

Rene Menard

By ALEXANDER M. STEWART (Continued from Last Week)

Superior of the House After the tragic end of Huronia Fr. Menard, who had returned to Three Rivers toward the close of 1850, became a member of the residence there for the next five years. During those years he must have journeyed down to Quebec, where his great eloquence made him a favorite preacher. In the letters of Marie de l'Incarnation, who founded the Ursuline convent in Quebec, Fr. Menard is mentioned. But one of the aims of a good Jesuit was to suppress personal vanity and boastfulness, so the years in this period of his second residence in Three Rivers are almost silent as far as records go. But he had continued to gain the esteem of his order and to be pleasing and agreeable to the members of the household, for after his return from

Journal, baptized the daughter of the Senior Grosseillers, uncle of the famous trader and explorer. The first wife of Medard Chouart Grosseillers, the explorer, died and he married the widowed sister of Radisson. These two men, Grosseillers and Radisson, friends of Fr. Menard in former years, then became loyal lifelong partners, sharers in business and sharers in many thrilling adventures. It is almost certain that they reached the upper waters of the Mississippi before Marquette and Joliet and if La Salle, their successor in the work of exploring the heart of the continent, had had their facility and diplomacy the tragic element in La Salle's life would have been missing. For two years Fr. Menard did not see them. And then on the 19th of August, 1660, he arrived at Montreal 60 five-man canoes with 300 Ottawa tribesmen and Pierre Esprit Radisson and Medard Chouart Grosseillers, with furs valued at 200,000 livres, or \$1,000,000.00, which in the purchasing power of money in those days was almost the price of a kingdom. The two years of hard work and most skillful negotiations had on the part of these two citizens of Three Rivers, opened up new territory in the far end of Lake Superior.

Fur Rush to Great Lakes Some men, upon seeing this vast fortune in fur, naturally enough wanted to start, not a gold rush but a fur rush to the Upper Great Lakes. But not so with Fr. Menard, for in the reports which these men brought of populous regions, and of many new tribes and of some remnants and refugees of the old Huron mission, his mind envisioned treasure far richer and more lasting than fur. The opportunity appealed also to the Superior of the Jesuit order and the decision for Fr. Menard to go came suddenly. Grosseillers and Radisson did not return to the upper Lakes with these Ottawa tribesmen, yet this immense piece of business which they had now brought to a climax afforded transportation for Fr. Menard to go back with the Indians. The Indians were in a hurry to return. In the North country frost some times comes in late August. Their minds were set on gathering wild rice and on the fall hunt. They were anxious about the possibilities of long delays from storms on large lakes, so now that they had made their purchases and seen the marvels of the white man's settlements, they could not wait for a few white men to make comfortable preparations. Moreover, they were a foreign tribe in an enemy's country and no canoe, or small group of canoes, could be persuaded to take the risk of waiting, for, on their way down, they had come through great risks. A band of Iroquois had threatened the destruction of Montreal itself and were directed from their sinister purpose when a band of young men from Montreal under Dollard, who had dedicated their lives to death, fought the Iroquois and had done them so great damage that Montreal was saved, but Dollard and the last of his twenty heroes had fallen on May 21, 1660 like in the days of old in the Pass of Thermopylae. Fr. Menard must go at once.

NOTE.—See Vol. I, p. 236-237. American Historical Review, 1896. Grosseiller and Radisson, by H. Colin Campbell. Also Pere Menard by H. C. Campbell, also Thwaites Jes. Rel. Gros. & Rad.

Farewell Letter to Superior "At two o'clock a. m. August 27, 1660, just a few hours before departure, Menard wrote to his Superior, "I write you the last word and I desire it to be the seal of our friendship into Eternity. In three or four months you may put me into the memento of the dead, considering the manner of living of these people and my age and weak constitution. Notwithstanding all this, I have felt so powerful an attraction and have seen so little of nature in this undertaking, that I cannot doubt that I would have had eternal remorse, had I missed this opportunity. We were taken a little by surprise, so that we were unable to provide ourselves with clothing and other necessary things, but He who feeds the birds and clothes the lilies of the field will take care of His servants. Should we happen to die of misery, that would be for us a great happiness." (Campbell, p. 7)

"Father," said La Val, the bishop of New France, "every consideration seems to demand your staying here, but God who is stronger than all, wants you in those parts," pointing to the West. "How often," Menard wrote in his house of boughs on the shore of Keewenaw Bay on the south shore of Lake Superior, "have I revolved these words in my mind into the torments, pain and in the solitude of our great forests."

Pope Hears of Mission Work October 25, 1660, Laval wrote as follows to Pope Alexander VII. "This summer a priest of the Society of Jesus left for a mission more than 500 leagues from Quebec. That country is inhabited by innumerable nations who have never heard of the faith. Seven Frenchmen have joined this expedition. They buy castors (beaver skins) and try to conquer souls." Campbell's Menard, p. 7, footnote. The "we" in Fr. Menard's letter includes Fr. Alabanel, but the Indians set Fr. Alabanel out of their canoe before leaving the settlements. However, this setback did not deter Fr. Alabanel from performing a major piece of exploration on this continent. He completed a trip a few years later, by way of the Saguenay River, to Hudson's Bay, and a large lake east of Lake Mississipi as yet almost inaccessible bears his name.

(Continued Next Week)

PERSONAL PORTRAITS

of Catholic Lay People in the Rochester Diocese



Photo by Health (Cleveland) COLONEL FRANK H. HILL, Secretary and Manager of the Rome Co. 85-Albee Street, has been actively associated with that company for twenty-eight years. Colonel Hill is a member of the Supreme Board of Knights of St. John, his membership in the Knights of St. John dates back to 1877, of the same order. He is also a member of the Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus. Colonel Hill has the privilege of being ranked among the members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, a Papal Organization, by an appointment of Pope Pius XI.

THIS SERIES of camera studies is presented exclusively by the CATHOLIC COURIER to familiarize our readers with various interesting personalities. Selection of subjects is based on their personal appeal rather than on any specific connection with special groups. Other portraits in the series will appear from time to time.



Photo by Furlong EUGENE J. DWYER, attorney at law, of Rochester, is a senior member of the Bar from the Law School of the University of Rochester, with offices in the Lincoln-Albany Park Bldg., 181 Main Street, E. one of the largest law firms in the city. He has been practicing law since 1894, and is a member of the American Bar Association, the N. Y. State Bar Association, the N. Y. City Bar Association, and the Rochester Bar Association. In 1931, Mr. Dwyer was elevated as a Knight of St. George, by appointment of Pope Pius XI. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and other organizations. He resides at 3 Burke Terrace.



Photo by Mack DONALD A. DAILEY is regional manager of the Genesee Brewing Company, 100 National Street. He is a former Commissioner of Public Safety and prior to his connection with the Genesee Brewing Company was in the public relations department of the Eastman Kodak Company. He is a graduate of Georgetown University and active in the alumni association of that University at Rochester. Mr. Dailey is president of the Holy Name Society of Blessed Sacrament Church. He is a member of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, and Missions Caravan, Order of the Alhambra. Mr. Dailey is a director of the Columbus Center. His residence is at 95 Canterbury Road.



Photo by Furlong JOHN M. HEDDES, funeral director and member of the Hodges & Hoff man, Funeral Directors, located at 141 Scio Street, founded the establishment twenty years ago, on November 15, 1912, and he has been actively connected with the business ever since. Mr. Heddes is a member of several organizations, among which are: Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree Order of Alhambra, New York State Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors Association, and New York State Embalmers Association. His residence is at 141 Scio Street.



Photo by Heberger LOUIS C. HOCK, Faithful Navigator of the Fourth Degree Assembly, Knights of Columbus, and in the insurance business for twenty-eight years, recently organized the firm of Louis C. Hock & Son Co., 34 State Street, representing some of the largest fire, liability and surety companies in the country. Mr. Hock is Vice President of the Underwriters' Board of Rochester. He is Past President and Secretary of the St. George Commandery, No. 43, Knights of St. John, and a charter member of St. George's Quarters. Mr. Hock is also Past Vice-President of the Federation of German Catholic Societies of Rochester. He resides at 91 Saranac.



Photo by Kalden Studios (N. Y.) GEORGE J. NIER is a member of the law firm of Whitman, Dey and Nier, located in the Genesee Valley Trust Bldg., at 45 Exchange Street. Mr. Nier is former commissioner of Public Safety, and a former County Commander of the American Legion. He received his education at Cathedral High School, and Albany Law School. During the World War, he served overseas as a Sergeant of Infantry. Mr. Nier is a member of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus. He is well known in Rochester circles as an outstanding baseball and football player. His home is at 235 Albemarle Street.



Photo by Moser DANIEL J. O'MARA, Grand Commander of the Order of the Alhambra, has his law offices in the Central Trust Bldg., located at 25 Main Street, E. He was elected a Grand Vicer of the National Alhambra, at the 1932 National Convention of the Order of the Alhambra, which was held in Baltimore last month. Mr. O'Mara is a member of the Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, and the Rochester Bar Association, among other local organizations. He is first District Assemblyman, and he resides at 311 Westwood Road.

First Jubilee Year Visits to Basilica By Pope in 60 Years

(Continued from Page 1)

Office of the Maternity of the Virgin Mary is read, with its words of poetry, of history and of art. It says: "Whilst in the year 1321, amidst the applause of the whole Catholic world, was celebrated the fifteenth centenary of the Council of Ephesus in which, against the heresy of Nestorius, the Blessed Virgin Mary was proclaimed Mother of God by the Fathers under the guidance of Pope Celestine, Pius XI wished to perpetuate the fortunate memory of the event with perennial testimony of his piety. He wished therefore to restore, with his munificence, that noble monument of the Ephesian proclamation that exists in Rome, namely the triumphal arch in the Basilica of St. Mary Major on the Esquiline Hill, by his predecessor Sixtus III, marvelously adorned with mosaics, but damaged by the ravages of time, together with the transversal nave of the same Basilica.

"In an Encyclical Letter also, after having precisely delineated the characters of the Council of Ephesus, he proudly and abundantly illustrated the ineffable privilege of the Divine Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with the object of inculcating always more profoundly in the minds of the faithful the knowledge of this sublime mystery. In the same temple he proposed the most blessed of all women, Mary Mother of God, and the Holy Family of Nazareth, as the most noble examples to be imitated, as much for the dignity and sanctity of Christian marriage as for the education that must be imparted to the young.

"Finally, so that all this should be recalled in the liturgy, he ordered that the Feast of the Divine Maternity of the Virgin Mary should be celebrated each year by the Universal Church on the day of the 11th of October with Mass and proper Office and the Double Rite of second class."

Wright & Alexander Co. Sell Hart Oil Burners

Many of us are accustomed to think of oil burning as a somewhat new thing. There are some who even look upon the discovery and production of oil as a development of the present century. Neither proves to be the case. The existence of oil has been known for hundreds of years. Marco Polo mentioned the oil wells of what is now known as Russia in his thirteenth century writings. He said this oil is not good for use with food, but it is good to burn and can be used to anoint camels that have the mange. In our own country, George Washington was one of the first to sense the possibilities of petroleum. It was about 1783 that he visited Western Pennsylvania and acquired large holdings of petroleum land which formed a good part of his estate, and which are said to have been sold for approximately \$200,000.

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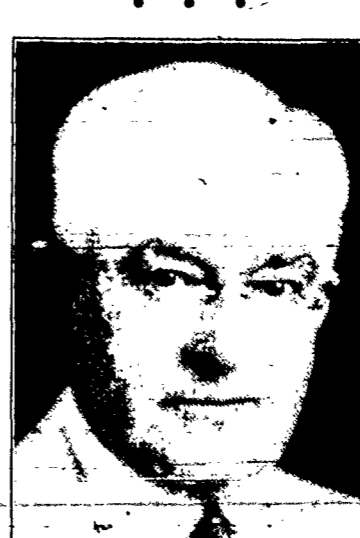


Photo by Morrall JOSEPH P. MACSWEENEY, associated with the Rochester Gas & Electric Company, 89 East Avenue, is President of the Legal Aid Society. For twenty-five years he has served actively in the Tuberculosis & Health Association, and at present is the Vice-President of the Association and Chairman of its Rochester Committee. Mr. MacSweeney is Past Vice-Supreme Commander of the Order of the Alhambra, and a life member of that organization. He is a member of the Health Conservation Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. He resides at 88 Melrose Street.



Photo by Mook B. EDWARD SHLESINGER, President of the Rochester Diocesan Holy Name Union, is the Patent Attorney for Gleason Works at 1000 University Avenue. Mr. Shlesinger was former Patent Examiner, U. S. Patent Office, and former Technical Patent Advisor U. S. War Department. He is a member of the Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, and Alhambra. Mr. Shlesinger is also President of St. Ambrose Holy Name Society. His home is at 63 Culver Parkway.

PLAN \$125,000 BUILDING San Francisco (NGWC)—A new \$125,000 building will be constructed for San Francisco's Irish societies, according to provisions made at the state conventions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Auxiliary, which have just closed here.

BEST COLUMBIAN SQUIRES (N. C. W. C. News Service) St. Louis.—(NGWC)—The Rosati Circle of the Columbian Squires, juvenile division of the Knights of Columbus, has been awarded the honor of being the best unit of the organization in a national contest.

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