

Citizens of Lindsay who remember John Thorson, a former Lindsay reporter and former recreation director of Lindsay and Cobourg, will read with interest the following extracts from a letter received from J. P., now engaged in Governmental Recreational affairs in the Yukon Territory:

"I guess it must have been somewhat of a surprise to hear from this part of the country. I'm sure that, except for the Ottawa activities of our member of parliament, Eric Nielson, the Yukon is almost the least known part of Canada.

"It is true that we are a long way off from most of the larger centres — 1,300 miles from Edmonton, or Vancouver, and the population of our 200,000 square miles is less than 20,000. It's also true that the mention of the name means, to most people, gold, although the last big gold mining (dredging) operation closed down two years ago, or cold weather, which we have, though the mean January temperature in Whitehorse would, this year particularly, be within a few degrees of Lindsay or Peterborough.

Because of the deplorable press communications, however, very little of the up-to-date views of the Yukon ever gets outside. It's enough to make a former newsman want to get back at it, to realize that there's no regular feed of news from here to C.P. or U.P.I., even through the C.B.C. outlet, and no press wire service bringing in news. Consequently we rely on the C.B.C. radio news or pay 30c a day for an air-freight edition of the Vancouver Province.

"The result of this communications gap is that very little is known outside, except in mining or financial circles, of the boom that's starting in the Yukon now. A major development at Anvil, 200 miles north of Whitehorse, will be in production in 1969 and may eventually be the largest community in the Territory. There is a wave of exploration and development work going on in the same general area, as well as in several Whitehorse area locations. The investment in these projects is tremendously large.

“Neither is it generally known except to tourists, that the Yukon has a large cottage industry in Indian handicrafts — that increased demand could turn into a major economic factor for the fairly large native population (who are experiencing many of the same problems of integration or economic privation that Indians in many parts of the country are).

“As a tourist attraction, the Yukon is well known in much of Western Canada, though the Alaska Highway is no throughway. Big game hunters from all over the world know about Yukon trophies. Some day the mountains of the Yukon will have the same international attraction for alpinists and skiers.

“Community life here is, because of the isolation (and the fact we don't have free TV yet) a good deal more active than I've run into before. This is even more true of the smaller centres than Whitehorse. Watson Lake, for example, has less than 1,000 citizens, but has a community centre now valued at more than \$100,000. Every community has at least one or two sheets of ice in its curling rink. Whitehorse has a total of 10 sheets of artificial ice in three clubs. Dawson and Whitehorse have swimming pools, and some of the smaller centres have expressed interest in portable pool installations so they can begin instruction programs. (Most of the lakes

are too deep and cold for swimming). The whole range of usual community sports is engaged in, the degree depending on the size of the community.

"Hockey and softball are naturally popular so are badminton, basketball and broom ball. The summer is, for most people, for fishing. The lakes are still full up here. Difficulty in growing good grass has hampered the development of golf, though I think a course is being planned, with sand "greens".

Other forms of recreation, including active drama, music and art groups, and a host of social clubs, especially in Whitehorse. In fact, at last count there were, I understand, close to 70 men's organizations in the city.

If there is a problem in sports development, it lies in distance. The small centres, large enough to have only one hockey team, for instance, may be 150 miles apart or more, in our area of the territory. We are attempting to develop area leagues to meet their needs. An all-Yukon tournament or series could bring teams from 700 miles apart, together. Beyond the Territorial Championship, the next step normally will be B.C., since the Yukon hasn't been accepted for direct entry into any national playoffs yet. But a trip for a softball team to a northern B.C. tournament, for instance, can cost over \$3,000, so our Department has to be prepared to put a large part of its budget into travel grants, and this demand is bound to increase as more sports are organized on a territorial basis.

It was, to a large extent, the challenge and potential of this part of the job, not only in the sports area but in the many other aspects of recreation, that interested me in coming here, plus, of course, a desire to see this part of the country. The main function is in the administration of fitness and amateur sports funds under the Federal Territorial Agreement — in following this, this year, we will sponsor or assist in some 40 clinics and courses for sports coaches, officials and organizers, as well as making grants to local and area programs and helping Territorial Sports Associations. We also will be the liaison for such national projects as the Canadian Summer Games in Halifax in 1969

and regional ones like the Arctic Winter Games, to be inaugurated at Yellowknife in 1970. I'm also a member of the Provincial Directors Committee for the Fitness Directorate, which meets twice yearly. So, in that respect, I won't be isolated here entirely.

"I think the job, and the Territory, have a great future. Temporary inconvenience, such as the lack of entertainment, amenities and higher consumer prices due to the distance from supply sources, are compensated for by the attitude of the people, the fact that there are too many things to do, and the greatest geography in the country. Civilization of the southern type may come with the future growth, but it will take many years for this part of the country to become overcrowded."

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"Mistakes still happen in the best of regulated families" is an old saying and columnists make mistakes, a fact which was brought out when a call was received from Mrs. Harry Pearson, of Cambridge who is visiting old friends in Lindsay. Apparently the first colored resident of Lindsay was a man named Hank Nedo, who lived in the East Ward and for many years was the lighter of signal lamps

in the eight lighthouses which marked the route of the Scugog River from Lindsay to Sturgeon Lake. A Mr. Thomas, referred to in this column, was a gentleman of French extraction who had a dark hue skin.

Mrs. Pearson gave an emphatic "No" when asked if she was related to the Prime Minister whose Grandfather was at one time Minister in Cambridge Street United Church. Mrs. Pearson was the former Miss McCormack of Ops Township and her husband was at one time a section man with the Grand Trunk Railway in Lindsay. The names of many fine Lindsay business men of yesteryears were recalled, such as Dundas and Flavelle, F. W. Sutcliffe, Ernest McGaffey, Thos. Brady, Spratt and Killen, A. Higinbottom, Barney Gough, John and Tom Flurey, Tangney's, Gregory's, McCarty's and others.

"School days were actually good days," said Mrs. Pearson. "The old Union School, east of the Collegiate, was a splendid place of learning but there was a lot of time for play. I remember a wonderful teacher by the name of Miss Ward, Miss Smith, Miss Graham, Miss Fanning, Miss Fee and others."

Mrs. Pearson recalled Jack Hutchinson the Carter and his team of black horses and Fred Edmonds who ran the movie picture house at the foot of Kent Street who also at times entertained with a Punch and Judy Show and a bit of ventriloquism.

Mrs. Pearson's favorite minister was Rev. Jas. Wallace of the Presbyterian Church and Rev. Mr. McIntosh. Her mother's milkman was Mr. McCausland who had a dairy on Lindsay Street South, just north of the Riverside Cemetery. Milk was delivered to the Pearson home at one time for 6 cents a quart and then got as high as 10 cents a quart. "They were days never to be forgotten. The people were kind. Many of them were poor but the complaints were few."

Among the several letters received by this columnist several weeks ago was one of much interest from Burleigh Wallace of R.R. No. 2, Haliburton. The writer says in part: "I enjoy reading your writings in "The Post" and noted your remarks regarding a visit you recently made to Haliburton. You stated you saw a building near the Curling Rink in the Recreation Park that appeared as though it had at one time been a school house or church (the enclosed booklet contains a picture of it on page 16). It formerly stood in No. 1 Dycart School section and was moved to the village several years ago."

Burleigh Wallace also sent along a small, well illustrated colorful booklet which bears the name Haliburton Hills. Considerable thought has gone into the preparation of the booklet and readers interested in securing a copy of same should write to the author mentioned above. The Poems appearing in the book include: Haliburton Hills, The Pioneer, The March of Progress, Kushog, Springtime in the North, The Teacher, The Highway "Gang", Hockey, The Hockey Tournament, The "Huskies", Pictures of Memory, The Children's Friend, A Farewell to Koshlong etc. etc.