

**"Contributing a Lifetime to Public Service: Marcella Belanger Violette" exhibition
materials, 1966-2007**

MCC-00395

Finding Aid

**Prepared by Kathryn Donahue, March 2013
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: "Contributing a Lifetime to Public Service: Marcella Belanger Violette" exhibition materials

Creator/Collector: University of Maine at Fort Kent. Acadian Archives; Violette family

Collection number: MCC-00395

Dates: 1966-2007

Extent: 19 panels, 2 portraits, 16 computer discs (1.38 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was created by the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes from Marcella Belanger Violette's scrapbooks and in collaboration and with materials provided by members of the Violette family, 2007.

Language: English and French.

Conservation notes: None.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Physical restrictions: None.

Technical restrictions: DVD and CD players are required to access portions of this collection.

Copyright: Copyright has been assigned to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes

Citation: "Contributing a Lifetime to Public Service: Marcella Belanger Violette" exhibition materials, MCC-00395, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

Separated materials: Materials on loan from members of the Violette family for the creation of the exhibit have been returned to the family.

Related materials: Marcella Belanger Violette scrapbooks, MCC-00265; Online exhibit: <http://www.umfk.edu/archives/violette/>

Location of originals: Various locations.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Organizational history: In June 2007, members of the Violette family loaned to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes at the University of Maine at Fort Kent archival copies of scrapbooks created by Marcella Belanger Violette. These scrapbooks chronicled Marcella Bélanger Violette's lifetime of public service. The scrapbooks, comprised of more than 3,000 pages, cover the time period from 1920 through 2004. A wide range of topics are included in the collection with key areas being: the town of Van Buren, the Saint John Valley, Franco-Americans, the Acadians, Bilingualism, Education, Politics, St. Bruno's Church in Van Buren, the Good Sheppard Sisters, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the Violette family. Each volume is filled with photos, newspaper articles, letters, cards, telegrams, postcards, brochures, and other items Marcella carefully selected for inclusion.

The Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes created an exhibition to celebrate the lives and contributions of Marcella Belanger and Elmer Violette and to provide a venue for visitors to view these scrapbooks. The exhibit, which ran October 26 through December 31, 2007, consisted of displays of the scrapbooks, various ephemera on loan from the Violette family, audio and video interviews conducted by archives staff with people close to the Violettes, and panels describing the lives and contributions of the Violettes. These panels were created by UMFK IT staff member Steve Michaud and library staff member Leslie Kelly from materials contained within the scrapbooks along with materials and information provided by the Violette family. The exhibit has a long-term presence on the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes website.

Scope and content:

This collection consists of 15 panels created for the exhibit, audio and video interviews with people close to Marcella and Elmer Violette, personal video and slides from the Violette family. Many of these materials were used in the creation of the exhibit. The exhibit materials include interviews with Don Niccol; Louise Ansari; Dennis, Marc, and Tom Violette, and Frank Murray. The CD "Elmer Violette and Marcella Belanger Violette" interviews and speeches contains an interview with Elmer; Elmer's campaign speech on rural America; a campaign speech in French; campaign radio spots; an endorsement by Edmund Muskie; and Marcella Belanger Violette's speech "My Valley, My People" in both French and English. One of the campaign recordings come from an original recording of the following: a Freeport, Maine rally in 1966. In addition, the collection contains field notes collected by Lisa Ornstein, former director of the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes in 1991, describing the Violette family history and homestead, as well as regional parish development.

The collection also includes a video, "Remembering the Contributions of Marcella and Elmer Violette" created by the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, and images of the exhibit.

This collection is arranged into 3 series: exhibit panels; portraits; and audio/visual materials.

Inventory:

Series 1: Exhibit Panels

Cultural Preservation: My Valley, My People. "Maine's Acadians grasp hold of their heritage," Los Angeles Times, January 14, 1991. 19.5" x 28"	Item 1
Great Dreams for the St. John Valley: Preserving the French Culture – 1972. 17.5" x 28"	2
Allagash Wilderness Waterway: Preserving and Protecting the Natural Beauty of Maine. "Wilderness Bill Passed in Maine: Clears way for preservation of Allagash area," <i>The New York Times</i> , February 13, 1966. 12.5" x 18"	3
Elmer H. Violette Wilderness Camp: Pioneer of the Allagash Wilderness Camp. 12.5" x 18"	4
Chatting With Knapp Employees: Busy Campaigner. "Picture," <i>Lewiston Sun</i> , October 29, 1972. 17.5" x 17.5"	5
Election Rapidly Approaches: Stumping for Violette. "Picture," <i>Presque Isle Star Herald</i> , 1972. 17.5" x 17.5"	6
Civic Responsibility: Explains Ballot. "Picture." 17.5" x 17.5"	7
Public Service "A Duty": Hot on the Campaign Trail. "Picture: Balancing family and campaigning," <i>St. John Valley Times</i> . 17.5" x 17.5"	8
"The County: Van Buren Woman Seeks to Teach by Example," <i>Bangor Daily News</i> , December 28, 1992. 17.5" x 25"	9
Contributing a Lifetime to Public Service: Marcella Belanger Violette. 15" x 25"	10
Vote for Elmer H. Violette, Democrat for U.S. Senator. Gallery poster: 15" x 19"	11
Family portrait of Senator Elmer H. Violette (campaign poster). Gallery poster: 15" x 19"	12
Picture of Elmer and Marcella Violette. Gallery poster: 22.5" x 29.5"	13
We all have the same potential. "You are worth as much as anyone else, not any more, not any less, but it is up to you to develop yourself"...On Education...On Family...On Women. 28.5" x 36"	14
Educationally Wise. "We need to develop our potential." 16" x 32.5"	15
Playing a role in politics. "When you know you are right, stand up for what you believe." "Mrs. Violette Campaigns: Democratic wives tour Madawaska," <i>St. John Valley Times</i> , October 19, 1972. 27.5" x 33.5"	16
"Allagash Plan Disclosed: Cost \$3 Million, Committee Says," <i>Bangor Daily News</i> , January 14, 1966. Gallery poster: 24" x 27"	17
University of Maine at Fort Kent, Notre College-Our College. "Fort Kent State Girl Commends Mrs. Violette on Sensational Speech," <i>St. John</i>	18

Valley Times, December 18, 1969. 24" x 32"

Elmer H. Violette: He works harder for a better Maine. 28.75" x 19" Item 19

Series 2: Portraits

Marcella Belanger Violette. Portrait by Tom Jones. 20

Elmer H. Violette. Portrait by Tom Jones 21

Series 3: Audio/Visual materials

Interview with Don Niccol, conducted by Acadian Archives/Archives
acadiennes staff. CD 22

Video of news spot on WAGM re: Violette exhibit at UMFK. DVD 23

Interview with Bob Violette re: Logging in the St. John Valley, conducted
by Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes staff. DVD 24

"Violette for Senate," transferred from reels of unknown origin. DVD 25

"Violette family," home video 2/8/1994. DVD 26

Violette family. Image scans (.TIFF) from slides belonging to Violette
family. CD-ROM 27-28

Elmer Violette political recording from unknown origin. CD 29

"Marcella Sings." CD 30-31

Interview with Louise Ansari, conducted by Acadian Archives/Archives
acadiennes staff. CD 32

Images of the Acadian Village, Van Buren, Maine (.JPG). CD 33

Elmer Violette and Marcella Belanger Violette speeches and interviews
(.AIFF). CD 34

Violette family phone interviews: Dennis, Marc, Tom Violette; Frank
Murray; Don Niccol (.AIFF). CD 35

Violette Exhibit images (.JPG). CD 36

Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes presents "Remembering the
Contributions of Marcella and Elmer Violette." DVD 37

Fieldnotes from Lisa Ornstein interview with Elmer and Marcella Violette,
1991. 3 p. 38