

Behind the scenes of CIA briefings

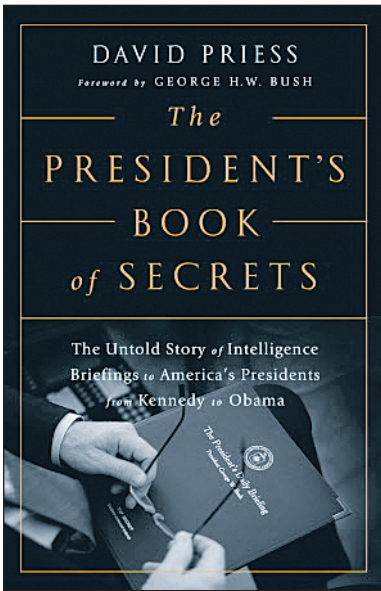
BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

THE PRESIDENT'S BOOK OF SECRETS by David Priess; PublicAffairs (384 pages, \$29.95)

On Aug. 6, 2001, the third day of his August vacation in Texas, President George W. Bush welcomed two visitors into the living room of his ranch house.

BOOK REVIEW

Steve Biegun, the executive secretary of the National Security Council, was filling in for National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. Michael Morell was a CIA analyst assigned to brief Bush daily on intelligence developments. He handed Bush the President's Daily Brief, the most highly classified document produced in the U.S. government.



The president paused when he reached an article titled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S." Morell gave him background on the piece, Bush read it, and they moved to the next page. "I did not treat it as a 'hair on fire' or action-forcing piece," Morell wrote in 2015, "and the president did not read it that way either."

The article was the 36th in 2001's PDBs about either the Saudi terrorist or al-Qaida. From Aug. 31 to Sept. 10, the PDB made no mention of impending terrorist attacks on America soil. Nor did Morell provide any warning when he briefed Bush in Sarasota, Florida, on the morning of Sept. 11.

This is just one anecdote explored in former CIA analyst and PDB briefer David Priess' "The President's Book of Secrets: The Untold Story of Intelligence Briefings to America's Presidents from Kennedy to Obama," a new book about intelligence support to modern presidents. The heart of the book is the history of the PDB, which debuted in 1964. Priess has help from reflections from all living former presidents, vice presidents, secretaries of state and defense, 11 former national security advisers, nearly all former CIA directors and dozens of White House and CIA staffers.

Priess offers an objective narrative, not including any of his own experiences to help maintain a balanced perspective. He treats predictive failures by the PDB — such as the pre-9/11 reports — the same as the successes. This helps the reader understand that the PDB is one of the few constants in a city driven by change, usually every four or eight years. And that has helped the PDB offer far more correct predictions and valuable assessments than tragic failures.

The newly created CIA began sending a Daily Summary to Pres-

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GABOR DEGRE | BDN

Steve Lemieux collects maple sap on his Fairfield property. Lemieux started his maple syrup operation The Old Sugarhouse three years ago. He uses traditional methods such as hoses and buckets instead of motorized vehicles and plastic tubing.

'The old way of doing it'

How maple sugaring is being preserved in Fairfield

BY SHELBY HARTIN
BDN STAFF

"Marche!" Steve Lemieux bellowed the French command across the sugarbush, silver buckets filled with sap in each hand.

His two Canadian horses snorted and tossed their heads, their black manes quivering. Their harnesses creaked as they lurched forward, grunts of exertion and the sounds of metal and leather breaking through the silence of the wood. One of Lemieux's dogs sat, unfazed, on the slab the horses pulled behind them as it squelched through the muddy trail.

"Woah!" Lemieux said, coaxing the horses to a stop beside him. He emptied the buckets,

sap sloshing into the gathering tank the horses pull, then returned the pails to the taps scattered amongst the maples, moving on to the next of 600 buckets in his sugarbush in Fairfield.

It's hard to find someone like Lemieux. He gathers sap to make maple syrup the old-fashioned way, without modern tubing systems or stainless steel holding tanks used by many today — and without a motorized vehicle such as a tractor, all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile to drive around his sugarbush.

His reason is simple: "I wanted to bring back the old way of doing it like when I was a kid."

As a child he loved gathering sap like he does now, and he finds it more interesting, but there aren't many left that do it like him.



GABOR DEGRE | BDN

Steve Lemieux empties a bucket of sap into a tank while collecting maple sap on his Fairfield property.

Lemieux is one of a few people left who still collects sap with horses. In Bowdoinham, Earle Mitchell and Penny Savage of Mitchell & Savage Maple Farm also have gathered sap this way, but it's becoming more rare as advances in sap gathering are made.

Lemieux's horses are of a special breed. In 1976, fewer than 400 Canadian horses remained, according to The Livestock Conservancy, an organization whose mission is to conserve and promote heritage breeds. The Society See Sugaring, Page C2

Mystery solved? Man identifies boxer

BY TORY JONES BONENFANT
FIDDLEHEAD FOCUS STAFF

MADAWASKA, Maine — A Madawaska resident says he can identify the mystery Acadian boxer that was the subject of a 1940 painting titled "Madawaska — Acadian Light-Heavy," by Maine painter Marsden Hartley.

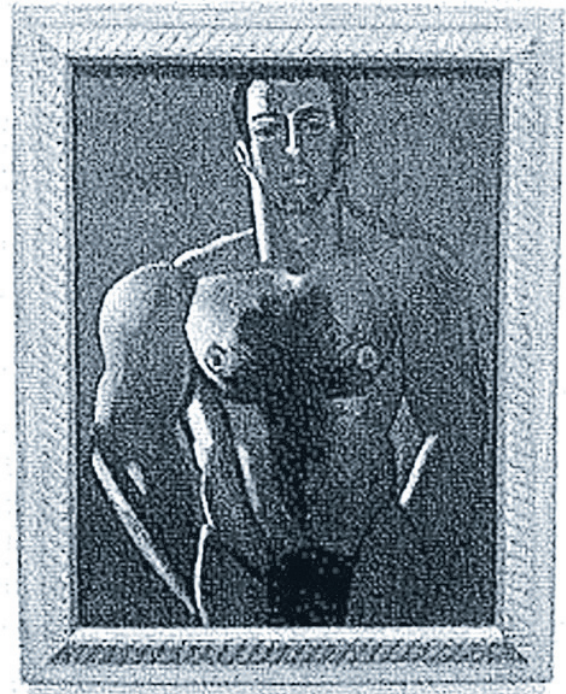
As reported in the March 15 Fiddlehead Focus story "Art curators seek identity of Acadian boxer," a Metropolitan Museum of Art curator reached out to the Acadian Archives at the University of Maine at Fort Kent and to the Bangor Art Society for help identifying the man in the oil-on-cardboard painting. Researchers found several obituaries online for Albert Daigle and Norman Albert, after discovering the boxer may have been named Daigle.

However, Felix Lavoie of Madawaska, 87, said in a telephone interview Friday that he and his older brother Martin Lavoie knew that boxer very well. Lavoie identified him as former Madawaska resident Lionel Daigle.

Lavoie said there was a Norman Albert who boxed in town, but before that — in the early 1940s — Lionel Daigle was boxing in both Madawaska and Edmundston, New Brunswick.

"I know the whole family," Lavoie said. "He was quite a fighter."

Lavoie said that when he read the story on the mystery figure, he knew who it was, without a doubt. His wife then went on the Internet to try to see the color photo, but was unable to load it. Still, he said, he was sure from the description and time frame that it was Lionel Daigle. He called the Madawaska office of the St. John Valley Times, looking for Fiddlehead Focus reporter Tory Jones Bonen-



COURTESY OF THE ACADIAN ARCHIVES, UMFK

A scan of a painting from 1940 by Marsden Hartley.

fant, to share that information.

He said Daigle lived on St. Thomas Street, in a house just behind the metal storage facility across the street from Chez Helen's Restaurant, the former Crystal Lynn's.

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Pulitzer Prize winners to visit Bangor Public Library

BY SHELBY HARTIN
BDN STAFF

Next week marks the 100th anniversary of the Pulitzer Prize, journalism's most prestigious award. To celebrate, the University of Maine Department of Communication and Journalism and the Bangor Public Library will host three events featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists — an incredible opportunity for those interested in interacting with writers of acclaimed works and award-winning publications. The event is funded by a grant from the Pulitzer Foundation and administered by the Maine Humanities Council and the University of Maine Humanities Center.

Amy Ellis Nutt, health and science reporter for The Washington Post and writer of "Becoming Nicole," a book about Maine resident and transgender teen Nicole Maines, will visit the Bangor Public Library. See Pulitzer, Page C2

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To see more events visit:
watervillecreates.org
207.616.0292



Colby College Museum of Art • Maine Film Center
Waterville Public Library • Common Street Arts
Waterville Opera House • Waterville Main Street

March 22 – April 24 / a program of Waterville Main Street and Waterville Area Art Society
25th Annual Maine Open Juried Art Show @ Waterville Public Library

April 5, 4:30 PM / Colby College Museum of Art
Studio Artist Lecture: Elizabeth Jabar

April 9, 7 PM / Hathaway Creative Center
PechaKucha Night Waterville – PK WTVL Vol. 20

April 8, 9, 15, 16, 7:30 PM; April 10, 17, 2 PM / Waterville Opera House
Mary Poppins (For tickets visit: www.operahouse.org)

April 8 – April 30 / Common Street Arts
Deadline, a poetry installation by Mexican poet Juan Manuel Portillo
(Reception: Friday, April 8, 5 – 7 PM)

April 16, 10AM – 3PM
Encaustics Workshop with Helene Farrar



Common Street Arts
\$85.00 includes all materials and instruction!