

# TEA TIME TALK

(BY WILMA J. MARCH)

There are so many things to tell you about my recent trip to beautiful Silver Springs that I scarcely know where to begin. If I could only give you an adequate word-picture of the "Glory of glories" as William Jennings Bryan called it, Billy Sunday is gone from this earth but the Springs which he so fittingly described still bubble on yielding 500,000,000 gallons per day on an average, and having at one time a maximum flow of 800,000,000 gallons, enough water to supply the city of New York. He said "God must have crumbled His most perfect rainbow and dropped it in Silver Springs." Thomas Edison and his bride made these historic Springs the scene of their honeymoon. The imagination of the poet Coleridge, was captured by William Bartram's description in 1774, of the subterranean river feeding Silver Springs, resulting in "Kubla Khan"—"where Alph, the sacred river ran, through caverns measureless to man, down to a sunless sea."

Among the springs of the world, Silver Springs is unique and in a class all its own. One can so easily imagine while riding in one of the electrically operated glass-bottomed boats, that they are in an aeroplane flying over deserts, mountain ridges, Falls, beautiful gardens, and the scenic sights of famous parks all combined into one magic ride. But let me tell you the history of the glass-bottomed boats, the second one ever in existence on this continent being there on view. It is owned by E. Ross Allen, owner and manager of the Florida Reptile Institute at the Springs. Mr. H. Jones was the owner and operator of this small craft, with the inset of plate glass, measuring about a foot and a half wide and probably three feet in length, in the centre of the boat. From that day until now many models have appeared, till now the luxurious electrically-equipped models tell the story of the evolution in this line of science. The practice of showing underwater scenery from glass bottom boats is believed to have originated at Silver Springs and probably dates back to pioneer days when boats of this type were used for locating cypress logs in the Silver River. Cypress wood is one of great value and is not native to many states. Pecky cypress is used for the very finest of furniture and finishing in palatial homes. Stairways, panelling and fireplaces of this rich, distinctive wood hold highest place in the houses of today. It takes centuries for it to grow to maturity, as the cypress knots show in their various stages of development. The present Silver Springs boat is a type peculiarly its own, the out-growth of long study and successive improvements to perfect the model best adapted to the purpose it serves.

As one skims over the crystal stream, the wonders of the underwater life appear vividly before the eyes. The Springs have rightly been named "Nature's Underwater Fairyland." Certainly no where in this state can one see so much native vegetation and animal life, including reptile, bird and fish life, as here, at the source of Silver River. More than fifty varieties of fish, turtles and fresh water shellfish may be seen in their native habitat in Silver Springs, as plainly as though they were in an aquarium in your own home. Numerous species of plants, some of them bewitchingly beautiful, rare and exotic, grow in profusion on the bottom of the river bed. There are plants that bloom and bear fruit under water. Most interesting of the latter is the ribbon or eel grass producing the small, white Bridal Veil flower, resembling an orange blossom, which according to tradition is lucky in love. Many picking it have soon wed. The legend of this dainty flower (very much like a lily-of-the-valley in size and appearance) is that when plucking it, the lady places it in the heel of her left shoe and after six months of it remaining there, she will soon become a bride. A perfume made from this flower is now on sale and it emits a delicate odor of violets with a breath of yellow jessamine. This fragrance is supposed, by legend, to possess the same potency as a love charm as the flower itself. (No wonder so many northerners marry while in this

sunny state, when there are so many charms to aid Dan Cupid).

Most common of the other plants growing upon the bottom and surface of Silver Springs and River are: foxtail, coral ludwigia, money wort, water moss, water poppy, water lettuce and water hyacinth, arrow leaf, duckweed, hair algae, southern water lily and spider-dock. Among the very prettiest and most plentiful of the subaqueous plants are the carpet-grass and coral-fern. The gentle movement of the water due to the spring flow, plus the additional movement caused by the smooth gliding of the boat, makes the graceful swaying of the fronds seem like billowy banks of a magic carpet.

E. Ross Allen, Silver Springs naturalist, has definitely identified 35 kinds of fish, 11 species of turtles and several varieties of shellfish in the crystal waters. Jack Lamb, world champion Bass Fisherman, made this statement, "One of the greatest benefits that came to me from this wonderful trip was that it enabled me to make a close study of the black bass in their native haunts. A fisherman can learn more about their habits at Silver Springs in an hour than he could by fishing for them a year, and after all, a knowledge of their habits is necessary to catch them consistently." It is verily a fisherman's paradise, where literally thousands of fish and turtles of all kinds and sizes meet the boat and have a free-for-all game of football or rather noseball, to the delight of the visitors. It is cunning to watch those fish, both large and small, following the boat, knowing full well that balls of food are thrown out at intervals. The water is fairly alive, or in a turmoil, with fish, and turtles too, each and every one trying to out-do the others in gaining the coveted prize. The gar and cat fish do not come right to the surface in this race for the tasty morsel, but rather wait their chance to retrieve it from the smaller species. After the ball of soggy bread had passed from one to another in a swift game, the ugly cat fish, some of them weighing 30 or 40 pounds or more, and the dangerous appearing gar, laid claim to it through the right of their superior size. One huge cat fish overpowered the others and claimed the prize. But just then Mr. Turtle, with a circumference of five feet or more, decided that it was about time for him to make his wishes known also. Then the battle began. The cat fish nosed the ball beneath the fronds of swaying green, with Mr. Turtle close on his trail. The boat moved on with the current and the fight was lost to view.

Then at another favorite place we were given pieces of bread to give to the smaller varieties of fish that followed close in our pathway. Literally hundreds popped up to nibble the crusts. The water actually bubbled with excitement and one could easily have caught them in their bare hands. Cameras clicked and the banquet was over, till the next boat arrived.

Skimming over the green carpet of foliage suddenly there may be a drop of many feet, where mammoth rock ledges disclose strange formations; where an actual subterranean river issues forth from the big spring and endless cavern; where spacious caverns reveal the spectral rays of scintillating rainbows, scattered as if to paint each one in different hues. One enters the Bridal Chamber, as though a gauzy curtain were withdrawn and there before one's eyes, a room dainty enough for a fairy goddess was revealed. The angle of the sun's rays, the reflection and refraction, cause an interesting and intriguing change in the picture. Even climatic changes bring different results in the appearance of the various sections of the springs. One comes upon the ancient remains of an old half-sunken craft, which has become petrified believed to be a relic of the days of De Soto; the Devil's Kitchen, where the water bubbles through charcoal, resembling smoking campfires; the Blue Grotto, a pool of ethereal blue, where the water is clear as a crystal ball. It is always Christmas time in those sparkling waters, with evergreen trees twinkling as covered with snow and tinsel. The Garden of Eden and Sunken Gardens form under-water pictures which

seem like aerial views of vast estates and forests. In the Legendary Indian Cave, tradition says the lovers Ocklawaha and Winonah, their romance embittered by tribal enmity, plunged through the waters to the land from which their ancestors came. In the Volcanic Basin no vegetation grows but the springs give forth eruptions of charcoal, shells and ashes. Crevices and fissures in the rock, cause a swirling current of spring waters, and the pure white shells fly up like popcorn in the popping machine of Tony's street wagon. These and many more make up the various portions of the three mile ride in the glass bottom boat.

It is not every river which is navigable right to very source. Quoting an extract from one of the Florida Geographical reports: "Silver Springs at Ocala probably has the largest flow of any spring in the world namely, 22,134,780 gallons per hour. Freight and passenger boats, following the stream, enter and dock at the spring, affording one of the few cases of a stream navigable to its very head. The water is wonderfully clear and transparent, small objects being visible on the bottom of the spring at a depth of forty and more feet."

The resort, with its splendid bathing beach, its dining rooms, its gift shops, the Seminole Indian Village, the Florida Reptile Institute and other attractions is located at the very head of the Springs proper. Picture if you will a palm-fringed strip beside a lake of sapphire blue giving rise to a river of sparkling transparency and you have a birds-eye view of Silver Springs; but the water is blue only when viewed from a distance, for its crystal depths when seen from the surface are so clear that every plant and miniature object is perfectly visible. Cares and worries are lost for the time at least, in the wonders of this fairy-land.

Next week there will be more about this famous resort. There are snake stories, legends thrilling as any love tale ever written, and the description of the Jungle Cruise which reveals the jungle life as seen in the native haunts, where only those who seek the real atmosphere really go.

## The Churches

### Anglican Church Notes

Rev. C. O. Pherrill, B.A., B.D.

Christ Church, Markdale  
10 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11 a.m.—Morning Service.  
7 p.m.—Evening Service.

St. Matthias' Church, Berkeley  
2.15 p.m.—Sunday School.  
3 p.m.—Evening Service.

### Cooke's Presbyterian Church

Rev. T. O. Miller, B.A., Minister

11 a.m.—Morning Service.  
2.30 p.m.—Sunday School.  
7 p.m.—Evening Service.

### United Church of Canada

Rev. H. S. Warren, B.A.

10.45 a.m.—Church Service.  
11.45 a.m.—Sunday School.  
3 p.m.—Ebenezer Service.  
7 p.m.—Church Service.

### Gospel Workers' Church

Rev. A. Mills, Minister

Sunday School at 1.30 p.m. each Sunday.  
Preaching Services at 2.30 and 7.30 p.m.  
The Sunday evening service will be conducted by the young people.  
Prayer meeting in the church each Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock.  
Cottage prayer meeting each Friday evening.

### United Church of Canada Holland Centre Circuit

Rev. C. O. Wellerman, Pastor

Holland Centre—10.30 a.m.  
Harkaway—2.30 p.m.  
Berkeley—7.30 p.m.  
At evening service an illustrated lecture "Up and Down the Pacific Coast with a Missionary Mariner".

Subscribe for The Standard.

## AUCTION SALE

Of Valuable Farm Properties in the Township of Euphrasia

There will be offered for sale by Public Auction on WEDNESDAY, January 15th, 1936 at the hour of 1 o'clock in the afternoon at the Revere Hotel, in the Village of Markdale

By virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain mortgage which will be produced at the sale the following properties:

Parcel Number One—The east half of lot number 25 in the ninth concession of the Township of Euphrasia containing 100 acres more or less.

There is said to be erected thereon—A frame dwelling 20 feet x 30 feet, frame barn 40 feet x 60 feet and implement shed 20 feet x 30 feet.

Parcel Number Two—The east half of lot number 25 in the tenth concession of the Township of Euphrasia containing 100 acres more or less.

There is said to be erected thereon—A brick dwelling 28 feet x 30 feet and an addition 15 feet x 30 feet, a frame barn 50 feet x 50 feet and a hog pen 20 feet x 20 feet.

TERMS—Ten per cent. of the purchase money is to be paid down at the time of the sale. For balance terms will be made known at the sale. These properties will be offered subject to reserve bids. For

further particulars apply to Leonard & Leonard, Solicitors, 320 Bay Street, Toronto, or to W. L. Young, Markdale, Ontario.

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Estate of Peter Smith, late of Markdale in the Province of Ontario, Retired, deceased.

All persons having claims against the estate of Peter Smith, late of Markdale in the Province of Ontario, are required to send the same with particulars of the security, if any, held and verified by statutor declaration, to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of January, A.D., 1936, after which date the assets of the estate may be distributed among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice.

Dated at the Village of Hawarden in the Province of Saskatchewan this 5th day of December, A.D. 1935. Ernest Ptolmey, William J. Boyle, Executors.

Claims to be addressed to Ernest Ptolmey, R.R. No. 3, Markdale, Ont.

## Cook's Regulating Compound

A safe, reliable regulating medicine. Sold in three degrees of strength—No. 1, \$1; No. 2, \$3; No. 3, \$5 per box. Sold by all druggists, or sent prepaid on receipt of price. Free pamphlet. Address: THE COOK MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, ONT. (Formerly Windsor)



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Carefully Delivered  
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## Planning your Future

Deep in the heart of every young person burns the desire to possess the refinements and comforts of life and become a respected and responsible citizen.

### PREPARATION IS NECESSARY

Make that preparation by taking a course this Fall and Winter in Business Subjects in the

## Northern Business College

Owen Sound, Ontario

For Further Particulars call at the Office or write direct to  
C. A. FLEMING, F.C.A., Principal, Owen Sound, Ontario.

"College opens for the Winter Term, Jan. 2nd, 1936"

## SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICE

### for New Years Holiday Travel

To enable patrons to spend the greater part of the Holiday with their friends and be back home the same night, the Canadian Pacific will operate the following special train:

JAN. 1—NEW YEAR'S DAY

### OWEN SOUND - MARKDALE - TORONTO

Train 703, Owen Sound-Toronto and connecting Teeswater and Wingham branch line train, instead of leaving in the afternoon will operate as follows:

Lv. Owen Sound 7.00 p.m. Lv. Markdale 7.47 p.m.  
Ar. Toronto Union 11.00 p.m., making all stops.

Consult Agents or current Time Tables for detailed schedule  
Ask Regarding Special Low Fares For Christmas and New Years  
**CANADIAN PACIFIC**

## WM. F. POTTER

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## FLESHERTON

Announces the opening of an office at

## Perkins' Hardware Store MARKDALE

and will be in attendance every Tuesday and Friday from 2 to 6 p.m., and respectfully solicits your Watch, Clock and Jewellery Repairing. Every effort will be made to give a 3-day service on repairs, and workmanship is fully guaranteed. Over 20 years' experience in all branches of the trade