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Lewiston War Memorial Speech

Louis-Philippe Gagné

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First, I wish to thank the management of WLAM for this occasion to say a few words, ^{in favor of} ~~for~~ a great project.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Today marks the opening of our drive for the Lewiston and Auburn War Memorial Arena and Civic Center,

Nine months ago when the project was started, I had the privilege of appointing a committee of eleven men to do the preliminary work. Not one of them could be classed as a politician. Being Mayor of the City, I even ^{requested} ~~asked~~ not to become a member of that Committee.

After long deliberation and careful study of many types of projects, the Committee has chosen a "living memorial" as the proper way in which to perpetuate the brave deeds of our fighting men and women who took part in World Wars One and Two.

Usefulness community service, is the keynote of the local project. The War Memorial will provide a social, civic and cultural center which the youth of many generations to come will enjoy.

Starting today, every citizen of both cities will eventually be asked to give something for that Memorial. Whether it be 5¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1.00 per week, for 50 weeks, or a larger donation.

A pledge card will be presented to every man, woman and child in these two communities. Every pledge is voluntary. No one is obligated to give. The War Memorial will be paid for out of the contributions of firms and individuals. There will be no bond issue and no tax funds will be used in its construction. The opportunity to share in the building of the Center is extended to every home, farm, school, store, office and factory.

The Committee has no treasurer. No solicitor is to accept any money. Your donation will be handled by the banks of Lewiston and Auburn. The City treasurer only will draw money from the banks and deposit that same money at one specific bank. No expense will be ^{made} ~~paid~~ unless upon an order of the Board of Finance.

Tell me, could there be any better system? I doubt very much.
You may give an outright donation instead of using the weekly payment system.
Just make out a check to the Lewiston and Auburn War Memorial Fund and deposit
it at the bank of your choice or at the City Treasurer's office.

Ladies and gentlemen, the effort must succeed. Our job, yours and
mine, is cut out for us. We can only attain our goal if we give every citizen
of this area an opportunity to do something. I am sure that, working together
in a splendid cause, we will register one of the greatest success in the
history of civic enterprise in our community or any other community.

In closing, I appeal to everyone of you, workers, veterans, office
holders, merchants, sportsmen, school children, women and girls' associations,
clubs, societies, business men and women, to help us attain our goal and complete
our Memorial, YOUR MEMORIAL before 1949.

Your great civic spirit can do wonders, and I know your civic pride will
do just that. Thanks a million.

Mayor Gagne :

Copy of talk broadcast
Thursday at 6:15 PM.
Hoy