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Virginia H. Fontaine
7879 Publications Depot
and Records Center
APO 757 c/o PM, NY., NY.

Mr. Walter Monfried
"The Milwaukee Sentinel"
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

August 15, 1952

Dear Mr. Monfried:

I am enclosing a photo with story about Marion Yahr and Mary Wigman which I hope your newspaper will be interested in publishing.

Recently the Swiss Society for Dance and Gymnastic invited me to visit their school as a writer and photographer and there I met Marion Yahr for the first time, although we were both born and have lived most of our lives in Milwaukee.

In a short time I learned how important Miss Yahr is to the Modern Dance throughout the world because she stood by and helped her friend, Mary Wigman, when help was most needed, and, as a result, the Swiss International Summer School for the Modern Dance is considered the finest on the Continent. Its faculty has six of the best teachers in Europe, but the dancers from all the dance centers in Europe and America come here primarily to study under Mary Wigman.

Several American students told me that their training could not be considered complete without working under Wigman, and that they had learned so much at the school which they never got from the best teachers in the States.

The city government of western Berlin supports the Wigman Dance School with a small allotment and, in 1951, awarded her the Berlin Prize for achievement in the Fine Arts. It is self-evident that the city of western Berlin, the living symbol of democratic freedom, would not support a school and give a prize to one whom it did not admire as one of its' own.

If your paper can use my story and photo, would you kindly send payment to my above address.

Very sincerely yours,

Virginia H. Fontaine

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