to this worthy project.



Leaving the Dubois Residence:

Wilfred Saucier, Beurmond Banville, Gerald Dubois, Herman Sinclair, Valere Guerrette, and Allen Collin, holding the cross.

"Example is not the main thing influencing others. It is the only thing."

Project Accomplished!

*Standing: Herman Sinclair, Valere Guerrette,
Beurmond Banville, Grand Knight Wilfred Saucier.
Kneeling: Allen Collin and Gerald Dubois*



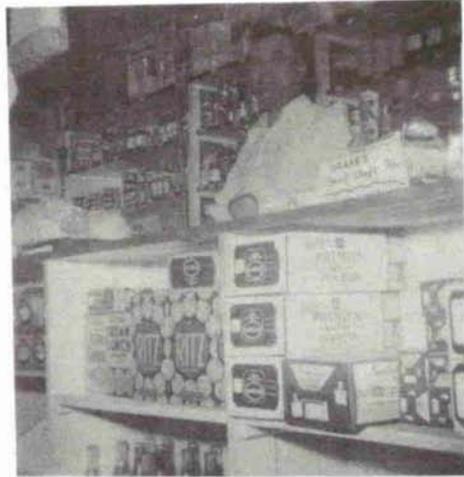
DISAPPEARING AMERICANA

by Pat (Gervais) Flynn
(la fille a Benoit et Rose Ann)

In small country towns, the General Store plays an important role in the inhabitants' daily lives. It is not only a store but a meeting place for the townspeople, young and old, to visit with each other and exchange ideas and transmit news. Many a gossip has started and ended here under the watchful eye of the local storekeeper.

At the center of my small town, about a mile from the church and the town garage, was such a store. It contained groceries, hardware, paint, clothes, and footwear for the entire family. All of this was ingeniously stacked, hung, or suspended from the ceiling, and squeezed into relatively small areas. Also available and usually set up on the wooden counter next to the cash register, were various locally produced goods. Mrs. Gervais' shallots in brine were definitely a bargain at \$1.00 a quart. They were available from May to July. In season, freshly picked sweet, wild strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries were temptingly displayed. In September, some enterprising youngster would set out glassfuls of hazelnuts for sale. Year round, and made fresh daily, were MaryJane's own "Italian Sandwiches". They had an extra helping of love in every bite. In the dry goods area, such unique articles as patchwork quilts, braided rugs, and warm woolen mittens were offered.

Mr. Fred was the owner of the store for as long as I can remember. Being also a town selectman, he was respected and looked upon as one of the influential men in town. He was short and stocky in build and pleasant and jovial in nature. The pungent smell of cigar smoke immediately greeted visitors entering his store. He always chewed on a fat cigar and was somehow able to hold a long conversation without once putting it down.



"Mr. Fred was the owner for as long as I can remember..."

Fred's wife, MaryJane was his able business partner and helper. These two were a perfect pair as she was also short, portly and very pleasant. MaryJane was an acute asthmatic and would wheeze each time she drew a breath. At times, when breathing got especially difficult, she would excuse herself and reach under the counter for some kind of medicated pump. Inserting this into her mouth, she would squeeze a few times, and after a session of spasmodic coughing, would reappear to continue her conversation. MaryJane had the reputation of being the best corseteer in the Valley. Buxom ladies from several surrounding towns would come in annually to be fitted for one of her "Spencer Corsets". This information came to me completely by word of mouth, since my mother was always very slender and never owned one.

Each night of the week, men from the town would congregate in the store to discuss the day's events, the condition of the crops, or

to generally "chew the fat". As the townsfolk came in to make their purchases, they were greeted and hung around to join in the ongoing conversation. Most were typically dressed in dark green or brown farm work clothes. The outfit was completed with a pair of heavy, muddy workboots and an occasional farmer's hat.

Children running errands for their mothers were pinched and teased as they came and left. Leonard, the tall, thin town bachelor, would hand them nickels for candy bars. Occasionally, he was engrossed in a heated discussion. The youngsters would mill around until he noticed them and produced their nickel.

certain family, they did not dare show their face at the General Store until the rumors had subsided. They knew very well that during this time, they were the "talk of the town".

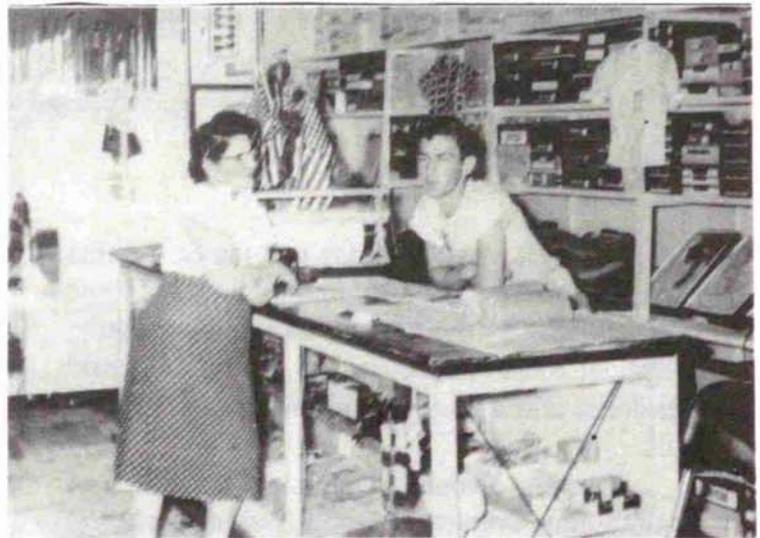
The arrival of large supermarket chains has forced most small, local stores out of business. Warmth and uniqueness have been sacrificed for efficiency and variety. Fred's Naborhood Store, however, is still thriving. Each year, my trips back to my town would not be complete without a stop at Fred's. As I walk in, I can still smell Fred's cigar. The floor still creaks as I walk around and poke here and there, stirring up memories while looking for a special souvenir to bring back. Both Fred and MaryJane are no longer there. The new owners are childhood friends, and while making my purchases, I am cheerfully filled in on the events of the past year and the current news in town.



The Naborhood Store c. 1953

There is a certain closeness and familiarity among small town folk. Everyone knows everybody else's families, ancestors, struggles, problems and secrets. There is no anonymity and most lives are like open books. Whenever a shameful misfortune befell a

*MaryJane and son, Paul Marin
1953*



DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM CELEBRATE DIAMOND JUBILEE



Pictured above L-R: Srs. Yvonne Dumond, Aurelie Michaud, Gabrielle Michaud, Solange Michaud and Rev. Michael Gendreau

The St. Agatha Parish and the St. Agatha Daughters of Wisdom Community honored these four religious for their Diamond Jubilee recently. A special Mass was celebrated by Rev. Michael Gendreau and a banquet followed in the Parish Hall.

Sister Yvonne Dumond, daughter of Antime and Yvonne Dumond, was a teacher at Ozone Park, NY. After 5 years of teaching, she was sent to Haiti where she spent the next 37 years doing missionary work. Sister Yvonne is presently doing community service at the Our Lady of Wisdom Convent in St. Agatha.

Sister Aurelie Michaud, daughter of Bill and Agnes Michaud, was first assigned to Port

Jefferson, Long Island, NY, where she cared for children and young adults with special needs. She was a nurse at the St. Charles Hospital, later known as Good Samaritan Hospital, in Long Island, NY. She spent many years caring for AIDS patients and is currently residing in Lewiston, ME, where she is involved in a new ministry at Sagesse called Women Helping Women.

Sister Gabrielle Michaud, daughter of Donat and Amanda Michaud, has spent most of her years of religious life in the health field. She was assigned to St. Charles Hospital in Brooklyn, NY and was one of the founders of the Maryview Hospital in Portsmouth, VA. When she returned to northern Maine, she was instrumental

in establishing a physical therapy department at Northern Maine Medical Center and was an instructor at L'Ecole de Formation Infirmiere D'Edmundston, N.B., Canada. Sister Gabrielle is currently involved in parish ministry in St. Agatha.

Sister Solange Michaud, daughter of Onezime and Mattie Michaud, was a teacher in the Edmundston, N.B. Catholic school system for 25 years and has been involved in parish ministry since. Sister Solange resides in Edmundston, N.B., Canada.



Leaving for Ottawa to begin their Novitiate - July 1939

L-R: Odile Dumond (Sr. Yvonne), Therese Michaud (Sr. Aurelie), Gabrielle Michaud (Sr. Gabrielle), Solange Michaud (Sr. Solange) and Rev. Emile Robitaille

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Roger Morneau got many people interested in the Concession de Montagne Platte last summer during the St. Agatha Centennial Celebration. The "Tour des Concession" pointed out the numerous families that lived in the concession during the first half on the 1900's. We, the Ste. Agathe Historical Society, are interested in publishing Roger's findings. We'd like to add pictures from the homesteads. Families that lived there included the Guerrettes, the Derosiers, the Bosses, the Chamberlands, the Thibeaults, the Theriaults, the Morneaults, the Corriveaus, the Chasses, etc. We'd like to borrow your copies and scan them for the book we're working on.

Please contact us via mail to **PO Box 237, St. Agatha ME 04772** or **<http://communities.msn.com/SteAgatheHistorical Society>**

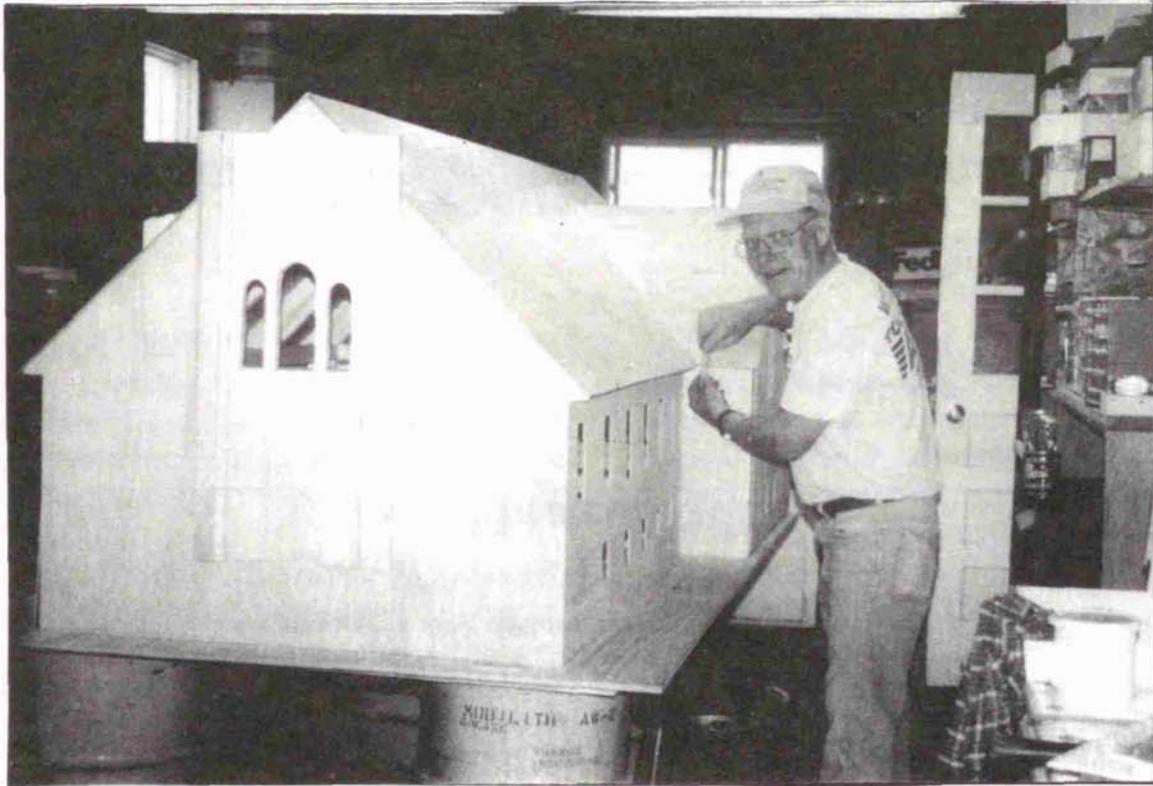
RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

When we think about the talent that is exhibited in art work, I guess it's normal to picture far away places like New York, Boston, or London. We tend to overlook our own backyard for natural talent that springs from everyday life, hard work, and seeing the beauty that lies in our daily lives.

Last summer, in the St. Agatha parade, there was a displayed reproduction of the town church. The church was recreated to scale, and made entirely by a local "tinkerer". Judging from the comments overheard on the beauty, minute details, and presentation of the reproduction, it's hard to say that talent only resides in far away places. The project was started and completed in 27 days with the craftsman working 12 to 13 hour days. Some pieces had to be remade up to 12 times in order to bring this reproduction to life.

The designer is Gerald Dubois, born in Madawaska, Maine to Paul & Marie (Clavette) Dubois. One of ten children, he was raised on and worked the family farm. It is here that his love of wood and the joy that surround the implements of everyday life would begin to blend during those days when life was close to the earth. Gerald tells me that his imagination and talent got their start because of his father-in-law (Alfred Parent of Grand Isle) who shared many of his woodworking secrets and projects with the family.

Gerald Dubois is a quiet, methodical, and patient man. He left the farm for the U.S. Army and was selected for Nike Missiles (as a radar guidance technician) during the days when Nike was the hush, hush of the military.



The replica of St. Agatha Church built to scale by Gerald Dubois for the St. Agatha Centennial celebration. A beautiful "work in progress".

He returned home to court and marry Rose Marie Parent and together they raised seven children. They lived in Connecticut for 20 years while Gerald worked as a turret lathe operator and later as a maintenance man for the Wethersfield School Department. Gerald has a varied background, having been a caretaker, Eucharistic minister, school board director, custodian, and presently is a jack of all trades (while retired) for the Daughters of Wisdom.

A visit to the Dubois house in St. Agatha is like entering a world similar to the one Gulliver found in his travels. No, there are no little people (except those designed to operate the miniature machines), but there are wooden pocket knives with working retractable blades, commodes, bureaus, quilting racks, wine racks, a large replica of a 1957 Farmall tractor, fishing boats, canoes, a 1901 Lombard log hauler (approximately 44" long), bridges, and various projects in various stages of completion, along with many new ideas on the drawing board. His workshop is neat, well organized, and constantly in use. The powers behind his creativeness are his family roots, his insightful wife, and his love of being able to transfer everyday life into wood.

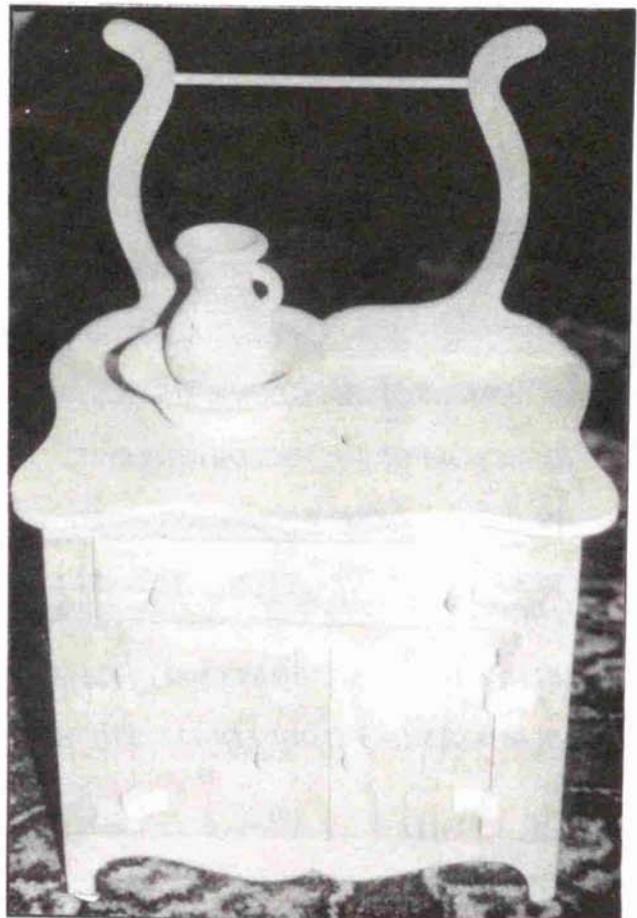
*Dry sink and pitcher and bowl.
Another of Gerald's beautiful works of art*

Nowadays, Gerald can be found working around the convent doing jobs like his "scaregull". If you don't know what one is, then you should ask the nuns how it works to keep their driveway clean. It's an angel of a project and the nuns think that they have more than one!

Gerald Dubois is a Valley product. He has Valley roots and an Acadian heart. He has seen his share of adversity but has persisted and managed to find the beauty of life in his everyday works.

We didn't have to look any further than our own backyard to find this jewel of a gentleman. We had an advantage, for he is Helen's uncle. We have known what the Valley is finding out, and that is, that he is the salt of the earth and that stems from living and being tied so close to it. He is a gift to us all.

by Bill and Helen Melvin



MEMORIAL FUND OF THE STE.AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1999 - - - AUGUST 2000 BENEFACTORS

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF HENRI MORIN: MRS FLORINE MICHAUD; MR PHILIP MORIN; MR LUCIEN DESROSIER & MRS CONNIE DESROSIER.

IN MEMORY OF: MRS MARIE(a DONAT MICHAUD) MALVERY: MRS FLORINE MICHAUD.

IN MEMORY OF MR ARTHUR ALBERT: MRS THERESE ALBERT; STAN ALBERT; MRS ALBERTINE BEAULIEU; STE AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY DIRECTORS; MR LUCIEN DESROSIER & MRS CONNIE DESROSIER.

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IN MEMORY OF MS ROLANDE ROUSSEL: MR PHILIP MORIN

IN MEMORY OF MR. HECTOR OUELLETTE: MR LUCIEN DESROSIER & MRS CONNIE DESROSIER

IN MEMORY OF MR ROSAIRE DESCHAIINE: MR STAN ALBERT

IN MEMORY OF MR GERARD CHAMBERLAND: MR PHILIP MORIN; MR STAN ALBERT; MR LUCIEN DESROSIER & MRS CONNIE DESROSIER

IN MEMORY OF EVELYN ST AMAND: MR LUCIEN DESROSIER & MRS CONNIE DESROSIER

IN MEMORY OF VALDORA OUELLETTE: MR LUCIEN DESROSIER & MRS CONNIE DESROSIER

ROSE ANN GERVAIS
2000 MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Rose Ann (Hebert) Gervais was crowned Mother of the Year for 2000 on May 13th of this year. The event began with a Mass celebrated at the St. Agatha Church and was followed by a reception hosted by les Dames de Ste. Anne in the Parish Hall, with 100 of her family and friends present.

Rose Anne is the daughter of Joseph and Isabelle (Roy) Hebert. She was born in St. Agatha on June 20, 1921, the sixth in a family of fourteen children. She graduated from high school at age 14 and started working as a housekeeper for families in the area.

At 16, Rose Anne met her future husband, Benoit Gervais. They married on October 31, 1939 in St. Agatha Church. She moved to Benoit's family homestead, where they lived for the next 61 years and where they raised their 10 children. They are Patricia (Gervais) Flynn, Jeanine (Gervais) Oniel, Joel, Simone (Gervais) Smith, Benita (Gervais) Burns, all of Connecticut, Norman, Roger and Andrew of St. Agatha, Robertine Gervais of New Hampshire and Robert of Florida.

After her family was grown, Rose Anne went to work at the age of 59. She became a nutrition aid for the Cooperative Extension Service where she worked for sixteen years.

Throughout her life, Rose Anne displayed a deep faith in God, a devotion to Ste. Anne and a great love of her family. She gave her family a strong sense of stability and is considered to be the "rock" of the family.

Rose Ann and Benoit presently have 26 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.



Congratulations Mde. Rose Anne!!!

*"As the blossom cannot tell what becomes
of its fragrance, so no one can tell
what becomes of her influence"*

REVERAND CLAUDE R. GENDREAU

On June 29, 2000 we welcomed a new Pastor to our community. Father Claude Gendreau is no stranger to our area. He was born on August 14, 1955 in Grand Isle, Maine, the son of Hervy and Lorraine (Nadeau) Gendreau. He was educated through the Madawaska School system and graduated from Madawaska High School in 1973. He worked as a baker, sales clerk, and department store supervisor for several area businesses. He also worked for Fraser Paper Limited in Madawaska from November 1975 to August 1987. He left in 1987 to enter St. Mary's Seminary and University of Baltimore, Maryland from which he received a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Religious Studies.

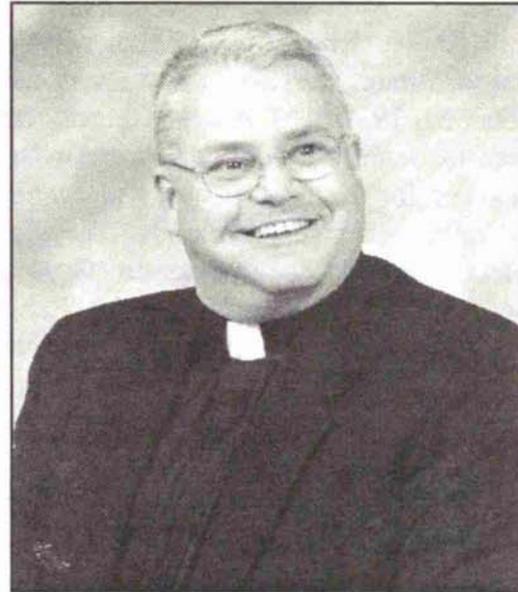
Father Claude was ordained to the Priesthood on May 29, 1992 at the St. David Church in Madawaska by the Bishop of Portland, His Excellency, The Most Reverend Joseph J. Gerry, O.S.B.

Since then, his assignments have included: Parochial Vicar to Rev. Jean Paul Labrie at St. Louis Parish, Fort Kent; Parochial Vicar to Rev. James Plourde at Notre Dame Parish, Sacred Heart Parish, and St. Francis de Sales (Parish of the Holy Spirit) in Waterville;

Pastor of St. Charles Parish in St. Francis, St. Paul Mission in Allagash and St. John the Baptist Parish in St. John. He has also served on the Council of Priests and the Clergy Personnel Board.

His most recent assignment is pastoring the newly twinned parishes of St. Agatha, St. Joseph in Sinclair, St. Michael Summer Chapel in Madawaska and St. Luce Parish in Frenchville. He also serves on the Clergy Benefit Plan Board of Trustees and the Liturgical Commission.

WE WELCOME YOU, FATHER CLAUDE!



***WELCOME OUR NEW STE. AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS
as of August 25, 2000***

Frank W. Bycenski
Allison E. Desrosiers
Philip Desrosier, Jr.
Claudelle Dufour
Jim & Therese Foster
John T. (Chip) Harris

Ronaldo & Muriel Martin
Danny J. Ouellette
Ryan & Lisa Pelletier
Gerard & Pauline Plourde
Herman & Lise Sinclair

KEEPSAKES

The following items can be ordered from the Ste. Agathe Historical Society:

Le Centenaire de St. Agatha Maine.....	\$25.00
History of Ste. Agathe Parish 1889 - 1989.....	\$10.00
Ste. Agathe Cemetery Records 1889 - 1989.....	\$10.00
Marriages of Ste. Agathe 1889 - 1989.....	\$10.00
"As Luck Would Have It" by Henry Albert.....	\$15.95
"Le Parler de Chez Nous" by Don Levesque.....	\$ 5.00
Year 2001 Calendars.....	\$ 5.00
Montagne Platte Concession Maps.....	\$ 5.00

To place an order by mail, circle each item that you would like to receive, specifying how many if applicable. Please include \$3.00 for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item to cover mailing costs and mail to :

**The Ste. Agathe Historical Society
PO Box 237
St. Agatha, ME 04772**

Name:.....

Mailing Address:.....

.....

Amount Enclosed: \$.....

Upcoming Projects

4th Quarter, 2000

The Annual Ste. Agathe Historical Society Breakfast will be held on Sunday, October 15th at the Wisdom High School Cafeteria. The theme of our breakfast this year is "Acadian Clothing". Various items from the Historical House Homestead will be on display. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and the public is invited.

In an effort to save our precious textiles, we applied for and were awarded a grant from the New Century Preservation Grant Program which is administered by the Cultural Resources Information Center (CRIC). On September 7th and 8th of this year, Deborah Bede, a textile conservation expert from the Stillwater Textile Conservation Studio in Bradford, NH, will visit our museum to evaluate the worth of our collection, as well as conduct a workshop to train us in textile care. She will help us to determine what storage materials we will need in order to store our textiles. We were very pleased to have the opportunity to take part in this very generous and important program.

Year 2001

Plans to construct our new Cultural Interpretation Center are under way. The building will be used specifically as an addition to the museum to house some of the many artifacts that we have accumulated over the years. Because of our current lack of space, many of our treasures are now stored away, making them inaccessible to our visitors.

The estimated cost for this project is \$63,000.00. We are now in the process of applying for grants in an effort to secure the funds needed to start construction.

Ste. Agathe Historical Society Board of Directors

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Vice President.....Gloria Gervais
Treasurer.....Philip Morin
Secretary.....Constance Desrosier

Directors

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Judy Chamberland
Lucien Desrosier
Gerald Dubois*
Jackie Michaud
Roger Morneault*
Carole Plourde
Fernand Sirois
*Newly elected

We wish to thank our outgoing Board members, Dave Daigle and Karen Michaud, for all their help and support during their term on our Board.

**The Ste. Agathe Historical Society
PO Box 237
St. Agatha, ME 04772**

Please visit us at our new website:

**[http://communities.msn.com/
SteAgatheHistoricalSociety](http://communities.msn.com/SteAgatheHistoricalSociety)**



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