

**Omer A. Thibodeau collection of family home movies**

**MCC-00449**

**Finding Aid**

**Prepared by  
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Fort Kent, Maine**

**Title:** Omer A. Thibodeau collection of family home movies

**Creator/Collector:** Thibodeau, Omer A.

**Collection number:** MCC-00449

Shelf list number: AR-449

**Dates:** 1950 - 1963

**Extent:** 1 large box (0.93 cubic feet)

**Provenance:** Material was acquired from Jim Thibodeau, son of Omer A. Thibodeau of Fort Kent, Maine

**Language:** None.

**Conservation notes:** All reels were digitized

**Access restrictions:** No restrictions on access.

**Physical restrictions:** None.

**Technical restrictions:** A computer with video access is required to view this collection.

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**Citation:** Omer A. Thibodeau collection of family home movies, MCC-00449, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

**Related materials:** Not applicable.

**Location of originals:** Not applicable.

**Location of copies:** Not applicable.

**Published in:** Not applicable.

**Biographical information:** Omer A. Thibodeau was born on December 28, 1915 in Fort Kent, Maine, the son of Paul D. Thibodeau and Mary Alice (Mamie) Nadeau. He was educated in Fort Kent schools, Assumption Preparatory School, Worcester, Mass. and Ricker College in Houlton. On June 3, 1941, he married Loretta Pelletier at St Louis Church, Fort Kent. Fascinated by the evolution of radio and television, he became a ham radio operator as a teenager and then attended the Coyne Electrical School in Chicago, Ill. Upon the death of his father, the founder of Thibodeau's Insurance Agency, he was invited by his older brother, Romeo, to join the family business. The untimely death of his brother in 1946, catapulted him into the leadership of the

company. He remained president of the agency until his retirement in 1980. He was a true gentleman, patient, considerate and respectful – a role model to many. He had a great sense of humor and a wide range of interests, excelling at most. These included hunting, fishing, skiing, golfing, piloting aircraft, bridge and woodworking. He was self-taught in fine cabinetmaking, building furniture since his childhood.

Omer was a director of the Maine Mutual Fire Insurance Company for 50 years, serving terms as president and chairperson. He was a director of the Independent Insurance Agents Association of Maine, and past president of the Aroostook County Insurance Agents Association. He served as Scoutmaster of the Fort Kent Boy Scouts, Troop 189. He was a member and chairperson of the Fort Kent (SAD 27) school board as well as a member of the board of trustees of Northern Maine Medical Center including a term as chairperson. He was a founding director of the Fort Kent Federal Credit Union and elected its first president. He also served as director and president of Lonesome Pine Ski Trails and was also a founding member and director of the Fort Kent Golf Club. He served as president of the Fort Kent Cross-Country Ski Club and was a member and former president of the Fort Kent Chamber of Commerce. Additionally he was a member of the Fort Kent Rotary Club, (1938-2006), served as its president and was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Medal, Rotary Foundation International. He was an advisor at the Aroostook Trust Company, a director of the Fort Kent Historical Society and member of the Fort Kent Bridge Club. He was a Life Member of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Council 0352 of Fort Kent and an Eucharistic minister, altar server, lecturer at St. Louis Parish. He was recognized as Fort Kent's Citizen of the Year in 1971 and received the Diocesan Immaculate Conception Medallion from the Bishop of Portland for his contributions to his parish and community in 2003. All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the faithful support of his loving wife of 65 years, Loretta. Omer died on February 24, 2006 in Fort Kent, Maine.<sup>1</sup>

***Scope and content:*** This collection consists of sixty-four 8 mm film reels three inches in diameter, two 8mm film reels five inches in diameter, one 8 mm film reel seven inches in diameter, and one USB key with the content of all the digitized films. The films are family home movies of Omer Thibodeau's family. It shows the family at Cross Lake, on different trips, their Christmases, soapbox derbies, boy scouts, skiing, sledding, etc. The films are silent and in color. The duration of the movies are from 3 minutes to 22 minutes.

***Inventory of reels:***

- Reel 1: 1952 – Nuns posing; one Thibodeau kid gets on the train; kids in first snow. Duration 3 min. 53 sec.
- Reel 2: 1952 - Christmas; fishing. Duration 3 min. 57 sec.
- Reel 3: 1953 – Start of weekend of May 30, 1953. Karen and Theresa; Paul's birthday; sledding at the camp; adults at the camp. 3min. 20sec.
- Reel 4: 1953 – May 30. Fredericton trip (flower garden, horses, Pokiok Falls) Notes: Pokiok Falls is a former waterfall in Pokiok, New Brunswick where the Pokiok Stream emptied over a ledge into the Saint John River. The high water level of the Mactaquac Dam reservoir submerged the waterfall and the Pokiok Gorge in 1967. 3min. 57sec.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bangordailynews.com/2008/09/25/obituaries/omer-a-thibodeau/>

- Reel 5: 1953 – June. Hartland Covered Bridge; Grand Falls; gardening at home; kids at the lake; group of kids posing in front of Church; Paul jumping in a mud puddle. 3min. 55sec.
- Reel 6: 1953 – Anita’s confirmation June 30, 1953. 3min. 54sec.
- Reel 7: 1953 – Kids on swing; Soapbox Derby Parade in Bangor, June 27, 1953. 4min. 1sec.
- Reel 8: 1953 – Mother (Mrs. Paul D. Thibodeau) at Cross Lake; Visit to Loring Air Force Base (B36 Bomber), Limestone, Maine. 3min. 46sec.
- Reel 9: 1953 – Bomber at Loring Air Forc Base; mama cat with kittens; Rotary picnic games. 3min. 23sec.
- Reel 10: 1953 – Labor Day weekend to Rivière-du-Loup and Quebec; kids hand picking potatoes. 3min. 16sec.
- Reel 11: 1953 – Christmas. 2min. 42sec.
- Reel 12: 1953 – Soapbox Derby races; Omer and kids; Jim’s 4<sup>th</sup> birthday; Mémère Pelletier; at the lake. 2min. 54sec.
- Reel 13: 1953 – August. Kids doing plays, tap dancing, & ballet dancing. 3min. 37sec.
- Reel 14: 1954 – March. Family sliding off camp roof; skiing competition during Winter Carnival. 3min. 40sec.
- Reel 15: 1954 – A Thibodeau son’s 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday; Tibby starts on soapbox; trip to Eastport. 3min. 53 sec.
- Reel 16: 1954 – Jim and Paul mowing the lawn; Halloween; 1<sup>st</sup> snow storm; Mami’s 71<sup>st</sup> birthday. 3min. 32sec.
- Reel 17: 1954 – Quebec trip; kids at the lake; Soapbox Derby Parade in Caribou. 3min. 59sec.
- Reel 18: 1954 – 1<sup>st</sup> snow; at camp; Christmas. 3min. 58sec.
- Reel 19: 1954 - Carbon Soapbox Derby in Caribou; at Cross Lake. 3min. 56sec.
- Reel 20: 1954 – Boy Scouts; on a trip?; Soapbox Derby morning check-in. 3min. 56sec.
- Reel 21: 1954 – Clara, Paul, & Jim playing in the snow; sledding with toboggan; Jim & mémère leaving for Bangor; Tib’s birthday. 3min. 23sec.
- Reel 22: 1954 – Soapbox Derby parade and races. 4min. 2sec.
- Reel 23: 1954 – Eastport trip; Tibby working on soapbox car. 3min. 47sec.
- Reel 24: 1955 – Feb. 5 winter trip to camp; Feb. 19, girls’ dorm fire at Madawaska Training School. 3min. 51sec.
- Reel 25: 1955 – Madawaska Training School fire on Feb. 19, 1955; sledding on Feb. 26, 1955. 3min. 29sec.
- Reel 26: 1955 – Sledding and skiing; Gagnon’s Dairy truck; snow scenes. 3min. 51sec.
- Reel 27: 1955 – May 22 at the Presque Isle Air Base. 3min. 54sec.
- Reel 28: 1955 – Memorial Day parade; soapbox cars; at the train station; at the lake. 3min. 59sec.
- Reel 29: 1955 – Saint Francis High School and College (St. Francis College in Biddeford, Maine, published its yearbook, Motus, from 1960 to 1978, when St. Francis merged with the New England College of Osteopathic Medicine to become the University of New England. St. Francis College began as a high school in 1939, and became a four year college in 1961.); Old Orchard trip. 3min. 57sec.

- Reel 30: 1955 – Father Thibodeau; Paul & Jim in the boat; kids playing at camp; partridges on Sept. 25. 3min. 55sec.
- Reel 31: 1955 – Thibodeau kids picking potatoes in the field; playing in a saw dust mountain at T. S. (Thomas Sears) Pinkham in Ashland, Maine; snowman; Christmas 1955. 3min. 18sec.
- Reel 32: 1955 – Soapbox Derby; kids at the pool. 3min. 44sec.
- Reel 33: 1956 - Ski-tow; nuns (very young girls dressed as nuns). 3min. 42sec.
- Reel 34: 1956 - Snow sculptures; sledding & skiing. 3min. 49sec.
- Reel 35: 1956 - Madawaska Winter Carnival parade & sculptures; at the ski-tow. 4min. 1 sec.
- Reel 36: 1956 - Mami (Mrs. Paul Thibodeau); trip to Canada; Tib arriving at school. 3min. 39sec.
- Reel 37: 1956 - Ski Tow, Nita, Jim, Paul. 3min. 33sec.
- Reel 38: 1956 - Trip to New York; Soapbox Derby in Caribou; at Cross Lake. 3min. 19sec.
- Reel 39: 1957 – Nila nun; bear; trip to Campbellton; parade. 3min. 53sec.
- Reel 40: 1957 - Film reel memories: flood 19??; parade in Fort Kent. 3min. 58sec.
- Reel 41: 1957 - (Box is empty). Film: Christmas 1957. 1min. 20sec.
- Reel 42: 1957 - Boy Scouts; Parade; Santa Town 1957; Animal Fair 1958. 11min. 15sec.
- Reel 43: 1958 - Parade in Portland; at the lake; riding horses; Ike & Jeanne's wedding. 8mm film on 6 in. diameter reel) 3min. 18sec.
- Reel 44: 1958 - Flood of 1958; Thibodeau kids playing baseball. 1min. 40sec.
- Reel 45: 1958 – Flood of 1958. 3min. 1sec.
- Reel 46: 1958 - Christmas; 1959 kids skiing at camp. 2min. 52sec.
- Reel 47: 1959 – Skiing at camp; Carmella's wedding on 4/11/1959. 3min. 8sec.
- Reel 48: 1959 – Nova Scotia trip, May 1959. 4min. 4sec.
- Reel 49: 1959 - Parade w. marching band & boy scouts; religious procession; Father Thibodeau; water skiing at the lake. 3min. 13sec.
- Reel 50: 1959 – Water skiing; Rivière-du-Loup/St-Siméon Ferry; potato picking. 4min. 1sec.
- Reel 51: 1961 - Deer; Van Heflin: Thibodeau boy delivering newspaper. 4min. 10sec.
- Reel 52: 1961 - Washington DC, parade of Welcome; President John F. Kennedy; Fort Kent flood. 4 min. 21sec.
- Reel 53: 1961 – Ski-does; Albertine's wedding; Tib's graduation; World Fair. 3min. 57sec.
- Reel 54: 1968-69- Nita RN graduation 8/1969; last day of skiing 1968. 2min. 12sec.
- Reel 55: Paul & Jim playing Indians; Tib & Nita at the piano; Kids in bed. 3min. 55sec.
- Reel 56: Jim's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday and confirmation. 4min. 8 sec.
- Reel 57: Fort Kent Flood 19??.; Parade in Fort Kent. 3min. 58sec.
- Reel 58: Memories at the lake. 3min. 52sec.
- Reel 59: 195? - Film reel memories: Franciscans Monastery; Auto & locomotive Museum; train at Mount Washington, NH; Storyland; birthday party; soapbox derby; Fort Ticonderoga, NY; Frontier Town. 14min. 36sec.
- Reel 60: 195? - Father Thibodeau; at a mill; at the lake; Quebec City; on a beach at the ocean; at a picnic; flower garden; soapbox derby races; kids playing; at

the zoo; bateau on the river; loading logs. (8mm film on 7 in. diameter reel) 17min. 23sec.

Reel 61: Duplicate of reel #60.

Reel 62: 1964 – World's Fair; Boy Scouts; 1965 ski-doo races. 4min. 28sec.

Reel 63: 1963 – Family fun; Paul & Jim in scouts' uniform; with saxophone and trumpet; handpicking potatoes; St. Louis Church steeple on the ground & being placed on bell tower. 4min. 55sec.

Reel 64: 1961 - Boy Scouts leaving for Roosevelt; JC Queen parade; on a trip; Paul & Jim picking potatoes. 4min. 46sec.

Reel 65: 1961- Boy Scout hike; skiing at camp; shoveling snow; boy scouts on B&A engine. 4min. 22sec.

Reel 66: 1962 – Memorial Day parade; Scouting; Jim's birthday. 4min. 55sec.

Reel 67: 1963 – Betty's party; Scouting in Allagash. 4min. 29sec.