September 2015

Norma R. Kalloch Correspondence

Norma Robbins Kalloch 1922-1986

Anna Parker

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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KALLOCH, Norma
b. Portland, Maine
November 2, 1966

Mrs. Norman R. Kalloch
730 Old County Road
Rockland, Maine 04841

Dear Mrs. Kalloch:

The news of your book, DRIFTWOOD FROM THE SANDS OF TIME, was welcome, and we hope that you have been agreeably impressed with its success.

Do you know of the Maine Author Collection? This is a permanent exhibit of the writings of Maine people, or books written about Maine. It numbers over three thousand volumes, most of which are inscribed presentation copies. All kinds of books are here, of course -- cookbooks, history, poetry, novels, children's stories, art, philosophy. We also try to gather biographical and critical material about our authors, so that information on Maine writers may be complete.

We hope that you and Mrs. Parker may want to inscribe a copy of DRIFTWOOD FROM THE SANDS OF TIME, so that it may be added to this collection. We should be delighted to include it among the other Maine books.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Driftwood from the Sands of Time, a book of poetry published Friday, is now available in the Rockland area. Poet-author is Mrs. Norma Kalloch of Rockland and the illustrations were created by Mrs. Anna Parker of St. George. Matching the provocative title of the 72-page book, the paper used as its stock is tanglewood and the color is sandalwood. The illustrations are in russet brown and, like the poems, cover a wide variety of subjects most of which will prove of interest to the State of Maine native and visitor alike.

Driftwood from the Sands of Time is published by The Courier-Gazette, Inc., and is the latest in a number of books printed at the newspaper plant.

Mrs. Kalloch is a native of the state and first became interested in poetry when, at the age of three, she rhymed her first two words. This first rhyme led to others and she cannot now remember when she did not enjoy writing. "Driftwood" marks her first book publication but is also only the first step — already Ideals Magazine has accepted four of her poems and asked for more. She and Mrs. Parker expect to collaborate on other projects including poems, of course, and greeting cards and the like.

Driftwood was born in Portland but has lived in the Rockland area most of her life. Her first published poem appeared in The Courier-Gazette when she was only nine years old. The new book is a collection of poems written through a period of years. When in Michigan, Mrs. Kalloch often wrote poetry to her children and a teacher at the University of Michigan asked if she would mind having her work evaluated. She did not and the poems were rated as equivalent to those of Edgar Guest, the poet whose work so often had appeared in daily newspapers before his death and who had many books published.

Father Was Sea Captain

Mrs. Kalloch’s father, Donald E. Robbins, was a sea captain and also a lighthouse keeper on Riving Island off York Beach for a time. Mrs. Kalloch spent her summers on the island during his tenure there but boarded on the mainland during the winter months, attending school in Portland, Rockland and Augusta. While she spends much of her time writing, she also works part-time in the x-ray department of Camden Community Hospital.

The youngest of her three children, Sandra Jean Sargent, is a junior at Rockland District High School. Two others are married and there are five grandchildren. Her husband, Norman, is a fuel oil dealer in Rockland. Mrs. Kalloch is a member of the Emblem Club and while in the Midwest was active in a creative group, the Wonderland Writers, at Argentine, Mich. She has lived on both coasts of the continental United States, having been in California for a time. One of her children was born there.

Mrs. Parker was born in Milford, N. H., and has lived at St. George since 1959. Her husband, John is music director at Georges Valley High School and the couple has three children, the youngest a first grade student at St. George Elementary School. He was born about six weeks after the Parkers moved into their Long Cove home at St. George.

Mrs. Parker operates the Long Cove Studio which opened last summer at her home and attracted many visitors. Last year she won the first prize Purchase Award for the 6th annual international art contest sponsored by the Washington School of Art at Port Washington, L. I. She is currently studying at the art school, her subject commercial art as she has completed the painting courses.

Mrs. Parker studied fashion design at Jackson van-Ladau School of Design in Boston and was a dress designer for three years at Fitchburg, Mass. Just recently she did the illustrations for a brochure distributed by St. George and has been doing free lance commercial work since moving to the coastal area.
Mrs. Norman R. Kalloch
145 Main Street
Thomaston, Maine 04861

Dear Mrs. Kalloch:

What a charming first impression your DRIFTWOOD makes! Certainly it was a happy combination of poet and artist, and the lovely colors are most appealing.

Thank you for the Maine Author Collection copy. We are grateful to be able to add these poems of sea and shore and family to the Maine exhibit, and appreciate your interest and generosity.

The biographical material about you which we have for our files is from a newspaper, which says that you were born in Portland. If sometime you are willing to let us have the exact date, our information will be more complete.

Again thank you for this first book of poems, and our good wishes for succeeding volumes.

Sincerely yours

hmj
In Charge of
Maine Author Collection