

Albina Cyr papers and images

MCC-00429

Total boxes: 1
Cubic feet: .02 ft

Prepared by
Anne Chamberland
Acadian Archives / Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine
May 2016

Albina Cyr papers and images (MCC-00429)

Shelf List Number: UM-429

Collection Overview

Creator(s)

Lisa Ornstein
Nancy Michaud

Dates

1941-2007

Extent

5 folders (.02 cubic feet)

Provenance

Material was acquired from Lisa Ornstein who got the papers from Nancy Michaud.

Language

English
French

Conservation Notes

Photographs were inserted in polyester sleeves for protection.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access: No restrictions
Physical: No restrictions
Technical: No restrictions

Rights Statement

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Recommended Citation

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Collection Description

Historical and Biographical Information

Albina Cyr was born on March 1, 1920, in Van Buren, Maine, the daughter of Edna Cyr (daughter of Joseph and Flavie Clavette) of St-Basile, New Brunswick and Pierre "Pit" Cyr (son of Vital and Flavie Plourde) of Van Buren, Maine. Around 1925, the family moved to

Madawaska, where Pierre got a job at the newly opened Fraser paper mill. After eighteen years of millwork, an increasingly bad ulcer condition forced Pierre Cyr to quit his job at Fraser and move the family to a farm in Lille, where he farmed for six years. Around 1950, Pierre sold the farm and built the family house in Madawaska.

At age seventeen, Albina quit school to help her mother at home. She continued to care for her parents throughout her life; her mother died at home in 1971, and her father lived at home until the age of 92. Albina worked a variety of part-time jobs during her lifetime, including four years of seasonal work at the Sneider Bird's Eye packing plant in Caribou, and eight years of part-time work for the Saint John Valley Times. Albina died August 17, 2007

Albina Cyr comes from a musical background on both sides of her family. Her maternal grandfather Regis Clavette was a fiddle player. Her mother, Edna Cyr, sang and played harmonica. Edna Cyr collected some of her favorite songs into a songbook, as did one of her aunts, Anna Clavette (Anna Clavette married Ernest Fournier of St-Basile and was mother of Canadian senator Edgar Fournier). Albina's first instrument was the "bombarde" (jaw harp), which she took up as a small child. Albina began playing fiddle at seventeen. For several years, she and fellow Madawaska residents Therese Cyr and Verna Cyr performed as a volunteer ensemble at senior citizen gatherings.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of newspaper articles of Albina and her father, printed song sheets, Albina's handwritten song lyrics, one small volume of *Army Song Book*, Christmas song collection printed on 4.5" x 5.5" folded cards from A.G.C.C. dated 1948, photographs of Albina Cyr, and one autographed photo of entertainer Gene Autry from when he was at the Auditorium in Bangor, Maine for a show dated Monday, February 13 (the year is not indicated).

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by material type in five folders.

Separated Materials (If Applicable)

Not applicable

Subject Headings

Photographs

Sheet music

Songs, French-Texts

Songs, French- Maine- Texts

Related Materials

MCC-00081 Joseph Reginald Cyr oral histories with Theresa MacWhinnie, Albina Cyr, Corine Debrey, Alcide St. Jarre, and Henry and Sylvia Levesque, 1974

MCC-00175 Albina Cyr song collection

MCC-00145 Saint John Valley Folk Arts Survey

Collection Inventory

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Printed song sheets and printed music sheets.
1	2	Handwritten songs composed by different artists
1	3	<i>Army Song Book</i> and <i>A.G.C.C. 1948</i> song cards
1	4	Newspaper articles
1	5	12 color photographs of Albina Cyr and 1 autographed image of Gene Autry