

La Société Canadienne-Française
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chez nous

Newsletter of JANVIER & FÉVRIER 1985

La société canadienne-française

VOL. 6 NO. 4

note de l'éditeur

As many of you are well aware, this nation's foremost symbol of what this country stands for--our Statue of Liberty--is in desperate need of repair. We as a concerned group of individuals that share the same roots at this FAIR LADY feel an obligation to come to her aid. With this in mind, the board of La Société comes to you at this time with a request for any donations that may be made, made in the name of the Société. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. Donations will be accepted at the general meetings or thru the mail up to June 1. The money that is collected will be presented on the fourth of July. Lets make a good showing.

I would like to thank all who took part in the Christmas celebration. A special thanks to Louis (Santa) Ritchot, his daughter Wendy, Pat Stegbauer and Jon Tremblay who organized the party and to all those who helped with the food and worked in the kitchen. A good time was had by all. Merci.

A correction needs to be mentioned here; the price of a single ad is still \$4.00 but a yearly ad will only be \$20.00. Please note.

Anyone having any official records pertaining to the Société from inception 6 years ago, must be returned to our President, Louis Ritchot. All records must be kept together. Louis thanks you.

Jacoby is resigning as Chairman of the dues Committee after several years of faithful service. We owe him a debt of thanks for the great job he has done. Merci Pat for your dedication to your Chairmanship.

Pierre Girard is still looking for historical material on the Société. He really needs your help. Please bring anything you may have to the March general meeting.

Again, I wish to encourage all members to send in any news or stories or pictures they feel would be of interest to the Société.

Jerry Forchette



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

All membership renewal was due the first of the year. Your membership is necessary for the continuation of our organization. New members are welcome to join at this time also. Dues are as following:

\$1.00 for a minor
\$5.00 Senior single
\$6.00 Senior couple
\$7.00 Single
\$10. Family

Please send your dues to your respective Chairperson:

In St. Cloud, Merle Plante, 849 Terry Lane
Sartell, MN 56377. In Hibbing: Dick Bernard,
2014 First Avenue, Apt. 6, Hibbing, MN
55746. In the Twin City area or out of State
mail dues to Geo. LaBrosse, 4895 Brent Ave.
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55075
Thank you. Geo. LaBrosse

l'histoire ..

Pierre Bottineau is probably the most colorful character in Minnesota's French-Canadian history. But then, aren't all French-Canadians colorful?

We are not even certain that Pierre was French-Canadian. Al Dahlquist failed to find the Bottineau name in Quebec genealogical records. One source at the MHS stated that Pierre's father was a Huegonot clergyman who migrated from Boston to Manitoba. Despite these areas of doubt in his pedigree, he is very much connected to the settlement of French-Canadians in Minnesota.

Bottineau, a tall and powerful man with prominent features and black eyes as sharp as arrowheads, was a very forboding figure.

He was born January 1, 1817 at Rats Point on the Turtle River in what is now North Dakota. The area was later named Bottineau Point after his father, Joseph, who was employed by the Northwest Fur Trade Company. Pierre's mother, "the clear shy woman" was mixed Ojibewa and Dakota; he spoke both languages along with French and English. (Mention this to your kids the next time they gripe about studying languages.)

During his formative years, Bottineau rode with the famous guide Antoine LeCompte who carried mail and messages from Ft. Garry to Ft. Snelling. It took 2 months to make this treacherous journey and the vicious winters of the north were indeed a poor asset. Often they went without food. When they did eat the delicacies ranged from pomican to skunk. One of the posts enroute to Ft. Snelling was Traverse des Sioux operated by Louis LeBlanc; Bottineau and LeCompte nearly starved to death trying to find it. Louis, in fact was Louis Provencalle. But the Sioux called him Skadan which is equivalent to Whitey in English. It was only logical for the French-Canadians to call him La Blanc!

Bottineau married Genevieve Larance, daughter of Jean-Baptiste Larence on December 1, 1836. He was a farmer at the Red River Settlement. Shortly after the wedding, Pierre would embark upon what would be his most famous voyage.

To be continued.

John England



NEWS FROM ST CLOUD CHAPTER

At our monthly meeting on January 17 we were entertained and informed by our lumberjack, John T. Rivard, on the rugged and exciting life of the early loggers in Minnesota. He took us back to the early days over 100 years ago and portrayed the life of our pioneers.

The St. Cloud Chapter is making plans to participate in the Water, Wheels and Wings Festival in St. Cloud in July. A float is in the works. The Chapter will also participate in the Heritage Day in the Twin Cities this fall. A Nominating Committee was elected to present names for Board mem^{bers}; election in May.

Delicious crepes were served by the ladies to round out a delightful evening.

John T. Rivard

NEWS FROM THE HIBBING CHAPTER

Our next general meeting will be held on February 25. We meet the fourth Monday of each month.

We wish to thank Al and Pat De La Pointe who organized our Christmas Pot Luck dinner. It was well attended by our 18 members and fun was had by all.

We now have 20 members, so we are growing. Anyone interested please call Dick Bernard at 1-800-622-7767 or write Dick at 2014 First Ave. Apt. 6, Hibbing, MN 55746.



Our President, Louis Ritchot, and President Emeritus, John T. Rivard traveled to Bemidji on January 11 to meet with the International Languages Village. While they were royally entertained by the Village authorities, they had several meetings to make arrangements, for the Heritage Day the Societe is planning for this fall. The Language Village holds camping weeks every summer to inculcate a language by immersion in a language. They have 9 different language camps of Swedish, Norwegian, French, German and even Chinese and Russian.

The Language Village is conducted by Concordia College of Moorhead. The Village is conducting a conference on French influence in Minnesota this fall in the Twin Cities. It will consist of papers given by outstanding experts on the French explorers, settlers, authors, journalists, politicians, etc. A book will be published.

La Societe and the Village are planning on having their events together at Riverplace or some hotel. The date has not been set, but middle October or first week in Nov. seems likely.

Also coming to the Twin Cities for their annual meeting at the same event are the board members of the Alliance Franco-Americaine du Midwest, President Marie Miksell of Chicago.

The different groups planning an event this fall should be exciting. Watch these columns for details.

Submitted by John T. Rivard

FRENCH HOLY DAYS AND CUSTOMS



LE JOUR DE L'AN

New Year's Day is really the most important feast day in the French Canadian calendar and tops the list of family social events . . . The family always gathered at the patriarchal home. In the morning all the children knelt at their father's feet, as soon as they saw him, for his blessing. He placed a hand on each bowed head, making the sign of the cross while making a short prayer . . . No matter how old, or how long away from home, whether single or married the visiting children or visiting grandchildren knelt for the patriarchal blessing as soon as they entered the house.

Everyone kissed each other on New Year's Day. The young men when calling on their sweetheart started by kissing the grandmother, the mother, and all the other girls in the family so that no one could object when he finally kissed his sweetheart.

There was always much visiting on New Year's Day with neighbors and friends calling on each other. I also remember the custom of "Courrir la Vigne Alle". One man began by calling on his neighbor and enjoying a glass — or more — of wine, after which the two of them called at the home of a third friend for another glass of wine, and so on until there were 20 or more stopping for the glass of wine. The last visit was made to the richest man in the neighborhood, as he alone would have enough glasses and wine to exercise the hospitality.

CADEAUX ET TOURTIERES

Gifts were always exchanged between adults on New Year's Day — and the children looked also for gifts, which were supposed to be brought during the night by "Croque-Mitaine" . . .

And of course there was always a big dinner to end off the day . . . the table for the family dinner was festive with the best dishes, glassware and silver . . . French Canadians were very fond of goose, stuffed and beautifully roasted, with the traditional "tourtiere a la viande" as a close second. The tourtieres, or meat pies, made of ground pork with onions and spices with a rich crust, were baked just before the start of "les fetes". Starting with Christmas Day on to New Year's Day and "Le Jour des Rois" (Epiphany, January 6) — a holy day in Canada — with the Sundays in between, made a lot of holidays for feasting, visiting and celebrating.

Housewives would prepare for the round of entertaining by baking as many as 30 to 40 tourtieres, 25 dozen doughnuts, as well as many fruit pies of all kinds, which were frozen and then warmed up in the oven when needed. Every household had a special cupboard built on the porch just off the kitchen where the frozen food was kept.

MARDI GRAS

"Les Fetes" was the start of "Le Carnaval", each family receiving their relatives, friends and neighbors in their homes, the round of festivities ending with Mardi Gras, which is the day before Lent begins. On the evening of Mardi Gras people would dress in masquerade and go calling on neighbors before gathering at some home to celebrate until midnight.

TO THE MINNEAPOLIS GANG
125 everywhere St. N.E.
Twin City of Montreal
Minneapolis, MN 55 402
USA

4
Enderd of Dec. 1984

Dear Whole!

The introduction of this letter is my way of conveying to you that the Spirits (not the Surdyk's ones) of the Pompeys are great again despite the departure on the rocks (not the Surdyk's ones) which some or all of you witnessed on this memorable January 1984. We want to reassure all of you that our house was finally sold at the end of Sept. Amen. Now off to more futuristic things....

How to do that? Well let's apologize for not writing to some or all of you but this was purposeful: we did not want to. Because we had to work like crazy to establish ourselves again here like immigrants; tiny house, micro-budget, maxi-expectations, maxi-expenditures with nano-income, nano-time for everything, maxi-pressures on both the couple of adults and the trio of children. Nevertheless, I mean, alwaystheless, we SURVIVED! This letter is living proof of mind over matter. This is very true, how many times did we say to one another "Never Mind" or "It does not matter". You see, in other words, if you mind your business money does not matter. Follow me? It looks like I have all the time in the world to write this letter, this is true, that's all the time I have. My right finger dexterity is so good, I can write this page in 2 hrs with a maximum of letter precision... Carmelle and I did not want to let 1984 go by without giving you some news about ourselves. We have of course been thinking about you all during the past 10 months.

FEBRUARY: The 13th Carmelle is already working; selling advertising space for a brochure of appearance at major theaters of one of the most famous singers in Quebec. She quits on a Friday in early April to start working the following Monday for the Quebec equivalent of Business Week, a business journal and magazine for the Quebec businessman. She is still employed there, selling advertising space. (She is already in the Space business). She is doing very well. (I don't say she is doing well because she is my wife, but I say she is my wife because she doing well). She is the bread, and butter winner of the family, the children are the cookies winners and chocolate whiners. No more home schooling, they are with a regular class in a regular school with very regular teachers, teaching at even more regular-than-this-times of the days. English classes for Sacha and Youri, French immersion classes for Stefan. All is well so far. Carmelle is also in school. She is getting a certificate to pontificate in Marketing (we both talk marketing at bedtime in a language that is more conducive to arouse the desires, like any good marketing program). Actually, this is not why she is taking this course...I was just kidding, you know, once in awhile I have those kidding urges. Pardon me. She is also getting a certificate in Advertising to complement the other course. This way she will get ahead up-the-ladder of management faster and become a president before too long. This is a lot for her, as you know when she gets involved in something, it is 150%. So, the work at the University, the children, and the husband take their toll; she even has more energy than before. The human is a marvelous wonder; he dies when doing nothing and blooms when working hard. Therefore, Carmelle is doing reeeeeeeel well.

Gilbert, my own very self, all my own, belonging to self me, my God!? I am going crazy, no need to say. I have established heretofore, my self-made presidency of FORCE 3 MEDICAL, INC. Now I can say that I am a self made man; not really, Carmelle made me. FORCE 3 MEDICAL is a distributing company that markets High Technology top-of-the-line medical products aimed at the Cardiologist, the Cardio-vascular surgeon, the Neuro-surgeon, the Orthopedic surgeon. The long range objective of FORCE 3 MEDICAL is to become the leading Hi-Tech products distributor of Eastern Canada and to have Carmelle as president, while I will be looking at things like laser products or other worth-while-to produce devices to improve the dying North American. This within the next 5 years. Well, I had my first sale on May 1; an order for \$78.00. I jumped to the ceiling. Now sales are hovering at the \$12,000 per month mark. Of course, for Gil, this is far from acceptable, but this is a start. It makes me slightly profitable after all expenses paid. I am overworked, I get calls, unsolicited, by companies looking for distributors. I started with 4 companies now I have about 10 or 11. This starts to be too much. I will refuse the next offer. I will end up spreading myself too thin and will lack the time to do a good job. My next purchase has to be a small business computer.

We are sorry not to have the time nor the courage to personalize our letter to you. This is why our letter is so long. This past-just-happened-experience of starting anew has triggered in us a salutary rejuvenation. Despite the very difficult circumstances, the pressures, the time compression, the busyness, the non-socializing, the hard work, we find a sense of serenity. No more shopping, except for food, no more luxury of anything; we feel happier; we feel like we are 25 again. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose. We both recommend the experience to some or all of you. Amen.

Dec. 23—Today we are listening to the cassette we recorded at our Christmas Midnight Mass 1983. It plunges us into the depth of good memories in the Twin Cities. We think of you all and are thankful for what you did for us. Thank you very much. We are longing for the day when we will be able to go to Minneapolis for a visit. We hope to do it in 1986. By then Carmelle and I should be able to have a responsible person at our employ to give us some free time for a little vacation. WE WISH YOU A HAPPY 1985!

Carmelle & Gilbert

The following letter is from Dick Bernard's Father, which you are sure to enjoy:

At the suggestion of my son Dick Bernard, I am writing to you at this time.

He has seen to it that I have a subscription to Chez Nous. He has given me copies from time to time and I was interested in reading many of the articles that appeared--not only the ones authored by my son--but others as well.

The recipe for French Canadian pea soup in the latest issue was something that brought back many memories particularly of the soup that my mother made in large quantities especially in the winter time. She would divide it up in suitable chunks so that it only had to be thawed out to furnish a delicious meal for us. Hot pea soup in the cold country (North Dakota) was a welcome treat for all of us (Bernards).

A recent memory of some two years ago at the picnic in St. Paul, I happened to be in the area at the time and my son took me to it. I remember the very fine pea soup that was prepared by two husky fellows. I had a bowl of it and it tasted almost as good as what my mother had made years ago. I told my son that it was the custom that if you like the food you were to "kiss the cook", which I did!

Keep up the good work.

Henry L. Bernard

ENTERTAINMENT--SCHEDULE
For the General Meetings

- February—Lumberjack presentation by John Rivard
- March—Square Dancing and Bingo
- April—Quilt exhibition-presentation on the history of each square of the quilt.
- May—Presentation on the history of La Soci  t   by Pierre Girard

IN MEMORIUM

We deeply mourn the recent passing of a fellow member of our Society, Adele Milon. Adele was a very enthusiastic member of the Soci  t  s quilting group. Although she was not well for a long time she continued to participate in the Soci  t  s' activities til the end. The Society was very important in her life and we will miss her.

Adele was a cousin to Eva Nelson, another member of our Society. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the entire family.

We also send our sympathy to the Art LaVigne family. Art passed away the early part of January. He was the brother of James LaVigne. The Society recognizes his passing with sadness.

Historian makes voyageurs come alive

By Pat Doyle
Staff Writer

They performed feats of strength, traveled a lot and liked to party after the season was over.

They signed three-year, no-cut contracts for \$60 a year and never renegotiated. It's hard to find an agent in the middle of the wilderness.

French-Canadian voyageurs were the athletes of the late 1700s and early 1800s, toting nearly 200 pounds of gear apiece on miles of twisting portage trails and maneuvering canoes through treacherous rapids.

"They would often jump into the river when it was shallow to pull a canoe through rather than portage around it," said John Rivard, a former district manager of the Minnesota Historical Society. "The water was icy cold in April and May and they were wet all day."

The voyageurs are more than textbook characters to Rivard. Now semiretired, he travels the state performing a one-hour show on the voyageurs for high schools and colleges. He also has appeared at the University of Chicago and University of Colorado. The 73-year-old Rivard maintains a pace that would make a voyageur proud, conducting nearly 100 performances a year.

He dons a buckskin coat and knit hat for his performances, displays axes, furs and tools and describes the routes the voyageurs followed from Montreal and Toronto to northern Minnesota and elsewhere.

Most men who became voyageurs were in their late teens and early 20s, strong, gutsy, unskilled and unemployed.

They were Frenchmen who built outposts for British-owned fur companies in Anglo-dominated Canada and transported supplies and furs along a kind of natural interstate waterway.

Voyageurs "tried to make up for their second-class status by doing something adventuresome," Rivard said.

They would set out in the spring for



Staff Photo by Bruce Bisping

John Rivard, 73, dons a buckskin coat and knit hat for the show he performs for high schools and colleges on French-Canadian voyageurs, the athletes of the late 1700s.

southwestern Ontario and what is now Upper Michigan and Minnesota, using 40-foot canoes on large lakes and 25-foot versions on smaller lakes and rivers. Six to 14 men paddled in each canoe, which weighed up to 4 tons when loaded.

Although voyageurs typically carried 180 pounds of packs on portages, some ambitious members of the expedition would carry more than 250 pounds "to challenge each other to see who could carry the

most the farthest," Rivard said.

But it wasn't all fun and games. Voyageurs ate two meals a day, mostly pork and pea soup. They sometimes became testy after spending months in the wilderness.

"Voyageurs would get angry if they didn't get rum on special occasions," Rivard said. "There were a few cases of murder."

When they returned to an outpost,

usually a couple of times a year, "they would have a big bash and would do a lot of drinking — they loved to drink rum and 'high wine,' which was a kind of brandy. They would invite Indian girls to dance."

Nevertheless, Rivard said, historians have overstated the role of the voyageurs in "corrupting the Indians." Voyageurs traded tools and cooking utensils more often than liquor to the Indians for furs, he said.

Minneapolis Star and Tribune

Monday
January 14/1985

13A.

Fort Beauharnois

THE hope of discovering a river-route to the Pacific Ocean was almost an obsession with the early French explorers. Nicollet tried to find it and failed. Groseilliers and Radisson were lured by this will-o-the-wisp further west than any other white man had penetrated. They, too, failed as all were destined to fail for the very obvious reason that there is no such waterway. Nevertheless attempts continued to be made by the undaunted French traders. Du Lhut suggested the erection of forts in the country of the Sioux in furtherance of the project to reach the western sea. Several routes were proposed and the Duke of Orleans, Regent of France from 1715 to 1723, was importuned to authorize an expedition to bear the Fleur-de-lis across the continent to the Orient.

In 1720 Father Charlevoix, the historian of New France, who was collecting information for the discovery of the Western Sea, made similar recommendations after a trip from Quebec to New Orleans; but it was not until 1726 that King Louis XV authorized Governor Beauharnois of New France to fit out an expedition in charge of a commanding officer and two Jesuit missionaries to establish a trading post in the upper Mississippi valley. On June 8 of that year the Governor entered into a contract with the Company of the Sioux which, in return for exclusive trading rights among the Indians, agreed to erect a stockade with a chapel and houses for the commanding officer and the missionaries, supply everything necessary for the enterprise while the contract lasted, and not do anything to obstruct the work of christianizing the savages.

René Bouchard, Sieur de la Perrière, was placed in command and the Jesuit Fathers Michael Gaignas and Nicholas de Conner accompanied him. They left Montreal on June 16, 1727, and reached the western shore of Lake Pepin, opposite Maiden Rock in Wisconsin, on September 4, where they built a fort, one hundred feet square, enclosed by four rows of wooden posts, twelve feet high, with two bastions. Within the stockade three log buildings, 30, 38 and 25 feet long and 16 feet wide, served as a chapel and residences for the commandant and the missionaries. It was named Fort Beauharnois in honor of the Governor and the chapel was dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, the patron of Father Guignas and of the Governor. The savages assembled around the post to the number of one hundred and fifty in ninety huts; but there is no evidence that a school was connected with the mission.

This was the second chapel built in Minnesota, almost three quarters of a century after the log structure erected on Prairie Island by Groseilliers and Radisson. On its primitive altar was celebrated the first Mass said in Minnesota. There is a record that on November 4, 1727, the feast of St. Charles, patron of Governor Beauharnois, the Holy Sacrifice was offered up for him, and a display of fireworks held in his honor to the great consternation of the Indians who were terrified at the sight of the stars falling from heaven as they thought.

The fort was inundated the following spring and had to be evacuated. Father de Conner returned to the East in 1728 and the hostile attitude of the Sioux caused many of the shareholders of the Company to withdraw their support.

In October, 1728, Father Guignas and eleven Frenchmen departed for Canada, were taken prisoners by the Indians and held in captivity for five months during which they were often in danger of being burned at the stake, but were finally liberated and continued their journey to Canada in 1730. Efforts were made to restore the fort and in 1732 it was transferred to higher ground with Godefroy de Lincot in command and Father Guignas as resident chaplain. The fort collected and shipped tens of thousands of beaver pelts annually until 1735 to the home market and the Company prospered. St. Pierre succeeded Lincot as commandant in 1735; but hostility between the Sioux and the Foxes finally led to the abandonment of the fort on May 30, 1737. It was reoccupied in 1750 at the urgent request of the Marquis de la Jonquière, Governor of New France, but was finally evacuated five years later.

As far as can be ascertained it is probable that the second fort was built on the high plateau on which Villa Maria Academy, near Frontenac, now stands. The school, in charge of the Ursuline Sisters, was dedicated by Archbishop Ireland on September 8, 1891, when the convent chapel was placed under the protection of St. Michael the Archangel, thus linking it with the pioneer chapel in which the first Mass was celebrated in this state.

The Goodhue County Historical Society arranged and successfully

carried into effect an appropriate celebration at Frontenac on September 17, 1927, for the 200th anniversary of the building of Fort Beauharnois on the shore of Lake Pepin. The central feature of the program was the unveiling of a bronze tablet bearing the inscription:

"Near this spot Fort Beauharnois was erected by the French in September, 1727. Here also stood the Mission of St. Michael the Archangel, the first Christian Chapel in the present boundaries of Minnesota".



Festival of Nations to have new look

The 1985 Festival of Nations will have a new look when it returns to the St. Paul Civic Center May 3-5. There are several changes in the lay-out because of the Civic Center remodeling which is now complete.

The bazaar will move from the arena's second level hallway to the basement area of the Wilkins Auditorium which should result in less crowding.

The exhibits will move from the Auditorium basement to the next floor up, adjacent to the Program area.

The program will be staged continuously this year which will allow more performance time for each group. It should also end the congestion experienced during past years in the hallways following each program.

The upstairs and downstairs will be conveniently connected by moving escalators.

The Festival will open an hour earlier on Friday, 10 a.m., so that the Festival can accommodate school groups more easily.

We are hopeful that these changes will be helpful to guests and participants alike.

COURS DE FRANÇAIS/FRENCH COURSE

Instructeur/Instructor: Jon Tremblay 780-4547 (HM)
298-0997 (WK)

Quand/When: Wednesday evenings from 7-9 or 7:30-9:30 plus
½ hour optional.

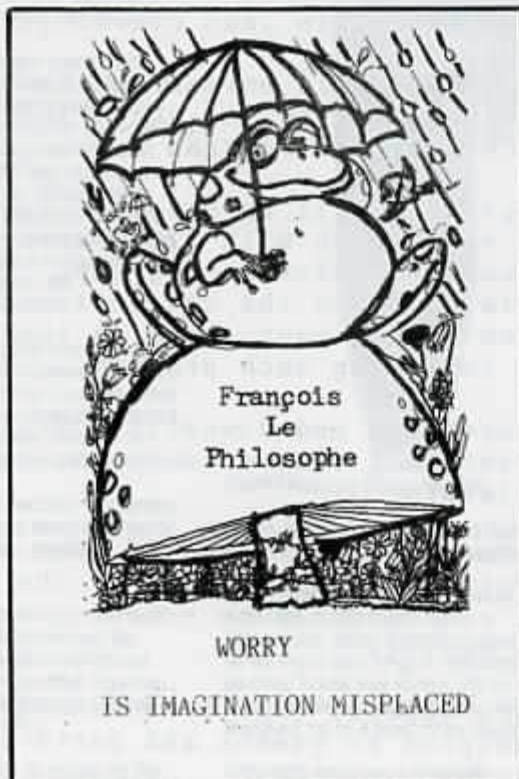
(I'd like some feedback regarding the night
and the time chosen here.)

Où/Where: The Party Room of Ramsey Square's building #2710,
located in the northeast corner of the intersection
of County Road C and Dale.

Coût/Cost: \$3.00 per session.

Ce dont vous aurez besoin/What you will need:

- 1 un carnet/a notebook
- 2 un stylo ou crayon/a pen or pencil.
- 3 un dictionnaire français/a French dictionary
- 4 un dépliant/a folder



Burnet

PIERRE GIRARD
SALES ASSOCIATE

MPLS. LAKES OFFICE
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LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANCAISE meets regularly on the first
Monday of each month at 7:30 in the Parish Hall of St. Louis's
Church at 506 Cedar in St. Paul, MN. LET'S take pride in our
Society, LET'S VOLUNTEER our services and talents, LET'S GROW

From
LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE
4655 University Ave. N.E.
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Newsletter of MARS _____ AVRIL _____ 1985

La société canadienne-française

VOL 6 NO.5

FROM THE EDITOR

The Festival of Nations will soon be upon us. Louis Ritchot is the general chairman of the Festival and Pat Jacoby is chairman of the Bazaar. Our exhibition booth will have a French-Canadian Heritage theme using posters, furs, slides, and of course THE quilt. The hours of the Festival is as follows:

May 3—10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
—11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
May 5—12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.

Anyone volunteering must be in costume and you may contact Pat Jacoby if you wish to help out in any capacity. Pat's number, 488-3683.

I understand that the entertainment for May will be a talk on Beekeeping by Mr. Cheeney. Also at this time I would like to congratulate Mr. Cheeney on the 50 ski runs made by him for the starving children of the world and his winning for the most money pledged which was over 4,000. Mr. Cheeney is 78 years young, and to you I say bless you for the terrific job well done. We need more like you.

Les Canadiens Errants have been hired for February of 1986 for the Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg. At the past Festival in February of 1985, our President Louis Ritchot was interviewed on the radio in Canada on behalf of the Society.

We wish to thank Stella LaBlanc of Little Falls for her contribution to the Statue of Liberty in the name of our Société.

I realize it is a little late for wishing all of you a happy Easter but our best goes out to all of you. Enjoy the season.

Jerry Forchette

NEWS FROM HIBBING

The Hibbing Chapter is going strong with a continuing program on our heritage.

The April program (4/22, 7 p.m.) will include a tour of the Hibbing Historical Museum at the Hibbing City Hall.

The May program will be on Fort Williams, Ontario on a date to be announced.

In June, chapter member, Pat Ciochetto and family will host the Range for a St. Jean Baptiste potluck at her home on Side Lake, north of Hibbing on Sunday, June 23. Chapter members from other parts of Minnesota are most cordially invited to spend the weekend on Minnesota's beautiful Iron Range—let us know if you plan to come.

Several members of the Chapter plan on attending the Festival of Nations in St. Paul on May 3-4. La Société members with an extra bedroom are being sought!

For information about La Société, Iron Range please contact Dick Bernard, 2014 First Ave., Hibbing, MN 55746 or call 800-622-7767.



Pierre Bottineau

Continued

Early in 1837 our intrepid ancestor left the Red Red River country bound for Fort Snelling with Martin McLeod, an Irishman called Hays and a Polish gentleman. Bottineau served as guide for the group, and they were equipped with all the necessary winter gear, including snowshoes.

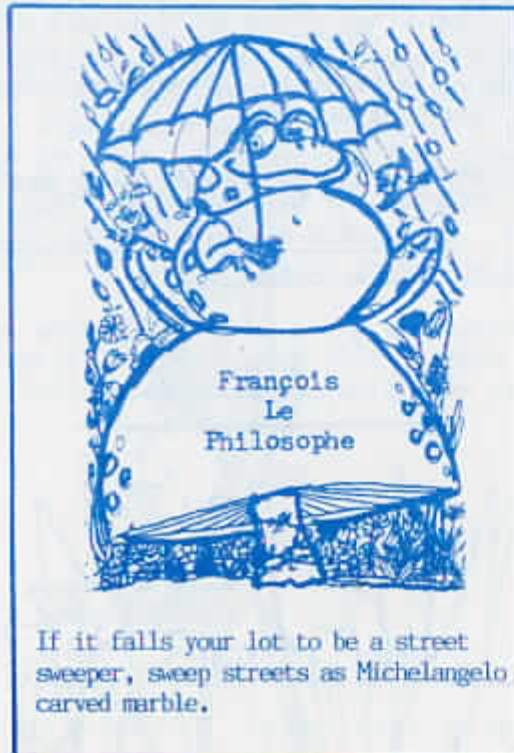
Despite their precautions, the foursome became entangled in a lusty late winter blizzard which literally blew them off their course as a gale does to a ship. Hays and the Polish gentleman perished; Bottineau and McLeon survived, as if by a miracle. They sustained themselves by eating the dogs who had accompanied them and they passed 26 days without seeing anybody until arriving at the Lake Traverse post of Joseph R. Brown. Soldiers at Fort Snelling witnessed their arrival on 17 March 1837.

Bottineau remained in the vicinity of the fort and worked as a guide for the American Fur Company under Sibley. He once remarked that the rival Hudson Bay Company treated their men "comme les betes" (like beasts).

Unfortunately, his fur trade connections were of little help in 1840 when soldiers evicted the brave guide, Pig's Eye Parrant, Benjamin Gervais, Vital Guerin and many other French Canadian and Swiss settlers who had come down from the Red River. They were considered squatters by the government and military leaders. The eviction was unfair to be sure; but Parrant's booze emporium was influential in the decision. Soldiers with hangovers in the 1840's were just as unpopular with their commanders as they are today.

Bottineau was forced to locate in St. Paul in 1841, with his brother, Sever. Pierre then secured property from Ben Gervais that was later known as Baptist Hill. Our friend was restless—a true voyageur—always on the move. He settled again in St. Anthony in 1845 where he is considered a founder of that village and a generous benefactor to the Roman Catholic Church. to be continued

Submitted by John England



LA SORTILEGE by Dick Bernard

It was like déjà vue for me on February 28.

I was in Orlando, Florida for a meeting and two of us took an afternoon to visit EPCOT. (a fantastic tour for those who have wondered...). Near the end of the afternoon we walked to the portion of EPCOT which features pavilions of various countries. As we entered, there was this tapping music I half recognized. Sure enough, there they were Les Sortilege, the folk group from Montreal that had entertained us in St. Paul in the spring of 83.

They apparently were featured entertainment at EPCOT during the entire month of February. I am glad that I was there when they were!

Masterpiece painted in the wilderness



Painting by three artists in small church north of Quebec City.

Three artists, James Hansen, Myriam Laplante and Claude Simard, have created a 372-square-metre painting in a small Quebec community with a population of about 1 000. A painting of this size is rarely displayed in such a small town.

Larouche, which is Mr. Simard's home town, lies off the main highway, southwest of Lac St. Jean and 150 kilometres north of Quebec City. North of Lac St. Jean is 1 600 kilometres of wilderness.

The work covers all the walls of the church of St. Gerald-Magella, a modern building, designed by the Quebec architect Charles Tremblay. The centre of the roof is stretched like a tent between high rectangular windows at the north and south ends. Four curving triangles form the walls, each arching upward from a height of 2.7 metres at the side entrances to over 7.6 metres where the two windows meet the roof.

Stories from the Bible

The painting, on canvas, depicts the history of the Bible from creation to apocalypse.

Adam and Eve and the fall of the Tower of Babel appear just inside the church entrance and, the stairway to heaven is a tier of figures, lost souls striving towards the angels halfway up. The passion of Christ moves along the right hand wall beside the altar, and on the left the four horsemen of the apocalypse race towards the high window at the back.

For the artists, the painting was the culmination of a series of huge collaborative paintings they had done in New York, Provincetown, and Montreal. It represents

a year of planning and a month of work.

The painting has created a great deal of interest and support among the residents of Larouche who came out to celebrate its completion. Initially considered as a temporary installation, the painting has become something they want to keep and the whole community is working to raise the \$125 000 to pay for the work of art.

According to the parish priest, Father Isadore Tallon, "elderly people are coming to see this work. They know the Bible and when they find the stories on the wall they're amazed. It is a painting that speaks to them directly, and they bring their grandchildren here to see the history of their religion in a form they can easily understand".

Gallery owner Samuel Lallouz and financial consultant Georges Vezina, both of Montreal, backed the church project by the three artists after seeing their collaborative painting called *Trilemma*.

Mr. Lallouz and Mr. Vezina set up a trial project, a chance to see the artists work firsthand, in Montreal, during the last two weeks of August. The result was their first large collaboration on canvas, a painting that covers the downstairs walls of the Samuel Lallouz Gallery.

The work is a blend of the styles of three painters who share a number of common concerns. It is figurative, primitive, emotional, and direct. The holy, pre-renaissance cast to Mr. Simard's figures blends with Mr. Hansen's interest in medieval and African art, and Ms Laplante's figures that are reminiscent of Bosch or Munch.

(Condensed from an article by Ian Ferrier.)

LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANCAISE
Treasurer's Annual Report 1984

12

Balance January 1, 1984

Checking Account \$986.77
Savings Account -0-
\$986.77

INCOME

Chapter Fees, St. Cloud	55.60	
Hibbing	17.00	
Donations	156.00	
Member dues	705.00	
Sales	1,117.00	
Misc.	4.64	
Interest on Savings	41.14	
TOTAL INCOME		<u>+2,096.38</u>
		<u>3,083.15</u>

EXPENSE

AFAM dues	100.00	
Les Francaise/Calendars	275.00	
Meetings	339.94	
Picnic	61.50	
Postage/Printing	646.93	
Christmas Party	127.87	
Miscellaneous *	879.93	
TOTAL EXPENSE		<u>-2,431.17</u>

Balance December 31, 1984

Checking Account 246.84
Savings Account 405.14
\$651.98

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Charbonneau
Treasurer

*Includes:

Printing Notre Manuel \$257.
Advance to Canadiens Errants for tapes \$500.



JOHN T. RIVARD
RR. 2 North River Road
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301
(612) 253-2199

CHEZ NOUS

NOUVELLES de ST CLOUD

A joint meeting of the Sons of Norway Lodge of St Cloud and La Société of St Cloud was held at the VFW club rooms in St Cloud on March 19th. The meeting was a grand success of comradeship and unity.

The meeting was introduced by the Sons of Norway having a short meeting. Then President John Langlais introduced, and he gave a short background of our chapter. Langlais then introduced our official voyageur, John T. Rivard, who gave his usual rousing display of songs, trade goods, furs and artifacts. The Sons and Daughters of Norway were duly impressed at the significant contribution the French-Canadians gave to Minnesota history and culture.

John and Norma Langlais had prepared three large pots of steaming pea soup which they served to the group of about 200. Many of the Norway group were dressed in traditional costume. Several of the men and women of La Société were also in costume. It was a colorful evening of friendship and mutual concern for ethnic roots and tradition.

The St Cloud Chapter plans on more of these group meetings with different ethnic organizations. Such meetings give justifiable pride to our program and inspire each group to continue promoting their projects.

J. Rivard

Louis Riel, the Father of Manitoba, was born in St. Boniface on October 22, 1844. Bishop Tache sent him to study at the College of des Sulpiciens, in Montreal. He returned in 1869, a few years after his father's death, and settled in St. Vital. At that time, the Hudson Bay Company had transferred the territorial rights of the Red River Settlement to Canada without consulting the habitants of the land. The Métis who wished to preserve their rights founded a Provisional Government and elected Riel as its President. Under his able leadership, the Manitoba Act was signed in 1870; Manitoba became a province of Canada and the Métis' rights were assured. In 1885, Riel led the North West Rebellion, but was defeated at Batoche. Accused of high treason, he was hung in Regina on November 16, 1885. His body was taken to St. Boniface where the funeral Mass was said in the Cathedral and presided by Bishop Tache. In the evening, the coffin was incorporated into a cement block and buried in the cemetery of St. Boniface Cathedral. The following words of Louis Riel are inscribed on the monument:

"Yes, I have done my duty. During my life I have aimed at practical results. I hope that after my death my spirit will bring practical results. All that I have done and risked, and to which I have exposed myself, rested certainly on the conviction that I was called upon to do something for my country... I know that through the grace of God I am the founder of Manitoba."

BACKGROUND

By winning the 7 years war, (1756-63), Great Britain gained sovereignty over all the northern half of North America, in addition to the 13 colonies she had long controlled on the Atlantic seacoast.

When these thirteen colonies had become independent in 1776, this northern half of the continent alone remained under the British crown.

In 1867, the colonies of Canada east and west, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick bound themselves together in a confederation which they named the Dominion of Canada.

In 1870, this new confederation bought a vast territory within British North America known as Rupert's Land, from the Hudson Bay Company for 3000,000 lbs.

At the very heart of Rupert's Land lay a tiny area called the Colony of Assiniboia. The center of this colony lay at the "forks", where the waters of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers meet.

By the late 1860's the population numbered about 11,000 people, in all. They looked upon themselves as a distinct well organized community—which they were—under the British Crown.

Neither the British government nor the Government of Canada—nor the Hudson Bay Company itself for that matter—had made any efforts to consult with the inhabitants of Assiniboia arranging to have their colony transferred to the jurisdiction of Canada. Thus, when they heard rumours of what was about to happen to them, the people of the Red River became thoroughly alarmed. It seemed to them that, if they were to become "Canadians", they ought to be given an opportunity to do so on their own terms.

THE MAN

Louis Riel was born October 22, 1844, near the "Forks" and baptized at St. Boniface Cathedral.

Louis was the eldest of a family of nine, four boys and five girls. At the age of 14 Bishop Tache of St. Boniface selected him, along with three other local lads, for a higher education in the East. He almost completed his course; but when news reached him in 1864 of his father's death, he lost interest in college, and dropped out and went to live with his uncle and paternal aunt.

Jobs were difficult to find, the attitudes of Montrealers were hard to understand. By the time he drifted back to the "Forks" via the United States in 1868, after the absence of ten years, Louis was convinced that Canadians were "different" from the people of the Red River, that their value-scale was foreign to the one by means of which he had been raised.

Thus, he was alarmed like the other inhabitants of the colony when he heard of the take-over, by Canada, that was about to take place.

Continued on the following page

THE DRAMA

In Assiniboia, people of different origins and different religions lived in close harmony and goodwill; close family and social ties bound them together. The Hudson Bay Company, which for the past 40 years or so had ruled over Assiniboia and had long ruled, insofar as there was any ruler, all the lands drained by rivers flowing into the Hudson Bay, was a great commercial enterprise. Though well equipped to cope with a large fur trading empire, it had proved—as the population increased in the Red and Assiniboine Valleys—that a fur trading company could not continue to control people's lives.

Everyone recognized this fact and everyone was ready to consider change. Upon the urgings of Ontario, Canada prepared to take the Company's place. More and more Canadians from Ontario arrived in the West, awaiting what they believed to be the inevitable. Aggressive in character, sincerely attached to their own way of life and their own way of doing things, they began insisting on a voice in the government of this colony in which they had chosen to live.

Most people in Assiniboia made their living by farming, hunting, trapping, fur trading and fishing.

The Métis formed the largest group in the colony. Each year they organized expeditions to hunt the buffalo on the plains. Buffalo meat, fresh or dried, was daily fare; buffalo skins and sinews were to them almost like cloth and thread.

When not out on the hunt or employed by the fur trade, the Métis lived in settlements along the Red River, south of the Assiniboine and along the Assiniboine. The site of these were selected so as to be close to water. A small plot of land would be cultivated, mostly potatoes were grown, and a larger area behind it was set aside to provide hay for the horses. Along the river bank, there was sufficient wood for fire and for the construction and the repair of the Red River Carts.

To be continued



Recette

TARTE AU SUCRE

1/2 tsp. baking soda	1 cup brown sugar
1-1/4 cups maple syrup	1/2 cup butter
1 cup flour	Favorite pie crust

Line 9 inch pie tin with crust. Mix baking soda with maple syrup, stir til soda is dissolved. Pour into shell. Mix together with fingers, flour, brown sugar and butter to obtain granulated consistency. Pour over syrup. Bake 30 Min. 350 degrees.

TARTE AU SUCRE No. 2

1 cup maple syrup, 1/2 cup water, yolks of 2 eggs, 2 tablespoons flour dissolved in small amount of water. Cook in double boiler til thick. Pour into baked shell and top with meringue from the 2 egg whites or whipped cream.



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SALES ASSOCIATE

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LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANCAISE meet regularly on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 in the Parish Hall of St. Louis's Church at 506 Cedar in St. Paul, MN. LET'S take pride in our Société, LET'S VOLUNTEER our services and talents, LET'S GROW.

Return Address:
La Societe Canadienne Francaise
du Minnesota
6360 10th St. N. Apt. 110
Oakdale, MN 55119



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CHEZ NOUS

BER 11 99250851 05/25/85
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La Societe Canadienne Francaise Du Minnesota
mai/may
1985

FIRST CLASS

Bernard, Dick
P.O. Box 11
Hibbing, MN 55746

PAGE 1

The CHEZ NOUS starting this month is the project of a new editor -Jon Tremblay. Due to the Board of Director's recent decision to change the CHEZ NOUS from a semi-monthly to a definite monthly publication, Jerry Forchette is unfortunately no longer able to continue as editor. We wish to thank Jerry for all her hard work, creativity, and dedication to our little newsletter. Merci beaucoup Jerry!

DES DATES IMPORTANTES A SE SOUVENIR/SOME IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1 Next general membership meeting: June 3rd at 7:30 PM at St. Louis Catholic Church in St. Paul. (NO PROGRAM, ELECTIONS TONIGHT)
- 2 Next board meeting: June 12th at 7:30 PM, in the party room of building #2710 of Ramsey Square Condos, located at 2710 N. Dale, Roseville, MN 55113. ANY MEMBER IS WELCOMED!
- 3 Statue of Liberty Fund: As of today (5/9/85) we have collected only \$39.00. Members of all chapters please have your donations in by NO later than JUNE 6th to: Magi Charbonneau, 2708 Shawnee Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337.
- 4 Pea Soup Days Parade: Sommerset, WI on Sunday June 16th. Interested? Contact: Monsieur Ralph Germain at 439-7087.

- 5 LE GRAND PIQUE-NIQUE D'ETE/THE BIG SUMMER PICNIC:
 Sunday June 23rd from 12:30 to 6:00 PM, at Thompson Lake Park
 (Behind Brady High School). Out of downtown St. Paul take the
 Lafayette Bridge (Highway 3) south to the Butler Ave. exit, turn
 right onto Butler, go west approximately 2 blocks, the park will be
 on the left side. *NOTE* As previously stated at the May meeting
 the picnic will NOT be a potluck due to the varied times that
 people come and go. Bring for your own. Only pea soup will be
 provided by the Societe. (Unfortunately only 3.2 alcohol is
 allowed) For more information contact: George LaBrosse at 455-
 3128. COME ONE COME ALL!!
- 6 Aquatennial: There will be sign-up sheets at the next membership
 meeting. Help will be needed to make the float. Come and be
 prepared to volunteer yourself.
- 7 Heritage Days at Riverplace: September 28th & 29th. Get involved!

ELECTIONS 1985

According to the rules of the constitution, this year 8 new board
 members will be elected. The following names have been submitted by
 the nominating committee for positions on the Board of Directors.

MAGI CHARBONNEAU Born and raised in Minneapolis. Retired as Admini-
 strative Officer after 38 years at the Farmers and Mechanics Savings
 Bank. Married to Alan Charbonneau of French Canadian ancestry. She
 has enjoyed the service as treasurer of the Societe for the past 3
 years.

JEAN CROTEAU Born in 1919 on a farm near the French speaking communi-
 ty of Dayton, MN. Education in Northeast Minneapolis schools in-
 cluding: Notre Dame de Lourdes and Edison High School. Graduated from
 St. Thomas College. Served in the US 5th Army, 12th Air Force & 15th
 Air Force in North Africa and Italy during WWII. Retired from the
 Pillsbury Company in 1981 after 29 years of service. Family of one
 son, and two granddaughters. Widower since 1981. Jean is a longtime
 member of the Societe.

DAN GENDREAU Thirty eight years old, the son of a French Canadian
 immigrant and an English, Scotch, Irish mother. Married 19 years to
 wife Bev. He has 4 children ranging in age from 14 to 18. He works
 as an Electrical Engineer for the Thiele Engineering Co. of Edina. He
 enjoys amateur radio, genealogy and music. He has been a member of
 the Societe for 2 years. Dan is a valuable member of "Les Canadiens
 Errants" as their guitarist.

GEORGE LaBROSSE Married, father of 3 girls, member of the Societe
 since its beginning. He has worked on the Membership Committee for
 two years before which he was chairman of the Historical Committee.
 George would like to see more out-of-state people involved with the
 Societe as well as making it better known to the public here.

LOUIS RITCHOT Born and raised in St-Boniface, Manitoba. He and his
 family moved to Minneapolis in 1967. He is married and the father of
 3 girls and 1 boy. French is his first language, both parents being
 French Canadian. Louis works as an Electrical Engineer owning his own
 business. He has served as our Societe president this past year.

MARION SIRVID Born and raised in Northeast Minneapolis of French Canadian parents. Married, Marion has 5 children and nine grandchildren. A charter member of the Societe, she has been active in the organization since its birth, especially genealogy.

PAT STEGBAUER Born and raised in St. Paul. She is the organist at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Minneapolis and has been the directrice of our singing group, "Les Canadiens Errants" for the past two years.

MARIE TREPANIER Born in Iron Mountain, MI and raised in Minneapolis. She has worked as a registered nurse for 18 years. She is active in the singing group and has been the chairman of the Cultural Educational Committee for 2 years.

Nominations will be invited from the floor, however, persons nominated should have been approached beforehand as to their willingness to serve. The remaining board members will be serving for one more year. This is done to give continuity to the organization.

UN MESSAGE IMPORTANT/AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Logically speaking, one joins an organization such as our Societe for several reasons: fellowship, a common heritage, perhaps singing and dancing, sharing ideas and stories, and maybe even language. All of the above mentioned usually and normally mean "INVOLVEMENT"! There would not be a Societe without active, involved members.

Are you presently a healthy, perfectly capable, yet inactive member sitting on your "derriere" at home receiving your CHEZ NOUS every other month while a small handful of conscientious and dedicated members bear the burden and responsibility of keeping this organization afloat?!?!

THE SOCIETE NEEDS YOU!!
PENSEZ-Y.

AUTRES NOUVELLES/OTHER NEWS

Anyone interested in taking over the Sales Committee from Pat Jacoby? Pat has done a great job and has served his time well. We sincerely want to thank him for his efforts and dedication. If you are interested in this area, get in touch with Pat at: 488-3683.

We (The Board) are looking for someone to do a membership drive. Interested? Contact one of the board members. Merci!

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS 1986: (It's not too early,...really!) For information contact: Mademoiselle Sera Byrne at 224-2636.

NOTE DE L'EDITEUR I want to publicly thank Louis and Darren Ritcho* for the use of their company's computer to help organize and compose the Chez Nous as well as the Societe's address and telephone number lists. Vive les ordinateurs!

Note There will be a general membership meeting on Monday, August 5th due to our involvement in Heritage Days at Riverplace.

INFORMATIONS IMPORTANTES/IMPORTANT TIDBITS

- I Authentic, custom made, traditional, French Canadian costumes contact: Wendy Astlund (Ritchot) at 757-7231.
- II French Classes, translations, literature contact: Sr. Ella Germain at 690-3695 or Jon Tremblay at 731-3767.
- III "Les Canadiens Errants" The Societe's semi-professional singing group. Information, tryouts contact: Pat Stegbauer at 484-2384.
- IV Cultural Educational Committee contact: Marie Trepanier at 483-4356.
- V CHEZ NOUS DEADLINE: The 10th of each month. Anyone is welcomed to submit material for publication. All material MUST be neatly printed or typed; nothing else will be accepted. Thank you.

A Final Concern: Are you receiving your copy of the Chez Nous without any problems? Is your address correct? Are you receiving more than one copy? Do you no longer wish to receive the CHEZ NOUS? Comments or concerns contact: Jon Tremblay at 731-3767.

ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS ISSUE OF THE CHEZ NOUS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: Jon Tremblay, 6960 10th St. N. Apt. 110, Oakdale, MN 55119
Tel: 731-3767 (Don't be afraid to leave a message on the machine
Merci)



chez nous

Newsletter of JULY-AUGUST 1985

La société canadienne-française

VOL. 6 NO. 6

EDITORIAL

Since I was not given the opportunity to put out a final Chez Nous, I am putting out this small edition on my own in order that you who attend this meeting may read the finish to the Louis Riel article and also the ending of John England's story.

My intention was to resign from the editing of the Chez Nous after the June edition, as the Board decided to go with a monthly flyer and to cancel out the Chez Nous as we now know it. However, Jon Trombley jumped the gun so to speak and declared himself editor with the edition of the flyer so then he felt that in order that the membership not be confused that the June issue of the Chez Nous be eliminated completely.

With my work schedule as it is, I feel I could not do justice to a monthly paper. My intention was to thank all of you who helped in any way with the Chez Nous in the past, so am doing so now, with special thanks to John Rivard, LeRoy DuBois who did a great job with the mailing and John England who was always ready with pen in hand to enlighten us with a bit of history. Merci to all.

Jerry Forchette

PEA SOUP DAYS-SOMERSET

On June 16 a group of La Société members left for Somerset to march in the parade and to sing in the festival. Much to our delight our group won first prize in the Novelty division. All were in costumes and a fun time was had by everyone.

The colorful Métis family of Ted Drake, all 3 generations, attended in costume and so very beautiful to see.

Med LaFond allowed us to use his canoe in the parade; the soup was great; all in all a wonderful summer day spent with friends.

Sera Byrne

A parting shot

Nothing is more reasonable and cheap than good manners. --

Considering a long weekend this summer?

Thunder Bay - Grand Portage.

From the Cities it's about a 5 hour trip to Grand Portage, at the Minnesota-Ontario line on Lake Superior.

Grand Portage...a major Voyageur gathering place in the early days of Minnesota. At Grand Portage there is a reconstructed Fort, lodge, the Grand Portage Inn.

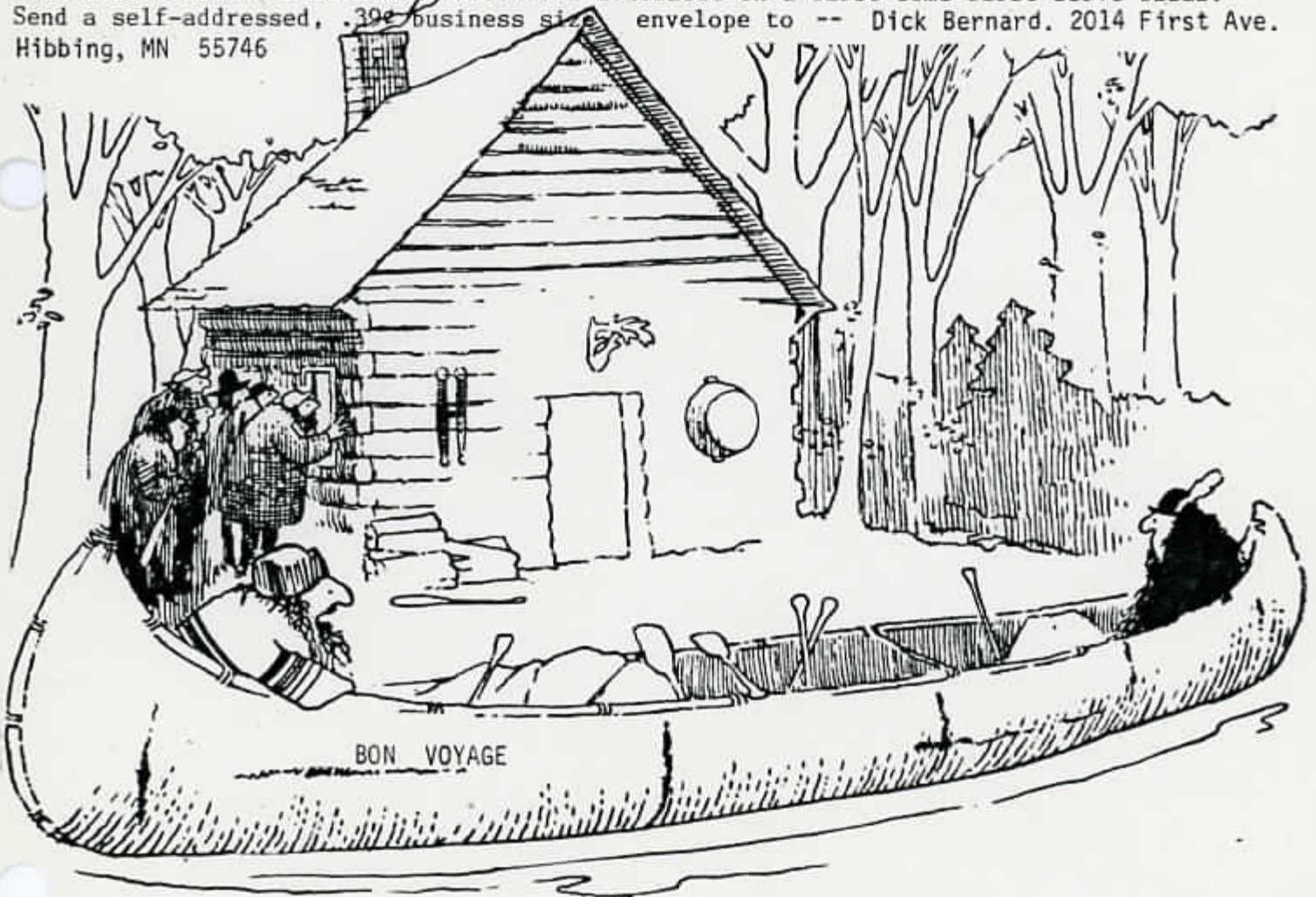
Got a little extra time?

Take the boat from Grand Portage to Isle Royale (the "eye" in Lake Superior). Isle Royale is a true wilderness area featured in the April, 1985, National Geographic. It's a short trip. Some people go just for the ride; many camp for several days on the island.

Heading north and east from Grand Portage is Thunder Bay, Ontario-at 40 miles north only a "hop, skip and jump" from the border. Thunder Bay is one of Canada's truly great ports. There is a great deal to do and to see in Thunder Bay: Old Fort William is a marvelous reconstruction of an old British trading post; the harbor tour is superb; the amethyst mines east of the City are worth the trip all by themselves; the Terry Fox Memorial. All of these, not to mention fantastic wilderness parks.

On second thought, you could easily spend a week. But a long weekend would get you the flavor, allow you to wet your appetite.

More information? I have some brochures available on a first come first serve basis. Send a self-addressed, .39¢ business size envelope to -- Dick Bernard, 2014 First Ave. Hibbing, MN 55746



Compliments of Guindon Cartoons
Submitted by Jerry Forchette

"Idiot! I told you to hire a crew of voyageurs!"

The way of the hunt was threatened by the proposed annexation of the colony to Canada while the land rights of the Métis along the rivers appeared to be threatened as

In 1869, the Canadian government sent surveyors to Assiniboia to mark off the land in large squares, or townships—land that had always been in strips stretching back from the rivers. Seeing the activity of these surveyors, the colonists began to fear that their property was about to be taken away from them.

Hudson's Bay Company Governor Mactavish, of Assiniboia who was responsible for the colony's welfare, was mortally ill. Bishop Taché who had much influence among the Métis, was absent in Rome. There existed a real vacuum of authority in the land.

As for the strangers who had come from the new Dominion of Canada, they hoped to see the buffalo plains become a land of farms and towns, just like their former homeland in English speaking Ontario.

The Métis, who had reasons to mistrust the new people in their midst—and who felt increasingly unsure about being ruled by Canada—decided to take matters into their own hands. By organization and cooperative effort they would ensure their own welfare, as they were determined to do on the buffalo hunt.

First, they stopped the surveyors who were working on the West side of the Red River, a few miles south of Fort Garry.

Soon Riel and the Métis learned that the Canadian Lieutenant-Governor elect, William McDougall, was on his way to the settlement—via the United States—along with a shipment of arms. They decided that neither McDougall nor the arms should be allowed to come through until the question of "takeover" had been fully discussed with Canada.

Up until now, the Métis had created all the "action" in the name of their own national committee. But at this point Riel began trying to involve the other residents in the colony. (If he hoped to impress Ottawa with his views, he must broaden his political base). He issued a proclamation inviting the parishes, Protestant and Catholic of Assiniboia to choose delegates and send them to a convention. The purpose of which would be to draw up a list of rights that could be presented to the Canadian Government for consideration. All the parishes responded and the delegates met on

November 16; but when Riel suggested that they set up a provisional government to replace the moribund Council of Assiniboia, many of them declared that they had not the authority to make such a decision. Consequently, the meeting adjourned to allow the delegates an opportunity to consult with their people on this matter.

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When the convention met again on December 1, Riel again failed to obtain from the delegates unanimous support for a provisional government. This was the date the official transfer of Rupert's land to Canada had been expected to take place. Many of the delegates feared that (if the transfer had actually been made, in England or in Canada) it would be a treasonable act to establish a provisional government now. Once again, the convention appeared to be unable to accomplish concrete results, in this regard.

A few days later Riel and his Métis followers, in the face of an attempt by the Canadian party to seize power captured about forty members including the leaders and imprisoned them in Fort Garry; then, still without the unanimous consent of the convention, they proclaimed a provisional government, of which Riel was appointed secretary. Hearing of these events at Fort Garry, McDougall headed back toward Ottawa to report his failure to enter the colony.

The Government of Ottawa now sent emissaries to placate the population and to bring it to accept annexation. One of these, Donald A. Smith, an official of the Company, soon appeared to be successful in whittling away Riel's support. In order to bring the situation into the open, Riel convened a meeting for January 19, 1870, to hear the proposals brought by Smith on behalf of the Canadian government. As this meeting continued through that day and the next (outdoors), it became obvious that Canada had fundamentally good intentions towards Red River. Riel moved that a convention of 40 delegates, twenty French-speaking and twenty English-speaking be called to draw up such a list of such rights which would then form a basis for future negotiations. The motion was adopted on the spot.

A week later sessions began and discussions on a revised list proceeded in earnest. Riel obtained the delegates approval for a provisional government representative of the colony as a whole, with himself as President. It included Métis, Half-breeds and a few members of the Council of Assiniboia. Three men—Father Ritchot, Judge Black and Alfred Scott—were named to proceed to Ottawa to present the list of rights to the government there.

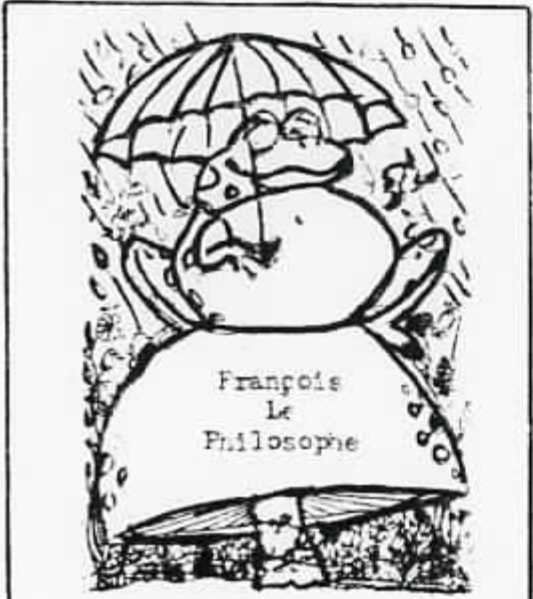
As for the prisoners taken the previous December, they were to be released immediately if they promised to abide the provisional government and not interfere further with affairs of the Red River. Among them was Thomas Scott, a young man from Ontario.

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Immediately after being released and not adhering to their promise, Scott and several others of the Canadian party began again organizing support to overturn the provisional government. On February 16, along with about 40 others, Scott was taken prisoner for the second time, shortly after 2 deaths had occurred because of their activities.

After attempting to escape he was brought before a court, convened as was the custom during the buffalo hunt, to try him. All 7 members of this body found him guilty of denying the authority of the provisional government, of fighting with his guards and insulting the President of the provisional government. Five voted in favor of the death penalty while two thought exile sufficient punishment. The next day on March 4, he was shot by a firing squad commanded by André Nault.

In any case, on March 24 the three delegates left for Ottawa to negotiate terms of entry into Confederation with Sir John A. MacDonald and Sir Georges E. Cartier, the representatives of the Canadian government. The new act provided among other things, for land to be set aside to answer Métis claims to their ancestral soil; for the use of the father tongues, English and French, in the legislature and the courts; and for the creation of Manitoba as a province with its own elected legislature, a right of all British subjects.

At the beginning of May, Sir John A. MacDonald, the Canadian Prime Minister, had said in the House of Commons: "About the name for the province...the Indian languages of that section of the country give us a choice...the province which is to be organized shall be called Manitoba. I suppose, therefore, there will be no objection to the name that has been fixed upon...and is an old Indian name, meaning the God who speaks—The Speaking God". On July 15, Manitoba was proclaimed the first new province to join Confederation.



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NEWS FROM L'ALLIANCE FRANCO-AMÉRICAINNE DU MIDWEST

Six new Franco-American organizations were formed in 1984:

1. L'Assemblée Française de Grande Fourche, North Dakota
2. L'Association des Français du Nord, Red Lake Falls
3. Le Cercle Français de Northeastern Ohio et West Pennsylvania
4. Le Groupe Assimine, La Vieille Mine, Missouri
5. La Société Canadienne-Française du Iron Range, Hibbing, Minnesota
6. French-Canadian Society of the Kankakee Valley, Kankakee, Illinois.



AFAM celebrated its 1st anniversary on March 16, 1985.

Results of the election which took place
April 1st:

- John Rivard, St. Cloud, Minnesota - President
- Charles Beaudet, Detroit - Vice-President
- Colette Royall, St. Louis, Secretary
- Marie-Reine Mikesell, Chicago, General Secretary

Congratulations to all, in particular to John Rivard, our own former President and Founder of La Société Canadienne-Française du Minnesota. We are very proud of you!



PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WISCONSIN - TRICENTENNIAL

The community of Prairie du Chien, named by the French in honor of an Indian Chief called Alim (which means dog) is celebrating its Tricentennial this year. Many events have taken place already but the next BIG event, open to the public, will take place on Aug. 10th. The French-Canadian day will feature various activities and food, including roasted pig; also, entertainment by Franco-Americans of the Midwest.

Translated and submitted by
Lucille Ingram



chez nous

Newsletter of SEPTEMBRE, 1985

La société canadienne-française

EDITOR: Dick Bernard

VOL. 7 NO. 1

CO-EDITOR: Jerry Forchette



The float in the St. Cloud parade: "Water, Wheels and Wings" in July. The St. Cloud chapter prepared the float. left to right: John Langlais, Geo. LaDouceur, Bernice DeMarais and Gloria Ebacher.

L'histoire ..

by John England

Our French-Canadian Ancestors, Volume 3, by Thomas J Laforest. Available from LISI Press, Box 1063 Palm Harbor FL 34273

Our French-Canadian Ancestors, Volume 3 is a splendid continuation of M. le Cure' Lebel's Nos Ancetres. Tom Laforest is to be commended for his excellent work and research.

Chapter 1 deals with the role of the Church in early Quebec and it gives a cogent explanation of why the Catholic faith flourished and how it encompassed nearly all aspects of French-Canadian life. One must understand the importance of Catholicism in order to fully appreciate the culture of our ancestors!

Chapter 2 is also noteworthy and is attractive to all of us. It deals with the origin of French-Canadian surnames. Included in this section is an explanation of those confusing yet interesting "dit" names used by our relatives from another age. You will find it very informative. There is also a list of surnames in Appendix A and their corresponding English equivalents.

It goes without saying that all the chapters on the individual ancestors are interesting. However, chapter 17, which gives the history of the Letourneau's should quench the inquisitive thirst of the people from Hugo and Centerville where this name is so common.

This volume is well-illustrated with maps and portraits and it contains a treasury of well-researched information that is of interest to all who are of French-Canada descent. I highly endorse this book to all members of La Societe Canadienne-Francaise.

Calendar

(Did we miss something? Let us know in time for the next issue)

Chapter meetings:

TWIN CITIES: 1st Monday, 7:30, St. Louis Catholic Church, St. Paul

RANGE: 4th Monday, 7:00, Memorial Building Hibbing

CENTRAL MINNESOTA: 3rd Thursday, 7:30, Whitney Senior Center, St. Cloud

Oct 5-6 Ft. Snelling, 1820's Crafts Fest

Oct 12-13 Oliver Kelley Farm, Elk River, 19th Century Childrens Games

Oct 13 NW Company Pine City, Snake River Canoe Trip (Pre-regis required) also: wild food & crafts workshop

Oct 19 Eveleth, full day workshop on Genealogy including Joy Reisinger, author of Lost in Canada. Pre-registration. Brochure from Ed Nelson, Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm MN 55719

Oct 19-20 Oliver Kelley Farm, Elk River, Husking Bee

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FROM OUR CHAPTERS

The Twin Cities chapter of LaSociete has had several activities during the summer.

* during the Minneapolis Aquatennial, the group had a new float in both parades; Pierre Girard and Louis Ritchot performed at opening ceremonies; the singing group sang at four different Aquatennial functions.

* La Societe received the first place novelty award at Somerset's Pea Soup Days parade in June.

* the quilters were extended a well deserved "thank you" for sewing the banners that were used in the Aquatennial parade. Their superb quilt depicting our culture was displayed at the State Fair.

* while the June picnic was not well attended this year plans are to build more interest for next year.

The French Canadian Society of Central Minnesota at St. Cloud participated in the big Water, Wings and Wheels Festival in July. President Floyd Desmarais and his faithful voyageurs prepared a float with a voyageur theme: a canoe packed with furs and paddled by members dressed in costume.

The chapter held elections this summer and the following were elected:

President: Floyd Desmarais; vice-president: Jerry Lavoie; secretary: Gloria Ebacher; treasurer: George LaDouceur.

Other members of the Board of Directors are: John Langlais, Julian Plante, Diane Olson, Judy Antil, Irene Mavis and Mona Nied.

Our president and wife, Bernice, enjoyed an educational and enjoyable trip to New England this summer.

Our president-emeritus, John Rivard and wife, Jeanne, made an extended trip to the Pacific Rim including Japan, China, Thailand, Singapore, Bali and Hongkong. The far east countries are very different in every respect from America. They are trying mightily to progress and, at the same time, keep their traditions and customs of past centuries alive. John is preparing a slide show entitled: "The Exotic Pacific Rim".

submitted by: John Rivard

WANTED: Short articles in French, with a separate accompanying English translation. It is hoped that such articles in Chez Nous will give those of us who do not speak/read French the opportunity to try a little chance to do some translation.

The 23 member Range chapter of LaSociete has had a busy and enjoyable summer.

The Club held a picnic on the eve of St. Jean Baptiste Day on June 23, and 25 people attended. Pat and Pete Ciochetto hosted the picnic, which featured more than enough superb food and "just right" conviviality. Henry Bernard from San Benito TX was a special guest.

On July 28, nine Club members "paddled" a Voyageur canoe in Hibbing's Old Fashioned Day Parade. The canoe (and its occupants) were warmly received by the large crowd. Many thanks to Club president Ken Nault and sons for the superb replica of the Canoe.

On September 9, eight Club members started a basic class in French, led by Quebec native Pat Ciochetto. The first objective is to learn enough French so that we can sing and not starve to death while in Quebec!

Our first program, on September 23, was the film "Canada Today" which was supplied by the Canadian Consulate.

Another Canada film, "Gastronomie", will be the basis of the October 28 program. This film is about the autumn banquet of Le Club Prosper Montagne at Hotel La Sapiniere in the Laurentians. Members are asked to bring French-Canadian recipes to this meeting.

The November 25 meeting will be devoted to the singing of Voyageur songs.

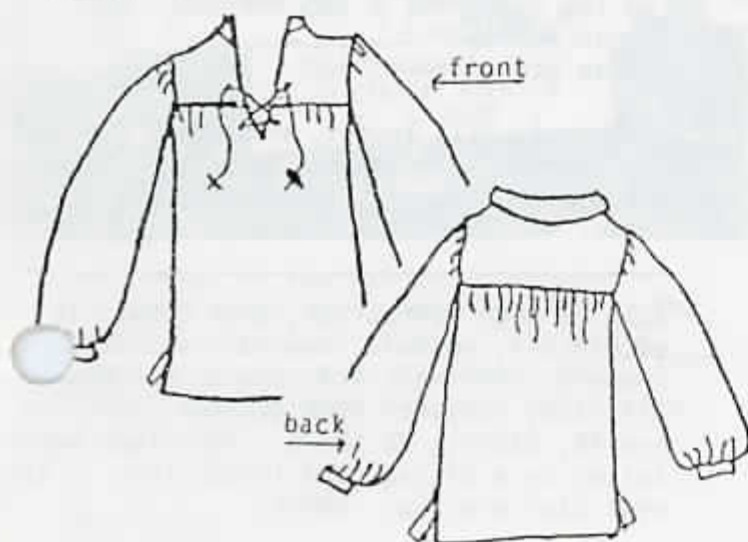
More information? Club president is Ken Nault, Star Rte 2 Box 332A Hibbing MN 55746. Phone: 218-254-2312.



Voyageur

In order to travel in the spirit of the Voyageur, you should be dressed like one. Voyageur clothing was colorful, practical and comfortable. Their costume consisted of light, but tightly woven cotton pants, a billowy shirt in calico or other cotton print, and a long woven sash that provided support to the abdomen. The clothing was cotton because it would dry quickly, and loose fitting for freedom of movement and to keep mosquitoes away from the skin.

Below you will see a basic outline of the voyageur shirt. Simple enough to sew yourself, make it long (the sash around your waist will make it shorter) and wide enough for easy paddling. What looks like fringe in the drawing is really just gathers in the cloth.



For pants, any light cotton work pants will do. Blue jeans are not good on the trail as they take a long time to dry and are heavy. Pants should be loose fitting.

The sash is a brightly colored strip of woven material approximately six feet long and six to eight inches wide, with long fringes on the ends. Weave your own or improvise from some woven material. A weaver in Ely MN (Nancy Seliskar, S.R. 1 Box 2954, 55731) and LaSociete have the sashes for sale.

(Article courtesy of:
Northern Lakes Girl Scouts
2401 First Avenue
Hibbing MN 55746)

Feb 2 Our Lady of Lourdes celebration,
Tourtiere, Minneapolis
Feb 16-23 Festival du Voyageur in St.
Boniface, Manitoba

note de l'éditeur 26

Our ancestors, I know, often suffered trials and tribulations as they set roots in, first, Quebec, and then the United States.

We in La Societe have had smaller "trials" these last few months, with some few rough seas to sail. But we're back on track, ready (with your help) to have an outstanding year.

As you read this and succeeding issues we'd ask you to contribute some of your time, energy, talents and ideas to making this Club grow and prosper.

You need not even consider "doing it all". What you might do is think about:

* one, or two. . . or a dozen . . . people who you should invite to joignez nous (join us);

* renewing your membership before the January deadline;

* articles, cartoons, recipes that might fit in future issues of Chez Nous;

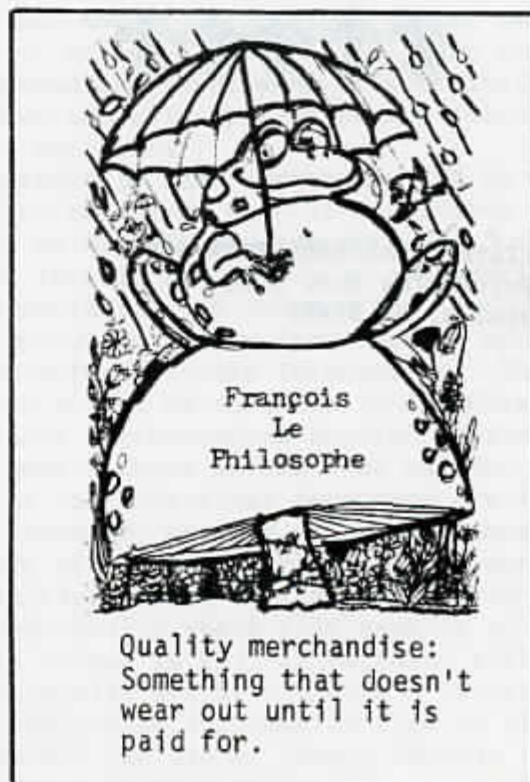
* upcoming events that are of interest; of places you've been others might like to see; little vignettes about your own ancestors

We will thrive, but only by working together. "Things" don't just happen; they happen best when we work together.

Have a wonderful fall.

I'll hear from you?

co-editor Dick Bernard
2014 1st Ave #6
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Folklarama - Winnipeg

A spot unfortunately missed by many is Winnipeg/St. Boniface in August - more specifically Folklarama Week (next year: Aug. 10-16, 1986).

Folklarama is a festive occasion with a 15 year tradition. This year even 4" of rain on a saturday failed to dampen enthusiasm of thousands of visitors and locals.

At the French-Canadian pavilion in St. Boniface standing room only crowds waited in the rain for almost an hour for the opportunity to experience great music, dance, food and drink. Their patience was richly rewarded.

A few blocks away was a Metis pavilion, and throughout the City over 30 other nationalities had their own pavilions - each with wonderful food and shows. (All pavilions are connected by bus).

It would take a full week to see everything Folklarama and Winnipeg have to offer. But a long weekend can accomplish much.

Recommendation: three days at the end of Folklarama with Monday off is probably your best bet if you have limited time. This will give you the chance to attend the Grand Finale on Sunday night, and to see at least several of the more interesting pavilions.

Put it on your calendar for next year!

A satisfied traveller,
Dick Bernard



From
LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE
4655 University Ave. N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55421

Recette

"JUST LIKE GRANDMOTHER USED TO MAKE"
A recipe from Josephine Collette Bernard (1881-1963) given her by her mother Clotilde Blondeau Collette:

MINCE MEAT

- 1 lb beef neck (water to cover)
- 8 oz of beef suet
- 2 lbs of tart red apples
- 4½ cups of raisins
- 2½ cups of currants
- 2½ cups of sugar
- 2½ cups of water
- ½ cup of chopped mixed candied peels
- 1½ tsp finely ground orange peel
- 1½ tsp finely ground lemon peel
- 1 cup of orange juice
- 1½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- ¼ tsp ground mace

Cook meat till tender, put meat, suet and apples through food chopper. Blend with other ingredients, simmer for one hour.

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER, YOUR CLUB: If we succeed, or fail, depends on your support. Our next deadline is NOVEMBER. Articles, etc., to DICK BERNARD, 2014 1st Ave #6, Hibbing MN 55746. Show this newsletter to a friend, and invite them to the next Club meeting. MERCI.



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chez nous

Newsletter of NOVEMBRE—DECEMBRE 1985

La société canadienne-française

EDITOR: *Dick Bernard*

VOL. 7 NO. 2

CO-EDITOR: *Jerry Forchetta*



Blessed Christmas!

BONNE ET HEUREUSE ANNÉE ET LE PARADIS À LA FIN DE VOS JOURS.

French-Canadian Christmas

by John England

The Christmas season was always a time of joy and hope to the faithful French-Canadians who inhabited a land that often offered them only a harsh climate, few comforts and an unhealthy helping of despair. Louis Hemon reflects this feeling much better than I ever could in his classic novel, Marie Chapdelaine:

"Through the little window they looked on the gray sky and found little to cheer them. To go to Midnight Mass is the natural and strong desire of every French-Canadian peasant, even of those living farthest from the settlements. What they do not face to accomplish it! Artic cold, the woods at night, obliterated roads, great distances do but add to the impressiveness and the mystery. This anniversary of the birth of Jesus is more to them than a mere fixture on the calendar . . .; it signifies the renewed promise of salvation, an occasion of deep rejoicing . . . this year, more than ever, Maria yearned to attend the Mass after many weeks of remoteness from houses and from churches."

Reveillon, the feast after midnight Mass would last into the wee hours of the morning. Tourtiere, soupe aux pois, boudain (blood sausage), la tete fromagee (head cheese), and home baked bread were commonly served to those ravenous Frenchmen. Bread was considered to be almost sacred to them. And roast goose would often be served on Christmas - the Canadians were especially fond of it.

I remember my grandmother telling me that the French-Canadians didn't use Christmas trees, and Christmas was kept as a holy day when she was a child. Gifts were exchanged on New Year's day in the Brule' house east of Faribault where she was raised - a custom that was brought from France.

New Year's eve was more of a social holiday. And making the rounds was a highlight of the evening. One Frenchman would

*"There was a young man from Quebec,
Who was stuck in the snow to his neck.
When asked, "Is you frizz?"
He said, "Yes I is . . .
But we don't call this cold in Quebec."*

call on another; they'd have a drink and then go on to the next house and so on. They were fond of their drinks, but it was considered ²⁹ a disgrace to be drunk.

New Year's Day or Jour de l'An, also had its spiritual aspects, in addition to the merry-making. It was, of course, a holy day of obligation. And in Quebec, the descendants of each family would return to their father's house and he would give them his New Year's Blessing (la Benediction de Jour de l'An) as they knelt before him. The little ceremony seemed to indicate the idea that papere was still in charge! This custom traces its roots to medieval France, and the Canadians brought this beautiful ceremony with them to the States. But it was gradually reduced to a family reunion in some areas. Nevertheless, the head of the family continued to greet his kin with a hug, and a kiss on both cheeks, and would wish them Bonne Heureuse Annee.

SOURCES for this article:

The First Cross, by Stella LeBlanc
Pea Soup and Johnny Cake by MA Starr

Calendar

(Did we miss something? Let us know in time for the next issue. Deadline: Jan 6, 1986, to Dick Bernard, 2014 First Ave. #6 Hibing 55746)
Chapter Meetings

Twin Cities: 1st Monday, 7:30, St. Louis Catholic Church, St. Paul (for December, see below).

Range: 4th Monday, 7:00! Memorial Building Hibbing (for December see below)

Central Minnesota: 3rd Thursday, 7:30

Whitney Senior Center, St. Cloud

AFRAN (Red Lake Falls): 2nd Sunday, 2:00

Red Lake Falls. Virgil Benoit for details.

Dec. 6-Twin Cities Christmas party at St. Louis Church, 6:30 p.m. Bring potluck, your favorite dish enough for 6 people. Crock pots are helpful. Joe LaBrosse will fiddle, there will be a children's program and a sing-a-long.
Dec. 21-Range Christmas party at the home of Al and Pat De La Pointe in Hibbing. Potluck.

Jan. 6-Twin Cities general meeting.

Jan. 8-La Societe Board Meeting.

Jan 25-St. Paul Winter Carnival Parade

Feb. 2-Our Lady of Lourdes, Tourtiere, Mpls.

Feb. 16-23 Festival du Voyageur, St. Boniface

note de l'éditeur

Editing Chez Nous is fun! There are good contributions coming in in the way of articles, etc., and it's only a matter of time before I hear from you. Right?

This is the membership renewal issue. Don't forget to fill in the enclosed card and put it in an envelope now. We need everyone's help to succeed.

I will put in a good word for Les Francais d'Amerique calendar publicized elsewhere in this issue. I got the 1985 edition, and found it very attractive and useful. My preview copy of the 1986 calendar is also very attractive. It would make a great gift to your French-Canadian relatives or friends.

I took a very interesting Fall trip to Grand Portage and Old Fort William (Thunder Bay) in late September. There is French-Canadian history all over the place at these old (1700's) Trading Posts.

In early October, a trip to the Bayfield Apple Festival. Bayfield has a rich French Canadian heritage, and is in a beautiful part of Wisconsin on Lake Superior.

At Eveleth, on October 19, several of us took in an excellent Genealogy conference which featured Joy Reisinger. Joy puts out an excellent journal for those who are tracking their roots. If you wish more information write to me, or to Joy at 1020 Central Avenue, Sparta, Wisconsin 54656.

A meeting in Roseau in September brought me in contact with a teacher from Red Lake Falls, who invited me to their Le Festival on October 5. I could not make that trip (there are only so many days in the week!) but a review of the publication Sous Le Ciel D'Automne showed outstanding efforts by L'Association des Francais Du Nord and Virgil Benoit.

Now I'm hoping to visit at least part of L'Heritage Tranquille in Minneapolis on November 9 and a group of us are planning an excursion to Festival du Voyageur in St. Boniface in February.

And what was that rumor about Tourtiere at Our Lady of Lourdes the first Sunday in February?

Who says "nothings going on"?

Have you made your mince meat pie yet?

Dick Bernard

Recette

from Pat Ciochetto,
Side Lake MN

ONION SOUP AU GRATIN

In a heavy saucepan heat $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter
ADD $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups sliced Bermuda onions
COVER and brown very slowly stirring occasionally until the onions are a deep, even brown (about 30 minutes).

REMOVE from heat and ADD:

1 garlic clove, finely chopped

2 teaspoons flour

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper

4 cups consomme

RETURN to heat and stir until it comes to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer covered for 20 minutes.

SPRINKLE with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup grated parmesan cheese.

PREHEAT oven to 300 F

Oven toast 4 thick slices of french bread
When ready to serve put bread in the bottom of 4 individual soup bowls and fill with soup.

SPRINKLE top with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup grated parmesan cheese

Place under broiler to melt and slightly brown the cheese.

(4 to 6 servings).

PIG'S EAR TWISTS

3 eggs

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter, melted

2 cups unsifted flour

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt

lard or shortening for frying

GLAZE

$1\frac{1}{3}$ cups dark corn syrup

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped nuts

In large bowl, with wooden spoon beat eggs lightly. Stir in melted butter. Add flour and salt, mixing until blended.

Turn out onto floured board, knead until smooth about 3 min. Pinch off 1 inch pieces about the size of a walnut and roll out into about 3 or $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch circle, about $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick.

To form the "ear" put the tines of a fork in the center of each circle, piercing the dough; twist the dough a quarter turn.

Heat shortening to 360F and fry 3 or 4 at a time turning until golden brown on both sides, drain and place on foil or cookie sheet.

TO MAKE GLAZE

Bring syrup to a boil, reduce heat to low and simmer 5 min. Spoon over twists sprinkle quickly with nuts and let syrup set. Makes $2\frac{1}{2}$ doz.

Compliments of Porchette Family

French in America Calendar

The 1986 bilingual French in America Calendar/Les Français d'Amérique is now available. The format is like that of the 1985 edition with eleven color and two black and white photos; accompanying texts; and notes and dates of cultural and historical importance from the time of French colonial America to the present. From New England to California, from Louisiana to Quebec this calendar points out the rich heritage of the French in North America.

Individuals from around the country as well as teachers, community groups, festival organizers, and members of cultural groups wrote us saying how beautiful and useful the 1985 calendar was. Comments such as these were common: "J'ai été surpris et étonné de tout ce passé historique, de ces liens qu'il faut continuer à faire connaître." "Beautiful!" "Calendrier magnifique et très utile."

THE 1986 CALENDAR IS ALL NEW. TO RECEIVE IT FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE BLANK ON THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CARD WITH THIS NEWSLETTER.

We also want to call your attention to a very good newspaper which comes out eleven times a year. It is all in French and the address is given below.

Send your request to Virgil Benoit, Box 253C Red Lake Falls MN 56750 or to La Gazette Francophone, PO Box 10507 Chicago IL 60610

Onze numéros par année au prix de \$10.00.

Our non-profit cultural association also has rustic blue denim aprons hand made with "Mets-toe à l'ouvrage!" written in red and white across the front in the style of the old French. Short apron is \$8.00; long \$14. (MN sales tax included). We will also be happy to send you cookbook collectors and anyone else a Chippewa, French and Metis cookbook with 170 pages of unique recipes. The cost is \$12.00 (MN sales tax included) From the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota.

from: Virgil Benoit
L'Association des
Français du Nord
Box 253 C
Red Lake Falls MN 56750

CHAPTER NEWS

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LaSociété Canadienne-Française du Range is planning a potluck dinner for December 21 at the home of Al and Pat De La Pointe in Hibbing. All Range chapter members (and prospective members) are invited.

The program for the January 27 meeting will be a report on the Genealogy Conference held in Eveleth on October 19. Four of our members attended this conference and enjoyed the experience very much. We are all "gung ho" on searching for our ancestry.

Several of our members are attending a French class on Monday nights. Pat Ciochetto has been doing a tremendous job as "La Maitresse". In addition to studying conversational French we have been practicing songs for Christmas and future parades.

submitted by: Ken Nault, president
Range chapter

Nine representatives from LaSociété and AFRAN met in Minneapolis on November 9 to discuss ways to better coordinate activities of our four clubs.

At the meeting were representatives from Red Lake Falls, the Range, St. Cloud and the Twin Cities. John Rivard very ably led the meeting.

While no official action was taken it was a consensus of the group that each chapter establish its own Bylaws; that there be a coordinating council of members from all clubs that would meet once or twice per year to coordinate activities; and that the Chez Nous be used as a major vehicle to give the news of the clubs.

Concern was raised about the cost of Chez Nous to Twin Cities chapter, and it was the consensus that other chapters would pay enough to Twin Cities to at least cover the cost of the newsletter.

L'Heritage Tranquille
In a word
SUPERB

If you were among the
400 there on Nov. 9, how
about a short article
for the next Chez Nous?

