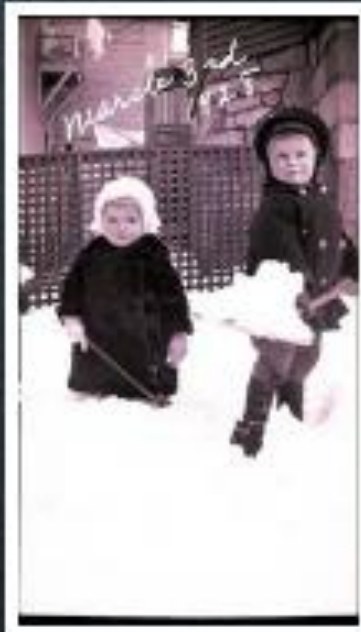


Roland Champagne's Childhood



WHAT HAPPENED IN 1924?

The song Rhapsody in Blue was played for the first time.

Future Tarzan actor Johnny Wiessmuller wins three gold medals in swimming at the Paris Olympics.

Two US Army planes complete the first around the world flight from Seattle to Seattle making 57 stops in 175 days.

The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade takes place on November 27th.

The first ever regular airmail services start in the US.

The Wrigley Building in Chicago is completed.

J Edgar Hoover is appointed the head of the FBI.

Vladimir Lenin dies, Joseph Stalin jockeys for power.

Civil war breaks out in China.

The Boston, Massachusetts airport opens.

ROLAND CHAMPAGNE IS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1924

Vous êtes cordialement invité
à un "Miscellaneous Shower"
qui sera donnée en l'honneur
de Mlle Eva Beaulieu le dimanche
16 novembre à 63 Plymouth St

Mde Edmond Thibault

16/november/1923

Here is an invitation to my mother's
wedding shower given by Madame Edmond
Thibault. You can see it is written in
French!

I grew up speaking both French and English.
Like many second generation immigrants,
the older I became the less French I spoke
in my daily life.



**This is the house at 63 Plymouth street.
Years later my sister Lucille would live here
with her family.**

M. et Mme Charles P. Beaulieu

*sollicitent l'honneur de votre presence a la
messe de mariage de leur fille*

Eva E.

a

M. Gedeon Champagne

qui aura lieu

Jeudi matin, le vingt-neuf novembre

mil neuf cent vingt-trois

a huit heures

a l'Eglise Ste Anne

Lawrence, Massachusetts

And here is the wedding invitation also written in French! They were married on Thanksgiving Day in 1923 at Saint Anne's Church in Lawrence, Massachusetts. My grandpa Charles is on the porch.





My parents were married November 29, 1923 at St Annes church in Lawrence, Massachusetts.



Here is St Anne's Church at the corner of Haverhill and Franklin streets. It was originally named French Church.



ARCHIDIOCESE DE BOSTON

Paroisse Ste Anne, Lawrence, Mass.

CERTIFICAT DE MARIAGE

Je, soussigné, certifie que

Gédéon Champagne

Gene Beaulieu

ont été unis en mariage le

29^e

jour du mois de

Novembre

1923

dans l'église Ste Anne

Selon le Rite de la Sainte Eglise Catholique Romaine

Et conformément aux lois de l'Etat du Massachusetts

Rév.

Claude M. Carteron S.M.

as:

Octave Champagne, Pantaléon Beaulieu

Tel qu'il appert sur le Régistre des Mariages de la dite église.

7 Novembre 1923

Rév. *Claude M. Carteron S.M.*

The marriage certificate from the church of Saint Anne, also in French! There were many immigrant families from Quebec in our parish.

Lawrence was a very dynamic city with immigrants from Ireland, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, Poland, and England. In 1920 the population was 94,270, of which forty-five percent were foreign born.



Later they would move to 24 Kensington Street. I was born at that address in this house. It was upstairs, on the side with the balcony. What a big beautiful house. I remember living there upstairs.



Here are my parents just six weeks before I will be born! Looking good Ma!

Also pictured is Justine O'Connor. Years later I would take my family to Massachusetts and we visited Justine in Newburyport and her husband Mike.

On the next page is my birth certificate, yipee!

CERTIFICATE OF VITAL RECORD

VERIFY PRESENCE OF WATERMARK HOLD TO LIGHT TO VIEW

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
 REGISTRY OF VITAL RECORDS AND STATISTICS

694322

1 PLACE OF BIRTH County of <u>Essex</u>		The Commonwealth of Massachusetts OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS	409 Lawrence (City or town)
RETURN OF A BIRTH			
City of <u>Lawrence</u>		Registered No. <u>1889</u>	
2 FULL NAME OF CHILD <u>Roland J. N. Champagne</u>		No. <u>24 Kingston</u> St. <u>Ward</u>	
3 Sex of Child <u>Male</u>	4 Twin, triplet or other?	5 Born alive or stillborn	6 Date of Birth <u>Sept. 3 1924</u>
7 FATHER Full Name <u>Gideon Champagne</u>		8 MOTHER Present Name and Maiden Name <u>Era Beaulieu</u>	
9 Residence No. <u>24 Kingston St.</u> Lawrence (City or town)		10 Residence No. <u>24 Kingston St.</u> Lawrence (City or town)	
11 Color or Race <u>White</u>	Age <u>36</u> Years	12 Color or Race <u>White</u>	Age <u>33</u> Years
13 Birthplace <u>Canada</u> (City or town) (State or country)		14 Birthplace <u>Lawrence Mass.</u> (City or town) (State or country)	
15 Occupation <u>Carpenter</u>		16 Occupation	
17 Signature of Attendant at Birth <u>Emile E. Cys</u> (Name)		Physician (Physician, parent or other, etc.)	
Address No. <u>81 Bradford St.</u>		Lawrence (City or town)	
Dated _____ (Month) (Day) (Year)		Did above-named personally attend the birth? <u>yes</u>	
18 Received at office of city or town clerk		<u>Sept 9 1924</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)	
19 A true copy. Attest: _____		REGISTRAR	

VOID IF ALTERED OR ERASED



Stanley E. Nye
 Registrar of Vital Records and Statistics

JUN 03 2009

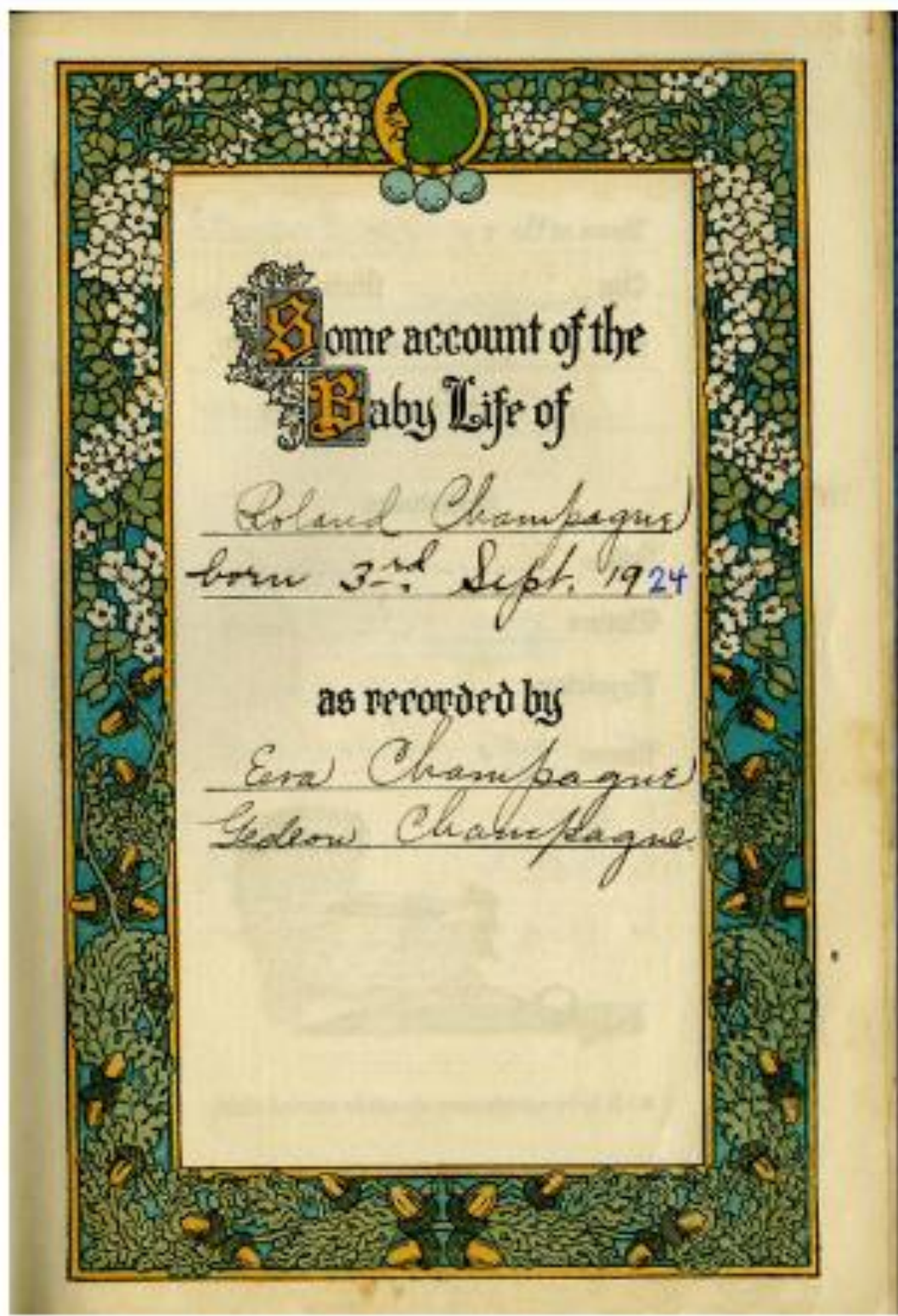
I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am the Registrar of Vital Records and Statistics; that as such I have custody of the records of birth, marriage, and death required by law to be kept in my office; and I do hereby certify that the above is a true copy from said records.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO ALTER OR REPRODUCE THIS DOCUMENT IN ANY MANNER.

VOID WITHOUT WATERMARK OR IF ALTERED OR ERASED



I do not know the date of the photo above but I sure am a baby, haha!



Here is my baby book!

Born at No 24 Kingston St
City Lawrence State Mass
At 4 Four o'clock p. M.
Sept 3rd 19 24

Signatures

Father Gideon Champagne

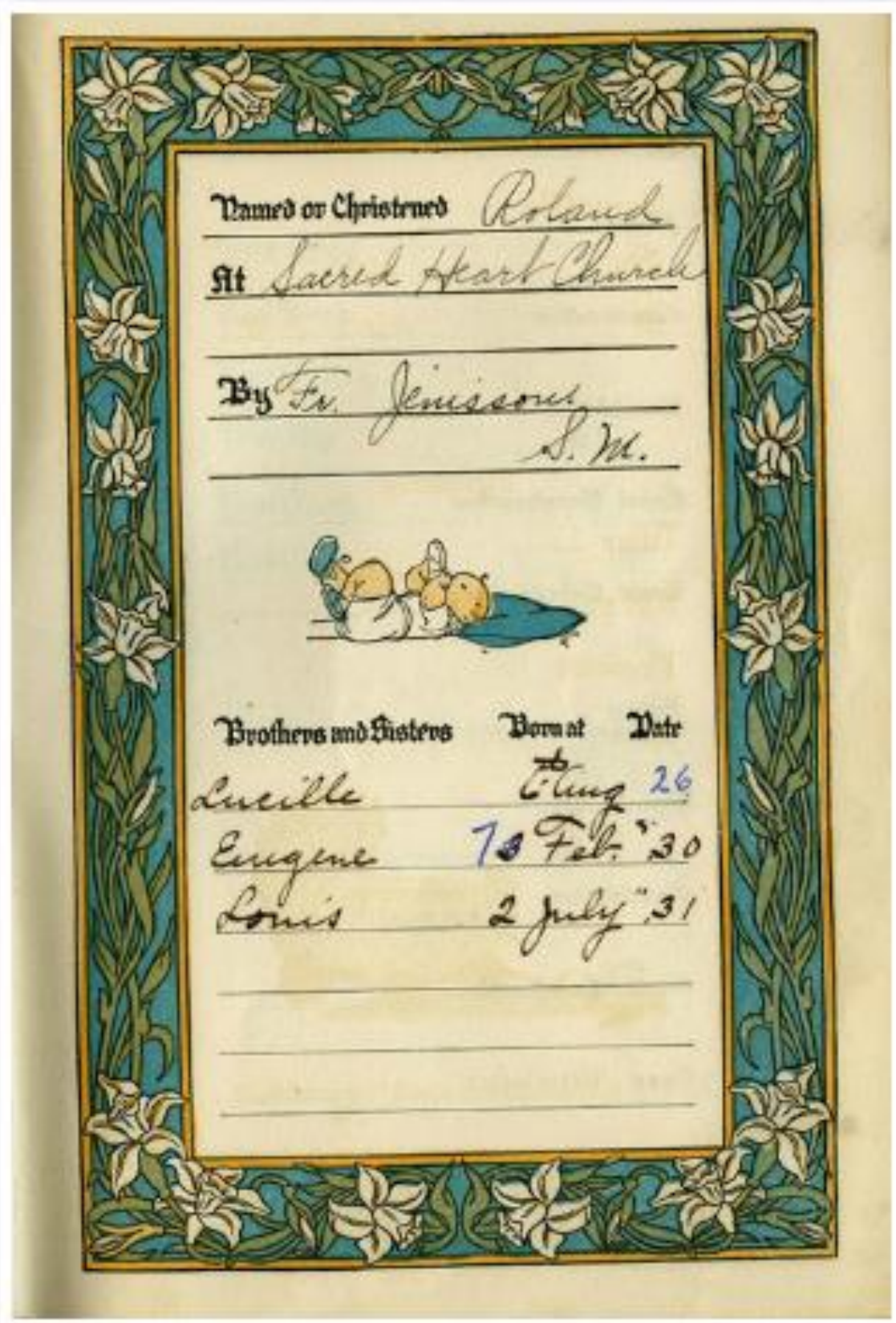
Mother Eva Beaulieu

Physician Dr. E. E. Cyr

Nurse Mrs. Lane



A life to be satisfactory should be started right



This page has my brothers and sister listed.

First Shoes

First Word

First Clothes

First Step 11 months

First Tooth 11 months

First Toys ring, Duck, truck

Baby's Cute Sayings



Poland would not play
alone outside.



Look how happy I am to be outdoors in the
sunshine!





My mother and I; Eva and Roland Champagne.



I believe I am
thirteen
months old in
this picture.

Below is my
childhood
cup. They
were not
made of
cheap plastic
like they are
nowadays.





Roland Champagne was born on September 3, 1924. I was a honeymoon baby, born nine months after my parents were married. Here are some of my earliest photos. I am thirteen months old in the photo on the left. I am the eldest child in our family.



That is me in the
baby carriage,
and below I look
happy to be
outside.

Look how bundled
up I am here! It
is cold in New
England so we
always had to
wear warm
clothes in the
winter.





it gets cold in New
England! I grew up in
Lawrence, Massachusetts.

















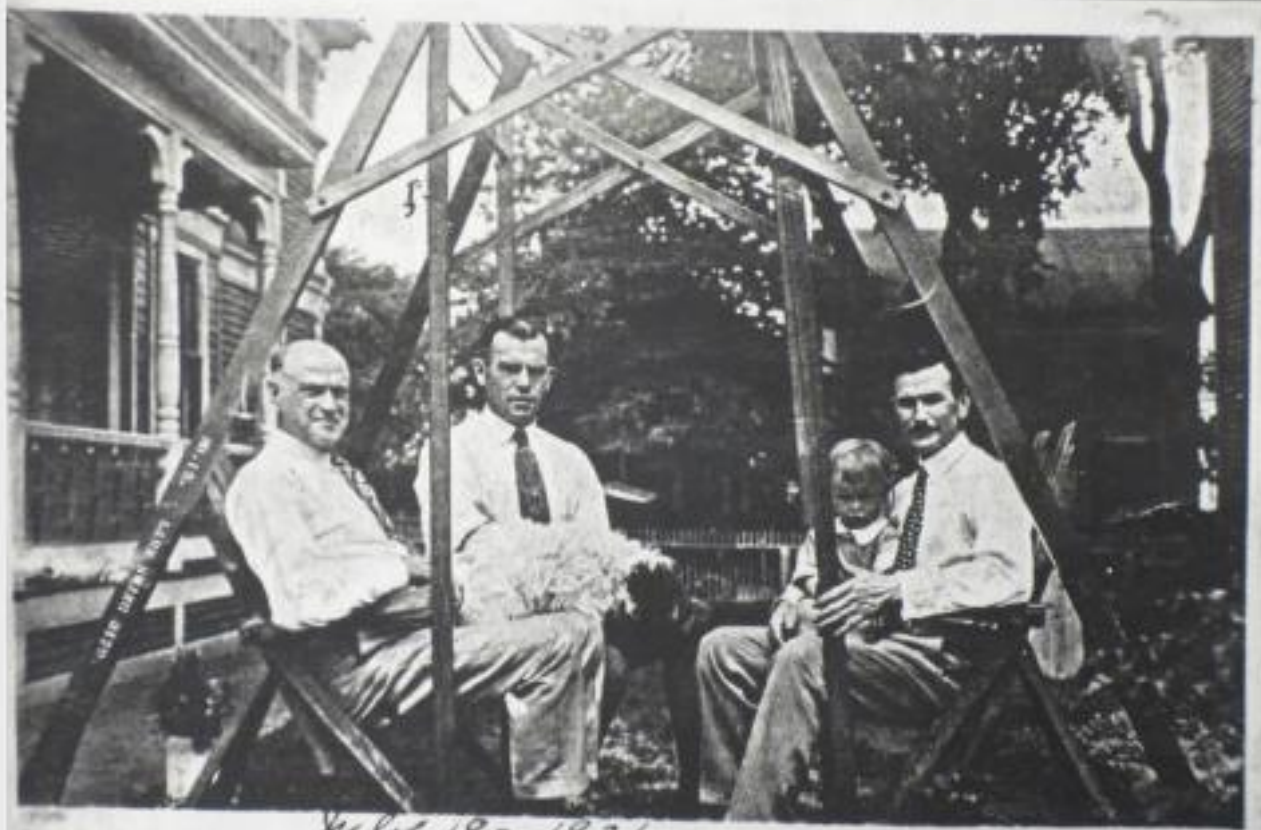


Here I am with my Uncle Jean playing in the garden. It is hard to see but I am wearing his glasses. This was July 19, 1926.

That is Uncle Horace and his girl Lillian, with Uncle Jean and my father holding me. What a nice summer day!



Here are photos from July 19, 1926. That is my Uncle Octave, my mother, and me sitting in between my mother and my Uncle Jean.



July 19 - 1926



We had a small cornfield on the side of our house. That is Roland on the left, my sister Lucille in the middle, and Paul on the right.



That is me holding the baby carriage. My mother is holding my sister Lucille. Paul is sitting in the carriage. My aunt Reina is holding Claire, and Justine O'Connor is standing in the middle.





**My little sister and I riding our bikes, or
maybe we are resting now.**



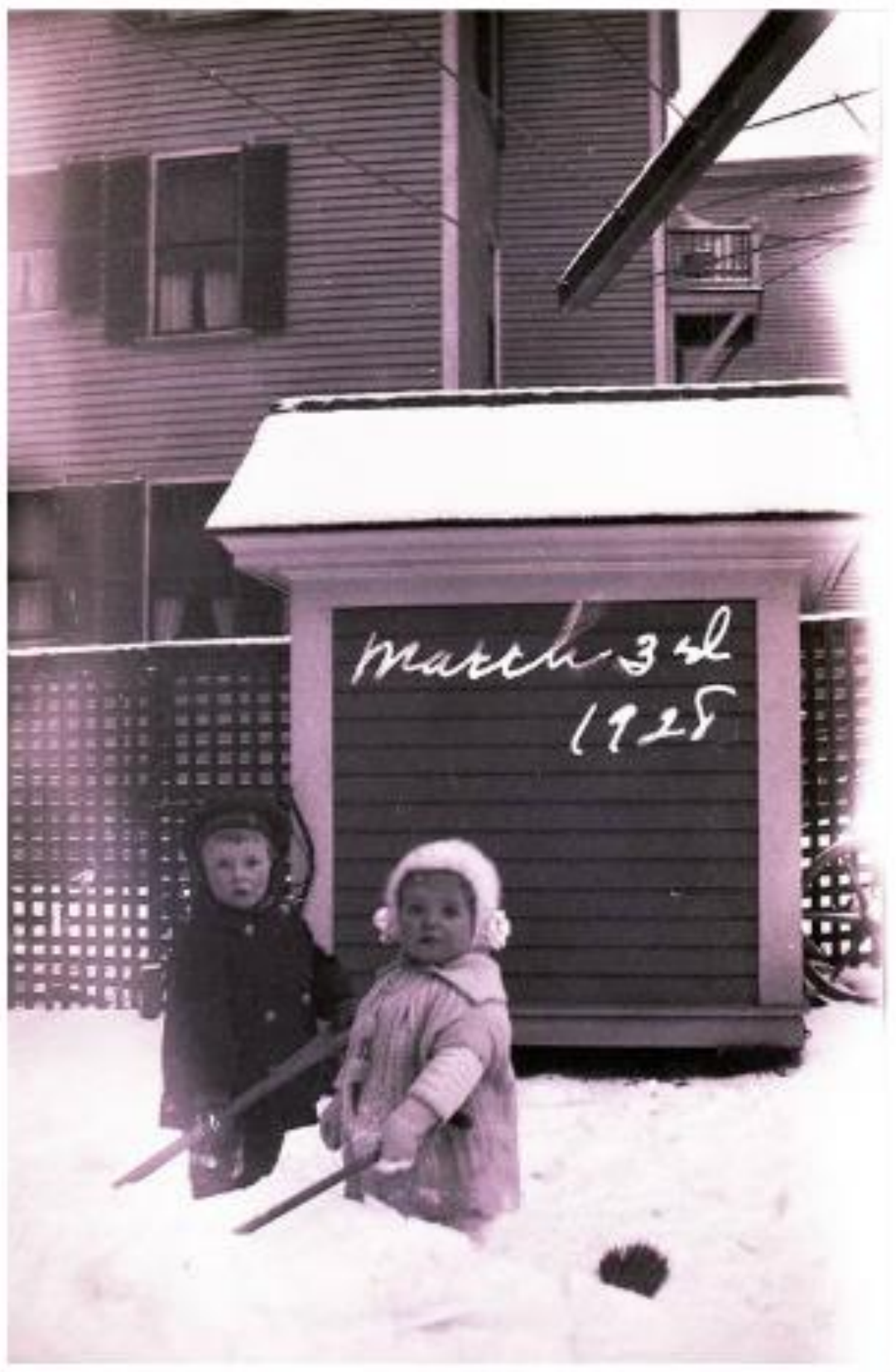
We lived at 6 Butler Street, Lawrence, MA. Playing in the snow was fun. There was a big hill on our block we rode down on our sleds. It was a good time to be a kid!

March 3, 1928



















Here I am at Merimack Park celebrating my fourth birthday with my sister. We are riding the "Custer Cars". These were made for the soldiers who lost legs in World War Two. Afterwards many of them were made into children's rides at amusement parks. Today these cars are worth a lot of money. You can find them in automotive museums.



September 9, 1928





The summers in Massachusetts are hot and humid. Our family would go to Salisbury Beach to cool off. Here I am with my sister Lucille and our Pop. Boy was he in shape. Look at the size of his arm and shoulder!





I remember one day at Salisbury beach there was a crowd of people gathering around. My father took me over to the crowd and told this very big gentleman that he wanted him to meet me.

The man stuck out his giant hand and said, "Hello kid". I was told he was Jack Johnson. Later I realized how special a meeting that truly was.



That was THE Jack Johnson, the one time heavy weight champion of the world.

Wow! How many people can say they shook Jack Johnson's hand?











May 1932

My son Mark likes
this picture because
he says I still cross
my arms that way
today. I like my
bowtie!



Our gang in 1933! We are all here; Gene,
Louis, Lu and me!





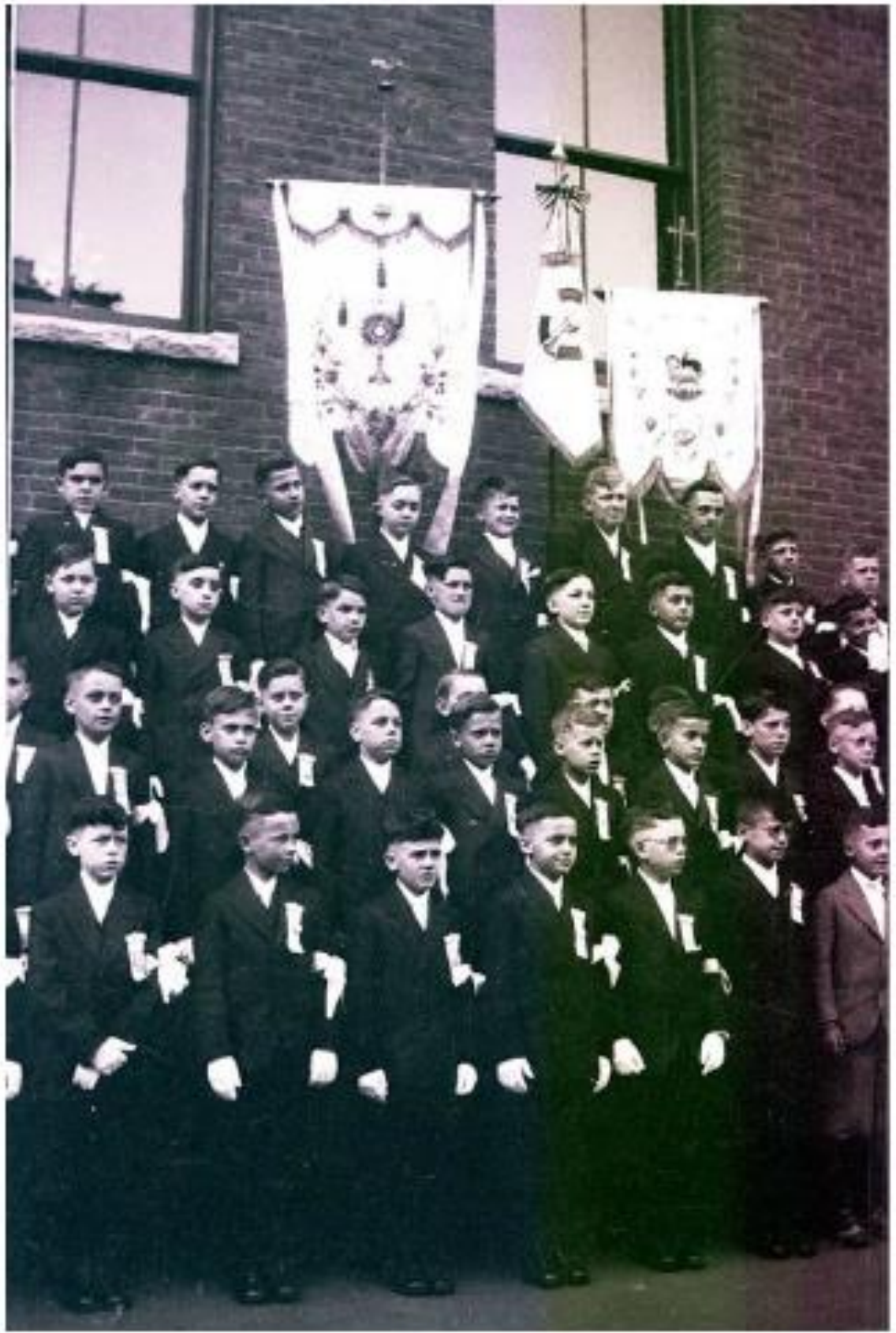
The girl with the cat is my cousin Pauline Letendre. She came over our house for dinner very often and always wanted to sit next to my father. She called him Papa.



Here we are in the winter and in the summer.
Our little brother Louis sure was a lot of fun.



Here is a big gathering of cousins. Can you see me in the middle? My cousin Pauline Letendre is in the first row second from the left.





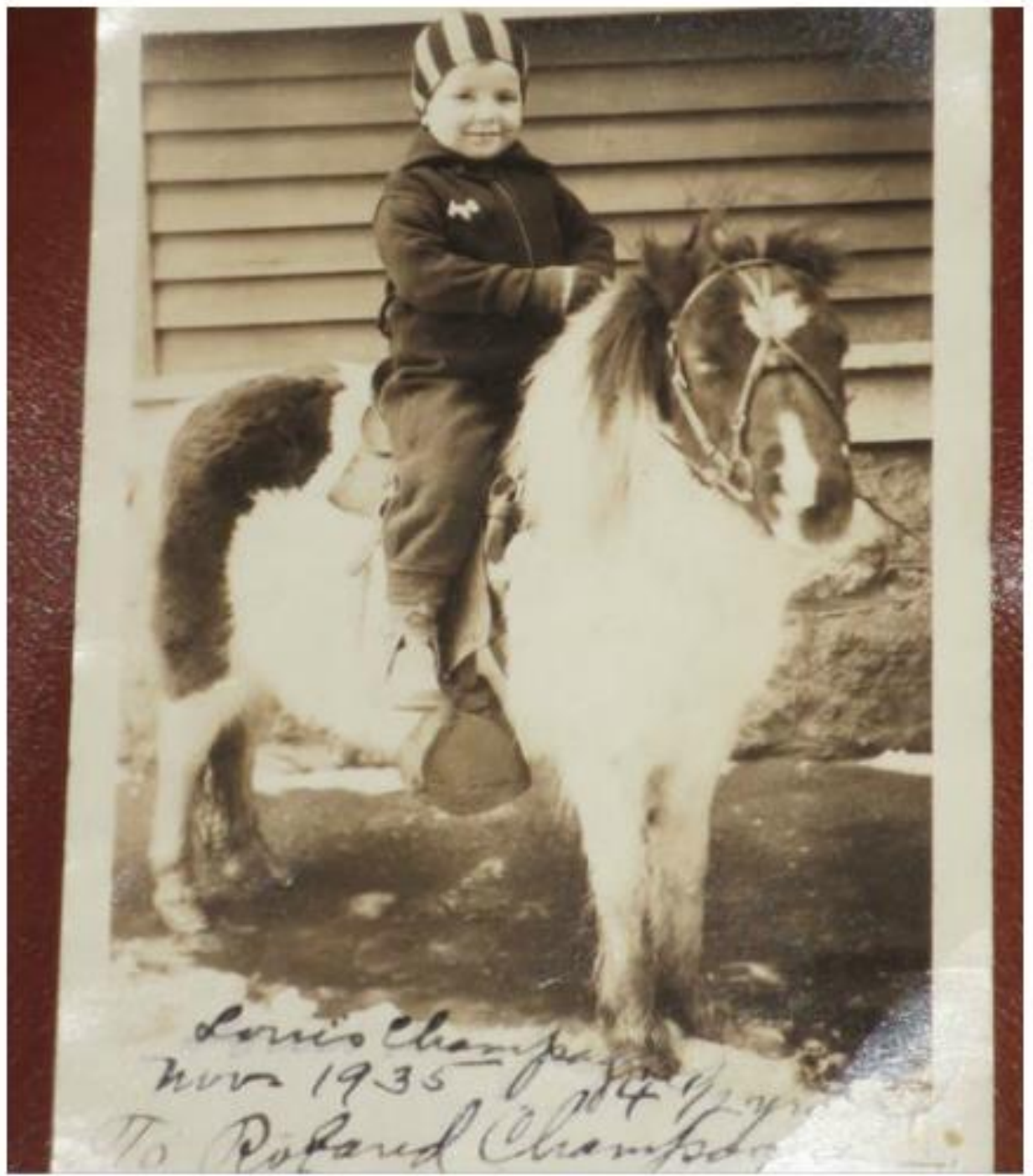
Here we are lined up for our first communion. Can you see me? I am right in the center. Look at our fancy white gloves! This was on May 30, 1935.

On the next page is a close-up of the medals we are wearing. Can you believe I still have it? Yes sir!

Here is the souvenir
medal we are wearing.
It is in French!

Souvenir De Ma
Premiere Communion.
Eglise Sainte Anne
Lawrence, Mass.





My little brother wanted to sit on the pony for a picture. I can still here him say, "Daddy I want to sit on the horse". This was November 1935.



**Christmas Day 1935.
My brothers Louis and Gene, and our sister
Lucille.**





May 21, 1936
Louis, Lu, me and Gene.

May 30, 1936 with my two brothers, Gene and
Louis.





Here is our class photo at St. Anne's Catholic School in Lawrence, MA. I am the first one in the second row.



June 20, 1937

Our father was a carpenter and this summer we had a big wood pile on the side of the house. Our job was to get all of the nails out of the wood. It was a big job for us but we got it done.



Father's Day June 20, 1937. I am holding the Boston Post with a story of our Congressman Connery passing away. My Dad took me to the funeral. I remember it.

hi! my turn next to pose!



August 22, 1937

Can you see what I am holding? It is a little white pig.



**A birthday party given for me on August 29, 1937.
We had nice big family gatherings for special
occasions.**

I liked to go fishing as you can see from some diary entries that I made in 1938.

March 31, 1938

Went fishing for first time during season and caught twelve shiners with a a pole at Mills.

April 14, 1938

Went fishing at Mills and caught five shiners with a branch.

April 30, 1938

Went fishing for the third time and caught three shiners with a new pole bought for 70 cents at Canal of G. Caron.



February 1938

Look how tall my sister Lu was getting at that time. My brothers Louis and Gene dressed up like cowboys, haha.

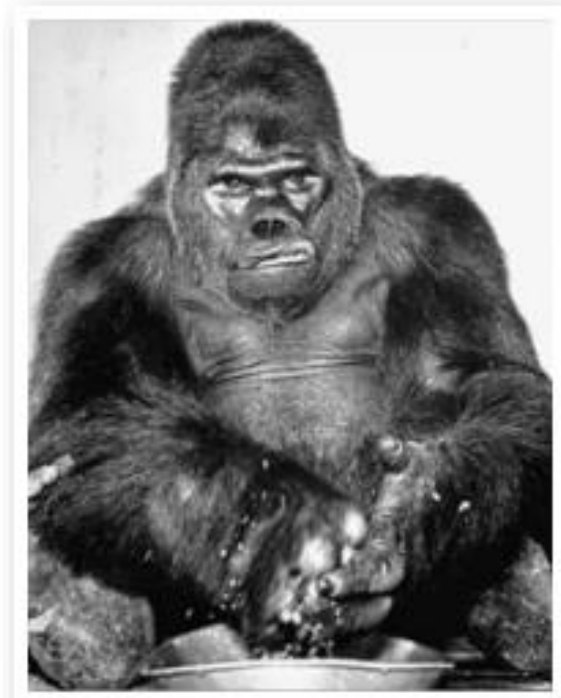
I like our old car in this picture. We had such nice times all of us.





I enjoyed the circus very much. Sometimes I would go down and just look at the animals. It was always a big event when it arrived in town. They would have a parade of animals from the train station all the way downtown.

April 30, 1939 I got a half priced ticket to see Ringling Brothers, Barnum, and Bailey circus for only 85 cents at the Boston Garden! I kept this small clipping all these years.



DATE 6/6 Doors Op. 1&7P.M.

**RINGLING BROS
AND
BARNUM & BAILEY
CIRCUS**

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH
RESPLENDENTLY REDESIGNED for 1940

INTRODUCING
**MR. & MRS. GARGANTUA
THE GREAT**

The Fabulous, Fairyland Fantasy
Old King Cole! Mother Goos

Produced by **JOHN RINGLING NORTH**
Created, Designed and Costumed by
NORMAN BEL GEDDES
Staged by **ALBERTINA RASCH**

ALFRED COURT'S Great Wild Animal Act
ROBERTO de VASCONCELLOS
VISCONDE PONTE da BARCA heading
Incomparable Display of **SUPERHORSEMANSHIP**
classified by **"EVENING IN CENTRAL PARK"**

Starting New Sensations from South America
10,000 MARVELS—800 Peerless Performers
100 Clowns—50 Elephants—**VAST BESTYLLI
MENAGERIE**—New Congress of **FREEDOM**

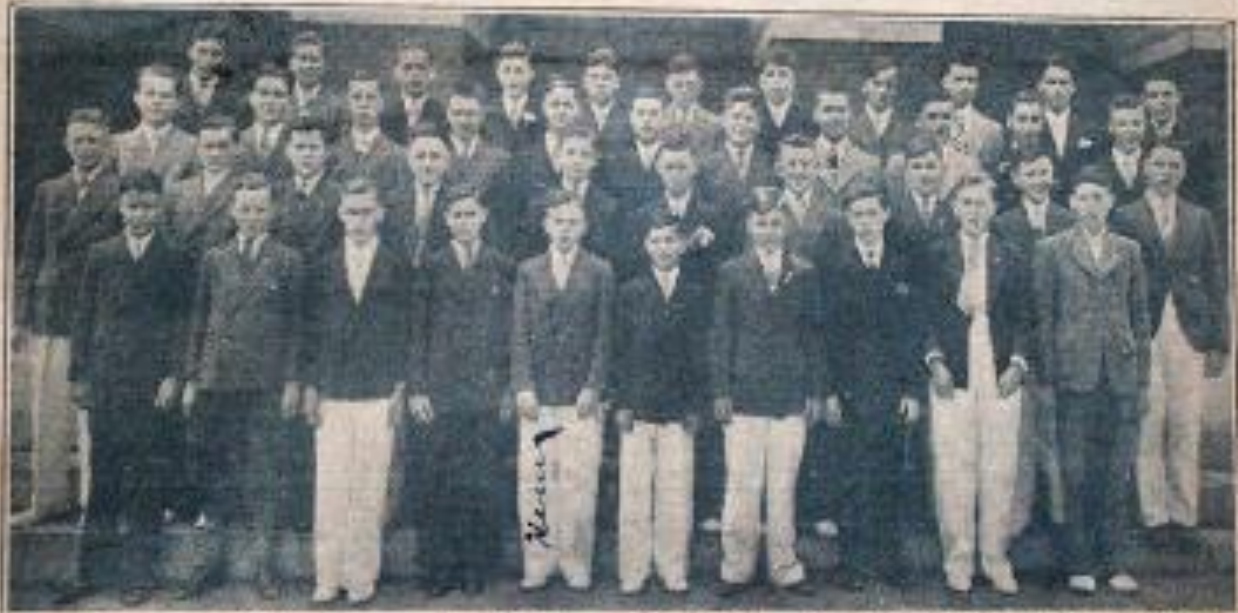
Tickets Admitting to Everything Included
Reserved Seats **\$1, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50** Plus Tax
Center Box Seats \$1, plus Tax

Children Under 12 Half Price to Reserve
Seats Every Afternoon Except Saturday

Entire Upper Balcony UNRESERVED **75c**

TICKETS at Boston Garden & Fidelity

St. Anne's School Graduates Class of 46



FRONT ROW, left to right—Robert J. Dezaan, Roland H. Charnock, Bern J. Tomlin, Louis J. Peders, Henry J. Bergan, Adrien J. Martin, Innocent Gagnon, Louis P. Lussig, Edmund P. Dubois and Gerald Pato.
 SECOND ROW, left to right—Raymond L. Moline, Charles J. Haged, Leo J. Amersack, Robert H. M. Maltre, Albert J. Caron, Alfred G. Therier, Rudolph J. L'Holten, Henry G. Gauthier, John F. McManis and Raymond J. Provancher.
 THIRD ROW, left to right—Louis J. Pomeroy, Alvin D. Blais, Edmund Martin, Ross E. Grouche, Leo J. Michard, Gerald J. Labrec, Robert T. Deacon, Gerard J. Riola, Louis E. Spagnol, Edmund G. Barkin and Russell L. Bilinger.
 FOURTH ROW, left to right—William E. Bergman, John T. Warrle, Roland E. Martin, Lucien Gagnon, Albert Pato, Richard A. Bernieris, Louis J. Leves, Richard K. Lacombe, Paul Ouellette, Arthur J. Isaac and Alfred J. Dubé.
 (Seated in front)

There were forty-six boys in our graduating class from St. Anne's in 1939. The next year we would be at Central Catholic High School. Big stuff! I am in the front row second from the left.



Thibault Studio - Lawrence, Mass.

My parents, sister Lucille, and brothers Gene and Louis.



DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WORKS
Registry of
Motor Vehicles
107 North St.
Boston, Mass.

LICENSE
TO OPERATE No. 61162
MOTOR
VEHICLES Date Feb 13 1942

Roland H Champagne
6 Butler St
Lawrence, Mass

512

Is hereby licensed to operate Motor Vehicles in accordance with the Laws
of Massachusetts → subject to any restriction written below.

DESCRIPTION

Date of birth 9-3-24 Height 5 feet 6 inches
Color of hair brown Color of eyes brown
2-13-43 --- 61162 con

This license is not valid until after licensee has endorsed his
usual signature in the left margin, nor unless dated and numbered
and stamped with official stamp or signature of Registrar.

Roland H. Champagne 512
Boston

Roland H. Champagne

Signature.



THIS LICENSE WILL EXPIRE IN ONE YEAR FROM DATE

Here is my driver's license. Not even a photo or a fingerprint on it.

Std. 280m-8-11-39-7612, 8-39, No. 6478



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WILLIAM F. CALLAHAN, COMMISSIONER
REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES
BOSTON, MASS.

RECEIPT

No. 182554
VOID WHEN LICENSE
IS ISSUED

FEB 13 1942

Roland H. Champagne

Roland H. Champagne
6 Dutton St. Lawrence Mass

The receipt of your application for a license to operate motor vehicles, with the fee prescribed by law, is acknowledged.

NOTE. - This receipt is issued in lieu of a license. Chap. 93, of the General Laws, provides that a receipt issued by the Registrar for a license fee is equivalent to a license for the period of 30 days from the date of its issue. Subject to restriction checked below.

Respectfully,

Frank A. Gendwin,
Registrar

344

Registrar of Motor Vehicles

Special (See other side)	2.00
--------------------------	------

SIGNATURE



NOT VALID UNLESS DATED AND STAMPED WITH OFFICIAL STAMP OR SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR, NOR UNTIL LICENSEE HAS ENBOSED HIS USUAL SIGNATURE IN LEFT MARGIN.

Look at our driver license back then! No photo, no fingerprint, no nothing!

58 BOYS ARE GRADUATED FROM C. C. H. S.



Today Central Catholic High School is still an elite school with many graduates going to the top universities every year.



High
school
graduation
day,
yippee!

June 20,
1943



Roland Champagne on the right, then to his left is our neighbor Bob Seguin, and then Rudolph L'Italien who became a FBI agent, Richard Seguin who became a comic haha! Then there is Claire Seguin and the guy all the way on the left is my buddy Dick Letendre who became a radio operator in the Air Force. He and I grew up together!





My buddies and I were all drafted and given two week deferments so that we could graduate from high school. Here is my first photo in uniform.

It was time to really grow up now. Combat made all of us grow up very fast, too fast for most of us. Though we would become men who were very far removed from our childhoods, we would always remember fondly those times with our families and friends. I still do.



ROLAND CHAMPAGNE
90 YEARS YOUNG
SEPTEMBER 3, 2014