October 2015

LeRoy Nile Correspondence

LeRoy Nile 1915-

Hilda McLeod Jacob

Maine State Library

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NILE, LEROY.

Rangesley.
March 8, 1948

Mr. LeRoy Nile
125 East Earle Street
Greenville, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Nile:

The notice of your new book, TALES OF THE RANGELEY LAKES, has reached us, and we are very much interested. We shall want a copy, and also a copy of KENNEBAGO SUMMER. Will you please let us know the price of the latter, so that we may send an order covering both books.

It occurs to us that you may not know of the Maine Author Collection. This is a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people or about the state, and includes over fifteen hundred inscribed presentation volumes. The inscriptions are varied, and lend much to the value of such a collection. We also gather biographical information about the authors, and preserve the correspondence in special volumes. The collection is of interest to visitors and of worth to students and researchers. It is the only place where all the books of all Maine authors are preserved as a unit, and we take pride in the diversity of subject matters and in the general enthusiasm of the authors and the library visitors.

TALES OF THE RANGELEY LAKES AND KENNEBAGO SUMMER would be additions which we would be pleased to see on these shelves. The copies which we purchase will be for lending, and we hope that you may want to inscribe and present a copy of each title for the Maine Author Collection. Please accept our good wishes for the success of the new book, and our cordial invitation to call at the library and see the collection when you may be in Maine.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
Mrs. Hilda McLeod Jacob  
Maine Author Collection  
State Library  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Your letter of March 8 was received yesterday, and it pleases me very much to be invited to present a copy of each of my books to the Maine Author Collection. Accordingly, I mailed to you this morning a copy of "Kennebago Summer" for the collection and also a copy for the library. The price of the library copy is $2.00, postpaid.

I am putting you down on my list to purchase a copy of "Tales of the Rangeley Lakes" and it will be sent to you when it is available. In addition, I will send the inscribed copy you desire for your collection.

Until this year I was a life-time resident of Rangeley, but am now living in the South by virtue of having married a South Carolina girl who loves Maine in the summer but who thinks the winters are too severe. However, I intend to be in Maine as often as possible, and think we will compromise on Maine in the summer and South Carolina in the winter.

I was an Associated Press correspondent for about 15 of my 32 years, and have also done a bit of writing for the Boston Post, Globe and Daily Record. Prior to the War, I was projectionist at the Lakeside Theatre in Rangeley, but found time to take hundreds of pictures of sundry subjects (some of which appeared in "Life" and "Look"), and did a little ad writing for the Willard Storage Battery Company in Saturday Evening Post, Popular Mechanics and "Life".

After 54 months in the Army (New England's 43rd Infantry Division), I returned to Rangeley and became manager of the new Playhouse Theatre. "Kennebago Summer" was written in six days during November 1946 and came out the following January in an edition of 2,400 copies which went on sale in Rangeley and vicinity and were all sold in six months. The book is now out of print. Being an outdoor man at heart, I found it necessary last year to resign from my position in the theatre, and I became Assistant Editor of the Rangeley Record, a weekly summer newspaper which operates from June 1 to Labor Day.
When the Record suspended publication for the winter, I started writing "Tales of the Rangeley Lakes" and finished it in South Carolina in February. It is now about ready to go on the press and should be published by April 15. The Knowlton & McLeary Company, Farmington, Maine, is publishing it.

You can see that I haven't had a very exciting career, even though it has been varied to say the least. The Greenville (S. C.) News-Piedmont recently invited me to join their staff of writers, and I may take the position. In doing so, however, I feel that I would be severing all my connections with Maine -- something I dislike to do. I prefer to be free to go back to Maine whenever I feel the urge, which will always be often.

Thank you for your invitation to join the Maine Author Collection. It makes me feel that, even though my books aren't too widely distributed, I have won a small spot in your Hall of Fame for Maine Writers -- an honor that I probably don't rightly deserve, but for which I am very grateful.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
March 22, 1948

Mr. LeRoy Nile
125 East Earle Street
Greenville, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Nile:

KENNEBAGO SUMMER has a flavor of freshness and affectionate memory that we like. The two copies arrived safely, and we are glad to have the book in the library, only regretting that we did not learn of it sooner.

You are very kind to inscribe the Maine Author Collection copy, and we especially appreciate being able to have these copies, since the book is now out of print.

We look forward to seeing TALES OF THE RANGELEY LAKES. Enclosed is the card which you sent, and you will receive a regular purchase order from the State Bureau of Purchases before long.

Thank you for the biographical sketch. That is just what we want on our authors, and the only information that we could now ask for is the birthdate. Perhaps you will be kind enough, at your convenience, to let us know; and we shall then consider the information on you complete.

Thank you, too, for the Maine Author Collection copy of KENNEBAGO SUMMER. It is too bad that such a charming book is out of print, but we know that we are fortunate in being able to include it in this library.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
224 West Earl St.  
Greenville, S.C.  
July 22, 1948

Dear Mrs. Jacob,

I wonder if you are still interested in having a copy of my book "Tales I the Rangeley Lakes," notice I which you received in March.

Because I failed to receive an order from the Bureau I Purchases, I thought that perhaps you had changed your mind.

If you still care to purchase a copy, please let me know soon as the edition is limited. The price is $3.00, and I will gladly send an extra one for the collection.

I have also failed to receive payment of $2.00 for the copy of "Kiss Me, Kate." I sent to you in March.

Sincerely yours,

Everett Wiley

Please note change of address.
July 26, 1948

Mr. LeRoy Nile
224 West Earle Street
Greenville, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Nile:

Thank you very much for writing to us about TALES OF THE RANGELEY LAKES and KENNEBAGO SUMMER.

We do not know what cog slipped, but we think we have now taken care of the necessary details. You really will have an order through the Bureau of Purchases for one copy of each book. As you reminded us, you have already sent KENNEBAGO SUMMER. When you receive the purchase order, will you please send TALES OF THE RANGELEY LAKES, and a bill for both books. We cannot seem to find a bill for the former, and this is very likely the reason that the wheels of progress seemed to stop! We are very sorry that you were obliged to call the matter to our attention, but we appreciate your doing so.

Your address at this season prompts us to extend sympathy. Should you not be somewhat farther north?

Sincerely yours

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection
August 19, 1948

Mr. LeRoy Nile
224 West Earle Street
Greenville, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Nile:

The books arrived, the bill arrived, and in due course the latter will progress through the official channels, and you will have a check from the State Treasurer.

We are delighted to add TALES OF THE RANGELEY LAKES to the Maine Author Collection, and warmly appreciate your thoughtfulness in inscribing the book. It is a volume we shall make good use of in the lending section of the library, and one which we are happy to have in the exhibit collection.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of
Maine Author Collection