

"Gabriel H. Kerouac, President of the Village Board, 1953-1954

One of eight children born to Alfred and Lucretia Kerouac of Manteno, Illinois, Gabriel H. Kerouac spent his childhood in Manteno.

In 1929, Kerouac married Marie Rose Tourangeau, They had two children, a son and a daughter.

Kerouac later moved to Bourbonnais where he raised his family and spent the remainder of his life.

Kerouac was employed by the David Bradley Manufacturing Co. in Bradley for 47 years. He was a member of "The Keyman's club."

In April 1953, Kerouac, who had served a term as Bourbonnais village clerk, became, at the age of 44, president of the Bourbonnais village board

At the time Kerouac took office, Bourbonnais was beginning to emerge from more than a century as a rural French Canadian enclave.

According to Adrien Richard, village historian, "The question of a sewer disposal plant was ever growing in priority on meeting agendas and, early in the year, the board received its most recent proposal for the construction, totaling \$88,000. This was somewhat of a shock to the board, who had passed up a previous estimate of \$35,000 a few short years before. During the interim, however, the demands for sewage disposal has grown in leaps and bounds with no relief in sight. ... At the same time, residents of Bon Aire Subdivision, still operating separately from the village, were again clamoring for sidewalks, paved streets and curbs, while some months before, they had accepted the fire protection of the village corporation on a two-year contract. Then, in August, Woodlawn and Meadowview subdivisions, both non-incorporated areas south of the village, also sought fire protection from the village. ... A three-year pact was signed by the contracting parties, but this resulted in new worries for the village officials who were beginning to panic at the rapid growth in the community and the demands for services outside the corporation. Again, the need for an additional fire truck as well as the critical water supply were high on the priority list of village needs."

The tempo of change required a village president who could devote many hours to business at hand. Kerouac found it impossible to continue as village president and still give full attention to his factory job. He resigned in May 1955, and the remained of his term was served by Adelard Bisaillon."