The Troubadour of Percy

In the Middle Ages in beautiful southern France, Italy and Spain, itinerant poets and singers, known as troubadours, traveled the roads by foot. They were akin to the wandering minstrels of England and the pied pipers of Germany.

In the 1920s and 30s, a colourful figure, dressed always in a heavy dark cloth coat, could be seen wandering the winding roads and lanes of Percy Township, singing as he went. His name was Bill Weber.

Bill lived by himself in an old house west of Warkworth, near Skinkle's Pond. At the time, a road went up the south side of the pond by the old Warkworth Lumber Company and led directly to his home. As he grew older, he went to live with his sister in Meyersburg, near Percy Boom. It is thought that he lived to be about ninety years of age.

He could be seen winter and summer, spring and fall, walking over the hills and dales of Percy Township. When he was hungry, he would stop for a meal at any house he might be near. He was often early enough for breakfast and, it was reported, had occasion to help himself to the money left out in the bottles for the milkman.

Bill attended all the funerals and auction sales, although he was never known to buy anything. On Sunday, he would appear in churches and sing along lustily, almost bellowing, having memorized all of the words.

Weekdays, Bill could often be found sitting around the hot stove at the back of Boyce's Hardware Store in Warkworth, where the laundromat can now be found. He would swap stories with whoever would come in to get warm or make a purchase.

On one occasion, Bill was taken to court, having been accused of steeling an overcoat. When asked by the judge to state his occupation, Bill pleaded for clemency claiming, "I am an evangelist! I hold 'tractive meetings (protractive talks) with the Indians at Alderville."

So if you are traveling in the woods of Percy, especially near Skinkle's Pond, or if you are in church or at a sale, you might just hear a distant voice coming from what may look like a grey, wispy cloud. It could be the ghost of Bill Weber, the Troubadour of Percy!

Card clubs report week's results

Salem Social Club

The Salem Social Club reports the following scores from the March 27 euchre:ladies' high Bernice Brown; ladies' low Marie Morrison; men's high Morley Wilce; men's low Bill Brown; lone hands Lorna Freelamd; travelling prize Edna Yarrow; 50-50-draws Leona Robertson and Bill Brown.

Results from the April 3 euchre were:ladies' high Leona Robertson; ladies' low Marjorie Allen; men's high Bill Brown; men's low Edith McKenzie; lone hands Reg Brett; 50-50 draws: Lorna Freeman and Leona Robertson.

On April 17, Friday, the club will have a pot luck dinner at 12 noon.

- Viola Stickle

Castleton Seniors' Friendship

The Castleton Seniors' Friendship Club met March 30 with a noon potluck dinner enjoyed by all. There were 36 members present.

Euchre results were as follows:

ladies' high Jean Sprung; ladies' lone hand Edna Pratt; ladies' low Murla Clark; men's high Gordon Ellis; men's lone hand Lorna Mountjoy, men's low Ken Bellamy; travelling prize Lorna Mountjoy.

- Florence Lee

Trinity Church Thursday

Trinity Church euchre was held in the Anglican parish hall April 2.

Winners were as follows: ladies' high Ann Redegeld; ladies' lone Mary Harnden; ladies' low Cecily Scroggs; men's high Edna Pratt; men's lone Gordon Smith; men's low Eileen Sheldrick.

The next euchre will be held April 16.

55-Plus at Legion

Winners at the 55-Plus Club on March 31 were:

Diane Gibson with a high score of 5290 in bridge; Judy Samis with a high of 125 in darts; three members were tied for euchre; the cribbage players tied with five games each.

Judy Samis brought a lovely cake and we thank her.

The club meets every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., at the Colborne Legion.

- Colleen Meddaugh

John Day of John Day Haulage was awarded a certificate of appreciation from Branch 187 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Colborne, at the March 28 awards dinner. Mr. Day's firm supplied and filled in gravel and top soil for the flower bed around the parking lot light pole. Other businesses honoured were Rutherford's Road-side Market, Fox IGA, Colborne Fuel Centre, Encore Tents, Hoselton Studio, and the Colborne Chronicle.

Photo by Mandy Martin