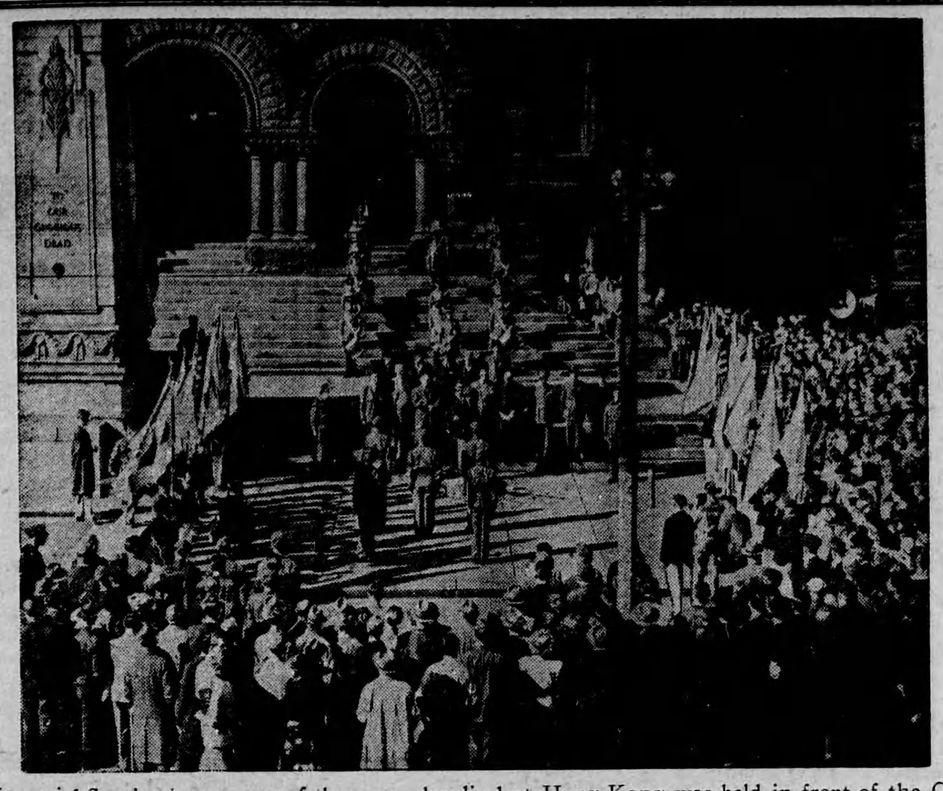

Memorial Service in memory of the men who died at Hong Kong was held in front of the City Hall, Toronto. Wreath was placed by the widow of Rfm. William Nicholson, Royal Rifles of Canada. Veterans received colors from Mayor Saunders.

TEEN-TOWN TOPICS

By BARRY MURKAR

"Well, it's about time you got here," snorted Susie, as I came to a stop at her front veranda.

"I had to pump up the tire on my bike," I shot back, "Are you kids all set? I've got the weiners and the buns."

Susie, Gwen and Don got up off the step and proceeded to tie the bags containing the lunch to their bikes.

"Do you think it will rain?" asked Gwen. "It's getting a little dark in the west."

"Nah," I replied, "I can tell by the clulmulus, or whatever it is."

"Just what are you trying to give us now?" scoffed Susie.

"An air force guy told me all about it. You can tell the weather by watching for the cold fronts. . . I think. No rain today, kids. Take it from an old weather prophet."

"Huh and pooh and huh," chorused three voices.

We started out north of town with everyone convinced there would be no rain. It was a beautiful day. One of those cool fall days—that make you feel glad to be alive. The bright sun brought out all the autumn hues of the turning leaves, and the brown stubble in the fields beside us looked lonely and forgotten.

"Let's go up to the 7th, along to the Brock Road and down to the 4th," I suggested. "We can cook supper over an open fire in the bush; and I know just the spot."

Everyone seemed satisfied with this idea and we rode gayly along, singing and talking. Three miles north, my back tire went down and I slowly bumped to a stop.

"It's beyond me how you do it," groaned Susie. "If anyone can louse up a plan, it's you."

"Now don't get your braids tangled," I cracked. "It's only a valve."

"Look's like a hole in the tube," offered Don. It was. And there we were.

We hailed a kind-hearted motorist and hoped that he would have some patching equipment. To our surprise he did have. We soon had the tire fixed and were on our way.

Four miles and eight concessions later, Susie was chinning the handlebars from exhaustion. Gwen groaned with every push of the pedal, while I tried to cheer them on. And me with calluses on my calluses.

We reached the bush at last. A path winding off the roadway to the right led into the heart of the tall green trees. Digging a hole in the ground in a nice clearing, we soon had a crackling fire going. Gwen and Susie sprawled out on the ground, weary and sore.

"Reminds me of my boy scout days, Don. If we had time, I'd start this fire with just two sticks of wood."

"We have to get home tonight," moaned Susie. "Make with the heat and get those hot dogs roasted."

"There's a woman for you, Don. They don't get the feeling of the woods like us men. No sense of pioneering, no feeling of being alone in the bush to survive or die and only your bare hands to provide. They want it just like at home. Served up on a platt—".

"Oh, for goodness sake, shut up and get those hot dogs on," interrupted Susie again.

In a few minutes, the smell of hot dogs, mustard and roasted apples permeated the air.

"My gosh, it's starting to sprinkle," warned Gwen.

In a matter of minutes, a wild and windy thunderstorm broke all around us. Running through the torrent of rain with what food we could grab, each of us stood under a tree.

"I'm soaked and my hair has all come out," wailed Susie.

"I'm cold, wet and I ache all over," sobbed Gwen. "Some weekend this is."

Three pair of eyes from under three different trees turned—and the burning gaze of all three stretched across to the tree under which I was standing—with the rain dripping down my neck from the branches above.

"There now, smarty," sneered Susie, in my direction, "my weekend guests are sorry they came, and it's all your fault."

"Stay here and I'll run down the road to a farm house and phone to town for a taxi," I offered.

"Forget it, we'll all go," said Don. "We can't get any more wet than we are."

So we started off, splashing our way down the muddy road. Pant legs lost their creases, sweaters turned color from red to pink and, a we walked, each of us could feel the water oozing out of our shoes.

Riding home in the taxi, I could hear the muffled voices of the other three in the back seat. I think it was Don who said: "well, if he didn't know how to prophesy the weather by looking at the sky, why didn't he shut up?"

"You could ask that question after a lot of things he says," answered Susie.

And so we finally arrived home after a bike hike and picnic in the country.

Sports – And One Thing or Another

By FRANK MANN HARRIS

("A Sixbit Critic")

Down in wartime Washington a couple of reporters, just as a gag, cooked up a highly imaginary yarn about the Emperor Hirohito having made a hush-hush flying trip to Allied headquarters for the purpose of talking peace terms. They confided this piece of "information" to just one man, swearing him to secrecy. Inside of six hours that identical story, having taken wings to itself, was back to Washington as an authentic piece of "news" from the Pacific Coast.

* * *

This was cited, by the newspaper from which we copied it, as a startling instance of the speed with which gossip gets around in time of war. But to anybody at all familiar with the way rumors travel at a racetrack, it will seem comparatively snail-like. We recall an afternoon at Thorncliffe when a couple of guys, for no good reason except that they had nothing better to do, decided to fabricate a red-hot "tip," start it on its rounds, and then see what would happen.

* * *

They selected a steed we'll call RUMP ROAST—the very worst horse in the race just coming up. Getting together in a secluded portion of the paddock, but taking care there was a single bystander within earshot, one of them murmured confidentially to the other, "I just got word from the stable that this is going to be a shoo-in for RUMP ROAST—every jock in the race will have a ticket on it, and the owner has wired away five frand on its nose." (This owner, by the way, didn't have five thousand cents to bless himself with, let alone that many dollars, and everybody knew it.)

* * *

Having thus sown the good seed the two conspirators proceeded, in a leisurely manner, through the crowds. Before they had travelled the length of the grandstand they had received no less than seven different tips on RUMP ROAST, one good pal even dashing down from the press box to let them in on "the hottest thing of the meeting"; and the probable odds on that steed, which had opened at a legitimate 50 to 1, now stood at 9 to 5.

* * *

The sequel? Well, by the time they reached the Club House lawn, news of the coming "killing" had reached such proportions, and bore so many earmarks of authenticity, that it appeared to be an opportunity too golden to be overlooked. And you needn't peg this as merely a flight into the realms of fancy either, seeing that we were one of the pair that started this wild rumor—and ended up by betting on our own fabrication. As for RUMP ROAST, he finished a bang-up ninth in a field of ten, one of the others pulling up with a bowed tendon.

* * *

Our educational and church authorities are continually deploring the evil effects of sensational "comic" books, lurid movies, and crime-featuring radio dramas on young and growing minds, and wishing our boys and girls would take greater interest in literature of the better sort. Such being the case, why is it that they still insist on building Public Libraries which, from the outside, are just about as attractive and glamorous as some Morgue or Isolation Hospital? In these days of modern merchandising, packaging is almost as important as contents; and if we ever saw a Library that was even one-tenth as inviting to youthful eyes as an up-to-date Soda Bar or Movie House, we would have greater hope for the success of the "better reading" movement.

Sing Sing prison gets its name from the Indian words "ossine ossine," meaning "stone upon stone."

How to Combat RHEUMATIC PAIN

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