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Transcript of a sound recording in MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine, 1931-1973

Title: Bangor During Prohibition

Date: December 28, 1955

Recording number: D 12.49a; CD 20, track 10

Length of recording: 1:01

[transcript begins]

ANNOUNCER: We know that you have enjoyed this concert of the Bangor Male Chorus and hope that you'll be amused by the story of Carry Nation's visit to the Bangor House. We'll give you the background of the times and tell the actual story at the next concert of the Chorus. In the 1880s and 90s, Bangor was a rip-roaring lumberjack town, and in the Devil's Half Acre, as lower Union and Broad streets were called, every other building was a bar. Most of the other establishments had even less claim to respectability. Maine was then a prohibition state, but Bangor was pretty much a law unto itself. The Bangor plan was in full swing and instead of a license, the saloon keeper paid a stiff fine twice a year. While the police frowned on the practice of lifting a back door and dropping a too-troublesome lumberjack into the Kenduskeag, they otherwise left the saloon keeper pretty much to himself. The Bangor House, like the other hotels, paid its regular fine and ran quite an open bar where the solid citizens could entertain their friends and customers. Next week we'll tell you about Carry Nation's visit to the Bangor House.

[transcript ends]

For more information about this transcript, audio recording, or other materials in Special Collections at the University of Maine, contact:

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