



chez nous

Newsletter of

La société canadienne-française

VOL.4. NO.4.

Le président parle

MARS 1983

The president wishes to thank all those who came to the March 2 meeting. We had one of our largest meetings for a long time. It was lively and fruitful.

It is the duty and responsibility of the president to execute and implement the constitution and by-laws of the Société. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the chairpersons of all the committees to keep the president informed of their activities and projects. They must not surprise the president with new plans of which he is not familiar. The president must keep in mind past decisions and resolutions of the Board, and also the general goals of the Société. He must harmonize all the elements of the organization into a whole and direct the different committees into their roles. He must point out the limits of committee action and lead them into new fields of action.

In other words, the president has many things to remember and many fields of action to harmonize. He must be a leader and a wise administrator. Otherwise, the organization will flounder and disintegrate without direction from the executive department.

The president has many things to think through and many activities to direct and lead. He cannot do the work himself, but must rely on committees and members to help him. Without a wise and good leader, an organization will run off in all directions contrary to the goals and purposes of the constitution. He must keep the purposes of the Société

constantly before the minds of the members.

Your founding-president has tried to keep these elements of good administration. The continued success and progress of the SCF is proof enough. Let any criticism be open, straightforward and specific. Like all members, the president wishes to improve and expand. He wishes cooperation, harmony and love for one another to continue to reign and even grow more sincerely in our hearts and in our work together.

"On peut tout faire ensemble!"

John Rivard

Rapports du comité

MEMBERSHIP - Evelyn Lund

La Société welcomes:

Suzanne Wolf James Hennen
Joseph Markus Marilyn Sissler
Delphine Bendzick Stelten
Robert & Dorothy Drake
Nicole & Bill Mahoney
Phil & Kathleen LaMère
Florence Dubois Rudolph
Gerry & Gisèle Stangler
Gaston & Jan Rhéaume
Elizabeth LaBore
Thérèse Manore

We hope you will participate in our activities. We need your support & talents in accomplishing our goals & for the continuation of la SCF. Our meetings are informal. We sing a bit, keep the business meeting to one hour, and follow with friendly conversation & refreshments.

To our members: Please send in your renewals NOW as plans are being made to produce a directory for our members. You'll want your name in it! Send checks to:

Evelyn Lund
1813 Jackson St. N.E.
Mpls. MN 55418

Rates are:
Family - \$10 Single - \$7
Senior (62+) - \$5 Senior Family - \$6

SOCIAL - David & Jeanne Belair

There was an oversight in our last Chez-Nous. Gerry Forchette had been named general chairperson of the Xmas Party in Dec. She worked very hard at coordinating all workers and deserves a big hand for her efforts. Everyone did a fantastic job.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Lucille Ingram &
Dick Bernard

- A few have volunteered their services to help with the Chez-Nous. Un grand MERCI! C'est très apprécié!

- In the works is a revision of the SCF brochure.

- KFAI Fresh Air Radio - 90.3 F.M. is increasing in popularity. DJ's are Carmelle Pommeuy & Lucille Ingram (filling in for Francine). The program airs every Tues. from 9 to 11 a.m. As far as we know, it's the only French program of its kind in the Twin Cities. So if you can get it, don't forget to tune in every Tues. We'd love to hear your comments. (We never fail to publicize la Société Can.-Fr.)

HISTORICAL - John England

Join us on a tour of Notre Dame Church at Chippewa Falls on Apr. 16 - Sat. We need at least 40 adults to sign up. Fare is \$6. (\$3.00 for children). Leave Columbia Park - Mpls. at 8 a.m. Leave from Centennial ramp - St. Paul across from the Hist. Soc. Please send your check to:

John England
2002 Palace Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105
699-5178 (after 5)

Suggested Reading:

Quiet Presence - Histoires des Franco-Américains en Nouvelle Angleterre by Dyke Hendrickson.

Quiet Presence is a delightful book loaded with pictures, data, & personal interviews of Fr.-Can. & Acadians. Mr. Hendrickson portrays the struggle of our ancestors in the textile mills of Rhode Island and Massachusetts and in the logging country of Maine.

The oral histories are the crowning glory of this volume. They are honest and informative.

Quiet Presence will give you a good historical insight into the history of Franco-Americans.

Available from:

Quinton Publications
28 Felsmere Ave.
Pawtucket, R.I.
02861

CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL - Carmelle Pommeuy

An exciting event is coming up at the Landmark Center in St. Paul on Sunday, April 10th. (2 to 4 p.m.)

The Landmark Center (at the old Court House), will be providing an afternoon of French-Canadian entertainment. A famous Fr.-Can. dancing troupe from Québec will entertain for 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Les Sortilèges have performed in various parts of the world. We are privileged to have them come to the Twin Cities. Also: Les Joyeux Baladins will sing your favorite French-Canadian songs. Approximately 25 have signed up for this group; so, if you are interested in joining us, call Pat Stegbauer (484-2384), director of the group. Fr.-Can. crafts will also be available for purchase - books, buttons, T-shirts etc. There will be a catering service of authentic Fr. Can. foods. The award winning film "Crac", featuring typical Fr.-Can.

(cont'd on p.7)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRANCO-AMERICANS

The program for the conference is still in development. Because the Midwest Branch of the AFA is host this year, the emphasis of the program will be on the history of the French in our area, the MIDWEST.

PROGRAM - WORK SHOPS

- (1) Three groups, whose origins are in New France and who have always lived in the areas where their ancestors explored and colonized, will present the folklore of the French in America.

WORK SHOP SESSIONS

SUBJECT

SPEAKER - PRESIDED BY

The Land of Illinois (1699)

Marie-Reine Mikesell - Chicago

Land of the Mines, Missouri (1723)

Colette Manac'H-Royall - St.Louis

The "Mitchifs" of North Dakota

Prof. Virgil Benoit - Grand Forks

- (2) The Topography of French America will be presented by Francis Beaudin, who is from the Commission of Topography for the Government of Québec.
- (3) Search for our Roots, presented by Richard Fortin of New Hampshire. Also, two other large genealogical groups will participate: French Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan, and the Northwest Territory French Canadian Institute of Minnesota.
- (A) The cultural relations between the French of North Am. (Canada and USA).
- (B) The cultural tourist - Two sessions will be given by Jean Hubert, who is from the Council of French Life in America.
- (4) Looking retrospectively on the National Franco-American Conference in Lafayette, LA. last June. Richard Guidry of Pont Breaux, LA. will present this.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

All three days of the conference a room will be reserved for viewing programs on Franco-Americans on T.V., which will give us, for the most part, information to use in the work shops.

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EXHIBITIONS

A kiosk of book and other publications relating to the History of the French in the Midwest.

Fifty (50) photographs called "Our Life, Our Work" relating to the history and culture of Franco-Americans (of the third age) of the area Lewiston-Auburn, Maine.

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 3rd VISITING THE ISLAND

For the conference participants (already there), we have organized, in the afternoon, a visit of the Island by bicycle (a minimum of 3 hours). The whole Island has been classified as a historic monument, and its forest is virgin. This visit of the Island can be made by horse and wagon, with or without a driver; in this case, you are the driver! You will find all this useful information, with regard to this, in your registry kits. You can rent your own bicycle to use on the Island. Rental of bicycles - \$1.50 per hour.

THURSDAY - AUGUST 4th OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

A fife and drum corps of the French Marine of Fort Quiatenon, Indiana will play French military music of the 13th Century (30 min.) Soldiers and musicians will march (parade) along the main street before they enter the main lobby of the hotel. The speaker that has been invited is the new Governor of Michigan, James J. Blanchard, who will preside at the opening of the conference.

EXPLORATIONS OF LA SALLE 11

In the evening Reid Lewis will give two talks on the explorations (one in French and one in English). These will retrace the trip of explorations of René Robert Cavalier, Sieur De LaSalle (1681-1682). This is a must for anyone who has not seen this exceptional presentation of LaSalle's two expeditions that came through Detroit and Mackinac!!

FRIDAY - AUGUST 5th VISIT ST. IGNACE

In the afternoon we will see Father Marquette's tomb at the church, which is now the "Father Marquette National Memorial and Museum." St. Ignace has about 2,000 people living there, and 70% are of French Canadian descent. In the evening we will see a special historical pageant given by the people of St. Ignace called "The Black Robe Tree Pageant". This little bay was at the end of the century, the place where explorers, voyageurs, and trappers, who came from Montreal, disembarked from their canoes.

SATURDAY - AUGUST 6th THE BANQUET

The Regiment of Franche Marine of Fort Michilimackinac of Michigan (Makinaw City) will parade at the banquet. Then our Voyageur from Minnesota will perform. The speaker will be Jacques-Ivan Morin, Vice Prime Minister of Québec - Inter-Governmental Affairs.

SUNDAY - AUGUST 7th TOUR OF FORT MICHILIMACKINAC (1715)

Sunday morning we will visit Fort Michilimackinac on the Mainland. In the Church of St. Anne of the Fort, we will see by light and sound the marriage of Charlotte-Ambrosine Bourassa and the Grand Chief (Métis), Charles De Langlade, who was on this spot August 12, 1754 with Father Louis LeFranc and all the prominent people. Around noon time the Voyageur's Brigades of Michigan will serve us, on the spot, a meal like in the 18th Century.

THIS WILL BE THE END OF THE CONFERENCE AT MACKINAC ISLAND.
Submitted by Helen Peltier (789-2214)

Helen has coordinated a CHARTED BUS TRIP to and from Mackinac Island for the 6th NATIONAL FRANCO-AMERICAN CONFERENCE. The bus would leave Aug. 2nd, returning Aug. 8th. For reservations and information call the number listed above.

CONFERENCE PREREGISTRATION FORM:

Deadline for preregistration: APRIL 1, 1983

PREREGISTRATION: (check one) Adults \$15
 Students \$ 5
 Senior Citizens \$ 5

AFTER APRIL 1, 1983 \$25

(If you have chosen a double occupancy room)
 I would like to share a room with _____

I will come to the Conference by private car
 by plane
 by bus

I plan to visit the island, August 3, on a bicycle
 on a carriage with a driver
 without a driver

I speak only English
 I speak only French
 I speak both languages

- Make check out to FRANCO-AMERICAN CONFERENCE, 1983
 and sent it with the preregistration form to:

Marie-Reine Mikesell
 AFA Conference Coordinator
 1155 East 56th Street
 Chicago, Illinois 60637
 Tel. (312) 643-7865

Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin - Early French Settlement

Jesuit priests celebrated mass in the old Indian Village that stood on the present site of Notre Dame Church before the year 1737. It was to be 100 years later that the present city of Chippewa Falls was founded.

In 1853 Father Gautier built the first Roman Catholic church in the area, a little frame structure barely 16 by 18 feet called St. Mary's of the Falls. In 1865 Father C.F.X. Goldsmith came from Belgium (also the home of Father Hennepin) to serve in the La Crosse Diocese at St. Mary's Parish. Father Goldsmith was the driving force behind construction 5 years later of the beautiful stone church we see there today. The limestone for this structure was taken from land within the city near the present Irvine Park. Before he died in 1890 Father Goldsmith built the Church of Notre Dame, its grade school, high school, convent and rectory, and established at least four other parishes in the western Wisconsin area.

Come with us April 16 as we journey to Chippewa Falls to see this Parish, the Lumberman's Mansion, Hope Cemetery, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Falls, and the town that until 1912 was home to the largest sawmill in the world. Chippewa Falls was officially founded in 1837 by Jean Brunet who was the man that introduced the Irvine, Mellon, Weyerhaeuser and Cornell families to the lumbering industry which produced their vast family fortunes.

Please wear your costume on tour. Submitted by Pierre Girard
(Deadline for signing up will be Apr. 6th.)

LES AMIS DU THÉÂTRE

présentent

"L'Anglais tel qu'on le parle" et

"Il faut qu'une porte soit ouverte ou fermée"

at Hamline University - Old Main
Hewitt and Snelling Ave. St. Paul

on Friday, April 8 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 9 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Apr. 10 at 2 p.m.

ADULTS: \$4.00
STUDENTS & SENIORS: \$2.00

For reserv. 646-3407
For information 645-3784

This group is also holding a
MASKED BALL on April 30th at the
Wayzata Art Center, in Minnetonka.

- promenades en calèches au
clair de lune

- orchestre (dance)
- prix pour meilleur costume
- costume should relate to the French
- price: \$15.00 per person.

The objective of this ball is to raise money to present a Molière play in September with authentic costumes and music.

For further info call Susan Miller
(822-6486 - 8 to 12 p.m.)

Pierre-Yvon Jolys, a member of our Joyeux Baladins singing group, is conducting tours to London & France.

Tour dates are:
June 23rd to July 6
July 14th to July 27
August 18th to August 31st

Call 612-824-8967 for information.

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traditions will be shown at different time intervals. The film lasts about 20 min. Admission is FREE so don't miss this one!

Sign-up sheets are out seeking people's interests. WE WANT YOU!

1. People that can share a talent.
2. People interested in Genealogy Call Al Dalquist (560-9086).
3. People that can teach a skill.
4. People interested in forming an ethnic dancing group.
5. People interested in being part of a sewing team (for making costumes, voyageur shirts, etc). You will be paid for your time.
6. Sub-group of la SCF where only French would be spoken. The group will meet every 3rd Wed. at 7:30 p.m. at the Minnesota International Center, 711 East River Rd. Tel: 373-3200. If you are not fluent in French, you are welcome to come and observe. The purpose is to get more people speaking the language. Many of you have simply not used your French; it would come back to you in no time.

People interested in the reconstruction of authentic voyageur costume. Call Jean Simon, 623-3398.

POTPOURRI

The Festival of Nations is coming up. La SCF will be there to represent the French-Canadians. We will participate in the Bazaar, the Exhibit, & the entertainment program. Volunteers are needed for all of these areas so please call General Chairperson, Gerry Forchette (572-1646) if you can spare some time. Volunteers will get a free pass. The Festival will be wonderful exposure for La SCF - about 75,000 people pass through the St. Paul Civic Center during those three days! Help spread the word!

Les faux amis sont comme notre ombre, proches de nous tant que nous marchons au soleil, mais nous abandonnant dès que nous passons de l'autre côté.

Christian Nestell Bovee.



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Hours of the Festival are:

Friday, Apr. 29 - noon to 11
Saturday, Apr. 30 - 11 a.m. to midnight

Sunday, May 1 - noon to 8 p.m.

Tickets at the door are:

ADULTS - \$5.50 CHILDREN - \$3.00
(ages 8 to 18)

If anyone is interested in hosting a French student for 1 month in July call George LaBrosse at 455-3128.

The nominating committee was selected at the Mar. 2nd memb. mtg. The following were chosen to submit names for positions on the Board of Directors: Evelyn Lund, Justa Cardinal, John England, Carmelle Pompey, and Pat Jacoby. They are open to suggestions, so now's the time to give your ideas!

ATTENTION ALL YOU QUILTERS:

La SCF is planning a special project for the coming year. - to make a Fr.-Can. quilt, a pictorial quilt that would tell the story of the Fr. in Minnesota. This will require many hours but should be really rewarding. Much time will be spent in researching the history of the State, the designing of the quilt, & finally, the actual sewing. I suspect the latter will be the easy part. Once completed, the quilt could be displayed at the Festival of Nations next year, as well as at the Minn. State Fair; and, if we have a permanent library by then, it could eventually find its home there. Nine people have signed up already. We invite men to participate too - and why not? We already have a member of our Société whose hobby is weaving, and he's a great one at that! (Charlie Bouley). Please call Lucille Ingram (533-0890) if you wish to be a part of this project.

La mémoire est un filet. Il est plein de poissons quand on le sort du ruisseau, mais des tonnes d'eau ont passé dedans sans y rien laisser. Oliver Wendell Holmes, poète et essayiste américain.

ATTENTION

Secretary reports to Chez-Nous:

At the last board meeting, it was resolved as follows:

Whenever La SCF holds or sponsors a project which requires the sale of tickets, a strict accounting of tickets & money is required; and that a written report by the project chairperson shall be presented to La SCF's Board of Directors.

John R. Bridell, Secretary

UN CHAT QUI CRIE ARF ARF

Une petite maman souris marchait avec ses enfants quand elles ont rencontré un grand chat. Les enfants souris ont eu peur; mais la maman a pensé très vite et a crié: "Arf, arf, bow-wow-wow". Le chat, bien étonné et épeuré s'est enfuit en courant. La maman dit à ses enfants: "That should teach you children the value of a second language!"

Harry Simon, Crowley, LA.

(French lessons are being taught by Carmelle Pommeupuy - 379-4068 in Mpls. and by Sr. Ella Germain - 690-3695 in St. Paul).

Newsletter by Lucille Ingram

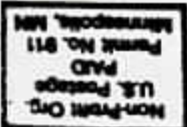
Le calendrier

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- APRIL 6 SCF Membership Mtg. St. Louis Church, 7:30 p.m.
- 8,9,10 Les Amis du Théâtre - Hamline Univ. 8th & 9th at 8 p.m. 10th at 2 p.m.
- 10 French-Canadian Day at Landmark Center. 2-4p.m.
- 16 Tour to Chippewa Falls.
- 29,30 and May 1st - Festival of Nations. St. Paul Civic Ctr.
- MAY 4 SCF Membership Mtg. St. Louis Church, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Hist. Committee Mtg. - Little Canada City Hall. 7:30p.m.
- JUNE 1 Annual ELECTIONS of La SCF Board of Directors & officers.

La SCF meets the first Wednesday of every month at St. Louis Church, 506 Cedar Ave. in downtown St. Paul near the State Capitol. Everyone is welcome. We need you! As you can see from this newsletter, we are trying to form a variety of "special interest" groups in order to accommodate all of our members. You're bound to find a comfortable "niche" in La Société!

5-5082
The Germain
603 Hillside Drive
Stillwater, MN



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LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE
4224 Halifax Ave. No.
Minneapolis, MN 55422



chez nous

Newsletter of

La société canadienne-française

No. 5, VOL. 4

Le président parle John Rivard

mai 1983

Congratulations to our new group of singers, Les Canadiens Errants, the Sales Committee, and to Carmelle Pommepuy, our gracious M.C. at the presentation in the Landmark Center in St. Paul on April 10. The French-Canadian dancers from Québec were a delight. Many of you attended. I urge our several committees to arrange such presentations from time to time.

Our Annual Membership Meeting in June will be the Annual Elections of the Board of Directors. I urge the members to attend that important meeting. The Central Minnesota Annual Meeting will be in May. See notices in this edition.

Congratulations to the Historical Committee on the joyous and successful trip to Chippewa Falls in April.

We are especially proud of our team that broadcasts every Tuesday at 9 AM on KFAI 90.3 FM in Minneapolis. Carmelle and Lucille are the anchor-sons of "Moi et L'Autre". We hope that the station increases its power to extend into the state.

We urge the members to "climb on the bus" for Mackinac Island Aug. 2 - 8 for the Annual Conference of the Franco-Americans. Helen Peltier has made all the arrangements and desires your cooperation for a full load of 40 people. In the last Chez-Nous, we printed an itinerary of the Conference. If you did not receive one, or if you would like more information, call Helen at 789-2214. Cost of the trip - approximately \$300.00 + personal expenses. Toll-free no. to call at Mackinac: Michigan - 800-6824971 or Out of state no. - 800-3384980.

A big "MERCI BEAUCOUP!" to all who helped out at the Festival of Nations at the St. Paul Civic Center April 29, 30 & May 1.

NEWS from the St. Cloud Chapter of LaSCF du Minnesota: Gaston Rhéaume

Pursuant to provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of our association, you are hereby notified that the Nominating Committee has prepared the following list of candidates to fill the six vacancies on the Board of Directors. The listing is in alphabetical order:

Floyd DesMarais, incumbent, Treas.
Donald Henry
George LaDouceur, incumbent, Pres.
John Langlais, incumbent, Cultural/
Educational committee member

Cathy May
Mona Nied
Merle Plante, incumbent,
(Memb.Com.Chairman)
Lola Schenk, incumbent

Elections will be held at our next regular meeting on Thur. May 19, 1983. Results will be printed in the next Chez-Nous.

- La SCF, Central Minnesota Chapter is on the move. Recent activities include a group attendance to the play "Minnesota" at St. Cloud State Univ. followed by a super party at Jerry & Barb Lavoie's.
- John Langlais gave an excellent Acadian History presentation at our last meeting while Mrs. Langlais cooked "Buckwheat Pancakes" on the spot and served them with homemade "confitures aux fraises"... What a treat! Acadians call them "PLOYS".???
- At the very same meeting, led, (to a fashion) by yours truly, we sang quite a few tunes with "Karl, the music man" letting his fingers do the walking, or the running, on the piano. Karl is quite a guy! Lots of fun! We met till 11 p.m.
- It is also certain now that French lessons are soon to get on their way for Central Minnesotans at a most reasonable rate. Bill Langeu, Professor at SCSU will be giving the classes. There are a few openings; call 251-1981 and ask him for a spot; you'll be happy you did. Oh ya! Don't be afraid to join because you don't know any, enough, or whatever...that's the idea of the class. Learn a little and eventually more. Give yourself a chance.
- I am of the opinion that our meetings, both in St. Paul and St. Cloud could be better attended. If you are not satisfied with the activities, step up and suggest something. I for one intend to do so! I know one thing about French-Canadians - they like to have fun! Let's get going!
- Quite a number of souvenir items have been manufactured and/or printed at my business in St. Cloud for the Festival of Nations. We've been thinking of running one special per month. Advise if interested!

Gaston

Rapports du comité

MEMBERSHIP - Evelyn Lund

Welcome to our members:

- Susan Miller Mark Labine
- Mardelle Gagné Virginia Weiss
- Corinne (Belair) Diffley
- Douglas LeBray Family
- Stacy L. Berglund
- Betty Gustafson
- William & Rosa Rivet

Our only source of income is the Fall concert and membership dues. If you have chosen not to be active in our projects, you can still help by renewing your dues NOW. Make checks payable to La SCF and mail to:

Evelyn Lund
 1813 Jackson St. N.E.
 Mpls. MN 55418
 Ph: 789-7051

Rates are:
 Family - \$10 Single - \$7
 Senior (62+) - \$5 Senior Family - \$6

HISTORICAL - John England

The State Legislature reduced the historical society's grant program for 1983 - no funds available. We still plan to continue the oral history project on a smaller scale.

PUBLICITY - Lucille Ingram and Dick Bernard

New brochures have been printed for La SCF. If you need some to pass on to friends, call Evelyn Lund.

We are delighted to let you know that power increase has been granted to radio station KFAI, from 10 watts to 125! That means that our Fr.-C music program heard every Tues. A will reach many more people in Mpls. and St. Paul. However, although the power has been granted, funds are needed to carry this through. If you really believe in the need for

Annual Elections will take place at the June Meeting, 7:30 p.m. The following names (with short biographies included) were submitted by the Nominating Committee for positions on the Board of Directors:

- John Rivard:** Both parents French-Canadian. Attended University of Laval, Québec. Pastor of St. Anne's in Somerset, WI from 1946 - 1969. Appointed District Manager of MN Hist. Society. Retired in 1978. Founded La Société Canadienne-Française in 1979. Founded the 2nd chapter of the Central MN Société in St. Cloud. John is our incumbent President.
- Evelyn Lund:** Is married and has 4 children, 16 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and 6 in-laws (almost enough for a chapter). She is a Charter Member of La SCF, active in Girl Scouting, Mother's Club, Women's Club and one of the driving forces behind the Tourtières dinners at Our Lady of Lourdes (the French Church). Evelyn has been Chairman of the Membership Committee since '79.
- Carmelle Pommepeuy:** Born in French Canada (Acadia), Carmelle grew up knowing the hardship of being a minority. She received her B.A. & B.Ed. at Univ. Laval. Married to a Frenchman, she has lived in the Twin Cities for 5 yrs. Founded the Home Schooling Assoc. of MN and still assumes the leadership of that organization. She teaches her 3 sons at home. Carmelle eventually wants to return to Canada but in the meantime she is giving her all to La Société. Chairman of Cult./Ed. Comm. and Program Coord.
- Dicks:** Born and raised in N.E. Mpls., Mary and her husband exchanged their wedding vows in Our Lady of Lourdes, the French Church. Together they raised 6 sons. Mary is extremely involved in volunteer work which includes: Minn. Citizens Concerned for Life, Respect Life, Henn. Cty. Medical Center, and the Hospice Unit at St. Mary's Hospital. Mary has been an active member of La SCF since its beginning in 1979.
- Gaston Rhéaume:** A native of Chicoutimi, Québec, Gaston has made Minnesota his home since 1960. He was active as a hockey instructor at St. John's University. A resident of St. Cloud, Gaston and his wife Jan have their own business (Rhéaume's House of Lettering). He is very active in politics and civic affairs. Presently a member of St. Cloud Township's Board of Supervisors. Gaston has contributed much to the Société and we credit him with designing the Société's logo.
- Nicole McGee:** Born and raised in Montréal, she met her husband on a trip to California. He, being from Minnesota, and Nicole settled in Minneapolis (Richfield), raising 2 boys. Nicole works full time at a health care facility where she is in charge of the food service. She is delighted to have met some French-Canadians, finally, after having been isolated for 15 years. Nicole is very eager to contribute to La Société.

(cont'd other side)

Marion Sirvio: Born and raised in N.E. Mpls. from French-Canadian parents. Married, Marion has five children and nine grandchildren. A Charter member of La Société, she has been active in the organization since its beginning. Very involved in Genealogy, Marion recently submitted, for the Chez-Nous, her story about attending the Cyr Family Reunion in Madawaska, Maine, where 2600 Cyr descendants gathered together. Member of the Membership Committee. 12

The President will invite nominations from the floor. Persons nominated should have been approached beforehand as to willingness to serve. Only six positions need to be filled. The remaining five Board members will be replaced next year. This is done in order to maintain continuity in our organization.

CHIPPEWA FALLS TRIP

On Saturday, April 16, 1983, sixty members of La Société' Canadienne Française du Minnesota, comprised of French, French Canadians and American of French decent, journeyed to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. The trip was sponsored under the auspices of the Historical Committee of La Société'. The trip began with a history of Chippewa Falls given by Richard "Pierre" Girard, a former resident of Chippewa Falls, to the group during their bus ride. Upon their arrival in Chippewa Falls the group, all in costume of voyagers and Québec peasant dress, toured the parish church of Notre Dame. This large, beautiful church was built of native sandstone in 1870-72, fourteen years after the founding of the parish. While at the church the group met with several Chippewa Falls residents, among them Mr. Joseph Godfrey. Mr Godfrey, 91, addressed the group and spoke about the "old days". Father Sonberger spoke to the group about the parish history and read an article from the parish history book about the immigration of the Solomon Girard family to Chippewa Falls in 1882.

This portion of the tour closed with two organ solos, "Variation on the Lourdes Hymn" played by Pierre Girard and "Tacotta" by Widor, played by Patrice Stegebauer, followed by several French Canadian folk songs sung by "Les Canadiens Errants", the société's choral group.

The group then went to the home of Audrey Girard where they were served lunch by Mrs. Girard and her daughters Judith Matthews and Margaret Vavra. This home was built by Joseph Girard (a French Canadian immigrant) in 1890 as a wedding present for his bride Virginia LaMothe.

After driving through Hope Cemetery and Irvine Park they visited with some of the residents and sang for Mr. Charlie Cardinal at the Rutledge Home. Mr. Cardinal, 91, recited from memory the beautiful poem "Little Batise". The tour then moved on to the Cook-Rutledge Mansion where they were guided through this lovely old home by Margaret Hebert.

They then joined the parishoners of Notre Dame for 5 o'clock mass followed by a light supper again at the home of Audrey Girard. Before leaving Mrs. Girard's home for the Twin Cities, Les Canadiens Errants led the group in several old French and French Canadian folk songs.

P. Girard

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

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This year was our best year ever. Everyone cooperated beautifully. Those in costume looked smashing. Thanks to all who worked. The Fr.-Canadians were well represented.

BAZAAR: The Bazaar booth, mounted by Gaston and Jan Rhéaume, Carmelle Pompepy and Pat Jacoby looked very attractive with its multi-colored merchandise of great variety. Every item represented the French in some way. We had over 100 people interested in our organization sign the guest book. Potential members! (Approximately \$3,000.00 worth of merchandise was sold but bills have to be paid now. We won't be in the red!)

EXHIBIT: The Exhibit booth was a representation of a genuine fur-trading post with the real authentic decor. John Simon and his team, Pat Stegbauer, Marie Bouley, John Trembley, Pierre Girard, and Jerry Nerburn spent many hours working on it. It was a smashing attraction! Bravo to all of you!

THE SINGERS: Les Canadiens Errants, who performed ten times this year, were very much applauded and appreciated. They were told many times how enthusiastic and energetic the singing was and some listeners even asked for tapes (which we don't have yet but something to think about for next year.)

Many thanks to all who donated their time; but special recognition to:

Pat Jacoby (chairman of Sales, along with Gaston & Jan Rhéaume and Carmelle Pompepy.)

John Simon (chairman of Exhibit).

Pat Stegbauer (chairman of the entertainment program.)

Due to illness, Gerry Forchette's position as General chairperson was filled by Carmelle Pompepy during those three days.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF AFA (ASSEMBLÉE DES FRANCO-AMÉRICAINS)

UPDATE: Bus trip to Mackinac Island.

Re: Cost of the trip:

The overall cost of the trip, using double occupancy in the West Wing of the Convention Center and including bus charter and two nights' lodging en route, approximately \$300.00. Please note that accommodations for 4 days on the Island includes 2 meals per day - breakfast and dinner. The meals not included are the 8 meals taken en route. Single accommodations will make the trip somewhat costlier.

Members of our Société who reside in St. Cloud will be happy to know that they can board the bus for this trip (at an early hour) in St. Cloud at a location to be decided upon by the group.

I am extending the bus charter reservation deadline to June 1st. On June 15th a payment of \$50.00 will be due and the remaining payment not yet determined but under \$100.00 in total must be paid in full by July 15th. If there are any other ques-

tions, feel free to call or write to:

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Helen Peltier
3307 Taylor St. N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Ph: 789-2214

Fr. Walter LeBeau

The Reverend Walter LeBeau, retired chairman of the theology department at St. Thomas College died 31 March at the age of 81.

Fr. LeBeau, a native of Fowler, Indiana, moved with his family to Marshall as a child. Prior to his studies for the priesthood, he was employed as a watchmaker. After ordination in 1931, Father was assigned to St. John the Baptist, Dayton; and St. Anne's in North Minneapolis -- another parish of French-Canadian heritage once known as St. Clotilde. He continued to serve there as a weekend assistant after his transfer to St. Thomas.

Father LeBeau recalled the deep faith of the French-Canadians in his classes and he was a living example of that faith. He taught a Christian marriage course for several years, and was nicknamed "the marriage man" by his students. The course, along with his ever-present briar pipe enhanced his unique personality.

Fr. LeBeau was an excellent artist; his charcoal sketch of the late Archbishop Austin Dowling was displayed at his wake. He was also responsible for planning the art work in the St. Thomas Chapel so that it would depict Catholic doctrine. In 1958, Father had a program on educational television; and in 1969 he was chosen professor of the year by his associates, a well-deserved honor.

We extend our sympathy to his family, and we are proud to say that Walter LeBeau is a Franco-American who influenced the people of Minnesota with his wisdom and talents.

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS: Change of meeting place temporarily at the International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave. St. Paul, across from the Fair grounds. 7:30 P.M. Notification of future meeting place will be mailed out to members.

* Newsletter by Lucille Ingram. Proof-read by Dorothy Landry.

this type of programming, please call KPAI at 721-5011 and pledge. We really appreciate your support.

After working for two years on the publication of the Chez-Nous, I would like to relinquish this duty to someone else. I need a rest! I know there are many talented people in our Société. Perhaps there's someone who already knows "the ropes". And if not, I would be available to help out. I learned from scratch - so can you! So please call me if interested. 533-0890. It's good for me, as well as La Société, to have a change once in a while.

CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL - Carmelle Pommepeuy

SUB-GROUP - Meetings of the sub-group are held every third Wed. of the month at MIC (MN International Center, 711 East River Rd.) We're having a good turnout; the atmosphere is friendly, and only French spoken. Come and join us. We'd like to meet you...

LANDMARK CENTER - The Fr.-Can. Day at the Landmark Center was a huge success. Over 1200 people showed up. The Sortilèges Dancers from Québec were superb! Les Canadiens Errants, who made their debut that day, received many compliments. The film sessions were booked each time. Catering service offered by Christian Caille featuring tarte au sucre, tourtière, pommes St. André was excellent. The Société took in \$265.00 from sales of items. Our heritage was exposed, shared and appreciated.

FRANCO-OUEST - The first Contac Franco-ouest is being held the last week-end in May (26, 27, 28, 29) in St. Boniface, Manitoba. It is organized by the Cultural Federation of French-Canadians in collaboration with the office of tours of the Conseil des Arts du Can. Workshops of mini-shows, and artists presenting their talents will be offered for leaders of different organizations throughout the country. The Board has voted \$100.00 to help cover some of the expenses in sending a representative of Minnesota. Car-

melle Pommepeuy has been appointed ¹⁵ and she has extended that opportunity to two other Société members, Pat Stegbauer and Marie Bouley. They will be driving, accompanied by Marie-Reine Mikesell of Chicago. Bon voyage!

DANCING - Inspired by Les Sortilèges, we are planning to assemble a team of dancers for our Société. A few have signed up already. The tentative date of the first practice is Fri., May 20th, 7 p.m. at the home of Carmelle, 634 Main St. N.E. We want to present a great dancing team at the Festival of Nations next year. Call 379-4068 if you'd like to participate. It will mean real dedication but promises to be a lot of fun.

LES CANADIENS ERRANTS - A new choral group has been formed. They number approximately 20, have wonderful costumes, are enthusiastic and, already, very busy. The group is under the sponsorship of the Société but will remain autonomous in matters of decision-making and finance. Join us for some fun. Call Pat Stegbauer, director of the group. Everyone is welcome. 484-2384.

OPPORTUNITY not to be missed. Persons of Fr.-Can. background are given the opportunity to study in Québec for the year '83 - '84 at a much reduced price. Normally, foreign students pay \$130.00 per credit; with this program you would pay \$9.00 a credit (the rate charged for Canadians.) Four universities are offering this program: Québec, Montréal, Trois Rivières & Chicoutimi. You need not speak French. Call 379-4068 for details.

potpourri

ST. JEAN-BAPTISTE DAY - Our 4th annual picnic will take place on Sat. June 25th at Keller Island. General chairperson is Leroy Dubois. It will be a pot-luck, with beer, pop, and pea soup available. Don't miss it!

If you wish to be on the agenda of the SCF Membership meetings, please call the Pres. first. Phone: 1-2532199.

Francine Roche has submitted her resignation as chairman of the Cultural/Education committee, co-editor of the Chez-Nous, and member of the Board of Directors. These positions will be filled at the Annual Elections in June.

QUILTING - Our first get-together took place on May 3rd. There was lively discussion and we came to the conclusion that the major effort will go into the planning & designing of our pictorial quilt, (depicting the story of the French in Minnesota.) Each member left with homework to do - to research a specific area. We will certainly learn our history in the process. We'll have something we can really be proud of when it's done. The next get-together will be held at the home of Eva Nelson. Please join us. Ph: 489-3915. Date: Wed. June 8th.

GRAND OLD DAYS PARADE - will take place in St. Paul on Sun. June 5th. Call Sera to sign up. 224-2636, evenings aft. 6 or Mondays-by June 4th.

Le calendrier

- JUNE 5 Grand Old Days Parade in St. Paul.
- 6 Annual Elections of La SCF for positions on Board of Directors. 7:30 p.m. International Institute.
- 25 4th Annual St. Jean-Baptiste picnic.

There will be no membership meetings during July & Aug.

Bouquets de fleurs

- * Mrs. Audrey Girard who hosted some 60 members of La SCF on their recent trip to Chippewa Falls. It was a memorable experience for those who went, and we say to her MERCI, MILLE FOIS, MERCI!
- * Jan & Gaston Rhéaume & family who worked tirelessly manufacturing and/or printing merchandise to be sold at the Festival of Nations. They donated their time, refusing any profit.

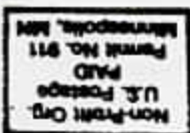
WE LOVE YOU ALL!

55082

St. Jean-Baptiste, Minn.

603 - H. Leclerc & Sons

Ralph + Elaine Steinhilber



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LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE
4224 Halifax Ave. No.
Minneapolis, MN 55422



La société canadienne-française

août, 1983

Dear members:

It is difficult to be thinking about writing a newsletter in the midst of all the summer activities; however, it was necessary to get some important information out to you before the start of our 5th year in Sept. So that is the purpose of this letter. Our regular CHEZ NOUS will go out in the fall with all the news of the past few months. Hoping the remainder of your summer is pleasant and relaxing!

Sincerely,
Lucille Ingram

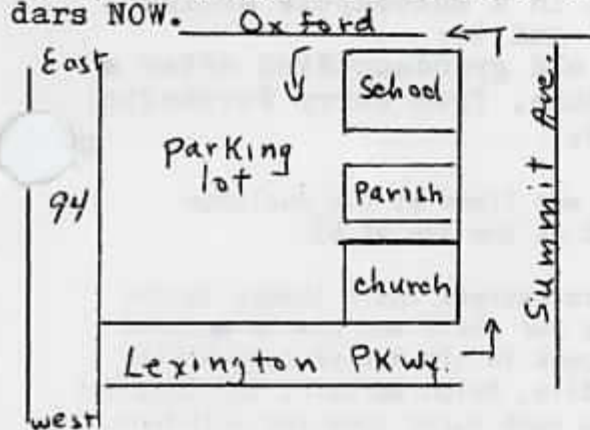
EXTRA!

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

La SCF has a new, and definite meeting place (no cancellations - we have a contract). The Membership meetings will be held at St. Luke's Catholic School Cafeteria, near Lexington Parkway and Summit Ave. beginning the 2nd Monday (Sept. 12) in Sept. at 7:30 p.m. sharp. Then, from Oct. thru June, meetings will be held the 1st Monday of each month. Mark your calendars NOW.



From 94 - go south on Lexington, turn left on Summit, 1 block, turn left on Oxford to school parking lot. Entrance to downstairs cafeteria will be marked.

The new Board of Directors was elected at the General Membership Meeting in June. The officers were elected later at a Board of Directors meeting at the home of Dorothy Landry. The new Board:

Gaston Rhéaume, Pres.
Carmelle Pommeputy 1st V.P..
Evelyn Lund 2nd V.P.
Dorothy Landry Corp. Sec.
Dick Bernard Rec. Sec.

Magi Charbonneau Treas.
Gabriel Brusseau
John Bridell
Nicole McGee
Howard Bissonette & John Rivard

Since then, there has been one significant change. Carmelle Pommeputy, who has worked feverishly for La Société since Jan. has submitted her resignation. Always hoping to, one day, return to French Canada, she has recently acquired a job in Montreal and will be moving as soon as they're able to sell their home. We are reluctant to see her go but, at the same time, we are happy for her and wish her and her family the very best. She has been a real asset to La Société. Replacing Carmelle as First Vice-President will be Gabriel Brusseau, and replacing Gabriel (who had been appointed Membership Chairman and Ass. Treasurer) will be George LaBrosse. Marie Trépanier will take over Carmelle's position as chairman of the Cultural/Educational Committee. Congratulations to the new Board and Officers.

John Rivard, founder of La Société Canadienne-Française, has been named Honorary President Emeritus, forever. We owe it all to him. From the beginning, he has been our inspiration and our anchor. Thanks for everything!

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BOUGUETS DE FLEURS: to

Leroy and Pat Dubois and daughter. As chairman of the St. Jean-Baptiste Annual Picnic, Leroy did a great job. The weather was not in our favor this year. He estimates approximately 45 adults and 15 children attended. Thanks also to John England for the soup and Dorothy Landry for getting it served.

Also: to Helen Peltier for routing 20 people to the AFA (Assemblée des Franco-Américains) Conference at Mackinac. We'll have a report on their trip in the next Chez Nous.

Membership rosters will be available at the Sept. meeting. UN GROS MERCI to Jerry Forchette and Virginia Weiss for their time and effort in putting it together.

La Société wishes to extend its deepest sympathy to:

Pierre-Yvon Jolys, member of Les Canadiens Errants singing group, whose son was killed in a motorcycle accident in France this July. And to:

Gabe and Shirley Brusseau whose 4 year old grandson died after a long illness. And this, from Jerry Forchette:

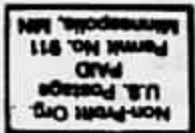
To all the people who took the bus tour to Chippewa Falls.....

I thought they would like to know that Charles Cardinal who lived at the Rutledge Home of which were privileged to visit, died on June 22 at the age of 93.

I spoke with the family at the funeral and they wished to express their thanks to the Society for their visit to their father. He spoke about our visit and how he enjoyed the songs that were sung and especially being able to speak in his native tongue with the many who came into his room to see him, mainly Sr. Ella, Ralph Germain, the Cheeneys and Carmelle and anyone else that I might be missing who took turns speaking with him. Charles endeared himself to all by reciting "Il Batiste". Merci Beaucoup to the Société for making his last days happy with MEMORIES.

Ralph Germain Family
603-Hillside Lane
Stillwater, Mn. 55082

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LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE
4224 Halifax Ave. No.
Minneapolis, MN 55422

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chez nous

Newsletter of

La société canadienne-française

VOL. 5. NO. 1.

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C'était au temps des pommes,
Colin avait douze ans;
Mais il faisait son homme
Comme un garçon d'vingt ans.
Un jour, avec Colette,
La fille du voisin,
Il faisait la cueillette
Des pommes du jardin.

À peine dans l'ouvrage,
Il voulut un baiser;
Mais Colette, étant sage,
Crut bon de refuser.
Elle ajouta quand même:
"Je te le donnerai
Si tu remplis toi-même
Ton panier le premier..."

Le père de la belle,
Caché non loin de là,
Suivit d'un oeil fidèle
Ce qui s'y déroula:
Il vit que sa Colette,
Des pommes plein les mains,
En mettait en cachette
Dans le panier d'Colin!

(Tiré de "Les 100 plus belles
chansons")

OCTOBRE 1983

Change is in the air! It's that time of year again when nature bursts into marvelous color; the time for fresh-baked apple pie, cider, pumpkins, burning leaves, cool crisp evenings, and fires in the fireplace - my very favorite season!

It's a time of change for La SCF too. We're starting our fifth year with a new president - almost. Gaston Rhéaume, as most of you are aware, recently had surgery and is still recuperating. Our prayers are with him. Congratulations to Gabe Brusseau (1st V.P.) who, on short notice, took over our 1st general membership meeting. It should be a good year; they make a great team!

Lucille Ingram

NEWS from ST. CLOUD -

On May 19th the St. Cloud Chapter held its Annual Membership Meeting. Elections were held and the following officers and board members were chosen:

John Langlais, President
George LaDouceur, Vice-President
Floyd Demarais, Treasurer
Judy Antil, Recording Secretary

Board Members include: Merle Plante, Cathy May, Mona Reid, Irene Mavis, Jerry Lavoie, Julian Plante, Diane Olson, John Rivard, Don Henry, alternate, and Lola Schenk, alternate.

In June the Chapter visited the Northwest Fur Post at Pine City. Floyd and Bernice Desmarais attended the AFA convention at Mackinac Island in Aug.

Wm Langen held several French classes in May. Julian Plante has established a library with several books ready for reference. The St. Cloud Chapter

now is 52 members strong. Julian Plante, our distinguished director of the Manuscript Library at St. John's University, was given a special notice of scholar achievement in the Sept. issue of the Minnesota Public Radio Monthly.

Submitted by John Rivard

Rapports du comité

MEMBERSHIP - Evelyn Lund (789-7051)

La SCF welcomes:

Alfred Keye	Mardelle Gagne
Simone Boutin	Amy Jensen
Susan Schreiber	Louise Lijewski
Stacy Berglund	Marie Trepanier
Betty Gustafson	
Louis Ritchot Family	
Mr.&Mrs. Lewis B. Downing	
Patrick & Dorothy Chandler	
Corinne (Belair) Diffley	
Douglas LeBray Family	
William & Rosa Rivet	

George LaBrosse, who has served as a Board Member and Hist. Comm. chairman in the past, has been appointed the new Membership chairperson. A million thanks to Evelyn who has filled that position since the founding of La Société - 4 yrs. You did a great job!

CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL

Marie Trepanier has taken over this committee from Carmelle Pompepuy. Merci! Carmelle for doing an outstanding job these last few months.

All members may pick up the new roster at the regular monthly meetings. Un gros merci to Gerry Forchette & Virginia Weiss for putting it together. Please add new members' names as they are published in order to keep your roster up to date.

* Marty Yelland (near 50th & Upton So.) would appreciate a ride to memb. mtgs. Call 926-8074.

potpourri

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The U of M has made us an offer of students to assist us in various ways. We appreciate it. It's a good way of getting young people involved in our organization and, they in turn, would benefit by getting credit. So we both win!

Evelyn Lund and Dorothy Landry who attended French Days at the Interpretative Center in Chisholm, MN. report that John Rivard's presentation was superb. The ethnic festival was good exposure for us. They spread the news about our Société and shared comments and recipes of French foods with the spectators.

Approximately 35 or so hardy members of La Société took part in the Pea Soup Days celebration in Somerset, WI on Sept. 18th. It was a gorgeous day and they all looked smashing in their colorful costumes. Five flags were carried in the parade: French, American, Canadian, Québec, and the Pea Soup Days flag along with the Société Canadienne-Française banner. After the parade all participants gathered in Archie's Bar where Les Canadiens Errants, the Société's singing group, performed French folk songs. It was great fun! and the pea soup was exquisite!

We need your input - so we've decided to place a suggestion box at all the general membership meetings. Give us your ideas and comments, recipes, criticisms etc... no names necessary.

John Rivard plans to visit several areas of MN which have expressed a desire to form a chapter of La SCF - Red Lake Falls, Mankato, Roches, Chippewa Falls are a few. We're really growing!

CONTACT FRANCO-OUEST

Carmelle Pommepeuy, Marie Bouley, and Pat Stegbauer, along with Marie-Reine Mikesell, Regional Vice-President of AFA in Chicago, attended the First Contact Franco-Ouest, held in St. Boniface, Manitoba at the end of May. The Contact's objective was to stimulate the buying of shows (done by French-Canadian artists) and to develop a circuit for those artists. Areas of entertainment included theatre, dance, poetry and music (popular, jazz, folk and classical). The highly-professional artists came from all over Canada. French was spoken everywhere. Ideas were shared and it was a beautiful atmosphere of cultural exchange. The French-Canadian meals (including tourtière, soupe aux pois, tarte au sucre) were delicious. Workshops included: the organization of a show, planification of a tour, how to have a full house, promotion and publicity, budget of a show and budget of a tour. All information taken during the conference will be kept in our files for future use.

For the closure of the Contact we had a special treat - a melting pot of all the talent presented at the Contact. All the artists took their turn performing, leaving us with a flavor of their personality and talent. That evening will be a most memorable one, for it brought us joy, laughter, tears, and most of all, a certainty that our culture is very much alive.

We would highly recommend that the Société continue to send representatives to the Contact. It was evident that they appreciated that the USA was represented as we were publicly introduced on Saturday. We were the only people from the USA there. We would also recommend that we consider inviting here some of these artists to perform.

Submitted by

Carmelle Pommepeuy, Marie Bouley and Pat Stegbauer

Two young men from La Société are studying this year at l'Université de Laval à Québec: Jon Trombley and John Simon. We wish them well. Jon has sent greetings to his friends here in Minneapolis and we thought we might share with you some of his most amusing letter.....

Friday, 8/26/83 AM at 5:30, it was pouring out, not a good omen as we left on our trip, a long one at that. The car, trailer, glove compartment were jam packed. All was going well until we got on the other side of Turtle Lake, Wisc. when suddenly, a wheel on the trailer went sailing off. Talk about a heart attack!! I won't explain why nor how it came off (that's too embarrassing, privileged information). Suffice it to say it was a real pain in the \$!?\$#@ !! Changing that stupid tire is a story in itself. Anyway, we made it to the next "good sized" town and got a "used" spare and a few minor items, like bolts to hold the tire on with. All was well again,....for a while, anyway. The sun was out, a beautiful day. Wisconsin is pretty boring on old 8 thru that area. Our goal--to be in Sault Sainte-Marie that nite. Wisconsin had not finished with us yet though, a stone's throw from the Wisc.-Mich. border our "used" spare blew up. Well if words could heat the air that would have been the hottest day the midwest had ever seen. We just laughed and pretended we were some race car drivers pit men changing the tire as quick as possible.

Thirty minutes, a big improvement over the first time. I thought to myself, "And we still have Ontario, BIG, EMPTY, ONTARIO, to drive through."

Well Michigan was good to us, though we were tired and starving. Chocolate chip cookies only go so far. Then the fog rolled in. I never seen such heavy fog! At long last we crossed the bridge from the U.S. to Canada at Sault Sainte-Marie and then it was time for customs. At that point I didn't care what they did or said. We made it thru there with a glint in our eye and a smile on our face with absolutely no questioned asked. Found a place to sleep in the woods outside of town, after it poured again, and then the next morning (which came awfully fast) took a quick shower and back on the road again. Our goal--from Sault Ste-Marie to Hull Quebec/Ottawa Ontario, and believe me that was some stretch! Lots of beautiful scenery. Stopped by the cops once. (John Simon was driving, just to set the record straight) Once again the day grew long, very long! No car problems though, Allelluia! As you cross the border from the province of Ontario, the city of Ottawa, to the province of Quebec, the city of Hull, there is a sudden, dramatic change. NO MORE ENGLISH,....at all. It was a shock to have it happen so suddenly. I thought we'd ease into it slowly. We found a cheap motel (no rats). Again, another short nite. Next morning we went to church in a little town down the road from Hull and then continued on our way through the Quebec countryside. Very memorable! Very charming also! The little stone and brick houses are really cute! In Montreal we went through the tunnel (Tunnel Louis-Hebert) that goes under the St. Lawrence river and coming out of the tunnel we hit construction--which got old real fast! I managed (somehow) to get directions at a filling station and we were back on the country roads again. It seems every town has got a church with two silver steeples and a silver roof. Really different. Our goal that day was Quebec city itself, by nitefall. We made it there with no problems, except for being a little on the grumpy side and ready to kill oneanother, nothing major though. Another cheap motel (I think this one DID have rats). Nonetheless, I was real happy to be out of that _____ car! Next morning we went directly to the U. of Q. (Laval) to start looking for a place to live. Suddenly it dawned on me that I would be stuck with that little project and that I would have to actually CALL on the TELEPHONE and talk in French to these Quebecois. Never in my life was I more nervous! I mean I would have suffered going to the dentist and having all my wisdom teeth pulled again than do that! It's hard enough to understand these fast talken Frenchies face to face. So I rehearsed my lines well a few times and then went to it. LUCKILY, after the 2nd call we found the place we have now, home. And it's perfect I might add. Our address: Jon Trombley, 2820 Rue Dumontier, Ste.-Foy, Quebec, Canada G1V 1L1.

(Anyone is welcomed to visit at any time, just bring a sleeping bag.) Next letter I'll fill you in on our excellent location, school, and a little about Quebec city, and any other tid-bits that seem of some interest. Until then, take care Thanx again for all your support. Drop me a line sometime.

Love,

(Gees, I should have been a journalist.)

Jon



L'afa/mid-ouest nous parle

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A *GRAND MERCI* to all the people from the SCFM who went to the 6th National Conference of AFA at Mackinac. It was a great four days for the Midwest. Now we do have *V-I-S-I-B-I-L-I-T-É!!!*

Many of you must have been impressed by the ability of so many Franco-Americans to use both languages: English and French. Although it may be too late for some of you to be bilingual, there is still time for your children or grandchildren. Send them to Québec for a year of study. This would be the best present you could ever give to them, because it will be everlasting and make their lives so much more interesting.

Here are the two deadlines for registration: May 1st with classes starting September 6, and November 1st with classes starting January 11.

These young people will need to complete application forms. Ten were sent to Gabe Brusseau, Vice-President of the SCFM. Additional ones can be obtained from the QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT OFFICE in Chicago, c/o Lise Haberman. Send the completed forms to me and I will forward them to Québec with an AFA covering letter. This way all will go smoothly.

I will see you in Baton Rouge, if not before!

Cordialement,

Marie-Reine

Marie-Reine Mikesell
Vice-Présidente, AFA/Mid-Ouest

Approximately 35 people represented Minnesota at the 6th Annual Congress of AFA at Mackinac. Our former president John Rivard gave a marvelous presentation as "Le Voyageur". Member Al Dahlquist, who is very involved in genealogy was one of the commentators at the conference. He spoke of the Northwest Territory and Canadian Heritage Institute. Also, Virgil Benoit, one of our members who resides in Red Lake Falls, Mn. gave a session on Le Pays des Metchifs. Congratulations to all of you for representing Minnesota so well.

At the conference, Virgil Benoit was elected chairman for publication of a French-English calendar. Other midwesterners on the committee are Irene A. Ducharme of Chicago and Dorothy Landry of La SCF. Nine others from various parts of the country were elected to that committee. In addition, Dorothy and John Rivard were interviewed by Radio-Canada.

This was the first year that Minnesota sent a group to represent the Midwest. We polled some of the people who gave these comments:

.....A beautiful setting. Meetings were fantastic. The outside tours, shopping, rides, all the Frenchmen talking at once. It was overwhelming. Marie-Reine's guiding hand was evident. Kudo's to all but I had hoped for acknowledgment of what I believed to be the highest percentage of people represented - La SCFM. Dorothy Landry.

.....Enjoyed the conference very much. Perfect set-up and beautiful area. The Reid Lewis presentation was terrific. Enjoyed the singers Friday night too. The banquet was very good except that, not understanding French, I missed a lot of it. Marion Sirvio.

.....A pleasant experience. Site and accommodations excellent. Agenda was varied and interesting and the camaraderie pervasive. Some suggestions: 1) earlier distribution of info about the program and activities and 2) bilingual visual aids 3) registration list and printed summaries of the papers be made available after the conference
Jean Croteau. 24

.....Terrific! Well-organized and held in a good location. Workshops were very good and my wife and I had a really good time. Entertainment excellent. Emmett Bouley.

.....Excellent. Very good location for a family vacation. We missed air-cond. and swimming pool! Particularly enjoyed the conference I went to as the speaker talked about the French in Minnesota and the Dakotas, which is my region of the US. Ralph Germain.

.....Location was excellent and appropriate to our cultural heritage. Program was well-organized and offered a great variety. La Salle Exp. presentation excellent! Our only complaint: the banquet was conducted almost solely in French and therefore incomprehensible to those of us who spoke only English. Marie Bouley and Pat Stegbauer.

.....Very informative seminars. Weather was humid and accommodations should have been made for coolness. Mr. Lewis' presentation was exceptional. Lovely location for a convention. Mary Dicks.

.....Enjoyed the congress as a whole. Very well planned. Seminars were educational. Suggestions for the future: speeches at the banquet were too long. More English should have been used. All delegations should have been acknowledged. Evelyn Lund.

.....Too tight scheduling. English should have been more prominent. The English-speaking group seemed to be overlooked. The Fort Michilimackinac tour was more than expected. Lodging and meals were more than adequate. All subject matter in the workshops were pertinent and exceptionally well prepared and presented by very good and qualified speakers. The two exceptional programs were the La Salle Expedition by Reid Lewis and the musical program in the lounge. In all, a SUPER conference. Helen Peltier.

These evaluations are personal - casting no aspersions of the conference; rather, letting AFA know what we liked and didn't like so that they could take into consideration changes for future conventions (next year in Louisiana, and the following year in Maine.) By considering these evaluations we will be able to please all people.

Submitted by Dorothy Landry

P.S. All delegates to the 6th Congress, please send in your evaluation sheets from your kit to Marie-Reine. You need not sign your name.

BOUQUETS DE FLEURS -

À Marie-Reine Mikesell, coordinatrice par excellence of the 6th annual congress of AFA (Assemblée des Franco-Américains) at Mackinac. Her talent extended from beginning to end of the program agenda. Her fingers were on the pulse of all matters pertinent to Franco-Americans. BRAVO! BRAVO!

REUNION OF FRENCH CANADIAN DESCENDANTS AT DELAVAN, MINNESOTA

On Sunday August 14, the First National Reunion of the Descendants of the Early French Settlers of the tiny town of Delavan was celebrated. Over 750 people participated in this event, close to triple the normal population of the southern Minnesota town located in Blue Earth county. It was truly a national event having visitors from many states as well as all over Minnesota. Les canadiens errants, the singing group of La société canadienne française du minnesota, provided the entertainment.

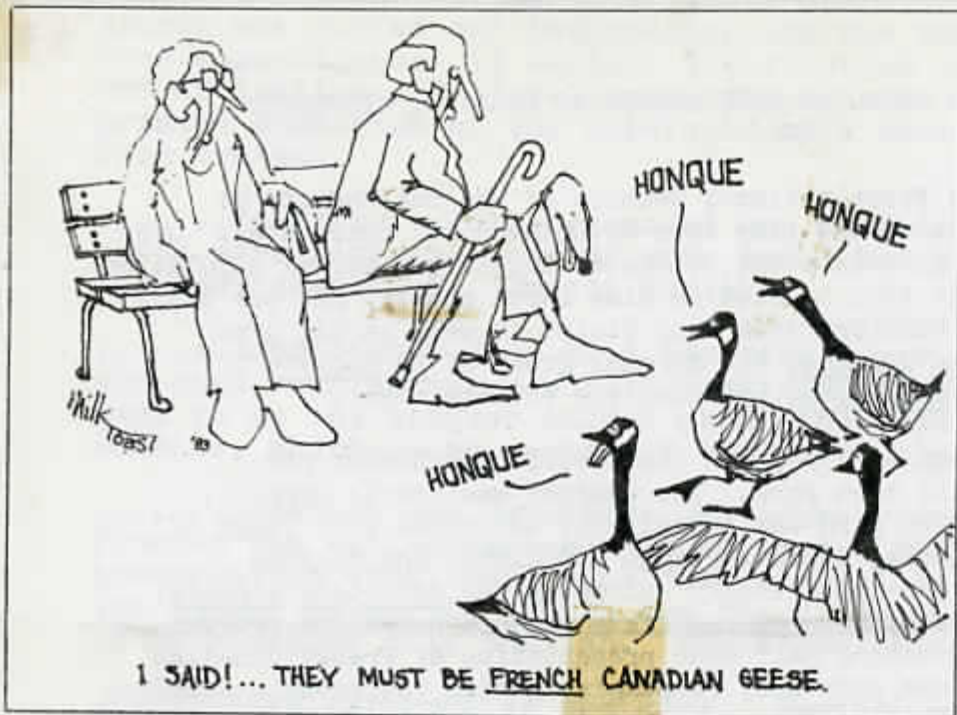
The Reunion began at noon with a picnic lunch of fried chicken and potato salad served in the town park. The weather was nearly perfect, although somewhat hot. The park was beautifully decorated with flags of the United States, Minnesota, Canada, France and Quebec and various other banners including one specifically welcoming Les canadiens errants. Around 2:00 after a short speech Les canadiens errants began the program in the school auditorium with a half hour presentation of French Canadian folksong. The audience was extremely responsive giving the group a standing ovation. In fact, one little old man, seated in the front, the first to stand up, was actually weeping. The program then continued with a slide presentation describing the French Canadian contribution to the area. LCE performed again after 4:00 but this time in the park since the auditorium had become very hot. The slide program was repeated in the auditorium at this time.

The afternoon appeared to be a great success. It was very well organized with everything going very smoothly. More importantly, everyone there seemed to be enjoying themselves as only French Canadians can do. In addition, two Twin City television stations (KSTP, WTCN) carried on their evening news a report of the Reunion in which members of LCE were prominently featured.

Les canadiens errants also performed at Murphy's Landing, the Minnesota Valley Restoration Project on July 17. Unfortunately, rain reduced the size of the audience considerably, and forced the group to perform indoors. Workers there were impressed enough with our costumes to ask if anyone from the group or the society would be interested in volunteering to work there next summer. After the performance members of the group toured the place which includes Oliver Faribault's log cabin. We sang a few drinking songs for a couple of the workers who were members and La compagnie and were therefore familiar with them. They were surprised to actually hear them in tune and in parts as La compagnie was not known for their singing. In addition, the group took part in the Minneapolis Metropolitan Cultural Arts Center's heritage day on August 20. One of the most interesting things about that performance was how much the mostly minority audience seemed to enjoy the songs.

Submitted by,
Patrice Stegbauer

How about some of our members dropping them a line? You know how lonely one gets away from home and in a "foreign" land. They'd really appreciate it.



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The Publicity Committee is in need of a good, used typewriter. If you have one you could donate, call 788-0095.

Taken from Twin City Reader & submitted by Lee Collatz.)

La SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE meets regularly on the first MONDAY of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria of St. Luke's Church near Summit and Lexington in St. Paul. There is nothing that together we cannot undertake. We need your ideas. We need your talents. We need you!



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