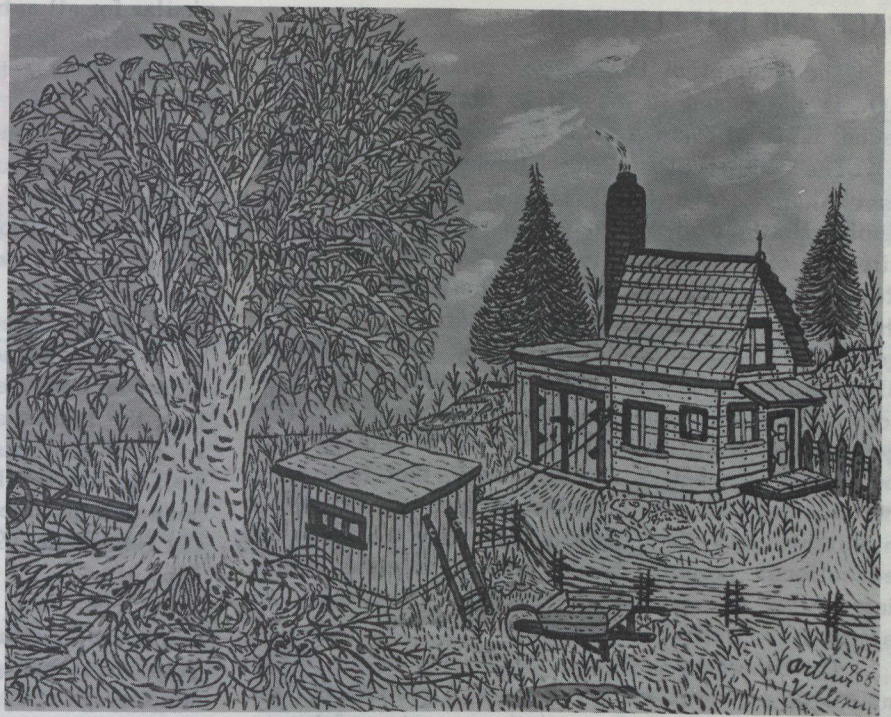


Opposite page —
*Arrival of the King's messenger
in Saguenay in 1885*



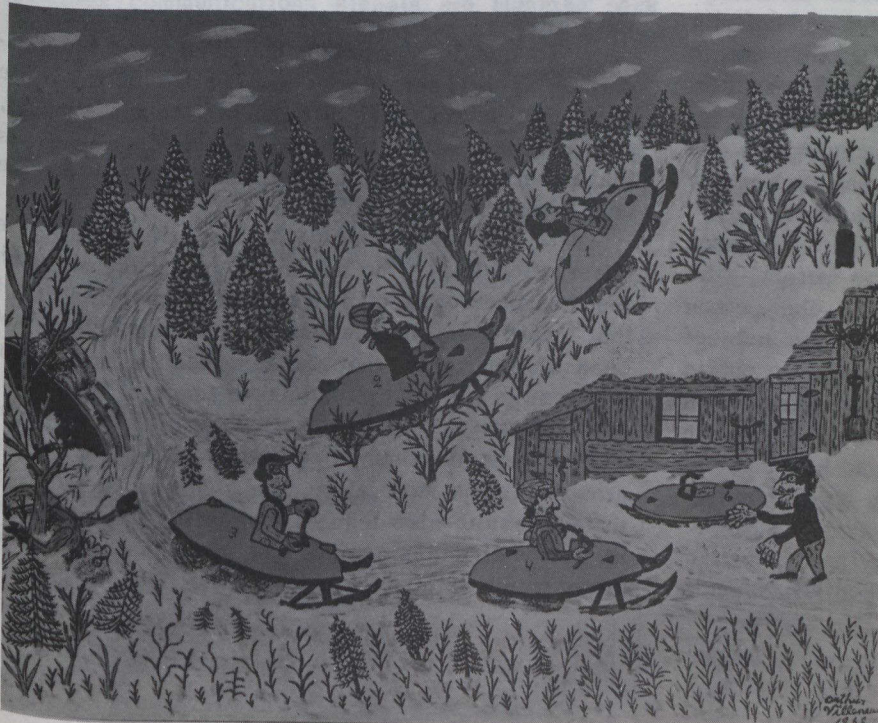
Right —
*The tree, continuance of the
house (only the tree makes the
house possible)*

After three years the artist opened the "Musée" to the public. Doors and a few windows were also painted. Villeneuve was ridiculed, irreverently called "pinceau" (brush). He was branded a fool and a simpleton. From insults and mockery, the attitude changed to threats; he and his family were awakened in the middle of the night, by insulting phone calls. Violent acts followed the threats: an attempt was made to set fire to the roof of the house; a heavy wooden beam was heaved through the front door; windows were smashed with stones; filth was dumped

at the front door; paintings were smeared.

Events took a turn for the better only when artists like Edmund Alleyn and Stanley Cosgrove, critics like Bernard Hébert (also known as Bernard Verdun) gallery-owners like George Waddington and journalists like Paul Gladu, Jean Sarrazin and Yves Lasnier took pains to tell the public that Villeneuve was a "primitive" painter.

Villeneuve's genuine success in Montreal — the Waddington Gallery gave him an exhibition in 1961 — finally silenced those who scorned him.



Left —
Snowmobile race

Photos courtesy of the Museum of Quebec