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10-25-1981

## 10.25.1981 Letter from Charlotte Michaud to JoAnne Lapointe

Charlotte Michaud

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Sunday, Oct. 25, 1981

Dear JoAnne:

Read your story on the Dominicans with great interest--believe it or not--it contained some details I hadn't known before reading you! Was told you had interview with former pastor, Father Drouin, for details, and he did a good job. I should think the Dominicans, as well as the general reading public, would have been greatly interested in the story, and the position it got in the mag. from Rose O'Brien reveals she appreciated its importance.

The woman--Mrs. Jackson--who has been interviewing me in past months for her thesis for a master's degree, hasn't been here for some time, so I assume she's busy probably writing that--she told me it must contain 1,000 words--as well as her domestic duties, her teaching, and post-graduate studies she's taking with Dr. Paul P. Chassé at University of Providence, R.I. He was the one who suggested me as topic for the thesis. He is poet of note, besides teaching French as dean of the faculty, and, years ago, he and I corresponded, but not for a long while. He is author of an imposing anthology on Franco-American poets--and did me the honor of including two selections from my booklet of free verse published in the 20's for distribution as Christmas gift to friends. ~~Only~~ Only a few selections in his book are in English--the greater number are in French. One <sup>part</sup> included is Claire Quintal, president of the N.E. Franco Women's Federation, and faculty dean at Assumption College in the French department.

Am generally well, so have been profiting of the recent good weather to take several trips outdoors each day that weather permits. Some times, it's quite windy, but if sun is warm, I just dress to compete with the elements; and the exercise as well as the fresh air do me a lot of good. Am out about 15 or 20 minutes each time, length of time required for me to recite a "chapelet". Have more time to pray than I ever had, and when my health began to fail, so many were writing to me that they were praying for me, that I got ashamed, and now do much more praying--four chapelets daily, besides morning and evening prayers of some length out of my missel, and Sundays, read the day's Mass out of there, too.

Charlotte

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Typed the 1st page this a.m. & now write this in the evening of same day, because letter due to leave in the morning. For several days now, I've been reading Canuck, that I have, due to your graciousness. I met its author, always known under her pen-name of Liane in Lew-Aub- when I was 8 yrs old. Was even then reading the Messenger out of interest; not only because my father was member of the writing staff. He took me to the Messenger office one Sunday morning when it was located below street level on Lincoln St.

He told me to wait for him while he went to an inner office. Liane was in same room where I was, though it was a Sunday mid-forenoon & she beckoned me to her. When I got to the desk where she sat, she picked me up & sat me on her lap - she was a tall woman! As happens frequently, she asked me: what I would do when I'd be grown up & I replied "I'd write for newspaper, same as you do!" She repeated the words to my father... As my years accumulated, however & it was impressed on me that my father was one of the better educated financiers in our community - I got to thinking that news writing couldn't be for me & put it out of mind. Enclose clip of article I wrote for Lew, "Elder Advocate" that relates how I got to become a reporter for Lew. Journal. My father was dead, then, but Messenger was still being published. Owner of the paper, J. B. Couture would visit mother when we were at O.O. in the early '20's & I recall his saying that had I applied to him for a job he would have given it to me... I wasn't at Journal, that early, that I recall, but Journal had high reputation & I much preferred working for that paper. Couture was in final days at Messenger then & had hired Geo. Filtkau as mgr. Latter became overly bossy & Couture fired him & that's how Filtkau went to Moonsocket, R. I. to work for Union St. Jean Baptiste. His wife was related to man in charge of lodge's publication...

Front page of Canuck gives 1936 date, but wasn't book first printed in earlier yrs than that? I've just finished the diary pages in which girl of story relates a misplaced & rejected love. Reminded me that Liane left Lew, because of unrequited love for a man she was known to love. Moved off to Calif. & there married. Became widowed & thereafter paid a visit to Lew & she visited me @ Jentl office. Wanted photo of her taken, but she wouldn't allow it!

Thought you'd like to know all this.

C. M.