

Bertrand Cyr audio recordings of speech and lecture series

MCC-00440

Finding Aid

**Prepared by
Anne Chamberland, March 2018
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: Bertrand Cyr audio recordings of speech and lecture series

Creator/Collector: Bertrand Cyr

Collection number: MCC-00440

Shelf list number: AA-440

Dates: 1969 & 1983

Extent: 9 audio cassettes (.05 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was acquired from Bertrand Cyr by mail.

Language: English

Conservation notes: Audiocassettes were digitized but not burned on compact discs.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Physical restrictions: None.

Technical restrictions: An audio cassette player or a computer with audio capabilities is required to access this collection.

Copyright: Copyright has not been assigned to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes

Citation: Bertrand Cyr audio recordings of speech and lecture series, MCC-00440, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

Separated materials: One audio cassette not related to the collection was discarded.

Related materials:

Marcella Belanger Violette scrapbooks, 1920-2005. MCC-00265

Beatrice Craig Research Collection 1994. MCC-00133

Fort Kent Historical Society collection on Fort Kent (Me.), 1865-1990. MCC-00123

Progress Report of the Higher Education Planning Commission to Donald R. McNeil,

Chancellor University of Maine November 11, 1969. SPC COL Univ. LC175.M2
M23 1969

Location of originals: Not applicable.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Biographical information: Bertrand Cyr is the son of Octave Cyr and Eva Sirois from St. Agatha, Maine. Bertrand is an alumnus from the class of 1970 of the University of Maine at Fort Kent. He was president of Fort Kent State College Student Senate in 1969. Bertrand taught many years for the Madawaska School Department. He now resides in Hermon, Maine.

Historical information: Re: Higher Education Planning Commission, 1969

The Legislature, guided by the deliberations of the Lund Committee, adopted the fundamental proposal of a single university system.... The chancellor, Donald McNeil.....appointed this Higher Education Planning Commission in the spring of 1969 to priorities questions facing the Chancellor and the Legislature on what commitment should the University make in the future toward providing two-year programs below the baccalaureate level and what should be the mission or role of each part of the University.

The Commission considered whether the college in Fort Kent should close but the special needs for the St. John Valley area for higher education opportunity led the Commission to conclude the college should not be closed but have a curriculum that would provide a two-year college transfer program which would prepare students for entry as Juniors at any of the four-year campuses of the University.¹

In short, the HEP Commission report suggested that the Fort Kent State College be downgraded from a four-year college to a two-year Community College serving the St. John Valley and in doing so would reduce the financial burden of the system.

Historical information: Maine Humanities Council: When the arts community persuaded the Johnson Administration in the 1960s to offer modest funding to the nation's performing and visual artists, the scholarly community responded: why not offer federal support to the humanities as well? Government had generously funded science and technology: was cultural activity not just as important for the nation's future?

The result was the National Endowment for the Humanities, established in 1965 and still flourishing. Among other initiatives, the NEH channels federal funds to state humanities councils, to encourage locally based projects for all Americans.

In 1971, Maine was one of the first states to experiment with these programs. Its Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities went through several name changes before finally settling in 1981 on the Maine Humanities Council.

While many of the pilot programs had a strong public policy focus (to make them palatable in a political world still somewhat suspicious of "culture"), the MHC soon found its own identity as

¹ Progress Report of the Higher Education Planning Commission to Donald McNeil, Chancellor, University of Maine. November 11, 1969.

an intensely community oriented nonprofit. It sought ways to help Mainers understand their lives as thinking human beings and as beneficiaries of the state's rich historic culture.²

Scope and content: This collection consists of nine (9) audio cassettes. One audio cassette is a speech by Bertrand Cyr, Student Senate President at the Fort Kent State College (now University of Maine at Fort Kent) regarding the Higher Education Planning Commission report of 1969 suggesting the Fort Kent State College be downgraded from a 4-year college to a 2-year Community College.

Eight of the audio cassettes are part of a Maine Humanities Council Lecture Series given in 1983 in Fort Kent and Madawaska. On October 27, 1983, Beatrice Craig gave a lecture on the *Beginning of the Madawaska and Aroostook Settlements*; on December 7, 1983, Dr. David C. Smith gave a lecture on *Life in the Maine Woods & on Maine Farms*; on December 15, 1983, Dr. Stephen Marini, gave a lecture on *Religions of Maine*; undated, Alan Taylor gave a lecture on the *Treasure Chest of Daniel Lambert*.

Inventory:

- Cassette 1: HEP (Higher Education Proposal) Commission Speech by Bertrand Cyr, Student Senate President of the Fort Kent State College. December 9, 1969
- Cassette 2: Lecture Series: *Northern Maine during the Federal Era*. Beatrice Craig, October 27, 1983
- Cassette 3: Lecture Series: *Northern Maine during the Federal Era*. Beatrice Craig, October 27, 1983
- Cassette 4: Lecture series: *Life in the Maine Woods & on Maine Farms*. Dr. David C. Smith. December 7, 1983
- Cassette 5: Lecture series: *Life in the Maine Woods & on Maine Farms*. Dr. David C. Smith December 7, 1983
- Cassette 6: Lecture series: *Religions of Maine*. Dr. Stephen Marini. December 15, 1983, Fort Kent, Maine.
- Cassette 7: Lecture series: *Religions of Maine*. Dr. Stephen Marini. December 15, 1983
- Cassette 8: Lecture Series: *Treasure Chest of Daniel Lambert*, Alan Taylor. Undated
- Cassette 9: Lecture Series: *Treasure Chest of Daniel Lambert*, Alan Taylor. Undated

² <https://mainehumanities.org/about-mhc/history/>