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6-30-1978

## 06.30.1978 Letter from Charlotte Michaud to JoAnne Lapointe

Charlotte Michaud

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June 30, 1978

Dear Mrs Lapointe -

Knowing how busy you are, I don't expect replies on matters I take up with you, but I do appreciate especially your founding & continuing the Centre d'Héritage.

I want to tell you that the sole surviving child of Alphonse W. Côté of Auburn is due to come to Lew. this summer, when she will be the guest of Lolita Sansoucy, a long-time friend of hers. Lolita is listed in my 1976 'phone directory as L.E. She is a sister of former Mayor Armand Sansoucy & so of Romeo Sansoucy & others - all children of Napoleon Sansoucy who had a rich singing voice & had notable roles when the Orpheon staged grand operas in Lew.

The Côté daughter coming (he had only two) - is Cécile, who married Leonel Marcoux, a Lew. singer too. He has died since, but he, too, had a distinguished musical career in N.Y. I wrote to Cécile some time ago, to ask details about her father's career as: teacher of pianoforte, lifetime organist, director of the Orpheon & himself a fine tenor. She replied I seemed to know more about her father's career than she did,



but I think if someone could sit with her & ask questions it would be surprising what could be learned. Before he staged grand opera for the Orpheon - her father staged the initial one for the now-defunct "Union Musicale" of New Auburn. That organization had its own building in New Aub. one of the many destroyed in the 1933 big fire.

Cécile, in telling me of her coming to Lew, this summer, said that she'd bring a framed picture of her father that the "Union Musicale" had in its bldg in appreciation of her father's work. He may have founded that group. As youngest child of Mr. Côté, Cécile may not have been of an age to know about her father's earliest activities. Her older sister, Carmen - now dead - was, I believe first girl to accompany the Orpheon grand opera productions. She never married - was very shy, but Cécile is friendly & charming.

Mr. Côté married twice. First wife & mother of his daughters, was a niece of the wife of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a prime minister of Canada. The niece lived with her parents at Lisbon, but the Laurier couple being childless, brought her up in their Canadian home. She was a very good pianist & organist & when she returned to her home in Lisbon



she became organist at the Lisbon Catholic church - succeeding Mr. Côté, who later became organist at St. Louis church, Aub., until he died.

Judge A. A. Côté of Lew., is a nephew of Alphonse Côté & frequented his uncle's home a good deal in his youth. He might have memoirs that could serve you.

I would also recommend Lolita Seneoucy as member of the board of directors for your Centre, Her long-ailing mother has now died - Lolita has resigned after long employ in a federal or state office in Lew. - & would be a worthy representative of Fr. Amer. in Lew. - <sup>on Centre board of directors.</sup> younger than your many active ones, whom you are lucky to retain for so many years.

Follow all activities of the Centre & of yourself that I can read about in both Lew. papers that I receive daily & am constantly amazed ~~at~~ over the diversity of your presentations & ability to obtain funds from state arts groups.

A day or so ago, I received the quarterly Bulletin of the Franco-American Feminine Federation & it includes the speech Dr. Claire Quinlan, its president, made during your joint Centre & Bates College



symposium. Trust a copy was sent to the Centre.  
If not, contact its editor; Mrs. Mathie B. Peloguin  
1 Leland road  
Westford, Mass 01886

Mrs. Lionel R. Marcoux (Cécile Côté formerly) can  
be reached at 224 Seaton Blvd.

Franklin Sq. N.Y. 11010

Her husband & she met when he was chosen by her  
father to sing in one of his musical productions. He  
was then studying at Bates College. He was son of  
Mr. Mrs. Adelaire Marcoux & I think his father was one of the  
early members of the Orpheon.

You may have seen the article I wrote & that the  
Journal magazine published June 3d. This was about  
the early religious orders that came to New-Eng. from  
Europe at the invitation of New. pastors of SS P & Pauls.  
A second article to be published will be about early  
"convent" & "college" life among Fr. Amer. & a 3d & final of  
that series that will be ~~published~~ published after that, will be  
about many French entertainments staged in French  
at a time when local Fr. Can. & Fr. Amer. only knew  
that one language. Several illustrations will be used  
with these stories, as were in the June 3d. edition.

Mrs. Chaffers has a big collection of things I trust will  
eventually get to the Centre.

44 Janebar Circle  
Framingham Mass. 01701

Charlotte Michaud