

The Voyageur
John T. Rivard
RR. 2 No. River Rd.
St. Cloud, Mn. 56301
Phone (612) 253-2199
March 12, 1979

CALLING FRENCHPERSONS AND OTHERS INTERESTED:

You are the recipient of this letter because your name was submitted as an enthusiastic person interested in organizing a French Club in Minnesota.

At present there is no French Club that appeals to every segment of society. Let us get together and form such an organization. Your input will be a definite asset for organizing and maintaining the viability of such an organization.

A meeting of those invited will be held at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave, St Paul, on Monday, March 19, at 7:30 PM. The Institute is located across the street from the State Fairgrounds.

At this meeting we will define the purpose of the organization, compose a constitution and form an organization. We are fortunate in having the experience and expertise of the Institute to aid us in initiating a solid and durable society. The International Institute fosters some forty nationality organizations of long-standing accomplishments.

Like all ethnic groups, we believe we have a rich heritage which must not be lost or forgotten. We believe that our French Heritage has given a substantial contribution to our great country. Let us glory in that contribution. We must retain and appreciate more fully our heritage for our own personal benefit and for the benefit of our American society.

We French also have the opportunity of participating in the Festival of Nations in May 4-5-6 at the Civic Center in St Paul sponsored by the International Institute. Almost every nationality in Minnesota will be represented. Plans are being made to have French participation.

Only twenty five invitations are being mailed for this first meeting. It has been advised that we start small and grow step by step into a statewide group.

We hope to see you March 19th.

Amitié,



John T. Rivard
R. 2 No. River Rd.
St Cloud, Mn. 56301

P.S. Your spouse is most welcome.

LA SOCIÉTÉ
canadienne-française inc

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15 October 1979

NOUS APPELONS TOUS LES CANADIENS-FRANÇAIS ET CEUX QUI SONT INTERESSÉS:

To: A GRAND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

At: St. Louis Parish Hall, 506 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota

On: Monday, November 5, 1979 at 7:30 p.m.

Nos Chers Amis:

We have organized an incorporated society with a duly approved Constitution, By-Laws, Board of Directors and officers, as listed below. Since March 1979 we have held several meetings of prospective members and have had many board meetings so as to start a society with a solid foundation that will endure.

Our Constitution boldly states our purpose:

"The purpose of this corporation shall be to provide a resource and educational assembly for the use of people of French-Canadian descent and those interested in French-Canadian culture, history and heritage; to promote fellowship, mutual aid and understanding; to ascertain, preserve and promote French-Canadian cultural values and traditions."

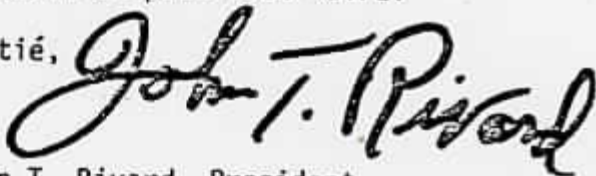
We are proud of the heritage handed down to us by our ancestors. We want to preserve the most essential values for ourselves, our children, and for our country. The French from Canada were the first to explore and settle in Minnesota. We do not want to be the first to forget nor the last to remember our glorious past.

AN EXCITING EVENING awaits you November 5th! Mr. Gary Hiebert (Oliver Towne) will regale us with his vast resources of ethnic lore, especially French-Canadian. Gary is the "Ethnic Champion" of Minnesota. He has written outstanding columns for the St. Paul Pioneer Press-Dispatch for over 25 years. "Les Joyeux Baladins" have appeared at the Festival of Nations and other events in Minnesota and Wisconsin. They will sing some French chansons that you will remember from childhood. After the entertainment, wine, coffee and cookies will be served. Please come and bring a friend!

Parking is available at the rear of the church.

Ensemble on peut tout faire.

Amitié,



John T. Rivard, President

Rivard, Pres.
Madeline Roche, Vice Pres.
Lucille Ingram, Vice Pres.
Seraphine Byrne, Treas.
Evelyn Lund, Asst. Treas.

1401 Circle Terrace Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55421
612/788-0095

Catherine Rivard, Sec.
Dorothy Landry, Sec.
Ralph Germain
Mae Mitchell
George LaBrosse

chez nous

Newsletter of

La société canadienne-française

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No.1 Vol.1

Le président parle John Rivard

AVRIL 1980

Every organization must have a "raison d'être." We have an excellent one - to gather in assembly and rejoice in our French Canadian heritage. We have so much to remember and retain from our parents, grandparents, forefathers and foremothers. It must not be lost nor forgotten, lest we betray the riches given us with the implied command that we pass it on to future generations.

In "Roots", that famous television show, one of the strong mothers said to her son, "Son, if you don't know where you came from and what you have inside of you from those who came before you, you cannot dream of still greater things to be done in the future." A living person is one who has the past and the future wrapped up within . He must use the leverage of the past to forge a new and more wonderful progress.

Our organization must marshal our collective abilities to preserve and promote all the good qualities of our past. For this purpose we have a Constitution to guide us and to direct our efforts, otherwise we tend to run off in all directions without purpose or definite goals. It is the duty of the President to point out and keep on track the various activities of the Society in the search for reaching the goals set by the Constitution and By-Laws.

For the above reasons you can see why the work of the committees is so important. The committees do the spade work and nurture the activities; after that they execute and implement the functions of their planning.

We will proceed joyously together to make our SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE one of the liveliest and most productive societies in the state. "Ensemble on peut tout faire!"

NOUS SOMMES NÉS ***

LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE was born on May 4, 1979, after many months of hard work, careful planning and several initial meetings led by John Theophile Rivard. The Constitution and By-Laws were written by John, Catherine Rivard, Madeline Roche and Ralph Germain, who slaved over these documents with praise-worthy devotion. The Constitution and By-Laws were adopted on May 4, 1979, and a Board of eleven Directors was elected. The first membership meeting of the SOCIÉTÉ was held at St. Louis Parish Hall, 506 Cedar Avenue, downtown St. Paul, on November 5, 1979. Guest speaker was well-known columnist Oliver Towne, who spoke on the history of the French Canadian with proper reverence and engaging wit.

Regular membership meetings of LA SOCIÉTÉ are held on the first Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at St. Louis Parish Hall. LA SOCIÉTÉ presently boasts a membership of 108 persons, and growing!

Chez nous. It means "our house" or "our place", and it connotes warmth, congeniality, familiarity, and support.

LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE believes in these things; we have based our foundation on them. Please come and see for yourself the many wonderful things this group can offer you.

Most of us speak only English, read only English, write only in English. Our heritage as Americans has become basically English. We have studied American and world history through English eyes. England's friends and foes have been our friends and foes. English fears have been our fears, their law our law.

Unfortunately, there is much in history that is not written in English but in the other languages of the world. Most Americans have remained in ignorance of this history. American historians have not had the linguistic ability or resources to research the archives at Quebec, at Paris, at Madrid, at Moscow, and elsewhere to translate handwritten documents that would shed much additional light on early American history. Most Minnesota historians will sum up all of the French exploration and settlement efforts in a few paragraphs in the opening chapter of their books.

In all honesty, of course, even the French Canadians were far from being the first settlers. But let us now put everything into proper perspective. First there is the little known prehistoric period of Minnesota history, from the beginning of the world until a few centuries ago. Then there were those who have Indian heritage. Then - possibly - the Vikings, if the Kensington runestone should some day prove to be a true artifact. But then, for sure, the French Canadians, in 1679 - some believe that even earlier, 1620 or so, Etienne Brule, the Daniel Boone of French Canadians was at the head of the lakes. And finally, the arrival of the English and Americans from perhaps 1790.

Our purpose is to sum up a story of a heroic age and people who were our forefathers. The history of French Canadians in Minnesota is impossible to tell without a look at their background and the forces both in France and New France which shaped them. The earliest French arrivals appear to have been fishermen who exploited the great Newfoundland cod banks. Fish was the great Lenten staple of medieval times and the French and the Basque fishermen - somehow - discovered the American cod source. Slowly they came in contact with the Indians, and stories, often untrue, of gold, mineral wealth and furs began to circulate in France. The Portuguese by now had discovered the route around Africa to the Far East and its riches. Columbus was traveling west and had landed in the islands of the Caribbean. The French heard stories of the great St. Lawrence gulf from their fishermen and thought followed that perhaps here was the passage to the Far East....

To be continued.

IN REMEMBRANCE

We are saddened to note the passing of Alma Dubois Rivard, the beloved mother of our President, John Rivard. Mrs. Rivard passed away on February 22 at the age of 93. She was the oldest native-born person in Turtle Lake, Wisconsin and the wife of Louis Honoré Rivard, who died in 1955. Alma Rivard is survived by one brother, three children, 17 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

Sister Claire Germain, librarian of the St. Croix Catholic Schools, was an enthusiastic member of LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE. On January 7, 1980, Sr. Claire was injured in a fall and on January 25 passed away at Crookston, Minnesota. She was 64 years old. Sister Claire was 100% French Canadian, and is survived by her father, six brothers and three sisters.

To the families and friends of these dear ladies, LA SOCIÉTÉ extends its deepest sympathy.

potpourri

The Festival of Nations is coming up! LA SOCIÉTÉ will, of course, be there to represent the French Canadians. We will participate in the bazaar, the educational exhibit, the food booth, and the entertainment program. Volunteers are needed for all of these areas, so please call Chairperson Francine Roche at 755-5936 if you can spare some time. The hours of the Festival are:

Friday, April 25 - 4 p.m. to midnight
 Saturday, April 26 - 11 a.m. to midnight
 Sunday, April 27 - 12 noon to 8 p.m.

Tickets for the Festival will be available through LA SOCIÉTÉ for \$3.75. At the door you must pay \$4.50. LA SOCIÉTÉ will benefit if you buy them in advance, so please try to get your tickets early. More information on this will be available at the April 7th membership meeting.

The Festival will be wonderful exposure for LA SOCIÉTÉ - about 75,000 people pass through the St. Paul Civic Center during those three days! Most people will be hearing about us for the first time. Help spread the word - and bring a friend!

Suggested Reading:

White and Gold by Thomas Costain
High Towers by Thomas Costain
History of Canada by B. G. Creighton
Voyageurs and French Canadians in the Minnesota Territories and Other Travels by Grace Lee Nute

These delightful items are available for sale at our regular membership meetings:

Sash	\$6.00 member
	\$6.50 non-member
Fleur de Lis pin	\$4.50 member
	\$5.00 non-member
C'est La Vie T-shirt	\$4.00 members
	\$4.50 non-members
Charter Member Button	\$1.00

Don't miss April's General Membership meeting! Francine Roche will lead us in a sing-along. Francine's beautiful voice is an inspiration. Come on April 7th, St. Louis Parish Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Recette

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Traditional Meat Pie * Tourtiere

1 lb. ground pork (not lean)
 1 small onion, diced
 1 small garlic toe
 ½ tsp. salt
 ¼ tsp. celery salt
 ¼ tsp. cloves
 ½ cup water



Combine all ingredients and bring to boil. Set on low heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Remove from heat, skim excess fat. Cool mixture. Pour into pie shell and cover with crust. Bake in oven at 500 til crust is golden brown. Serve hot. These pies can be frozen and easily reheated.

"DO THE LOVING THING"

I wondered how to show my love
 To you and a world full of division;
 I've found the key I'm thinking of,
 This is my philosophy and my religion...

Do the loving thing at the moment that we meet
 Say the loving thing at the moment that we greet.
 Our love should not be planned,
 Nor run by rules and laws,
 Just let it be as it happened
 Today, tomorrow or just because.
 Let's walk that extra mile,
 Let's give that lifting smile,
 Let's just love everyone
 From east and west and under the sun.
 Do the loving thing at the moment that we meet,
 Say the loving thing at the moment that we greet.
 We'll love and give together
 Without sifting, without measure;
 Forget that eye for an eye,
 Seven times seventy is what we'll buy.
 Let's give the shirt from off our back,
 Let's give bread to those who lack,
 Let's reach out to friend and foe,
 Let love happen, let it go.
 Do the loving thing at the moment that we meet,
 Say the loving thing at the moment that we greet.

Written by John Rivard in dedication to his mother's memory.

Sunshine Club. Lucille Ingram will be sending cards or flowers to those members who are ill, have just lost a loved one, or to recognize other family occasions. Please call Lucille if you know of anyone who would benefit from this service. 533-0890

LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE is a non-political organization; nonetheless, we wished to express our thanks, as a group, to the Canadians who returned to freedom some American diplomats being held in Iran. On March 3, a letter of appreciation was sent to the Canadian Consul, George E. Blackstock. Last week we received this reply:

"This brief note is to say thank you for your recent letter about the part Canada played in the events in Iran. The kind thoughts and good wishes of the LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE is very much appreciated by all of us here at the Canadian Consulate.

We would like you to know that we will be sending your letter on to Ottawa to those who were directly involved in helping to secure safe passage out of Iran for the American diplomats.

I am sure that our two countries will continue to help each other in times of need and will maintain the close and harmonious relationship that has existed for such a long time.

Yours sincerely,

George E. Blackstock
 Consul and Senior Trade
 Commissioner"

Le calendrier 6

APRIL

7 General Membership Meeting
 St. Louis Parish, 7:30 p.m.

25, 26, 27 FESTIVAL OF NATIONS
 St. Paul Civic Center

MAY NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JUNE

2 General Membership Meeting
 Annual Elections of Board of
 Directors - St. Louis Parish

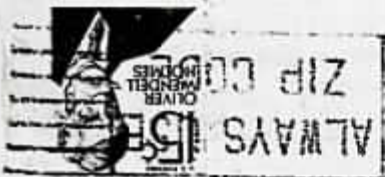
24 Ste. Jean Baptiste Day

Board of Directors

John Rivard	Catherine Rivard
Madeline Roche	Ralph Germain
Chelle Stone	Mae Mitchell
Evelyn Lund	Dorothy Landry
Seraphine Byrne	Lucille Ingram
George LaBrosse	

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President	John Rivard	1-253-2
Social	Justa Cardinal	776-5087
Historical	George LaBrosse	455-3128
Cultural/Educational	Francine Roche	755-5936
Membership	Evelyn Lund	789-7051
Financial	Seraphine Byrne	226-2233
Publicity	Catherine Rivard	874-8698
Newsletter	Catherine Rivard	874-8698
Sunshine Club	Lucille Ingram	533-0890



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LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE
 1401 Circle Terrace Blvd.
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55421

CHEZ NOUS

Newsletter of

La société canadienne-française

No. 2 Vol. 1

Le président parle John Rivard

JUIN 1980

This is our second edition of CHEZ NOUS. I want to congratulate our Public Relations Committee led by Catherine Rivard for the very first edition of April 1980. The newsletter will keep us informed of events, future projects and articles on history, traditions and customs of our French-Canadian heritage.

I want to thank and congratulate the chairpersons and the workers for their excellent performances at the Festival of Nations held in St. Paul on April 25, 26 & 27. We were well represented in almost every feature. The Joyeux Balladins sang to the delight of the crowd. The food booth served heritage food and we made a little money - thanks to the excellent cooperation of The Canada Club. They graciously took us in on a fifty/fifty basis, even though they were not obliged to do so. We thank Mr. Don Bins, President of The Canada Club and his worthy cohorts for their kind consideration. Lucille Ingram and her co-workers did a fine job in the Food Market. Seraphine Byrne and her co-workers erected a nice booth at the Bazaar and sold many souvenirs to help advertise our heritage and our Société. They helped fill our treasury with much-needed money.

Francine Roche, chairperson for the Exhibit Booth, traveled to Winnipeg in February to attend the Voyageurs Days with Lucille Ingram. While there she engaged the services of Dennis Raby, a woodcarver of great note. He appeared at the Festival in the exhibit booth and jiggled away with great abandon to the astonishment of the people. We want to thank sincerely Mr. Jerry Foley of the Canadian Consulate in Minneapolis, for his financial help in bringing Mr. Raby to St. Paul.

The Société wishes to thank Catherine Rivard, chairperson of the Public Relations Committee for her valiant efforts in attending the Third Annual Franco-American Conference in Lafayette, Louisiana in March. She made many valuable contacts with other Franco-Americans from the whole nation. We will become affiliated with the national group and thus have a national identity.

I have issued special instructions to the six standing committees of the Société for their consideration. I want to congratulate the committees on their work thus far. Several have had meetings and have projects on the way. They will be reporting news and events in CHEZ NOUS from time to time.

The Société will take part in the tricentennial of Father Louis Hennepin's discovery of St. Anthony Falls in 1680. We will cooperate with the organizations involved in some capacity not yet determined. The Father Hennepin days will be in the latter part of June and the first part of July in Minneapolis.

When we are more widely known in the state, we will then be able to present our history and heritage to the people of the nation. Therefore it is incumbent upon us to continue to seek, research, preserve French-Canadian facts and history for authentic presentation to the citizens of America. We were the first ones here and we are going to let everyone know it!

** Dues for our organization's membership to the new national group, Assemblée des Franco-Américains (AFA) have been paid and we are now officially associated with them.

Rapports du comité

SOCIAL - Justa Cardinal

The Social Committee is in need of about 12 persons to help with programs and food for the general membership meetings. Duties would be assigned on a rotating basis, so the load would not fall heavily on any one person. Please call Justa if you can spare a few hours every so often. 776-5087.

CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL - Francine Roche

Thanks to all who worked the Festival of Nations in the Exhibit Booth.

HISTORICAL - George LaBrosse

Thanks to Mrs. Beaudoin for presenting LA SOCIÉTÉ with an Associate Membership to the State Historical Society.

The Historical Committee hopes to continue meeting at the Little Canada City Council chambers on the 2nd of each month.

Work will begin soon to recognize and identify French Canadian landmarks in our area.

PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS - Catherine Rivard

Publicity/Public Relations Committee requests input from committees and general membership for the CHEZ NOUS, which is put out every other month. Next issue will be out at the end of July. Please call Catherine if you have any notices, reports, stories, etc. you would like to see printed. 874-8698.

MEMBERSHIP - Evelyn Lund

Membership hopes to have a roster of members' names and addresses in the near future.

FINANCE - Seraphine Byrne

LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANCAISE

beginning balance: \$139.58
revenue: \$2312.90
expenses: \$2130.40
New balance: \$322.08

The above reports took place at Sera Byrne's house on May 19, 1980.

The Board as a whole voted for LA SOCIÉTÉ participation in the several summer festivals mentioned in the POTPOURRI column, and chairs were assigned by the president.

L'HISTOIRE

The first French explorers did not arrive in great numbers, but they were true pioneers. Behind them they left their names, from the Great Lakes to the Appalachian mountains, and up and down the great Mississippi. Their language remained and grew in many parts of the continent, and in some of these areas is still strong and flourishing. Other countries sent explorers to hidden regions of North America, but the French were the first Europeans to see America's interior; the French discovered the Mississippi, and founded some of our greatest cities.

The kings of France at first did not care to colonize the new world. What they hoped to find was a passageway to the Orient. This, they believed, was to be found by way of a water route through or around the North American continent. The resulting fur trade brought the new lands out into the light and opened the doors to America's middle west. Word of the beauties to be found there spread, enticing adventurous men out of the Old World and into the new.

Jacques Cartier, in 1534, began one of three voyages under orders from Francis I. Accompanied by 62 men and two ships, he sailed into the new world in search of gold and other riches, among them a Northwest Passage. He arrived in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence and claimed the land for France. Another trip the next year brought him to the future site of Montreal. The elusive N.W. Passage remained hidden from him; so did gold and riches, though he returned a third time in search of these things. Instead, he brought back to France a shipload of iron pyrites and quartz crystals which he mistook for jewels. His voyages were successful, though he may not have thought so at the time in his disappointment over uncovered fortunes: Jacques Cartier founded New France, opening the doors to a vast wealth of natural resources for fellow explorers who were to come after him; and left a seed of a rich culture to take root and grow.

To be continued...

potpourri

SUMMER FESTIVALS:

Soup Days - Somerset, Wisconsin
June 20, 21, 22

LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE' 1st Annual St. Jean Baptist Picnic - to be held during Pea Soup Days in Somerset. Tables will be set up for our group - bring your own picnic! Car pools will be arranged and details explained at June 2 Membership Meeting. Picnic will be Sunday, June 22. Call Ralph Germain for more information. 439-7087.

Old St. Anthony Heritage Festival - June 28 and 29. Ethnic arts, food and crafts. Special commemoration of the 300th anniversary of Father Hennepin's discovery of St. Anthony Falls. Festival takes place all day Saturday and Sunday, special commemoration ceremony is at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 28. LA SOCIÉTÉ will have a membership table at the Festival and will be selling our usual items. Volunteers needed for membership booth - call Catherine Rivard, 874-8698. Events will take place along the riverbank by the French Church and Main Street.

Canadian Days - Little Canada. August 8, 9 and 10. LA SOCIÉTÉ will be participating. Details at next meeting (June 2). For information, call Justa Cardinal, 776-5087.

Francine Roche has been elected official representative for LA SOCIÉTÉ at the Rencontre des Peuples Francophones workshops and festival in Quebec City July 2-6.

Many thanks to Reine Tupper of the La Canadienne shop in Rochester for contributing French Canadian items of interest for our exhibit booth at the Festival of Nations!

Our gratitude is extended to Mrs. Grace Beaudoin who presented LA SOCIÉTÉ with Associate Membership to the State Historical Society. This will insure the SOCIÉTÉ's listing in the statewide and national directories. Thank you!

LA SOCIÉTÉ is looking for a room or space where we can begin to collect our library materials for safekeeping and use by our general membership. Anyone knowing of a space that can be rented or donated for this purpose, please contact George LaBrosse at 451-6215.

The newly formed Historical Society chapter of Little Canada is at work recording the records of the cemetery. A plaque will be erected in honor of the first French persons buried there. The stones date from before 1820. Members of LA SOCIÉTÉ are helping with this project.

Suggested reading: THE CAJUNS - William Faulkner Rushton.

ST. JEAN BAPTIST DAY - June 24

The St. Jean Baptist festivities came to us from French settlers of the 17th century as they began to inhabit the banks of the St. Lawrence River. Originally this day was in celebration of the summer solstice - the shortest night of the year - and this was marked by the lighting of fires.

The first fires of the St. Jean Baptist date back to 1636, and continued on through the years accompanied by religious ceremonies. St. Jean Baptist Day for a long time was not of patriotic significance. First - it was the feast of the patron saint, and a celebration of the descendants of the early settlers. In 1834, it was recognized as the national day of pride for the French Canadians.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

PRESIDENT	John Rivard	1-253-2199
SOCIAL	Justa Cardinal	776-5087
HISTORICAL	George LaBrosse	455-3128
CULTURAL/ EDUCATIONAL	Francine Roche	755-5936
MEMBERSHIP	Evelyn Lund	789-7051
FINANCIAL	Sera Byrne	226-2233
PUBLICITY	Cat Rivard	874-8698
NEWSLETTER	Cat Rivard	874-8698
SUNSHINE CLUB	Lucille Ingram	533-0890

Je me souviens

As years add up along life's span, sweet memories are the flowers in the scan! One of these memories was my grandmother's crepes. She lived with us for a few years after her husband passed on, and she too passed on when I was eight. Memere, as we called her in French, used a large heavy black cast iron skillet, on the black iron stove centered against the chimney in our kitchen. The recipe was kept in her memory bank - a forerunner, I'm sure, of today's computer. It held many facts at her fingertips. Remedies for aches and ails, advice, solutions to problems, and solace for those in need. She put in the milk, eggs, and flour in the proper proportions, all measured by feel, I'm sure. The skillet had to be at the proper heat - regulated by gamble and luck, on the wood burning stove, and slid back and forth to warmer and cooler spots. Often a crepe was for the neighbor's chickens - who often roamed in your yard. The chosen crepes for us were golden brown, plate size and very thin, spread with fruit or maple syrup, rolled into a log and sliced cross-wise like miniature slices of jelly-roll. MMMmm...they were so good! Often in summer she took me by the hand, and we went down the hill to the woodsy area by the meandering stream, and picked wild blueberries and raspberries, which she would chill and sprinkle with sugar onto the crepes. Crepes were an "any meal" treat.

Sweet memories recall pleasurable times, they linger-and then leave you with warmth and smiles. How times have changed! The thermostat! The commercial sack! The prepared foods, frozen fruits! Now the busy grandma often needn't give a hoot...It's all there ready in the store booth.

Justa A. Cardinal

Le calendrier

JUNE

- 2 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
St. Louis Parish Hall, 7:30 p.m.
BOARD ELECTIONS
 - 2 Meeting of the Board, directly after Membership meeting.
 - 22 1st Annual St. Jean Baptist Picnic - Somerset, Wisconsin
 - 28 & 29 Old St. Anthony Heritage Festival
Riverfront area
- NO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST

JULY

- 5 & 6 St. Anthony Tricentennial -
Riverfront area

AUGUST

- 8, 9&10 Canadian Days - Little Canada

SEPTEMBER

- 1 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
St. Louis Parish Hall, unless notified otherwise, 7:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Rivard	Catherine Rivard
Madeline Roche	Ralph Germain
Chelle Stone	Mae Mitchell
Evelyn Lund	Dorothy Landry
Seraphine Byrne	Lucille Ingram
George LaBrosse	

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LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE - FRANÇAISE
1401 Circle Terrace Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55421

chez nous

Newsletter of

La société canadienne-française

No. 3 Vol. 1

Le président parle

auguste 1980

I am writing this article at my cottage on Lake Wopagasset in Wisconsin where I am living this summer. As I gaze out at the peaceful scene of lake, sky and trees, I am reminded that the first men to discover this lake and La Pomme de Terre Riviere near here were Frenchmen from Canada. This summer La Société Canadienne-Française was well represented at the Tricentennial of the discovery of St. Anthony Falls. I portrayed Father Louis Hennepin at the first event on June 28th at St. Anthony Main Street. We had a booth and our First Vice President, Catherine Rivard, regaled the crowd about the existence and purpose of our society. We had a picnic during Pea Soup Days at Somerset, Wisconsin, in June.

During the coming fall and winter we will concentrate on expanding and intensifying our committee projects and make plans for more participation in events next summer that will be showcases for the presentation and reminder to the people of today that we have a great history and heritage.

- John Rivard

* FATHER HENNEPIN REMEMBERED AT OLD ST. ANTHONY HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Father Louis Hennepin -- the real one -- died in Rome in 1701, but he rose again in the form of John Rivard at the Old St. Anthony Heritage Festival June 28 and 29. The Festival, which is an annual ethnic, arts and crafts event on the riverfront area of Minneapolis near the French church of Notre Dame de Lourdes, this year focused its attention on the tricentennial of the sighting of St. Anthony Falls in 1680 by Father Hennepin.

An hour-long commemoration took place on an outdoor stage across from Pracna on Main, and guests invited by the Merchants of Old St. Anthony to contribute to the commemoration included Minneapolis Police Chief Anthony Bouza, Aquatennial President Fred Dresser, The Minneapolis Police Band with Captain Wayne Hartley, The Minnesota Jazz Ensemble, emcee Bob Lurtsema, Congressman Martin Sabo, Catherine Rivard, Father Alan Moss of Notre Dame de Lourdes, John Rivard, and others. Marie-Reine Mikesell, regional Vice President of the Assemblée des Franco Américains, visited Minneapolis especially for the commemoration ceremony, and joined the others on the platform where she congratulated Minneapolitans for their love of history and their dedication to its preservation.

Festival coordinator Charleen Bacigalupo generously arranged for La Société Canadienne-Française to share in the ceremony by inviting John Rivard to act as official historian for the day, and this he did, with his usual zeal; thus hundreds of festival-goers Old St. Anthony that day vividly aware of the role of the French in Minnesota history. The involvement of La Société Canadienne-Française resulted in our selling \$351 worth of novelty items and won us 10 new members. Also it gave us much-needed exposure and an opportunity to participate in the recognition of an event without which the history of our city might have taken quite a different turn. ***

Rapports du comité

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The Board of Directors met on July 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ralph Germain in Stillwater. Present were: John Rivard, Ralph Germain, Evelyn Lund, Catherine Rivard, Dorothy Landry, Sera Byrne.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE - George LaBrosse

George LaBrosse visited Grand Portage during the July 4th weekend for the canoe races and while there discovered the existence of Le Club Canadien-Français. George has been in contact with this group's president, M. Lassard, and we hope to have M. Lassard visit our organization in the coming months. The group's official address is 384 Fort William Road, Thunder Bay, Canada.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Sera Byrne

Total Revenue:

Membership	\$ 448.00
Sales	\$2587.71
Donation	\$ 12.50
Refreshments	\$ 90.61
Miscellaneous	\$ 913.75
	<u>\$4052.57</u>

Total Expenses:

Bank Service Chg.	\$ 34.80
Printing	\$ 173.95
Refreshments	\$ 120.74
Miscellaneous	\$1340.37
Postage	\$ 188.11
Taxes	\$ 30.57
Merchandise purchased for resale	<u>\$1533.67</u>
	<u>\$3422.21</u>

Balance \$630.36

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Evelyn Lund

Membership Rosters are being completed and can be picked up at the September General Membership Meeting. Evelyn announced that La Société has increased by 19 new members this summer. Welcome to:

Ann Belisle
Andrew Belisle
George and Evelyn Belair
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Blair
Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Blake
Joseph A. Brouillard
Earl Cloutier
Daniel Fourre
John Bridel and Lise
Urban Germain
Mr. and Mrs. Delore Germain
Sr. Ella Marie Germain
Michele Milon
Irene Nichols
Mattie Roth
Paul A. Verret
Paul Lareau
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Yelle
Mr. and Mrs. Vern Yelle

The new Board of Directors was elected at the General Membership Meeting on June 2, 1980 at St. Louis Parish Hall. The membership voted unanimously to re-elect the former Board, with the exception of Mae Mitchell, who stepped down. The officers were then elected by the new board at the Board of Directors meeting held directly after the membership meeting. The new Board of Directors is as follows:

John Rivard, President
Catherine Rivard, First Vice President
Francine Roche, Second Vice President
Sera Byrne, Treasurer
Evelyn Lund, Assistant Treasurer
Recording Secretary, Dorothy Landry
Corporate Secretary, Chelle Stone
Ralph Germain
Lucille Ingram
Madeline Roche
George LaBrosse

Committee chairs remained the same with the exception of Catherine Rivard, who stepped down as Publicity/PR chairman. Lucille Ingram was elected to serve in that capacity in her place.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

PRESIDENT	John Rivard	1-253-2199
SOCIAL	Justa Cardinal	776-5087
HISTORICAL	George LaBrosse	455-3128
CULTURAL/ EDUCATIONAL	Francine Roche	755-5936
MEMBERSHIP	Evelyn Lund	789-7051
FINANCIAL	Sera Byrne	226-2233
PUBLICITY	Lucille Ingram	533-0890
NEWSLETTER	Cat. Rivard	874-8698

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POTPOURRI

Les Joyeux Balladins will be appearing at the Minnesota State Fair August 31st at 3 p.m. Look for them at the Minnesota Territories Pioneer Log Cabin.

You will also hear Les Joyeux Balladins singing at the Snake River Fiddlers Rendezvous at the Northwest Fur Post in Pine City September 27 & 28, 1980. Admission to the Rendezvous is free. Hours are 10-5 p.m. both days.

Please note that \$1 admission will be charged to non-members attending the general membership meetings. Members will be asked to show their cards at the door.

A financial report from the Treasurer is included in this CHEZ NOUS. However, a more complete report with all breakdowns is available to any member wishing to have one. Call Sera Byrne at 226-2233.

We hope to have Marie-Reine Mikesell, Regional Vice President of AFA (Assemblée des Franco Américains) back to Minneapolis for the October membership meeting. Members will be advised by phone or mail if all works out as planned. Those of you who met Marie-Reine while she was here this summer are already aware of her contagious enthusiasm and vast knowledge. We're sure the rest of you will find her as interesting as we did.

The Finance Committee has created an ad hoc committee to work full time on the fund-raising aspect of our organization. Judd Sandberg has been selected to chair this committee. Anyone having information or ideas about fund-raising or grant writing, please call Judd at 561-0858.

LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE is a cultural, educational, historical and social organization dedicated to the preservation and celebration of French Canadian heritage of Minnesota. Membership meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m., at St. Louis Parish Hall, 506 Cedar in downtown St. Paul.

La Société Canadienne-Française is a non-profit, non-political group. We do a little business, enjoy entertainment and refreshments, and learn a lot about ourselves and about each other. If you are of French Canadian descent or if you are interested in that culture, history or language, come to a membership meeting. Bring your children and bring your friends!

The St. Jean Baptiste Day picnic of La Société Canadienne Française which took place on June 22 in Somerset, WI during Pea Soup Days was a pleasing success thanks to the usual efficiency of Dorothy Landry, Ralph Germain, Evelyn Lund, and many others. Special thanks are extended to Mel Therrian who provided us with the proper ambience by loaning us his sound system and record collection for the day. La Société participated in the parade and made \$225 from the sale of our items, wine, and pea soup!

Anyone interested in being tutored in French by a Parisian should contact Catherine Rivard at 874-8698 for more information.

Six sons and two daughters of John D. Germain, Somerset, Wisconsin, accepted an invitation to sing in French at the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Superior on June 29th. The singing Germans are: Delor, Andrew, Mae Mitchell and Rita Kippa of St. Paul; Urban and Denis of Somerset, Leo of Hudson and Ralph of Stillwater, Minnesota. Six members of the family are members of La Société Canadienne Française.

We are still searching for library/office space...If anyone hears of any space available for donation, please call George LaBrosse at 455-3128.

recette

Crème Brulée

4½ c. à table d'amidon de maïs
 3 tasses de lait
 ¾ tasse de mélasse
 ½ c. à thé d'essence d'amande
 ½ tasse de crème à fouetter, fouettée

4½ tablespoons cornstarch
 3 cups milk
 ¾ cup molasses
 ½ teaspoon almond flavoring
 ½ cup whipping cream, whipped

Mix milk and cornstarch. Heat in double boiler til thickened. Cover, cook 5 minutes more, stirring once in a while. Heat molasses to 310° F on candy thermometer. Let cool. Slowly stir into milk mixture. Heat til thick. Add flavoring and pour into serving dishes. Refrigerate til firm. Top with whipped cream. 6 servings.

From Lucille Ingram

"What you inherit from your forebearers isn't yours unless you do something with it. Only your creativeness moment by moment can turn them into account."

Goethe

Le calendrier 14

AUGUST

18 Board of Directors Meeting,
 7:30 p.m., 4224 Halifax Av N
 Robbinsdale

SEPTEMBER

1 LABOR DAY - NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 8 General Membership meeting,
 7:30 p.m., St. Louis Parish
 15 Board of Directors Meeting,
 7:30 p.m., place to be determined.
 22 Historical Committee Meeting,
 7 p.m., Little Canada Council
 Offices

OCTOBER

6 General Membership Meeting,
 7:30 p.m., St. Louis Parish
 13 Historical Committee Meeting,
 7 p.m., Little Canada Council
 Offices
 20 Board of Directors Meeting,
 7:30 p.m., place to be determi

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Rivard
 Madeline Roche
 Chelle Stone
 Seraphine Byrne
 Evelyn Lund
 Lucille Ingram

Catherine Rivard
 Francine Roche
 Ralph Germain
 Dorothy Landry
 George LaBrosse

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chez nous

Newsletter of

La société canadienne-française

No.4 Vol.1

Le président parle

NOVEMBRE 1980

This is the fourth edition of CHEZ NOUS. It's been very successful and fruitful in informing the membership of our Société as to our purposes and the means we are employing to attain our goal of establishing a sound and persevering association of our ethnic group. We refuse to fade away or lose our heritage in all its forms.

Now that we are over a year old, we should be running full steam ahead with our various programs. The standing committees should be functioning and delivering some solid information on our history in Minnesota, our customs given us by our forefathers, our French-Canadian language, our chansons, and our promotional programs of events and preservation.

Our editor, Catherine Rivard, recently married and will be moving to Rhode Island. We congratulate her on this occasion which took place in August in the historic home of the Alcotts of Concord, Mass. We will sorely miss her enthusiasm, her devotion to the Société and her creative ability. We wish her God's blessing and our continued love. However, there is a plus for us in Minnesota. She married Armand Chartier, who is president of the Assemblée des Franco-Américains (AFA). Catherine will continue to edit Chez Nous as long as she is able. She will keep us informed and alive to all the latest promotions of the French-Canadians in the U.S.A.

Bon Voyage, Catherine, et amitié toujours!

au revoir

When John Rivard called me in the fall of 1978 and announced his intention to organize a new French Society, I hardly suspected how much time, dedication and self-sacrifice would be required to launch such a group.

With the blissful ignorance of inexperience I believed it would all fall together magically and French-Canadians of the Midwest would once again be united. There were about 12 of us in the beginning. We began with meetings on top of meetings; we wrote up a Constitution; we elected a board of directors. It often seemed like chaos, there was so much to learn about ourselves and about what we wanted to stand for as a group, what we hoped to accomplish.

The board of directors worked tirelessly for several months before the first meeting of the membership. All of us spent most of our free time working on behalf of the organization. I was luckier than most, I had no family commitments so there was less pressure. Nevertheless, I watched uncomfortably as my apartment began to take on the appearance of a small warehouse filled with files, books, papers, manilla envelopes. I began to wonder why I was doing all this. As so often happens, the true purpose behind the effort was getting lost in a blizzard of paperwork and red-tape. At about that time I was sent on behalf of La Société to the Third Annual Congress of Franco-Americans in Louisiana. It was there that I felt the first serious tugs on my ethnic heartstrings as I began to realize that something precious does stand to be lost through neglect; that all of the work is really worth it; and, best of all, that we are not alone in our struggles, but instead have many co-workers all over the country.

Things have taken on a different aspect since then. In our second year of organization, I am seeing La Société with different eyes, sharpened partly by impending departure, perhaps. I have seen

board meetings that began as exhausting exercises in confusion become fast, efficient and effective vehicles of organization. I have seen our board members learn to work together with a common resolve and with a businesslike but friendly demeanor delightful to witness and be part of. I have seen committees that were in the beginning uncertain as to their first steps now taking giant leaps into many fields of accomplishment.

I am moving away to Rhode Island in a few weeks, but I won't be separated from the Société, because I believe in its worth. I look forward to watching - and being a part of - its future growth. Mostly I am grateful to John Rivard for starting it, for bulldozing me into it, and for continuing to be its inspiration. And to you, the membership - I thank you for your enthusiasm and support. I urge your active participation. YOU are La Société Canadienne-Française. It cannot exist without you, and it must exist, because we are the only one of our kind in this region. From experience I can assure you that whatever time you spend, whatever sacrifices you make, will be repaid to you a hundredfold, and to your children, grand-children, great-grandchildren. I am very proud of all of you, and I will miss you sadly.

Catherine

Catherine Rivard Chartier

Rapports du comité

The Board of Directors meeting took place on September 15, 1980, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Lucille Ingram. Present were: George LaBrosse, Evelyn Lund, Lucille Ingram, Sera Byrne, Ralph Germain, Dorothy Landry, Chelle Stone, Catherine Chartier.

MEMBERSHIP - Evelyn Lund

Evelyn announced 12 new members. Welcome to: Jerri Forchette; Nancy Hyser; Blanche La Mere; Ella Langeuin; James & Marie Miller; Shirley Peters; John R. Simon; John and Helen Wagner; Richard Girard; Odell H. Bjerkness. We now have 239 memberships, 84 couples, 71 singles!



HISTORICAL COMMITTEE - George LaBrosse

George reported via Adele Milon on the home of a French-Canadian fur trader which is being restored on the Pembina Trail.

Sr. Mary Henry Nachtsheim attended the annual meeting of the American Assoc. of Teachers of French held June 26-30 in Quebec City.

The Historical Committee hopes eventually to send speakers to the grade schools to inform the children of the part the French-Canadians played in their state's history.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE - Sera Byrne

August

Previous Balance	\$630.36
Revenue	\$498.50
	<u>\$1128.86</u>
Expenses	\$ 983.32 -
	<u>\$ 145.54</u>

September

Previous Balance	\$145.54
Revenue	\$202.50
	<u>\$348.04</u>
Expenses	\$202.99 -
	<u>\$145.05</u>

A breakdown of this report is available on request.

NO EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

NO PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Francine Roche (Educational) has resigned due to family commitments.

Catherine Rivard Chartier will continue to edit the Chez Nous from Rhode Island, but it promises to be an awesome task at such a distance. Anyone interested in donating 4 hours every other month to this effort, please call Dorothy Landry at 788-0095.

merci

•to the Cloutier family who allowed several members of the Historical Committee to visit their residence, which was full of many interesting and historical items.

•to Sr. Mary Henry Nachtsheim for donating a very worthwhile book on Canadian heritage, food, etc., to our Societe.

DID YOU KNOW? - that in America today there are close to 3½ million people whose descendants came from Quebec!

potpourri

Don't miss the November 3rd membership meeting at St. Louis Parish because Marie-Reine Mikesell, Vice President of AFA (Assemblée des Franco-Américains) - that dynamo of pertinent information - is coming to speak to our Société on the many ways the Société can expand and improve. Also she is full of exciting data on our region and heritage that will dazzle you and thrill you! This is a must.

If you would like to be tutored in French by a Parisian, call Jean-Lou at 333-5996.

Non-members will not be charged \$1 at membership meetings as previously - and erroneously - announced.

There is now an organization for the Métis called Union Métis. Their goals are the same as ours, they are cultural, historical, and social. They need our support and encouragement, as we need theirs. For more information, write: Union Métis
1495 Hague
St. Paul 55104

MERCI to the above-mentioned Marie-Reine Mikesell, who last month addressed 1200 pieces of promotional material for La Société Canadienne-Française, from her home in Chicago!

La Société Canadienne-Française wishes to express its deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs. Dalphine Lemire Proulx Germain, who passed away on Wednesday, August 27 in Lakeview Memorial Hospital in Somerset. Mrs. Germain was 89 years old. She was born in Somerset in March of 1881, and was a member of St. Anne's Church in Somerset. She is survived by her husband, John D. Germain, and many step-children.

Beginning this edition we will publish some extracts from a classic written by Adjutor Rivard of Quebec. This book was the first book written by a French-Canadian to be crowned by the Académie Française de Paris. In his dedication he writes: "I have written these pages, simple and without other ornaments but the words of our old language in order to assure the survivance of old souvenirs. May these pages make you love all the more our people and the things of CHEZ NOUS." Adjutor is a cousin of our president and vice president.

LA MAISON

Il y en avait de plus grandes; il n'y en avait pas de plus hospitalières. Dès le petit jour, sa porte matinale laissait entré, avec le parfum des trèfles, les premiers rayons du soleil. Et jusqu'au soir, elle offrait aux passants le sourire de ses fenêtres en fleurs, l'accueil de son perron facile, l'invitation de sa porte ouverte. De si loin que vous l'aperceviez, elle vous plaisait déjà, et, quand vous étiez tout proche, elle se faisait si attrayante que résister à son appel devenait impossible: vous entriez. Dès l'abord vous étiez chez vous.

"Asseyez-vous, l'ami, et prenez du repos." Travaillait-on-et l'on travaillait toujours - on s'interrompait pour vous bienvenir. Si vous étiez altéré, le banc des seaux était là, avec la tasse à l'eau, relisante et toujours amain. La table était-elle mise, vous étiez convié, et sur la plus belle des assiettes à fleurs le meilleur morceau vous était servi. Si vous arriviez à la tombée de la nuit et aviez encore loin à cheminer, on ouvrait pour vous la chambre des étrangers, la plus grande et qui avait le meilleur lit... Qui donc n'arrêtait pas chez nos gens, ne fut-ce que pour apprendre des vieux quel temps il devait faire le lendemain? Seuls, les hôtes mauvais passaient tout droit, et d'un pas plus pressé, devant la maison hospitalière.

à suivre

chez nous

Recette

PAIN AU FROMAGE & AUX POMMES

100 g. de beurre
 3/4 de tasse de sucre
 2 oeufs
 1 3/4 de tasse de farine
 1 cuillère à café de levure en poudre
 1/2 cuillère à café de bicarbonate de soude
 1/2 cuillère à café de sel
 1/4 cuillère à café de poudre de gingembre
 1 tasse de pommes râpées (ne pas peler les pommes)
 1/2 tasse de fromage râpé (Cheddar)
 1/2 tasse de noix concassées (pacanes, si possible)

Battre le beurre et le sucre jusqu'à ce que le mélange mousse. Ajouter les oeufs, un à un, en battant après chaque oeuf. Passer au tamis la farine, la levure, le bicarbonate, le sel et le gingembre. Ajouter 1/3 de ce mélange aux oeufs, au beurre et au sucre. D'autre part, mettre les pommes râpées, le fromage et les noix dans le reste de la farine. Mélanger le tout. Verser dans une moule à cake. Cuire à four moyen une heure. Laisser refroidir 10 minutes avant de démouler sur grille. (350°)

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

PRESIDENT	John Rivard	1-253-2199
SOCIAL	Justa Cardinal	776-5087
HISTORICAL	George LaBrosse	455-3128
MEMBERSHIP	Evelyn Lund	789-7051
FINANCIAL	Sera Byrne	226-2233
PUBLICITY	Lucille Ingram	533-0890

Le calendrier

OCTOBER

20 - Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
 Home of George LaBrosse

NOVEMBER

3 - Meeting of Membership - guest speaker is Maria-Reine Mikesell from Chicago. St. Louis Parish. 7:30 p.m.
 10 - Historical Committee Meeting 7 p.m., Little Canada City Council Chambers
 17 - Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
 Home of Dorothy Landry

DECEMBER

5 - MEMBERSHIP POT-LUCK DINNER AND PARTY - at Firestation #2, Cty Rd E and McKnight Road, White Bear Lake. 6:30-midnight or beyond - Les Joyeux Baladins will entertain - games for children - Bring the whole family! Call Justa Cardinal at 776-5087 for information on what you can bring for-food.

JANUARY

5 - Meeting of Membership, St. Louis Parish. 7:30 p.m.
 12 - Historical Committee Meeting, 7 pm Little Canada City Council Chambers
 19 - Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, at home of Chelle Stone

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Rivard	Ralph Germain
Chelle Stone	Dorothy Landry
Seraphine Byrne	George LaBrosse
Evelyn Lund	Lucille Ingram

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chez nous

Newsletter of

PP 19-22 ARE ENLARGED AT PP 22A-22F

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La société canadienne-française

No. 5 Vol. 1

Le président parle

janvier 1980

Je vous souhaite une Bonne et une Heureuse Année!

We have completed our first full year as a French-Canadian Society in Minnesota. It has been a successful year filled with trepidation, hard work and several joyful gatherings. Here is a short summary of our accomplishments:

- May 4, 1979 - La Société Canadienne-Française was organized.
- Nov. 5, 1979 - First Grand Membership meeting in St. Paul.
- Mar. 28, 1980 - Sent Catherine Rivard as Representative to National Franco-American Conference in Lafayette, La. Our Société became a member.
- Feb., 1980 - Several members attended La Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg, Canada.
- May, 1980 - La Société participated in the Festival of Nations in St. Paul with booths in the Bazaar, Exhibition Hall, and Food Market. Our group of singers, Les Joyeux Baladins, sang in the cabaret.
- June, 1980 - We had a picnic during Pea Soup Days in Somerset.
- June, 1980 - Our president appeared as Father Louis Hennepin at the Tricentennial of his discovery of St. Anthony Falls in 1680. We had a booth and sold souvenirs.
- July, 1980 - Members sang at Superior Diocese 75th anniversary.
- Sept., 1980 - Members participate in Sandusky-Vinny Days in Pine City.
- Aug., 1980 - We participate in Little Canada Days.
- Dec., 1980 - We held our first Christmas Party at White Bear Lake. We had food, dancing and singing.

See P22A

- Feb. 13 - A Société-sponsored tour to Winnipeg to participate in the Festival du Voyageur.
- Participate in the St Paul Winter Carnival Parade in Jan.
- Organize our own "Festival de Chez Nous" this summer.
- Participate in the Mpls Aquitennial.
- Organize chapters in out-state regions.
- Participate in the Festival of Nations in St Paul, May, 1, 2
- Send members to the Rencontre de Québec this summer.
- Organize historical tours in Twin Cities and the state.
- Promote French classes.
- Organize a membership bus tour of three weeks to Eastern Canada and Eastern U.S.A. in June.
- The Committees will publish historical and cultural articles in "Chez Nous".
- Hold picnics and family get-togethers.
- Publish booklets on French-Canadian history in Minnesota and emphasize the impact of our culture.
- Promote the participation of our singers and organize programs for public affairs.
- Last, but not least, find a "home" for our Société!

John T. Rivard, President

Dec. 1980

Our committees are planning many projects of a historical and cultural nature. Les Joyeux Baladins have given many programs around the state and our president has presented over 90 programs in 1980 in the state of Minnesota. With the valuable aid of Marie Rivard we have sent thousands of letters to prospective members. La Société organized and printed our own newsletter, "Chez Nous", sending it to members around the country. It is published bi-monthly.

We are over 250 strong and growing stronger.

The Board of Directors, the Officers and Committee Chairpersons have done a magnificent work this first year. We are proud of their devotion, dedication and enthusiasm.

Here are some of our programs and projects for 1981:



Included

LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE

WINNIPEG "FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR"

CONDUCTED BY JOHN T. RIVARD

Friday, February 13

Departure from MINNEAPOLIS/SAINT PAUL International Airport at 7:25 PM. Your Northwest Orient jumbo jet will take you non stop to Winnipeg where you will arrive at 9:10 PM. On arrival you will be met and transferred to the NORTHSTAR INN in the heart of WINNIPEG. The balance of the evening is at leisure.

Saturday, February 14

Today begins with the FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR Winter Holiday break. You will partake in programs arranged for this week of winter fun. Your day begins with a Voyageur's breakfast at the NORTHSTAR INN and ends late tonight after the Governor's Ball. (tickets to the ball will be provided).

Winnipeg will be filled with special trading posts, expositions, museums and casinos for your pleasure and shopping. You will be able to shop for real "bargains" with the favorable rate of exchange and the imported goods that are available.

At 5:00 PM begins the Governor's Ball and Dinner. This will be followed by dancing until the late hours.

Sunday, February 15

Another Voyageur's breakfast at the NORTHSTAR INN you will be partaking in the endless activities provided by our hosts and crowned by the mammoth parade at noon. By mid afternoon we will have to return to the airport for our return flight on Republic Airlines at 3:00 PM and return to the MINNEAPOLIS/SAINT PAUL where we should arrive at 4:45 PM.

Round trip group air transportation from Twin Cities to Winnipeg and return.

Transfers from the Airport to the Northstar Inn on arrival and departure

Accommodations at the Northstar Inn based on two people sharing a twin bedded room with bath.

Breakfasts included on Saturday and Sunday. Dinner and Governor's Ball included on Saturday night.

Cost is \$250. per person. A deposit should be sent with the completed coupon to Ask Mr. Foster Travel Service to ensure your reservations being held. (Deposit is \$50. per person)

TO: ASK MR. FOSTER TRAVEL SERVICE
310 Skyway Building
Saint Paul, MN, 55101

Please reserve _____ places on the WINNIPEG TOUR departing on February 13.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

(I wish to remain in Winnipeg for _____ additional days and return on _____)

Rapports du Comité

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION OF PURPOSES

AND PROJECTS

George LaBrosse 11/80

What can history tell us about French Canadian people as a culture? Where is our place in society today? What distinguishing characteristics exist between people as a race and French Canadian people as a culture? What are our rights and obligations as a culture to our own people and to society today?

I believe history will answer many of these questions and will provide us with the knowledge we need to achieve the values of identity we seek.

The following is my projects proposal to the Historical Committee for their approval:

1. Research and retain French Canadian history and origins. (re Franco-American ethnic heritage studies program)
 - A. Family histories (re Family Histories--the Genealogic Helpet)
 - B. Church and School histories
 - C. Traditions
 - D. Arts and literature
 - E. Youth
 - F. Media
 - G. Chronological history of French Canadians in state of Minnesota
2. Establish and maintain a library and museum
 - A. Set up travelling exhibit
 - B. Organize conferences, seminars, presentations, and speaker bureaus
 - C. Establish and maintain liaison with similar French historical groups of the North American continent
 - D. Provide organizing assistance to junior French Canadian historical societies to encourage interest in the young
 - E. Publish an index of French Canadian resources from private, state, national and international museums and archives
 - G. Organize a photo collection of historical monuments and landmarks
 - H. Receive, process, acknowledge and maintain artifacts, books, articles and publications for repository
 - I. Purchase and maintain materials necessary to establish and run library and museum
3. Discover and identify French Canadian landmarks and historical sites
 - A. Buildings and monuments
 - B. Historical geographic places
 - C. French forts
 - D. Organize tours to above and provide information if not available
 - E. Prepare list of issues ^{of issues} to present to appropriate state and national institutions to encourage preservation and aid in preventing their demolition.

See P 22B

Any comments or suggestions on these proposals would be appreciated.

The French Canadian presence in the state of Minnesota is unique. The exploration, founding and settlement were brought about more by the French than by any other one group of people. For this we receive little or no recognition. This committee will attempt to remedy this unfortunate oversight.

See p 22c

Membership - Evelyn Lund

Welcome again to the following members:

- David Belair
Therese Belair Will
Mary Louise Belair
Linda Cadotte
Leonard and Lorraine Couette
Corrine Charais
Alan and Margaret Charbonneau
Paul and Eunice Mead
Dr. Julian Plant
Nicheal and Martha Rivard

and warm greetings to the brand new-

- Gilbert and Carmelle Pomepuy
Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Cheney
Raymond Bissonnette
Brian Bellisle
Lucielle Trempe
Mimi Benfru
Rita Klpha
Henry Durand
Patrick Charpentier
Marry Yelland and
Lyle Beauvaif

This represents 30 families, 82 singles and 5 students.

ATTENTION: All members who joined before October, 1980, must renew their dues by Jan. 1, 1981. The Society will appreciate your response.

chez nous

LA BÉNÉDICTION PATERNELLE 20

BEAUCOUP de nos vieilles coutumes, et des meilleures, sont en train de se perdre. Bientôt, nul ne les pratiquera plus : déjà, c'est à peine si on les connaît. Quelques chercheurs s'intéressent encore ; avant qu'elles ne disparaissent tout à fait, ils les enregistrent comme on herborise, ils les décrivent, ils en font le recueil comme de choses curieuses.

Eh ! que m'importe ce folklore, froide sépulture des traditions mortes ! Je n'y trouve qu'un faible et stérile souvenir de ce qui fut vivant.

Les vieilles coutumes s'en vont, et il ne suffit point d'en conserver la mémoire : il faudrait les garder elles-mêmes.

De ces coutumes qui se perdent, il en est de singulièrement précieuses, qui tiennent à l'esprit même de notre race, qui sont comme une expression de notre conscience nationale, et qui emportent avec elles quelque chose de notre âme. Elles font vraiment partie du patrimoine idéal hérité des ancêtres. N'est-ce pas forfaire que de les laisser s'éteindre ?

CONTES ET PROPOS DIVERS

Comment ne pas déploier amèrement que se perde, par exemple, la benne, la salataire, la sainte coutume de la bénédiction paternelle ? ...

Jadis, personne n'eût voulu commencer l'année, sans que, des mains étendues du chef de famille, ne fût descendue sur les enfants agenouillés la bénédiction d'en haut. Moment solennel ! Le père apparaissait revêtu d'un caractère sacré, et c'est Dieu qui, par sa voix, bénissait.

Quels fruits salutaires produisait la bénédiction du Jour de l'An : pardon de toutes les fautes, promesse de tous les dévouements, garantie de tous les respects ! Le seul souvenir de cette scène auguste devait arrêter plus d'un fils sur le bord des abîmes.

Quelques familles gardent encore la tradition ; mais combien ne la pratiquent plus !

Les enfants qui n'osent plus demander la bénédiction de leurs pères, et les pères qui ne bénissent plus leurs enfants, savent-ils bien ce dont ils se privent eux-mêmes, et leurs familles, et la société, et la nation entière ?

Que deviendrons-nous, et que restera-t-il du vrai génie de notre race, quand la coutume sera toute perdue, et que nul des nôtres ne pourra plus se réclamer d'une bénédiction de son père ? ...

Quelle figure ferait dans l'histoire un peuple chez qui la malédiction paternelle serait devenue de tradition ? et comme ce peuple, dont chaque citoyen porterait ce fardeau très lourd, saurait-il accomplir sa destinée ? ... Il n'est personne, même chez ceux qui ne savent pas la vraie source de l'autorité paternelle, qui ne craigne la malédiction d'un père ; le fils maudit porte au front comme un signe d'infamie, et les siens le renient. Le peuple dont tous les hommes auraient été maudits par leurs pères serait un peuple réprouvé.

Comment donc la bénédiction paternelle n'importerait-elle pas au bonheur, non seulement des individus et des familles, mais encore de la société, de la nation ?

Heureux les peuples qui gardent pieusement la coutume de la bénédiction paternelle ! Ils ont les dons qui font les races fortes ; de père en fils, et de siècle en siècle, la bénédiction descend, multipliée, sur les têtes plus nombreuses, et, à chaque génération, plus riche de vertus.

The new Board of Directors is as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| John Rivard | Ralph Germain |
| Chelle Stone | Dorothy Landry |
| Seraphine Byrne | George LaBrosse |
| Evelyn Lund | Lucille Ingram |
| Justa Cardinal | Judd Sandburg |
| St. Ella Germain | |

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| PRESIDENT | John Rivard | 1-253-2199 |
| SOCIAL | Justa Cardinal | 776-5087 |
| HISTORICAL | George LaBrosse | 455-1128 |
| MEMBERSHIP | Evelyn Lund | 789-7051 |
| FINANCIAL | Sera Byrne | 226-2233 |
| PUBLICITY | Lucille Ingram | 533-0890 |
| SUNSHINE CLUB | Lucille Ingram | 533-0890 |

LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANCAISE meets regularly on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the hall of St. Louis Parish, 506 Cedar Avenue, downtown St. Paul (near the State Capitol). Everyone is welcome! There is nothing that together we cannot undertake. We need your ideas. We need your talents. We need you!



potpourri

Festival du Voyageur
Ralph Germain

Do you enjoy Canadian-French foods, entertainment, singing and jigging? Then the place to go is the Festival du Voyageur, at St. Boniface, Manitoba, (January 14 through 22, 1981).

As one who has been there three times I can tell you that it was most enjoyable. If you may think that it is too cold there at that time of the year, let me assure you that the warmth of the friendship of the people from there will cause you to forget the weather. Most activities are indoors, and if you speak a few words in French, they will be happy to converse with you in French or English. The center of activities is the Franco-Manitoban Cultural Center, whose gymnasium is transformed into a "Trading Post", with food, entertainment and dancing.

For reservations for your fun filled trip, contact Mr. Lake at Universal Travel, 291-895; or John Rivard, 1-253-2199.

DID YOU KNOW? - that, if we celebrate New Year's as a national holiday, it is due to the efforts of Franco-Americans in Massachusetts who voted to make it a State holiday in 1916, whereupon the idea spread to other states and the country as a whole.

See p 220

The Union M tis is a Historical/Societal organization seeking to better understand our people's past and present. We seek to collect and analyze ourselves so we can intelligently deal with the future. We need your help - please send any information on you and your relations history and anecdotes. Cassettes or tapes in the midwestern patois of French. And music by which people in our part of the world; traditional or modern. For fundraising for research, and future publications, we are selling metis T-shirts and History booklets. For more information contact

Union M tis
1495 Hague
St. Paul MN.

See p 220

JE ME SOUVIENS

JE ME SOUVIENS DE MON ONCLE JOE

The snow fell gently against the windshield of my Dad's '48 Plymouth coup as we drove down the first street hill to Uncle Joe's place near the Alexander Faribault house, and the Great Western depot.

Joe Bruley was my grandmother's brother. A native of Minnesota, he nevertheless, spoke with a heavy French-Canadian accent passed down to him by his loving parents. Aunt Florie, his gentle wife of many years, sat in the rocker and smiled and permitted Uncle Joe to be the center of attention.

"Happy New Year! I'm 75 years young this year, and I still shovel snow like a young man." He got up and flexed his muscles to show his strength. "See, I am as strong as a bull moose."

His blue eyes sparkled when he recalled the events of New Year's past. "New Year, it was the day to celebrate and have a good time. When we were young--even before your pa was born--we would put the horses to the sleigh. You would sneak under the long haired horse blanket to keep warm. Then we'd go to every Frenchman's place in Walcott Township and have a drink--make the rounds. Everybody's door was open. Everybody had a good time."

Uncle Joe was a special person--a nice fellow who never forgot his French-Canadian origins. I

remember him every New Year's Day.
Bonne Annee, mes amis Canadiens-Francais



l'histoire

21

See p 226

GENTILLY - This Francophone community in the Red River Valley of Minnesota rests on lands explored by the France/Ojibway m tis, Joseph LaFrance, in 1740. Jean Baptiste Cadotte (also of France/Ojibway descent) was a fur trader in this area in the late 1790's. In the late 1840's the Ox Cart routes were firmly established by Pierre Chouteau (of French/Missourie background) and Norman Kittum. The Red River Trails ran through Gentilly, which soon became a popular rendezvous and resting point. M tis settlers established the town in the 1860's, but the town was not officially organized until 1871. Through the 1870's and '80's large numbers of m tis and qu b cois settlers moved into this area, creating a large Francophone colony. In 1878 Gentilly's most famous resident moved in; Pierre Bottineau (France/Ojibway), a man who had helped shape the history of the midwest. Bottineau had bought many families with him from the metis communities of the Twin Cities area. In the late 1880's many settlers from Qu b c moved in, and swelled the population of this colony. The harsh realities of frontier life drove many qu b cois families from this area. Between 1882 and 1887 49 families had left the area to return to Qu b c or move on to greener pastures. Land ownership has been favorable to the Francophones here, in 1902 they owned 60% of the land in Gentilly township; but by 1964 they owned some 85%. In 1895 a dairy co-operative was founded by the Francophones of Gentilly, specializing in a famous and high quality Limoges cheese. This co-op worked affectively until 1968 when they sold out to Land-o-Lakes. From the 1860's through the 1880's the people of Gentilly supported the m tis resistance movement in western Canada. On December 19, 1885, the mourning community gathered to pay homage to the recently murdered m tis leader, Louis Riel. Riel's supporters in Minnesota organized the Francophones politically to insure our people's survival. The people of Terrebonne (near Gentilly) spurred the people on "car un million de compatriotes ont les yeux sur vous!" This political activism had largely fallen apart by the 1930's, largely because some 40% of the Canadian Francophones in Minnesota had not bothered to apply for citizenship in this country.

Source: "Gentilly, a France-Canadian community in the Minnesota Red River Valley," by Virgil Beocit. *Minnesota History*, Winter, 1975.

The French in Minnesota —A Shot in the Dark

See p 226

By William C. Rogers

These days adult educators are falling all over themselves to tap the ethnic education movement. It seems people everywhere want to know who they are and where they came from. Programs abound on such subjects as "America's Polish Heritage," "The Italian Contribution to Our Bicentennial," and "The Norwegian Emigration Sesquicentennial." The traffic is indeed so heavy that it is hard to find a white ethnic minority whose background has not been overexposed. This vignette is about a program for a little known, and perhaps even submerged, nationality group, i.e. the French in Minnesota.

Many adult education programs emerge from an educator's own curiosity and desire to learn, but these private urges must be clothed in a fig leaf of pedagogical respectability, usually referred to as "meeting felt-needs," or "identifying special audiences." To be perfectly truthful, I confess to a personal interest in the Gallic flavor of this Teutonic region which I have had since I immigrated to this state, whose motto is "L'Etouille du Nord," and whose biggest city's main streets are named after the explorers Hennepin and Nicolet. I was also struck by the large number of other less famous French names found here and there around the state. The oldest church in Minneapolis is French and has a beautiful fleur-de-lis decorated dome. Still, I always got very vague answers from people with French names when I asked rather bluntly, "Where did your ancestors come from?" Finally, when the great white ethnic revolution came, I decided to get some answers.

Dr. Rogers is Director, World Affairs Center, University of Minnesota.

Our program on "The French in Minnesota" needed the usual two main ingredients—a speaker and an audience. Finally I found a professor of French who offered to help. His subject was 16th and 17th century French language, and he made it quite clear that he was no genealogist, historian, or demographer. He had, however, found pleasure in some amateur sleuthing about where the ancestors of our fellow Minnesotans with French names were from, and he would speak informally about his findings. The next problem was how to get an audience.

It was fairly clear that many, if not most, of the forebears of our French were from La Belle Province, Quebec. Hence we ordered the Quebec City telephone book and took a "shot in the dark." Market research specialists would be shocked at our procedure. We took the names which appeared most frequently (four pages or more) in the Quebec phone book, and matched them with the same names in the Minneapolis and St. Paul phone books. We came up with over 1,000 addressed envelopes, courtesy of volunteers from the Alliance Francaise of the Twin Cities. The Alliance's president, also a French professor, had the wide humanity to realize that one could be of French descent and not be able to speak even fractured French, and thus was willing to break the Alliance tradition of having programs only in French. Her group co-sponsored the meeting with the World Affairs Center and supplied cider and a delicate pastry. ("I'm sick and tired of that awful coffee and cookies," said Madame President.)

There is no association of French descendants in Minnesota, although almost every other conceivable ethnic group has a society including the Japanese, Latvians, Croats, and Irish-Americans. Only a quarter of the Alliance Francaise's small membership are of French descent. We did, however, find a small branch (twig?) of a genealogical society which was interested in "the French connection" and also asked Catholic churches which once may have had French parishioners to mention our meeting. In all honesty, the last two sources were probably the best since after the speech most of the discussion turned to church related activities and pretty sophisticated genealogical talk. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Le calendrier

JANUARY

- 5 - Meeting of Membership, St. Louis Parish. 7:30 p.m.
- 12 - Historical Committee Meeting, 7 pm Little Canada City Council Chambers
- 19 - Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, at home of Chelle Stone

Feb. 13 - A societe sponsored trip to Winnipeg to participate in the Festival du Voyageur. Participate in the St. Paul Winter Carnival in January.

ATTENTION: All members who joined before October, 1980, must renew their dues by Jan. 1, 1981. The Societe will appreciate your response.

French honor students

French language teachers may nominate one student per school as "honor" students who will be eligible for complimentary "honor subscriptions" to the French-Canadian edition of the Reader's Digest.

Selection du Reader's Digest has been offering the honor subscriptions for 31 years to high school seniors who are students in French.

To nominate a student (one per building), teachers should send the name and home address of the student — on official school letterhead stationery — to Abonnement d'honneur, Selection du Reader's Digest, 215 Avenue Redfern, Montreal, Quebec H3Z2V9, Canada. Students chosen to receive the complimentary subscription also will receive a certificate.

biographies Petites



Josephenville - He was born in Kaposia (near present day South St. Paul) in 1779, a son of a Québécois father and a Dakota Indian mother. As a youth he worked as a courrier d guide, interpreter and guide. Later in his life he opened a trading post at Lac 2 marrying an Indian woman and surrounding himself with his relations and friends. post helped support many Métis and Indian farmers, trappers and herdsmen. With the decline of the Fur Trade his wealth dwindled and he died poor in wealth, but rich in friends and relatives. He had helped shape the history of this state.

The French in Minnesota

The following names are typical of those we discovered: Bedard, Beaulieu, Beauvoil, Belanger, Blanchard, Bouchard, Giroux, Laberte, Lefebvre, Mercier, Sampson. Since almost everyone was in the phone book a scientific check of lists was not possible. Therefore we can freely speculate that our first program which used the telephone book for a mailing list actually worked.

At any rate, the Women's Lounge of the University of Minnesota's Coffman Memorial Union was very comfortably filled with over 70 people. Our very appropriate (French) R.S.V.P. told us there would be only 50 and the first response was so small we feared we would have to resort to the old dodge of calling our meeting a seminar.

It turned out that only a fourth of the group had learned French in their home and we never did find out how many learned this beautiful language elsewhere. Nevertheless, there was a warm family-like glow exuding from the audience. This was explained by a librarian participant who turned out to be a veritable mine of genealogical information. He believed that almost all of the French who came to Minnesota from Quebec (and most did) were related at the second or third cousin level. It seems only a very small number of families came to Quebec from France

and they intermarried for generation after generation.

At the conclusion of our meeting, the perceptive Alliance president said to me, "They are one big family in search of a home," and it is true. As mentioned above, there is no association for the French in Minnesota. The French government apparently does not recognize that anyone would leave France voluntarily and the Canadians must be bi-national. There was some sense from the meeting that since I had planned the affair and had for the first time brought the French in Minnesota together that I should be responsible for them henceforth. Since I am not French and lack strong motherly instincts, I know not what to do. Can adult educators from other French ethnic areas such as Louisiana or Maine and Vermont help me out? I knew not where that arrow would land when I shot it into the dark. I must admit, however, that it rather touched my heart.

(Reprinted from ANCESTRY, Mag., 1971.)

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LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE - FRANÇAISE
1401 Circle Terrace Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55421

Le président parle

Je vous souhaite une Bonne et une Heureuse Année!

We have completed our first full year as a French-Canadian Society in Minnesota. It has been a successful year filled with trepidation, hard work and several joyful gatherings. Here is a short summary of our accomplishments:

- May 4, 1979 - La Société Canadienne-Français was organized.
- Nov. 5, 1979 - First Grand Membership meeting in St. Paul.
- Mar. 28, 1980 - Sent Catherine Rivard as representative to National Franco-American Conference in Lafayette, La.. Our Société became a member.
- Feb., 1980 - Several members attended La Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg, Canada.
- May, 1980 - La Société participated in the Festival of Nations in St. Paul with booths in the Bazaar, Exhibition Hall, and Food Market. Our group of singers, Les Joyeux Baladins, sang in the cabaret.
- June, 1980 - We had a picnic during Pea Soup Days in Somerset.
- June, 1980 - Our president appeared as Father Louis Hennepin at the Tricentennial of his discovery of St. Anthony Falls in 1680. We had a booth and sold souvenirs.
- July, 1980 - Members sang at Superior Diocese 75th anniversary.
- Sept., 1980 - Members participate in Rendez-Vous Days in Pine City.
- Aug., 1980 - We participate in Little Canada Days.
- Dec., 1980 - We hold our first Christmas Party at White Bear Lake. We had food, dancing and singing.

Our committees are planning many projects of a historical and cultural nature. Les Joyeux Baladins have given many programs around the state. Our president has presented over 80 programs in 1980 in the state of Minnesota. French Voyageur and Lumberjack. With the valuable aid of Marie Mikeseil we have sent thousands of letters to prospective members. La Société organized and printed our own newsletter, "Chez Nous", sending it to members around the country. It is published bi-monthly.

We are over 250 strong and growing stronger.

The Board of Directors, the Officers and Committee Chairpersons have done a magnificent work this first year. We are proud of their devotion, dedication and enthusiasm.

Here are some of our programs and projects for 1981:

- Feb. 13 - A Société-sponsored tour to Winnipeg to participate in the Festival du Voyageur.
- Participate in the St Paul Winter Carnival Parade in Jan.
- Organize our own "Festival de Chez Nous" this summer.
- Participate in the Mpls Aquitennial.
- Organize chapters in out-state regions.
- Participate in the Festival of Nations in St Paul, May, 1, 2
- Send members to the Rencontre à Québec this summer.
- Organize historical tours in Twin Cities and the state.
- Promote French classes.
- Organize a membership bus tour of three weeks to Eastern Canada and Eastern U.S.A. in June.
- The Committees will publish historical and cultural articles in "Chez Nous".
- Hold picnics and family get-togethers.
- Publish booklets on French-Canadian history in Minnesota and emphasize the impact of our culture.
- Promote the participation of our singers and organize programs for public affairs.
- Last, but not least, find a "home" for our Société!

John T. Rivard, President

Dec. 1980

La Société
Canadienne-
Française

1401 Circle Terr
Blvd
Minneapolis
55421

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NOUS
VAN 181
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22A

Rapports du Comité

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CHEZ NOUS

JAN 181

P 20

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION OF PURPOSES AND PROJECTS

George LaBrosse 11/80

What can history tell us about French Canadian people as a culture? Where is our place in society today? What distinguishing characteristics exist between people as a race and French Canadian people as a culture? What are our rights and obligations as a culture to our own people and to society today?

I believe history will answer many of these questions and will provide us with the knowledge we need to achieve the values of identity we seek.

The following is my projects proposal to the Historical Committee for their approval:

1. Research and retain French Canadian history and origins.
(re Franco-American ethnic heritage studies program)
 - A. Family histories (re Family Histories--the Genealogic Helper)
 - B. Church and School histories
 - C. Traditions
 - D. Arts and literature
 - E. Youth
 - F. Media
 - G. Chronological history of French Canadians in state of Minnesota
2. Establish and maintain a library and museum
 - A. Set up traveling exhibit
 - B. Organize conferences, seminars, presentations, and speaker bureaus
 - C. Establish and maintain liaison with similar French historical groups of the North American continent
 - D. Provide organizing assistance to junior French Canadian historical societies to encourage interest in the young
 - E. Publish an index of French Canadian resources from private, state, national and international museums and archives
 - G. Organize a photo collection of historical monuments and landmarks
 - H. Receive, process, acknowledge and maintain artifacts, books, articles and publications for repository
 - I. Purchase and maintain materials necessary to establish and run library and museum
3. Discover and identify French Canadian landmarks and historical sites
 - A. Buildings and monuments
 - B. Historical geographic places
 - C. French forts
 - D. Organize tours to above and provide information if not available
 - E. Prepare list/^{of these}to present to appropriate state and national institutions to encourage preservation and aid in preventing their demolition.

Any comments or suggestions on these proposals would be appreciated.

The French Canadian presence in the state of Minnesota is unique. The exploration, founding and settlement were brought about more by the French than by any other one group of people. For this we receive little or no recognition. This committee will attempt to remedy this unfortunate oversight.

22B

Membership - Evelyn Lund

Welcome again to the following members:

- David Belair
- Therese Belair Will
- Mary Louise Belair
- Linda Cadotte
- Leonard and Lorraine Caouette
- Corrine Charais
- Alan and Margaret Charbonneau
- Paul and Eunice Mead
- Dr. Julian Plant
- Micheal and Martha Rivard

and warm greetings to the brand new-

- Gilbert and Carmelle Pommepeuy
- Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Cheeney
- Raymond Bissonnette
- Brian Belisle
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| Sr. Ella Germain | |

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CHEZ NOUS
JAN 1981
P 20

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CHEZ NOUS
 JAN 1971
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L'histoire



CHEZ NOUS
 JAN '81
 P 21

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The French in Minnesota

—A Shot in the Dark

By William C. Rogers

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Many adult education programs emerge from an educator's own curiosity and desire to learn, but these private urges must be clothed in a fig leaf of pedagogical respectability, usually referred to as "meeting felt-needs," or "identifying special audiences." To be perfectly truthful, I confess to a personal interest in the Gallic flavor of this Teutonic region which I have had since I immigrated to this state, whose motto is "L'Etoile du Nord," and whose biggest city's main streets are named after the explorers Hennepin and Nicollet. I was also struck by the large number of other less famous French names found here and there around the state. The oldest church in Minneapolis is French and has a beautiful fleur-de-lis decorated dome. Still, I always got very vague answers from people with French names when I asked rather bluntly, "Where did your ancestors come from?" Finally, when the great white ethnic revolution came, I decided to get some answers.

Dr. Rogers is Director, World Affairs Center, University of Minnesota.

Our program on "The French in Minnesota" needed the usual two main ingredients—a speaker and an audience. Finally I found a professor of French who offered to help. His subject was 16th and 17th century French language, and he made it quite clear that he was no genealogist, historian, or demographer. He had, however, found pleasure in some amateur sleuthing about where the ancestors of our fellow Minnesotans with French names were from, and he would speak informally about his findings. The next problem was how to get an audience.

It was fairly clear that many, if not most, of the forebears of our French were from La Belle Provence, Quebec. Hence we ordered the Quebec City telephone book and took a "shot in the dark." Market research specialists would be shocked at our procedure. We took the names which appeared most frequently (four pages or more) in the Quebec phone book, and matched them with the same names in the Minneapolis and St. Paul phone books. We came up with over 1,000 addressed envelopes, courtesy of volunteers from the Alliance Française of the Twin Cities. The Alliance's president, also a French professor, had the wide humanity to realize that one could be of French descent and not be able to speak even fractured French, and thus was willing to break the Alliance tradition of having programs only in French. Her group co-sponsored the meeting with the World Affairs Center and supplied cider and a delicate pastry. ("I'm sick and tired of that awful coffee and cookies," said Madame President.)

There is no association of French descendants in Minnesota, although almost every other conceivable ethnic group has a society including the Japanese, Latvians, Croats, and Icelanders. Only a quarter of the Alliance Française's small membership are of French descent. We did, however, find a small branch (twig?) of a genealogical society which was interested in "the French connection" and also asked Catholic churches which once may have had French parishioners to mention our meeting. In all honesty, the last two sources were probably the best since after the speech most of the discussion turned to church related activities and pretty sophisticated genealogical talk. (CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

The following names are typical of those we discovered: Bedard, Beaulieu, Beauvoil, Belanger, Blanchard, Bouchard, Giroux, Liberté, Lefebvre, Mercier, Sampson. Since almost everyone was in the phone book a scientific check of lists was not possible. Therefore we can freely speculate that our first program which used the telephone book for a mailing list actually worked.

At any rate, the Women's Lounge of the University of Minnesota's Coffman Memorial Union was very comfortably filled with over 70 people. Our very appropriate (French) R.S.V.P. told us there would be only 50 and the first response was so small we feared we would have to resort to the old dodge of calling our meeting a seminar.

It turned out that only a fourth of the group had learned French in their home and we never did find out how many learned this beautiful language elsewhere. Nevertheless, there was a warm family-like glow exuding from the audience. This was explained by a librarian participant who turned out to be a veritable mine of genealogical information. He believed that almost all of the French who came to Minnesota from Quebec (and most did) were related at the second or third cousin level. It seems only a very small number of families came to Quebec from France

and they intermarried for generation after generation.

At the conclusion of our meeting, the perceptive Alliance president said to me, "They are one big family in search of a home," and it is true. As mentioned above, there is no association for the French in Minnesota. The French government apparently does not recognize that anyone would leave France voluntarily and the Canadians must be bi-national. There was some sense from the meeting that since I had planned the affair and had for the first time brought the French in Minnesota together that I should be responsible for them henceforth. Since I am not French and lack strong motherly instincts, I know not what to do. Can adult educators from other French ethnic areas such as Louisiana or Maine and Vermont help me out? I knew not where that arrow would land when I shot it into the dark. I must admit, however, that it rather touched my heart.

CHEZ NOUS
JAN 181
pp 21-22

chez nous

Newsletter of

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La société canadienne-française

Le président parle

No. 6, Vol. 1
Mars 1981

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have visited Winnipeg's Festival du Voyageur in February. Several members are attending including John and Jeanne.

We had great fun at the St. Paul Winter Carnival parade on Jan. 31. Séraphine Byrne is extended a big "thank you" for her fine work in organizing the participation of our société in the parade and in the skyway march Feb. 6. I want to thank all who marched in the two parades. We received a special note in the TV station and the papers. Thanks to Med Lafond for the use of his birch-bark canoe.

Dorothy Landry and her crew are working diligently on our participation in the Festival of Nations in St. Paul May 1, 2, 3 in the Civic Center.

I want to congratulate Richard Kees, our new editor of CHEZ NOUS. His first edition in Jan. contained many features and much information. I would like to see each committee contribute an article each edition with special features about French-Canadian history, customs, traditions and events past and present.

I am working on a conducted tour to eastern Canada in June 1981. As soon as I obtain definite information about dates, cities, prices, etc., I will advertise by CHEZ NOUS and flyer to all members. Keep this in mind and set aside June 15 to July 3 for a real French-Canadian visit to the

spring-sources of our families. If you could inform me that you are interested before you get the final information, it would encourage me to go ahead. This kind of bus tour takes a lot of work. I want to thank COUSINS ET COUSINES for their help and interest.

I sincerely hope that a great cooperation will continue to grow between the Northwest Territory French-Canadian Heritage Institute, the MN Genealogical Society, the Union Métis and our Fr.-Can. Société. We must not permit cross purposes or confusion to hinder our cooperation. We invite all members of these organizations to attend our meetings on the first Monday of every month.

The Société is still looking and searching for a spot to land on! We would like an office with room for books and files, and a meeting room for about 150 people. Keep looking and asking. The person who finds a suitable place will earn our undying appreciation.

The French-Canadian Rhode Island Heritage Commission and our Société have both made resolutions at their board meetings to become brother and sister "twins". We plan on exchanging information and establishing an on-going dialogue, perhaps even visiting them if the eastern tour becomes a reality!

John T. Rivard, Pres.



LE POÊLE

Le poêle de chez nous est à deux ponts, bas sur pattes, et massif. Sur ses flancs, aux parois épaisses, des reliefs déjà frustes dessinent des arabesques où se jouent des animaux étranges. Dans son vaste foyer, une bûche d'érable entre toute ronde, et, à l'époque des corvées, son fourneau cuit sans peine le repas de vingt batteurs de blé.

L'été, quand le soleil grâle les visages et mûrit les grains, le poêle se repose. Toujours à son poste pourtant, dans la cuisine, au beau mitan de la place, il se rend encore utile: il sert de garde-manger.

Mais sitôt que vient l'automne, et qu'il commence à gelauder, le poêle se réveille. Et tout l'hiver, sa respiration s'échappe du toit, érigée en spirale dans l'air tranquille, ou fuyante et déchirée par la rafale. Tout l'hiver, il chante, ronfle, ou murmure; dans les nuits calmes, quand les marionnettes dansent au ciel pur, la voix du poêle se fait régulière, monotone, rassurante; mais si le nord-est court la campagne, tourmente les arbres nus et hurle, le poêle gronde, furieux. Il défend le logis contre le froid qui pince; sa chaleur se répand, bienfaisante, sous les poutres noires, et jusque dans la grand'chambre, où l'on ne va qu'aux jours de fête et aux jours de fête et aux jours de deuil. Il fond la neige maligne que la poudrière souffle sous la porte mal fermée, réchauffe les petits pieds rougis, fait fumer la bonne soupe.

C'est l'âme de la maison. S'il éteignait ses feux, s'il ne mettait plus au toit son panache de fumée, si son ronflement sonore se taisait soudain, soudain la maison serait morte. "Foyers éteints, familles éteintes. Aussi bien que l'âtre, le poêle canadien garde les traditions ancestrales.

A ceux qui savent allumer leur pipe avec un tison, et qui aiment à fumer, en songeant, devant la porte du poêle, ce dieu du logis est d'aussi bon conseil que le feu de cheminée.

Au coin de l'âtre, on se prend parfois à rêver, à construire des châteaux en Espagne, et tout s'effondre, hélas! avec le tison qui croule, s'envole avec la bluette qui monte, s'évanouit avec l'étincelle qui meurt. A la porte du poêle, il faut penser, et c'est au bâtiment de projets plus solides qu'on travaille. Car le poêle est grave, le poêle est sage, le poêle n'invite pas aux vaines rêveries.

Tiré de CHEZ NOUS,
par
Adjutor Rivard.

recette

RAGOÛT DE PATTES.

3-4 pork hocks. Wash and put to boil, covering with water. Add 2 sliced onions, several whole cloves. Cook till tender. Add coloring by using Worcestershire Sauce or Kitchen Bouquet. Use browned flour or white flour to thicken. Serve with boiled potatoes. Remove meat from bones to serve if preferred.

3-4 pattes de porc. Lavez, couvrez d'eau et mettez au feu. Ajoutez 2 oignons tranchés et quelques clous de girofle. Cuisez jusqu'à ce que la viande soit tendre. Pour colorer, utilisez un peu de sauce Worcestershire ou un peu de Kitchen Bouquet.

Pour épaissir la sauce, servez-vous d'une farine brunie ce qui ajoutera de la couleur ou une farine blanche. Avant de servir, si vous préférez, désossez. Servez avec des patates bouillies.



ST. PAUL WINTER CARNIVAL

Those of you who watched their friends on Jan. 31 know, our members took part in the parade; and according to John Camp of the St. Paul Pioneer Press, we were "very good". Special thanks go to Med Lafond who provided the canoe. A dozen of us also participated in the World's First and Longest Indoor Parade through the St. Paul skyway on Feb. 6. All who took part had a good time afterwards too.

Séraphine Byrne

On Jan. 30th, 15 members went to the Ramada Inn in St. Paul to greet and welcome the Winnipeg "Voyageurs" to the St. Paul Winter Carnival. We brought cheese, crackers, and wine, socialized a bit and sang a few songs. The following day in the parade, they cheered us on and we cheered them on. We have established a wonderful rapport that we should continue to nurture.

Lucille Ingram

CARNIVAL OF NATIONS

Members will be participating in the Festival Bazaar again this year. In order to have a larger variety of items to sell, we are asking for donations of handicrafts, especially needlework, made by our talented members. The only thing that we are not allowed to sell is food. If you are interested in donating something, please bring it to the April 6th meeting. Please put your name on the item, so that we can return it in the unlikely event it remains unsold.

Anyone interested in volunteering to work in the bazaar or exhibit, please call Séraphine (bazaar) or Francine (exhibit). Remember that workers will be given a free pass to the Festival. Also: Those of you who would like to purchase advance tickets for friends or family can do so by sending a pre-stamped self-addressed envelope to Dorothy Landry, 1401 Circle Terrace Blvd. Col. Hgts. 55421.

Reduced price of the tickets is
 ADULT 4.25
 YOUTH 2.75 (8 to 18 yrs. of age)
 CHILDREN free if accompanied by parents.

PUBLICITY

Starting with this March issue, Francine and Lucille, in collaboration with Richard Kees, will now be editing the "CHEZ NOUS". Though Richard did enjoy working with us and will continue to support us, he would like to devote more time to his own group, l'Union Métis.
 Thank you, Richard.

MEMBERSHIP

La Société Canadienne-Française welcomes:
 Christian and Marguerite Caille
 Mr. René Hurtubise
 Mrs. James Ross.

ATTENTION

Please send in your dues NOW for 1981 to avoid the expense of being notified. This is the only revenue for the Société.

DID YOU KNOW?

that French, not English, was the common language for commerce and administration during the early American period of Minnesota.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The following amendments to the Constitution of the Société will be voted upon at our general membership meeting April 6th:

Constitution Article III - new Section 3.4

"The Board of Directors (henceforth named the State Board of Directors) shall have the authority to establish and affiliate local chapters of this society. Corporate affiliation fees and regulations shall be determined by the State Board of Directors in the Bylaws of this corporation.

Bylaws Article IV -

"At the first annual meeting of the membership, half, or one under half, of the directors, shall be nominated and elected for a term of one year and the remaining directors for two years; after the first year the directors shall be elected for a term of two years, and they may be re-elected."

Le calendrier

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

MARCH
16 Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Judd Sandberg

APRIL
6 Membership Meeting,
St. Louis Parish
7:30 p.m.
SPEAKER: Wilfred Cheeney
Entertainment by Francine
and the Joyeux Baladins

20 Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

May
1,2,3 FESTIVAL OF NATIONS
St. Paul Civic Center
There will be no membership
meeting in May.

PRESIDENT	John Rivard	1-253-2199
SOCIAL	Justa Cardinal	776-5087
HISTORICAL	Geo. LaBrosse	455-3700
MEMBERSHIP	Evelyn Lund	789-7000
FINANCIAL	Sera Byrne	226-2233
PUBLICITY	Lucille Ingram	533-0890
SUNSHINE CLUB	Lucille Ingram	533-0890
BAZAAR	Sera Byrne	226-2233
EXHIBIT	Francine Roche	755-5936
NEWSLETTER	Francine Lucille Richard Kees	

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