

September 2020

An Open Letter to John Thornton

Charlotte Michaud

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/michaud-unpublished>

Recommended Citation

Charlotte Michaud, Lewiston, Maine, Franco-American Collection

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Charlotte Michaud at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Unpublished Works by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.

An open letter to John Thornton,

Dear sir,

cultural

You are being quoted frequently these days in Lewiston-Auburn for referring to Lewiston-Auburn as the "cultural desert of Maine", some months ago.

Folks excused ~~your statement~~ your statement at the time, ~~thinking~~ because it revealed a lack of knowledge concerning our community, but we can't ~~let~~ let that statement haunt you forever, can we?

As a comparatively new resident of Maine, you couldn't be expected to know about the cultural life of Lewiston and Auburn over a great number of years. Evidently you were basing your assertion on the reduced number of artistic events in these recent years--something which can be said of many other municipalities--but, nevertheless, the statement did hurt, and it has not been forgotten.

Referring to it every so often, residents get to reminiscing about our artistic endeavors of past years, such as the presentation of ~~the~~ operas complete with full orchestral accompaniment, namely: Faust, presented at least three times at different periods and with different casts; Romeo and Juliet, Il Trovatore, Rigoletto, La Traviata.

Operettas ~~were~~ given in Lewiston and Auburn were even more numerous. Just to name a few, La Fille du Tambour-Major, presented at least twice; Pinafore, presented in ^(English and in) a French translation by the late J.B. Couture, long editor of the local French-language newspaper, Le Messager, and founder of the radio station, WCOU; The Chimes of Normandy, La Mascotte, Fra Diavolo, La Fille de Madame Angot, Les Noces d'Olivette.

The presentation of oratorios was an annual event for several ~~years~~ successive years by local residents, also by the Bates College music department. Our church choirs were long noted for their outstanding artistry, ~~and~~ ^{Lead} to ~~attend~~ Christmas eve ^{music} ~~services~~ at some churches that provided orchestral accompaniment to supplement the organ music was like attending a concert.

more

We the registered voters of Maine urge the elected representatives of Maine to work for immediate passage of the Eighteen Year Old Vote.

NAME

CITY OR TOWN

18

Circulator: Name

Address

Return petitions to ACTION COMMITTEE FOR 18 YEAR OLD VOTE
BOX 333, BATH, MAINE
or REP. LOUIS JALBERT — STATE HOUSE, AUGUSTA, MAINE