Joe LaFlamme 2.0

Newsletter May 2024

Bootlegger Joe

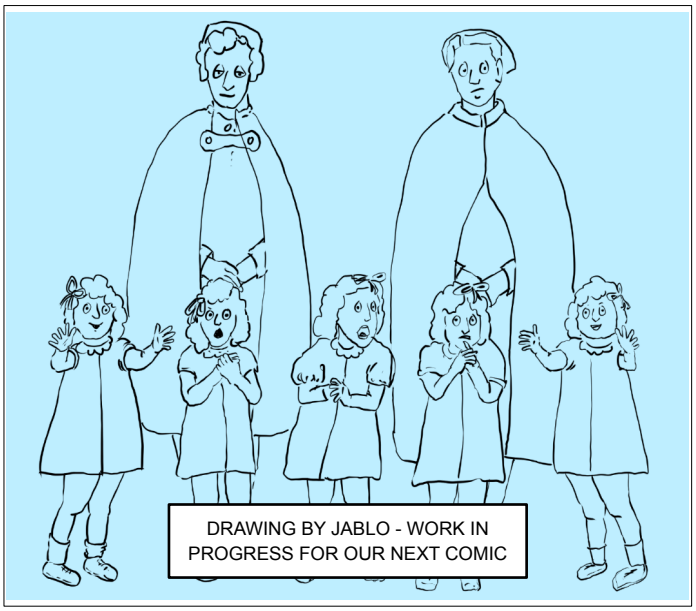
DRAWING BY JABLO - EXCERPT FROM *WOLF MAN'S STASH*

Joe LaFlamme (1889-1965) started bootlegging well before moving to Gogama, in Northern Ontario. After resigning from the Montreal police force in 1916, he probably needed cash. The Laflamme family believes it was roughly at that time that Joe started making moonshine. Then he and his younger brother Elzéar tried to sell this illegal alcohol in the United States who was under prohibition law banning alcohol. The family thinks that Joe might have fled to Gogama to avoid being arrested by the police. After all, the "lumber town was in full expansion and Ontario was still under prohibition law. It was not like Joe to miss an opportunity to outrun the law and make money at the same time.[1]"

Joe and the Dionne Quintuplets

What on earth is the link between the wolf tamer and the Dionne quintuplets, you might ask? Let me explain. After Joe's biography was published, I was contacted by a journalist from the North Bay area, in Northern Ontario. Following an article he had written about my book, Doug MacKey received a call from a reader relating the fact that Joe LaFlamme had strategically set up a zoo of wild animals near South River. Indeed, tourists from the South usually stopped in this town before continuing on to Quintland, located between Callander and Corbeil, south of North Bay. This event is covered in the second edition of the English biography.[2] To read about it, don't miss our newest cartoon coming out on May 22, 2024. Please note that, since there are very few details about this adventure, we let our imagination fill in the blanks.

Jacques-André and I take this opportunity to congratulate Annette and Cécile, the two surviving quintuplets, on their 90th birthday next May 28th. Note that many activities will be held in North Bay in their honour during the week of May 24-30.



Your Artists

Suzanne F. Charron, author
Jacques-André Blouin (a.k.a. Jablo), cartoonist

Our archives | Our comics

SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

Not yet a subscriber to our newsletter? Register here and don't forget the confirmation email.

[1] Suzanne F. Charron. *Wolf Man Joe LaFlamme: Tamer Untamed*. Latitude 46, second edition, 2017, p. 19.
[2] Ibid., pp. 123-124.