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01.13.1977 Letter from Charlotte Michaud to JoAnne Lapointe

Charlotte Michaud

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Jan.13,1977

Dear Mrs. Lapointe,

Do not be alarmed at the principal enclosure-- I'm not dead yet, but since my death is apt to occur outside Lewiston, where no one could give the essential details of my life, I've written more than necessary for Maine newspapers, as noted on your copy, but thought you might like one for your files, too, *at the Centre.*

I get Lew. papers daily and read and clip matters I want to take up with you. *Two* clips ~~are~~ enclosed, too. *One* refers to a nun who was a Lew. native, the former Alexina Montreuil. She was in boarding school with me in Lewiston, later, in Canada, with Mrs. Chaffers, and the nun and Mrs. Chaffers remained friends through the lifetime of the nun. In my childhood, the Montreuil family lived on Blake St., right across from the school. Alexina was the only daughter, but there were three brothers, I think--one who would be best remembered because, after some childhood disease, he was left with a nervous tick, never could work, but sold various things from house-to-house. Mrs. Chaffers would know more.

Another clip refers to Marie Michaud--no relative of mine. She came to Auburn as housekeeper for a St. Louis pastor, who had previously been stationed in northern Maine, I believe, and she had been his housekeeper there. She was younger than were pastor's housekeepers at that time and attractive, too; joined the parish choir, and she played the lead opposite J.B. Couture in "Pinafore"--photo on back page of your Journal magazine recently.

By the way, in that same story--there was mention that Wilfrid Pelletier of the Met. Opera Co. was related to Pierre Pelletier of Lewiston. Think that was an error: he was a cousin of Mrs. J.Z. Campbell who became Mrs. Gedeon Vallee after her first ~~husb~~ husband died. She's mother of Guy Campbell, the Lewiston realtor. The mother long taught piano in Lewiston. Both she and Wilfrid Pelletier came from Montreal, and got their musical education there.

Was glad from another news story that the Centre was planning a course in genealogy--as of a last August clip. Hope that went through--only trouble would be to interest residents in such matter. Wrote to Mrs. Omer Cloutier, this same week, on contacting survivors of the Auger family--early residents in New Auburn. Good contacts, too, would be the Misses Irma and Juliette Cloutier of Fifth St. Auburn--lifelong residents of New Auburn. They know everybody there, having always gone out a lot. Both retired, but Juliette, younger of the two, retired before age.

Marie Michaud took part in many St. Louis musical productions. On theatrical matters--not musical--Herman Olivier of Lewiston--who rooms some place on Lisbon St., I think, used to meet him on the street frequently. Long worked at Murphy's fur store where Juliette Cloutier knew him. He was long active with amateur plays presented by Cercle Canadien--a men's group that had rooms on second floor of College block--Lisbon and Chestnut Sts. Musical-Literary club, still there, was on third floor at other end of the building. Latter was the prestige group and J.B. Couture directed many plays ~~by~~ under auspices of that club. Cercle Canadien always looked upon as sort of spite group~~###~~. It took in everybody, it bragged, but it filled a need, some of its members had a variety of skills, and so they accomplished things of worth, too. George Filteau grew out of that group to become quite a proficient stage manager of many local productions both theatrical and musical. ^{some topic of} ~~Don't make story~~

Mrs. Cloutier could also lead you to the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Marcotte who long managed a theatrical company in Lew-Aub. he directing and playing some parts, but she frequently the leading lady. They were good enough to be able to stage productions on ~~their~~ their own financing, repeating such plays in Biddeford, Augusta and Waterville, I believe. Herman Olivier may have taken part in their productions, too. One saw him often in plays. In that era, Fr. Amer. were not proficient enough in the English language to enjoy plays that were in that language, so the French plays were a mainstay of their entertainment. ^{when movies came in - great boom then}

I've mentioned to Carmen Giguere--sister of Msgr. Aime Giguere~~er~~ who died recently--that she put in writing the genealogy of that family--it numbered the first (2d but Franco-Amer. mailman, the first Lew. girl to join the Dom. order of nuns here; Dr. E.N. Giguere and his daughter Madeleine are of that family; also Origene Giguere who died recently--employed at Lew. postoffice 34 years... ^{let's get} Lucien, sole brother remaining, living in Auburn, was long clerk of Lew. Public Works. So much that can be done, and so few remaining who can help.

All for today.

Journal copy of 1926 on Mother Edouard must have had more details. I was with the paper then - probably wrote item originally.

Charlotte Michaud

Mrs. Vallee still living in phone book (Sara) Sabattus St.