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Franco-American Recognition Dinner Remarks Draft

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prepared for

Remarks ~~on~~ the Occasion of
1986 Franco-American Recognition Dinner

Madeleine Giguere
University of Southern Maine

Sponsored by Action for Franco-Americans of the Northeast for the
benefit of programs of research scholarships to be administered
by the Franco-American Office of the University of Maine.

September 28, 1986

Ramada Inn
Lewiston, Maine

P1

Thank you Georgette Berube for your graciousness in being Mistress of Ceremonies (and for brightening our Sunday mornings with French music.)

P2

Thank you Clair Bolduc for all ^{very} the nice things you said about me and my work.

(Thank you Josee Vachon for entertaining us--I so enjoy your own compositions as well as your repertoire of more traditional songs.)

Thank you Joanne LaPointe for having accepted to serve as my representative on the organizing committee.

Thank you all for coming here on this September Sunday to ~~honor my work and~~ to raise money for the Franco-American Office at Orono. *and to recognize my contribution to Franco-American Studies.*

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text

Prepared → Remarks on the Occasion of the Recognition Dinner

When the representatives of ACTFANE told me last spring that ACTION FOR FRANCO-AMERICANS OF THE NORTHEAST wanted to honor my work of documentation, I was very suprised and very pleased. Surprised because the work of documentation is not very well known. It is done in private with books, a computer and a pencil. It provides background information on employment, education, housing and marketing for ^{use by} government and private ^{agencies} programs. ~~I am very pleased to have my work recognized.~~

Early in the seventies I was interested in the women's movement but soon I recognized that there were many workers in women's studies but no one in the Franco-American movement doing the type of research that I knew that I could do. I believe that my tracking of the French in the U.S. census has been and is important for the Franco's as a group. I am delighted to have this importance recognized ~~here today.~~ *by my compatriots.*

I want to thank everyone involved in the organization of today's dinner. I thank ^{the directors of} ACTFANE for having selected me. I thank all of those who agreed to serve as honorary chairs as well as the members of the Steering Committee. I thank the members of all the local groups: Le Centre d'Heritage, ~~the~~ Festival Franco-American, Le Richelieu, la Survivance Francaise and l'Union St. Jean Baptiste who worked hard in arranging today's banquet under the leadership of Adrien Lamontagne of the Association Canado-Americain.

I wish to thank everyone who has spoken and performed to-day. Also my thanks go to Jo Anne Lo pointe who served as ^{my} the personal representative as requested by the organizing committee.

I also wish to thank organizations who helped me along my documentary path. At the University of Maine at Orono, the Canadian Studies Center, the bilingual education program, members of the Foreign Language Department and ~~FABOG~~ were supportive.

Outside of Maine.

Rhode Island College recognized my work at their Rochambeau Convocation.

The Federation Française Franco-Américaine and the French Institute at Assumption College

At my own campus, the University of Southern Maine granted me two sabbaticals, one of which I used specifically for the studies honored here today. The University several times awarded me research grants for Franco-American projects. At all times the University provided computer access, secretarial services and a telephone to receive calls --very important in my role as a provider of information on Franco-Americans to governmental officials and researchers from Maine and from all over the United States and Canada. All of this support contributed to the effectiveness of my efforts.

~~A substantial part of my work has been to track the Franco-~~

In tracking the Franco's

~~Americans~~ in the United States Census, I compile what they have published and I generate new information from the Census material. It is interesting to note that in their ~~recent~~ ¹⁹⁸⁰ volumes the Census has published data for all ethnic groups similar to what I developed in the 1970's for the Franco's.

has been

I think numbers are important. It makes a difference in how we are treated and how we feel about ourselves to know that one

for instance

quarter of the population of Maine ^{this of} is of French ancestry, *that French*

Ancestry persons have incomes similar to persons of English ancestry.

However, if the Census doesn't ask the question "What is your

ancestry" in the 1990 Census, we won't know this in the future. In my judgment, if we want the ancestry question included in the 1990 census we have to fight for it right now. Congress will review the topics for inclusion in the 1990 census by next April.

Now is the time to sensitize the members of Congress about the *importance*

of the topic of ancestry. If you don't know the size of your group and its breakdown by age, education, income, etc., the government and other large organizations will not be very responsive to your needs. ~~As you leave today you may want to take a handout printed at my expense with more information on this topic. I urge you to look at the material and then decide whether to contact your congressional delegation.~~

En terminant, je veux dire un mot au sujet de l'office franco-américaine. Ce n'est que depuis quinze ans qu'il y a une présence franco-américaine organisée sur le campus d'Orono de l'Université. Depuis le début Yvon Labbé et ses collaborateurs ont fait un paquet de choses enfin d'aider les étudiants franco-américains à prendre pleine possession de leur héritage.

L'Office franco-américaine, anciennement connu sous le nom de FAROG--Franco-American Resource Opportunity Group--est un centre d'accueil et d'information, L'Office a rehaussée et affermie la présence franco-américaine à l'Université par des jours d'études, des programmes culturelles, et une collaboration avec bien de groupes à Orono et à l'extérieur. Le FAROG Forum, un journal bilingue, est un canal d'information et d'échange d'idées pour tout le peuple franco-américain. Je crois que le travail de

placé FAROG élargi et soutient l'identité franco-américaine parmi les

étudiants et parmi nous tous. Je me suis toujours fait un grand plaisir d'appuyer les efforts de ~~FAROG~~ ^{*l'office Franco-Américain*}. Je suis heureuse que ce banquet soit au bénéfice de bourses de recherches qui seront administrées par l'office, ~~franco-américaine~~.

The Franco-American office at Orono is doing a splendid job as a center of information and cultural programs for students, the Université and the general population. I am ~~honored~~ ^{*delighted*} that this banquet will provide funds for research scholarships to be administered by the Franco-American Office at Orono.

Thank you very much.

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