



## **New Madrid Motion Picture Collection (R0384)**

**Collection Number:** R0384

**Collection Title:** New Madrid Motion Picture Collection

**Dates:** circa 1940-1950s

**Creator:** La Valle family

**Abstract:** The New Madrid Motion Picture Collection contains a compilation of home movies, transferred to one-half inch videotape (VHS), featuring street scenes, community events, and fairs at New Madrid, Missouri.

**Collection Size:** 0.2 cubic foot  
(1 videocassette)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *New Madrid Motion Picture Collection* (R0384); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by the New Madrid Museum on January 7, 1988 (Accession No. RA0401).

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, January 8, 1990. Revised by Donovan Mefford, June 17, 2021.

**Historical Note:**

The La Valle (see also LaValle, LaVallee, and Lavallee) family settled in New Madrid, Missouri prior to statehood. Originally from Quebec, Canada, Jean Nicolas Bouchard Dit Lavallee came to St. Louis, Missouri where he married Jeanne Chauvin in 1781. The couple were in New Madrid, Missouri by 1793 for the birth of their daughter Marie Louise.

Robert L. LaValle was born in 1902 to Jean E. and Addie (Congrove) LaValle. He married Laura LeSieur Combs in 1933 and served in the United States Navy during World War II. He died in Florida in 1988.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The videocassette features movies made by the La Valle family of New Madrid during the 1940s and 1950s. A musical soundtrack and a few captions were added when the movies were transferred to videotape. Running time is approximately thirty minutes.

Reflecting its family origin, the videotape includes a number of scenes of infants, family pets, and the wedding of Mary Claire Mann to Harry F. Leuer. There are also a few scenes of downtown New Madrid, including the local barber shop and the courthouse. The segments most interesting historically include those featuring a baseball game, a structure fire, a Catholic picnic, a barbecue organized by the African American residents of New Madrid with dancing, and a procession of African Americans to the Mississippi River in what might have been a baptizing.

**Container List:**

Box 001    VHS 1                      Home Movies, circa 1940s

**Index:**

Index Term	Medium	Image
Baseball	VHS 1	Yes
Delta Seed Company (New Madrid, Mo.)	VHS 1	Yes
Hunter-Dawson House (New Madrid, Mo.)	VHS 1	Yes
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (New Madrid, Mo.)	VHS 1	Yes
La Valle family	VHS 1	Yes
Leuer, Harry F., 1915-1984	VHS 1	Yes
Leuer, Mary Claire Mann, 1918-1978	VHS 1	Yes
New Madrid (Mo.)	VHS 1	Yes
New Madrid County (Mo.)	VHS 1	
LaValle, Robert L., 1902-1988	VHS 1	Yes