

**Marie Therese Goulet, (Courchaine). (1912-1970):
The Famous “Manie-Tobie”**

Marie Therese Goulet was born in St. Boniface on May 27, 1912. Her parents were Roger Goulet¹ and Lumina Philomene Gauthier, the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Gauthier and Rosalie Germain on December 5, 1896 at St. Boniface. Marie Therese Goulet's grandmother, Rosalie Germain was the first teacher at Ste. Anne Manitoba in 1862.

Marie Therese was the granddaughter of Helene Jerome and Elzéar Goulet, the close collaborator of Louis Riel in 1870, the same Elzéar who was stoned to death by Colonel Wolseley's soldiers.

Manie-Tobie (her pen name) was noticed early in school at St. Adolphe Convent for her quick ability for languages. She received her secondary education at St. Joseph's Academy. Marie received a bursary for having the highest marks in French throughout the province. She received her teacher's degree from the Normal School of Manitoba. She taught for a time before she married Joseph H. Courchaine from St. Adolphe, Manitoba.

The Courchaines raised a family of four daughters and two sons, Archie and Roger. Marie Therese taught when she could through the Depression of the 1930s to help relieve the hardship of the time. Marie taught in the public school system for ten years. Later, she spent another twelve years teaching in the Indian and Metis schools directed by the Oblate Fathers. She later worked for CFRC - a radio station in Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan.

By 1966, Marie lost a leg to diabetes and was losing her eyesight as well. With the loss of her eyesight she devoted her time to writing articles in English and French newspapers such as *La Liberte*, *L'Ami du Foyer*, *Le Travailleur*, *The Indian Record*, *Sunday Herald* and the *Kamsack Times*. Some of her articles were: “Manitoba , C'est toi que j'aime,” (Manitoba, its you that I love), “La Mitsasse Rouge,” (The Red Leggings), “Le Ramasseur de Chiffons,” (The Rag Collector), and “La Veillee,” (The Social Gathering). *La Liberte*, a weekly newspaper published her articles for years. One of the last articles from Manie-Tobie was “Comment j'ecris sans mes yeux,” (How I write without my eyes).

¹ Roger Goulet (1867-1946). Roger was born on January 14, 1867 at Pembina, Red River, the son of Elzéar Goulet and Helene Jerome. He was educated at the College de Saint-Boniface. He then received a BA and MA from the University of Manitoba. He married Lumina Philomene Gauthier, in 1896. They had eleven children. In 1900, he became the inspector of bilingual schools for Manitoba and principal of the St. Boniface Normal School. He was also an historian producing the reports: “Report Respecting Claims by Half-Breeds.” Canada Sessional Papers, 12 January 1887; and, “Les Métis François dans l'Ouest canadien.” Congrès de Québec, *Le Devoir*, juin 1912. In 1909, he was elected president of the Union Nationale Métisse.

Manie-Tobie, her most fitting pen name, died in 1970. It was said that Marie Therese “wrote with her heart.” She left a heritage to her family that they still proudly share with those who will listen. And, to Metis people and all Canadians, she teaches love of language and learning. (Compiled with contributions by the Metis Resource Centre.)



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Metis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute