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Arches of the Years
By Halliday Sutherland

In ARCHES OF THE YEARS the author takes us on a lighthearted journey that begins in the Highlands of Scotland before the turn of the century. It was there that the author, a vacationing school boy shot his first roebuck and had his first encounter with the law. Later, as a medical student in Aberdeen, he had a second difference of opinion with authority — this time concerning cats.

On completing his course in pathology, Mr. Sutherland went to the Shetland Islands for a holiday where he joined the crew of the Sven Toyn for a whaling expedition. The cruise began with his attempts to buy herring for breakfast, and a celebrating trio who ended up with an extra boat on board.

At the small clinic in southern Spain where he had gone to assist his uncle, he found the work both varied and interesting. Aside from treating patients he learned to cope with anything from a malingering cook to a thief stealing milk from the clinic's goat.

Several years after his return to England, the First World War began. He joined the Fleet as a surgeon. As his ship saw no action he was put to work decoding messages and censoring mail. The changing of the Admiralty code and the buying of a microscope in West Africa are both amusing incidents.

Based in England again Mr. Sutherland took part in the preparation against an invasion — an invasion which for a very good reason never took place.

The journey ends with the Author, after the war, returning to Scotland for a holiday.

This is a book that moves at a leisurely pace with plenty of time for amusing anecdotes, tales of folklore, superstitions and observations of customs and manners.

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Sailor, Prospector and Engineer

by

RUSS FLEMING

If gregariousness is truly the solace for the mediocre then the antithesis is also true and finds functional proof in the person of Fred Thompson. Of the many people who live and work in Haileybury and meet and chat with Fred on the street, few would dare suspect the adventurous soul which he harbours. Most people know him through business acquaintance as a mining engineer, quiet and retiring as he goes about his business.

To emphasize I will take the liberty of quoting liberally from "Free Gold" the story of Canadian mining by Arnold Hoffman. In this book Mr. Hoffman has included the biographies of all the notable Canadian miners who pioneered the industry in Canada.

"Fred W. Thompson has the distinction of staking more mines and earning less thereby than any prospector in his class. A bushman with hardly an equal he is deficient in one respect, acquisitive instinct. His life has been exciting and colourful, and yet modesty and self-effacement are as natural to him as braggadocio is to lesser men.

Born in London, he attended the Greenwich Naval School at a tender age and became involved in a boyish prank (painting a red nose on Lord Nelson's statue) and this ended his academic career abruptly. Enlisting in the English Navy, he found the kind of existence that suited his restless temperament. All went well until a bullying petty officer singled him out for special attention. Never an aggressor himself, he often evoked pugnacity in others, but always to their ultimate regret. And so it was with the petty officer. After thrashing him soundly, Fred decided to forgo a long term in the brig by sliding down the anchor hawser and swimming ashore in Sydney Harbor. There he

was soon lost in the anonymity of the waterfront.

The next act occurred on the sailing vessel Swanhilda on which Fred signed as ordinary seaman. Becalmed enroute to Panama, part of the crew mutinied against a brutal captain. Fred, the chief offender, was thrown into irons, but he managed to escape when the ship docked in Panama. There for a time he worked as a laborer on the Canal project, after which he became first mate on a fruit steamer. Tiring of this, he drifted through Central America and finally was appointed admiral of the San Salvador Navy, in command of a single ship.

When war broke out with Nicaragua, Fred stormed the enemy port of Corinto. Wounded in the hand by a machete stroke, he nevertheless routed the three-ship Nicaraguan navy led by F.F. Worthington, a Scotsman. By a strange coincidence, the two admirals met again years later under different circumstances, this time as Canadian officers in communications trench during the Somme campaign. Worthington incidentally, remained in the Canadian Army and rose to the rank of major general in World War II.

In 1907, Fred received word that his family had emigrated to Canada and purchased a farm in northern Ontario. In a moment of sentimentality he decided to join them. For a time he worked with his father and four brothers at clearing the land, but quickly realized that farm life was not for him. Stories of mining stirred his rover's blood and in a short while he dropped the plow and assumed the prospector's pick, which he has carried ever since, and there he teamed with Bob Gamble and Sarkis Markarian, wildcatting betimes and working underground when funds were short.

In 1914 he enlisted in the famous

Borden Battery. Except for a three month's period when he was wounded on the Somme, he remained an active machine gunner to the last day of action, at which time he had risen from private to captain. He was one of the few Canadians who received both the Military Medal and Military Cross decorations.

In the course of twenty-five years he discovered and staked two producers, Island Lake and Thompson-Lundmark, as well as the O'Neil Thompson (staked with his brother Bert) now a part of the Rouyn Merger. The Donalda was one of his early "babies", now alas, in other hands, as well as the Arrowhead, Duquesne, and Wright-Rouyn. At one time he turned minemaker and acquired the Golden Manitou in Quebec, a mine now producing almost \$2,000,000 annually. But luck was not with him. One of his associates, enroute to mail a check for claim taxes, was struck by a train in Ottawa. The letter was never mailed and consequently the property was lost. The Duquesne, staked by Fred and his brother, Walter, was slow to respond to development, and the brothers under pressure of necessity, sold their stock too early. The Donalda, which he staked with Robert, was sold for a mere pittance in the early days, and passed into luckier hands, and the Thompson-Lundmark, which marked the first discovery of a Canadian mine from the air, was so involved with participating syndicates that the luckless discoverer received only 25,000 shares of the 1,250,000 allocated to the vendors.

A devoted father, he left his wife and three daughters to enlist in the Canadian Army in 1942.

Fred puts even idle time to good use in pursuing his hobby of mineral collecting; he has one of the largest collections in Ontario. Many of these minerals he has collected himself, others he has traded with other collectors. The minerals come from as far abroad as Brazil, South Africa, and Alaska. One of the high-lights of the collection is his luminous minerals which glow brilliantly ruby, aqua-marine, and deep blue when exposed to an infra red lamp.

In addition to this Fred has an authentic Eskimo carving collection and states proudly that he secured these pieces of sculpture before the Eskimos started carving for the tourists."

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