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Letter to the Arts Council of Lewiston & Auburn

Charlotte Michaud

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Feb. 8, 1969

ARTS COUNCIL OF LEWISTON & AUBURN

Dear Mr. Skinner,

Here are the notes on the Gray nuns. If they can't serve you, just throw them away. I am discarding all material of that sort, which I used to file against future need.

Healy Asylum is diagonally across the street from the main Lewiston fire station, and that is adjacent to our Urban Renewal. In time, the nuns might dispose of that building. ~~I don't~~ I don't think their present venture there is very profitable, and the order could use the nuns elsewhere.

Thanks again for the editorial Saturday night. If you could provide me with a copy of it, I would appreciate it for the Council files. Should have mentioned this earlier, but forgot.

Cordially,

Charlotte Michaud

Forgot to ask earlier.

~~What you do about~~ Can you send me copy

of your air-editorial of Fri? Should have asked earlier, but forgot. ~~Don't bother to make a first copy~~ Sorry - it would be nice to have it for Arts Council files especially when you did such a fine job. Thks again.

Enclosed those few notes I had on Healy asylum & the nuns there. The bldg is close to our Urban Renewal - the present venture of the nuns is not so profitable - I think - so they might dispose of the bldg & use nuns elsewhere.

If that happens this bit of historic info might be useful to you in disposing of all such materials since I don't plan to use it.

Plays were such a popular offerings for many years, that the community supported ^{local} amateur companies that had a regular schedule of presentations ~~here as well as in other fine cities.~~ ^{and toured our major cities.} One local woman played over 50 leading roles with such companies. Both the Musical and Literary club and the Cercle Canadien had their own theatrical companies for many years.

Residents can also recall those many years when every church group and local lodge would present at least a play each year. The same is true for benefit concerts that occupied nearly every Sunday evening through the winter season. ^R Let us not forget, either, the many ^{local} singers who rehearsed during those many months to participate in the annual Music Festival, usually presented in Portland and Bangor because ~~they~~ ^{those cities} had ~~their~~ halls sufficiently large to accommodate participants and audience, to which Lewiston-Auburn contributed ^a generous share.

Dancing schools we have had in greater number and over more years than Portland ever enjoyed, going as far back as 1890 when Prof. George Wilson conducted his ~~school~~ school of the dance and "ballroom department" ~~here~~ in Lewiston. All our schools give annual recitals that compare favorably with any presented in Portland, and residents also recall when Lewiston dancers were ^{guest} soloists at Portland dance recitals.

~~Let us also mention the Greek plays that~~ Let us also mention the Greek plays that were long a feature of Bates College Commencements, and were followed by many ~~outstanding~~ outstanding ~~Shakespearian~~ Shakespearian productions as well as contemporary, even avant-garde plays by the ~~college~~ college Robinson Players.

We have our own community concerts, our own community little theater. We have an historial ^c museum, a permanent art gallery at the college where many touring shows are displayed. The founding president of what became the Maine ~~Commission~~ Commission of the Arts and Humanities is a Lewiston woman: Mrs. Peter A. Isaacson, the former Dorris Westall, ^{whose mother} was long an art teacher here.