

Railway Built In Atmosphere of Doubt and Hope

On May 10th, 1952, the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of the Ontario Northland Railway will be commemorated at North Bay. It was on that day in 1902 that the "first sod" was turned by Hon. F. Latchford, Ontario Minister of Public Works. The ceremony took place at a point overlooking the west end of Trout Lake, close to the ruined foundation of the smelter hopelessly built during the heyday of the Cobalt boom. It was a day of almost general rejoicing for the people of North Bay and the event was witnessed by a large gathering of citizens which, however, had one notable absentee. The Mayor of North Bay refused to grace the occasion with his presence and spent the day campaigning for a candidate opposing the Government which was undertaking to construct a railway into a forbidding and virtually unknown country. He was not alone in predicting dire consequences from such a foolhardy undertaking. Little that was favorable was known about the country to the north and certainly none could predict, on any basis of fact, the tremendous development which followed the building of the railway.

The Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, as it was then called, was an altruistic project designed to give relief to a group of farmers who had settled at the north end of Lake Temiskaming. Although their land was fertile, its almost complete isolation and the lack of a market for its products reduced existence to the subsistence level. A railway was an imperative necessity. Its justification, from an economic point of view, was less apparent. However, a strong sense of social justice prevailed. This was reinforced to some extent by the result of two surveys, made two years before, which indicated that Northern Ontario possessed very considerable stands of merchantable timber, a great area of potential agricultural lands and some possibilities of mineral wealth.

It was in an atmosphere of doubt and vague hopes that the sod-turning ceremony took place on that day fifty years ago. The site chosen for this symbolic initial gesture is itself a commentary on the prevailing state of mind. It was three miles removed from Main street and reached over a bush road which made hard going for the procession of buggies, carry-alls and surreys with fringe on top. There was, however, shrewd calculation in the selection. It was by no means certain that North Bay, headed by a mayor bitterly opposed to the project would make smooth the entry to the town. From the point at Trout Lake, the rails could be run with no more difficulty to the little village of Nipissing. The question of a terminus was, therefore shrouded in mystery to a sufficient extent to consolidate North Bay opinion against the possibility of losing the new rail-

way to a rival community. The fifty years of progress has amply justified the blind faith shown in 1902 and arrangements are now being made to reenact the sod-turning ceremony at the same site as a gesture of confidence in the next half-century of Northern Ontario development.

SANATORIUM NEWS!

By JOHN JAMES

During the weekend we were visited by a musical group from Notre Dame du Nord, under the direction of Rev. Father Routhier who did a splendid job in presenting us with a very enjoyable afternoon.

Mrs. L. Watson was visited by her husband and her son, Clarence from Timmins.

Mrs. A. Polson was visited by husband and son, Aurel Polson from Temiskaming, Que.

Mr. Chartrand from Kapuskasing was in to see his wife.

Marg. Chevrier had her mother brothers, Joe and Guy, and her sister, Diane, all from Temiskaming to visit her.

Lillian Maille was visited by Fred Maille and his two sons Nova and Rene, and his three daughters.

Gerry Ogilvie had her mother and Mr. Don Taylor, also Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ferris.

Mrs. Ross McKinlay from Ottawa was visiting her son, Douglas and Mr. Jas. McKenzie of North Bay.

Mr. Sam Rossi was visited by his daughter of Hamilton; also a friend, Mr. Redwood from Cochrane.

Arthur Roy was visited by his brother, Vic Roy, also Joe Castle and family.

J. Barbour and his fiancée were visiting John Grenier.

Mr. Heroux had his family in to see him.

Bill Parliament was visited by his brother, Stewart, and Mr. Ian Linkenfilter; also Bill and George Faulkner and Mr. Phil Anderson.

Arthur Godfrey and His Animal Friends

Visit, with Photographer Ozzie Sweet, the farm of TV and Radio Star Arthur Godfrey. Sweet reports counting seven elk, 18 deer, 24 Arabian horses and other animals. Read "Arthur Godfrey and His Animal Friends", illustrated article, in this Sunday's (April 21) issue of The American Weekly, exclusively with Detroit Sunday Times.



This young miss with a flair for odd jewelry is JOYCE SULLIVAN. Her rich mezzo-soprano voice can be heard as featured soloist with the Leslie Bell Singers each Sunday night at 8.30 p.m. and in the new musical show "Souvenir of Sometime", with Jack Groob Sextet on the Dominion network Monday at 9 p.m. Joyce has been with the Bell Singers for five years. Every day she commutes by early bus to Toronto from Dunbarton.

Chamber of Commerce Offers Group Insurance

Mr. B. E. Bainard, branch manager of the Great West Life Assurance Company advises Chambers of Commerce members on the Group Insurance plan in the following report:

"Seven months ago the New Liskeard Chamber of Commerce joined 45 other Chambers of Commerce in offering to their members and the employees of member Group Insurance Hospital extras and Surgical and Maternity Benefits were included under this plan. Coverage without evidence of health was provided at low cost to firms with as few as one or two

employees. Last August many firms at New Liskeard, Haileybury and Cobalt took advantage of this offer, which was originated by the Great West Life as a service to smaller firms who previously had been unable to secure Group coverage on a non-medical basis.

It is my privilege at this time to review how this service has been working out. The plan has been instrumental in adding quite a few new members to the three Chambers of Commerce. This has been an added benefit to the Chamber. Your 1952 membership drives will soon be under way, so this seems a logical time to outline how firms and their employees who did not join the plan last August may secure Group coverage at this time.

Briefly—any firm operating a year-round business who is now a member of the Chamber, who has four or more employees may join the plan WITHOUT evidence of health. Firms with UNDER four, including the proprietor may join by submitting a short evidence of health report.

Business firms at Cobalt and Haileybury who are members of their own local association, may join the plan at New Liskeard by becoming associate members (without charge) of the New Liskeard Chamber. The cover is good.

I hope all firms insured under the plan send in monthly payments promptly. Prompt payments save sending minders and will ease his work considerably.

Care of House Plants

While you are waiting not too patiently for those tulips and daffodils to burst forth in all their glory, house plants deserve your attention. When to water them is sometimes a problem to the amateur. You may test the dryness of the soil by tapping the outside of a clay pot with a pencil or your knuckles. If it makes a dull sound the soil is still moist. If there is a sharper hollow sound, the pot needs watering. You can also tell if it's dry by crumbling the soil with your fingers.

Foliage plant roots will be much healthier if they are watered only when they need water. However, they must never be allowed to dry out. When you water your plants,

water them thoroughly with tepid water, not just on the top. Do not let surplus water stand in the saucer under the pot for more than an hour. The plant has all the water it wants and the surplus water will just make the soil soggy and perhaps rancid.

Plants need less water on cloudy days than on sunny days. They also dry out more quickly in the summer than in winter.

Foliage plants usually require water only about twice a week, unless their pots are small. Blooming plants require more water. Plants with thin leaves, such as caladiums, often need more water than the thicker leaved ones like sansevieria.

Keep your plant leaves clean. This means spraying the foliage plants or going over each one with a moist cloth. A soft camel's hair brush, such as a soft paint brush, is suggested for brushing the hairy leaves (African violet, gloxinia, etc.) to clean them.

Don't let a hard crust form and stay on the plant soil because it keeps out the air. Use a fork or similar article to loosen the soil, but don't push it more than half an inch deep.

Water your plants in the morning so they may have the entire day to drink up the water. Don't let them "go to bed" with "wet feet".



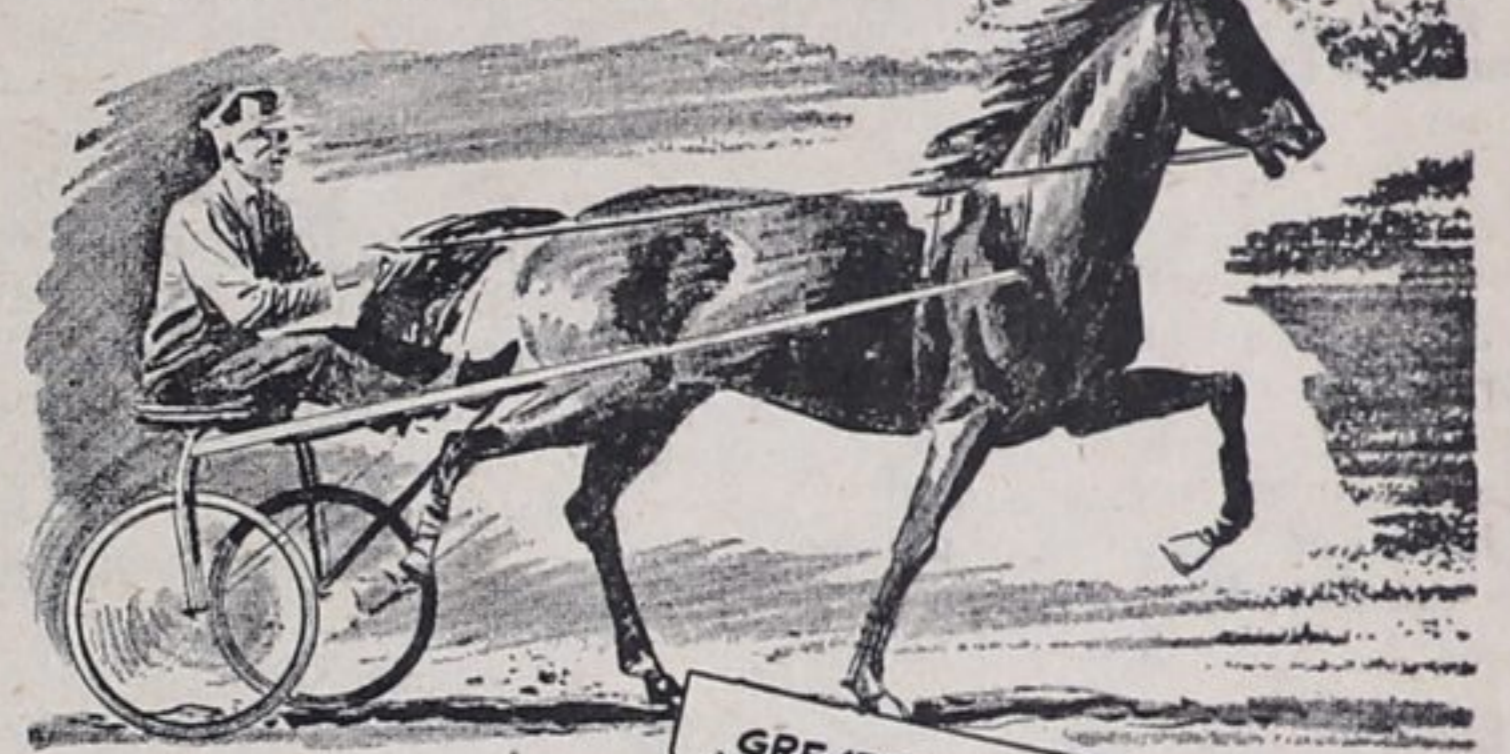
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