

[Page 2 - With Mungie MacNeil of Iona Rear](#)ISSUE : [Issue 59](#)

Published by Ronald Caplan on 1992/1/1

By the time I kept house for priests, they were paid by cheque, of course, from the bank then. This was when we were children --they were just given so much by each family. But they'd never have to go hungry, you know, if they ran short. The people would always look after them.... (I suppose \$6 in a year was a lot of money.) Yes, it was. They had lots of stuff, you know, raised lots of stuff on their farms. They fed themselves pretty much. And they'd get sale for certain goods. They weren't poor, actually. But they didn't have any ready money. They'd have to have those \$6 for the priest. We were never poor. Well, we weren't poor and we weren't rich.... They just struggled along like all the rest of them. Very little cash. But then, my father had a branch post office. That helped a little, you know. (When you first went to work for a priest, did you ask for a certain amount of money?) Oh, no. He told me what he could give me. And that was it. Thirty-five dollars a month. But that was good at that time. It was around 1929 or '30--around that time. Might have been '31.

VOLUME ONE BOOKSTORE Bag No. 200 Port Hawkesbury Centre Port Hawkesbury, N. S. BOE 2V0 Phone (902) 625-1514 Phoebe Timmons Res.: 863-0220 Wilson Timmons Res.: 345-2387 133 Church St. Antigonish Shopping Centre Antigonish, N. S. B2G 2E3 Phone (902) 863-4112

VOLUME TWO BOOKSTORE Heather BUILDING SUPPLIES STORAGE SHEDS (COMPLETELY ASSEMBLED) Small Job installations a Specialty SALES & INSTALLATION OF DOORS, WINDOWS & SIDING • ELECTRICAL • PLUMBING • FLOORING & CARPET • LUMBER • HARDWARE • ROOF TRUSSES • BENJAMIN MOORE PAINTS (Was this Fr. Rankin?) No, no, I never (worked for) Fr. Rankin. He was our parish priest. He had a curate that was a helper --Fr. MacKinnon. The curate, they didn't leave them too long in a parish. They'd take him and put him as a parish priest somewhere. And the bishop sent (Fr. MacKinnon) to Brook Village--that's in Inverness County. He was only a young priest, about 30 or something--near my own age. And he asked me if I'd go and keep house for him at his home. I said I'd go for a month until he'd find a housekeeper. Mungie chuckles. It lasted a long time.... We were 3 years in Brook Village. And then he was sent down to--they called it Passchendaele--Dominion Number 4--you know where that is? A mining town. Everybody said, "Oh, the poor fellow. Look where he's going!" So I went along with him. He didn't even ask me. He said, "We are going." Well, I came too. (And were you still getting \$35 a month.) Yeah. (A good job, for the Depression.) Well, yes--I was lucky to get a job. I was happy there, you know. I was my own boss, actually, you know. He'd never question.... Although I wasn't the best cook in the world for this man to be satisfied. There were some burnt offerings, I suppose, at times!... The reason mostly why I thought I'd like the work: I had a younger brother--he died when he was quite young. And he was kind of thinking that he might be a priest, too. Well, he just kind of talked it; I don't think he meant it. And I said, "And "Enjoy superb dining in a restaurant & unique atmosphere SPECIALIZING IN CHINESE CUISINE Canadian Dishes also available FULLY LICENSED TAKE OUT & DELIVERY ORDERS Major Credit Cards Accepted SB 'Uj0 Hestaurant 355 Charlotte Street



Dowr'town Sydney Tel; 539-7775 Open daily 11:00 am ONE OF } CAPE
BRETON'S FINEST i