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Myrtle Goodrich Litch Doane Correspondence

Myrtle Goodrich Litch Doane 1914-1997

Hilda McLeod Jacob

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DOANE, Myrtle Goodrich Litch
b. Lynn, Massachusetts

BIOGRAPHY

MYRTLE DOANE

AUTHOR OF "LYRICAL ECHOES OF FREEDOM"

Myrtle Goodrich Litch Doane was born in Lynn, Massachusetts on May 19, 1914. She was educated in the schools of that city, and graduated from Lynn English High School in the depression year of 1932.

Today's youths feel they have burdens, but each generation has difficulties to face; and there were many problems and difficulties to overcome in the depression years for the young people of that day. There was lack of work for folks desiring to make a living, and little chance of securing work part-time to help toward college. There was also lack of scholarships, subsidies, loans and grants for those longing further their studies. The department store where the author worked during her Junior and Senior High School years was hiring College graduates for full time sales work. Because her widowed mother needed financial assistance, Myrtle accepted full time work as a clerk and assisted in the office when extra help was needed there. Her mother became desperately ill and the dream of college remained a dream unfulfilled. However, her thirst for knowledge was not quenched, and she continued to read and study at home whenever she had the opportunity. Myrtle felt the next best thing to a college education was a good library, and Lynn had a fine one. She continued to study English Literature, Shorthand, French and Music.

Her love for Poetry began at an early age, and also her great love of the piano. Every time she had a chance, she attended piano recitals and always sat as near to the piano as she could, and from observing the techniques of many expert pianists; she found they could be adapted by herself. From early childhood, Myrtle played the piano by ear, and today plays the piano and organ and her listeners think she has had lessons unless they are friends who know otherwise.

If it had not been for the encouragement of her mother, family

long
friends and teachers, Myrtle would have given up poetry ₁ ago.
When in the fifth grade of school, she wrote a poem about President Calvin Coolidge, after seeing him ride by the boulevard on his way to his summer home in Swampscott. Her mother encouraged her to take it to school to show her teacher. The teacher asked to keep it for a while, and unknown to Myrtle sent it to President Coolidge. It was an exciting day when a letter arrived at her home from the White House, and the mail man that delivered it was trembling. He told her that in 30 years of service as mail man, the only time he ever delivered a letter from the ~~White House~~ Capitol was when it was a draft notice. He insisted she open it on the sidewalk in front of him. Myrtle continued to write poems for the school magazine and was the writer of the class song when graduating from Eastern Junior High School in Lynn.

During her life-time, Myrtle has not always had the time for writing. At 24, she married Earl Litch. They had one daughter, Dorothy and brought up his two nieces when their mother was killed suddenly by falling in an elevator shaft. When her daughter was eleven, Myrtle was widowed and it was necessary for her to work to support her daughter, the two nieces were then married. She worked at the Lynn Institution for Savings Bank in Lynn until she met Alfred Doane. They married in 1959 and returned to his land in Brownfield in July ~~1959~~ 1960. His home had been destroyed completely two years after the great town fire, but there was a camp on the land. They lived in the camp for almost 5 months, then moved into the basement apartment while Mr. Doane worked building the house they presently live in. Since coming to Maine, Myrtle has had more time to give to writing.

Myrtle wrote several short stories for the Boston Post when it was in existence. She has always been interested in Patriotic writing, and feels there is a great need for it today in these times of rebellion, demonstrations, riots and draft-card burnings.

While living in Lynn, she was a three time winner of awards from the National Thanksgiving Society of America. Two for short-stories and one for a radio-television skit.

In 1961, she was awarded a George Washington Honor Medal from the National Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for outstanding achievement in bringing about a better understanding of the American Way of Life. This was for her poem, "I Am An American." In 1963, she was awarded an Honor Certificate from the Foundation for her poem, "A Good American." Myrtle has had guest editorials ~~forxxxx~~ in the Advertiser-Democrat Paper at Norway-Paris, Maine. ~~Thxxxx~~ These have been patriotic in theme. Many of her poems appeared in the Lynn Daily Item, while she resided there; and since coming to Maine to live, they have ~~beenxxx~~ appeared in The Reporter, The Bridgton News, and have been featured in the Advertiser-Democrat.

The author has had a poem included in seven anthologies and in 1966, three of her poems were included in an anthology of contemporary writers.

To quote Myrtle Doane, "Words of encouragement for an effort no matter how humble are the most miraculous thing that happens to a writer. Now I have completed my own book of verse and I repeat, how kind and wonderful are words of encouragement from ~~family~~ family, friends and acquaintances."

June 14, 1966

Mrs. Myrtle Doane
Brownfield
Maine 04010

Dear Mrs. Doane:

Congratulations on the anticipated publication of your book of poems. We look forward to seeing LYRICAL ECHOES OF FREEDOM, and wish it good fortune.

We hope that an inscribed copy may be made available for the Maine Author Collection, which is a permanent exhibit of Maine books and books by Maine people. We try to gather biographical and critical information also, and always delighted when we can add a new book and a new name to the roster of Maine's literary history.

We trust the new book may enjoy a warm welcome from readers.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection

Brownfield, Maine 04010
September 17, 1971

To The Librarian:

Although I am a resident of Maine, my recent children's story is about a North Conway, N. H. duck. I am sending a copy to be included in the State Library.

I am also sending, under separate cover, an Anthology of American Poetry Eleven, recently released by the Royal Publishing Company of Dallas, Texas. I have four poems included in the publication, pages 37 through 40.

Yours truly,

Myrtle Doane

(Mrs.) Myrtle Doane