

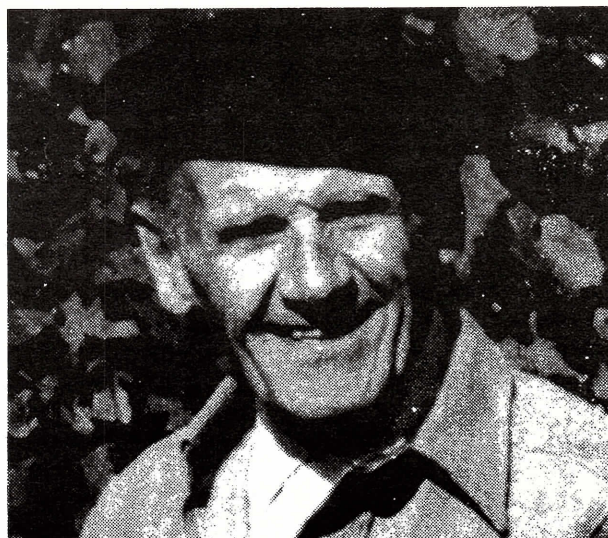
# The National Flute Association, Inc.

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## MARCEL MOYSE TO CELEBRATE NINETIETH BIRTHDAY IN MAY

Marcel Moyse has been an inspiration to flutists throughout the world for the many years of his long and productive life. To continue to give seminars (he is doing so in Hawaii as this issue goes to press), write books and supervise the release of records at the age of ninety is truly extraordinary. Only last year he produced a record called *The French School of Flute Playing* which made available to all of us the actual flute playing of such giants as Hennebains and Gaubert, his revered teachers. An attempt has been made in this issue to give information about his life (see article by R. Aitken), about his output (lists of publications and available recordings) and about his current thinking (see interview on page 3). From this, it is clear that he still feels his life task is to pass on the values and vast knowledge of the French tradition.



Marcel Moyse in St. Amour, [ca. 1968]

## MARCEL MOYSE -- A LONG AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE

By Robert Aitkin

**Robert Aitken, one of Canada's leading flutists and composers, is familiar to those members of the NFA who attended this year's convention in Washington where he played an outstanding program ending with the sensational Callimahos version of Paganini Caprice XXIV. He is uniquely qualified to give us this overview of Moyse's life, as he studied with him for nine years and has been involved for several years in writing a biography of him. Illustrations for this article are by Marcel Moyse.**

A mini-biography of a man the stature of Marcel Moyse with the marvelous complexities of his nature and the profound strength of his personality is a challenge to make all but the greatest writers quake. Even the smallest incidents of his life are so rich in significance that only someone of the stature of a Guy de Maupassant would be capable of such an undertaking.

The story of his youth is widely known and, to flutists who have met him, scarcely needs to be retold. He was born on May 17, 1889 in St. Amour, France. His unwed mother died nine days later and the father, being anxious to erase all evidence of the event, did not acknowledge the child, never saw him and would do nothing more than finance, in a meager fashion, his upkeep for a short time.

The infant Marcel received the family name of his mother and was passed on by the midwife to one of the most beloved and generous women in the village, by the name of Perretier. Here in this tiny village at the edge of the Jura, Marcel Moyse passed the formative years of his life. The significance of this period in the country, in the fields and the hills, among the cows and the sheep and the experience of the honest love and respect of his stepmother and the simple inhabitants of the village, can never be overestimated. St. Amour became an anchoring force in his life, something to hold onto in lieu of his natural parents and home life. Even, at the age of seven, when he was finally discovered by his grandparents and taken to the small city of Besançon, nothing, even their great love and interest, could replace his need for this tiny village.

To a biographer considering this period of his development, it would be difficult to overlook the emergence of the strength of character of this man, which ultimately culminated in the formation of a sensitive but indomitable will, a trademark of his greatness and the key to his life's path. He did not accept his new home without resistance and then finally did so under the condition that he would spend every school vacation and numerous weekends in St. Amour and at the outset, only if his stepsister also joined him in Besançon.

(continued on p. 11)