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## **Brief Memoir by Charlotte Michaud**

Charlotte Michaud

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Articles in this book were written by Rosaire Dion for "La Patrie" of Montreal, Que., <sup>and later</sup> then published in book form. It naturally followed that subjects of the articles were asked to buy copies, at \$5. each. There were some at the time who were even more prominent, but who refused to collaborate, guessing from past experiences, I suppose, that requests to buy would follow.

Dion had been friendly to me for some time, then, had given me some of his poetry books, so I couldn't refuse.

However, he exaggerated a bit on me--probably to make the article more acceptable to the Patrie editor.

"ballerine attitrée" is a bit too much--it implies a specialist in ballet--I did study ballet, but never on toes, but did study many forms of dancing--first under the tutelage of the Rev. Mother Lutgarde, Swiss-born member of the Dominican nuns--one of the first to come to Lewiston when I was a pensionnaire in their convent. She created ballets, costumed them out of donations, and drilled young children for months before presentations, first given in Dominican block, and later in Lew. City Hall during week-long bazaars to benefit construction of the basement part of SS. Peter and Paul church in first decade of 1900's.

I later studied under Lew. teachers, ballroom and other forms of dancing; then more ballet in Portland, and in Boston--this last at the long-famous school of Lilla Viles Wyman.

Returning from Boston, mother decided to move to Old Orchard Beach and we stayed there the year 'round for a few years in the ~~latter part~~ early 1920's. I taught dancing there, and at Sanford, having big classes both places, and usually many parents who came to watch.

During that same period, I served as organist--playing an harmonium--at St. Margaret's-by-the-Sea, only Catholic church there, then. P.O.O.

(over)

My father having died in 1922, my mother decided to return to Lewiston, and I stayed home to help her in operating a restaurant she opened on Park St.

Foyer Musical was founded (not by me and neither was I even a founding member). Blanche Belleau founded that in 1920, when I was at O.O. I did join the organization when I returned to Lewiston, however, and remained with it until large group left and founded Patronage.

Some corrections made in the book itself--but only on my article.

Charlotte Michaud

Man he refers to as teaching me first on news writing was L. N. Gendreau, long at Le Messenger & director of St. Don's Association band many years. He was correspondent for "La Presse" of Montreal when copy was handwritten. He developed neuritis in his right arm & told mother he was afraid he'd have to give up his writing for Canadian newspaper who published a page of Franco-American news daily for many years. It was mother who suggested I could do the writing under his dictation. He died within a year or two & La Presse hired me & I did that work for 25 years until paper gave up printing such news.

C. M.

My later news writing training was from several editors of New. Eve. Journal - paper had high repute at that time.

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