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King St. Georgetown

Chatting . . . By M.H.B.

SEEMS ODD TO think that for so many years, we have lived a scant twelve miles from the most famous greenhouses in Canada, Dale's, and yet never have had the opportunity to see them until last week . . . They were getting their Christmas stock ready—that is to say, there were houses after houses full of gorgeous bloom, all kept carefully at the correct temperature, so that the flowers would be at their peak of perfection for the Christmas market. Poinsettia plants were there by the thousands, forming a veritable sea of scarlet so vivid, it looked almost phosphorescent. You can imagine how effective the contrast was, with the odd few white poinsettias set among the red ones. Were surprised to learn that white was the original "colour" of the poinsettia plant. Matter-of-fact, it was the first time we had ever seen a white one, and couldn't imagine anyone buying one, when they could have a scarlet one for the same price. But judging from sales, there are plenty of people who think otherwise . . . Did we see the roses? Well you may ask, for they are the flower that has made the name of "Dale" famous from coast to coast. Yes, we saw them, although most were at the budding stage, and were being held that way until this week. We lost track of the number of greenhouses—full of these beauties, with some of the bushes reaching nearly six feet in height. It was interesting, too, to see the stamping machines by which every rose from Dale's, is monogrammed . . . and the "grader", which, by gauging the length of the stems, sorts the roses into six different grades, which are priced accordingly. So for goodness sake, if you are lucky enough to get roses for Christmas, don't cut off the stems merely to make them fit a vase—it's just like cutting off dollar bills and throwing them in the garbage. Better it would be to go out and buy a new vase, and then at least you have something lasting for your money. Or do you follow me?

IN ORDER TO SEE the orchids and camellias, we had to go underground through one of their network of tunnels. This particular one ran under the road, and it was terrifically hot in places, for they also carry the pipes of the million-dollar oil heating system. In all, there are five miles of tunnels connecting up all the greenhouse units and incidentally, Dale's have thirty-five acres of flowers under glass . . . Which brings us back to our subject of orchids . . . Could understand why the flower is considered so rare, and expensive, after seeing thousands of thousands of plants, with comparatively little bloom. The plants which produce this most exotic of flowers, are quite humble looking little things, and when not in bloom certainly don't look as though they would be worth risking lives for, to wrest from their jungle home. And, according to a greenhouse official, that is really a fact. Many a man has lost his life hunting for orchids in the tropics. The gorgeous mauve and purple orchid we do occasionally see in an "extra-special" corsage, is only one of hundreds of different varieties. They grow in nearly every colour imaginable, and also vary greatly in size and shape. Noticed how the roots hung down out-

side the flower pots, and learned that the plant dies if that condition does not exist. The orchid blooms on a long slender stem, quite off by itself and unsurrounded by foliage of any kind. We had always imagined it surrounded by glossy green luxuriant leaves, like those heavily perfumed waxen beauties, the camellias . . . For display purposes only, was the "Crown of Thorns" plant, which originates in Palestine. From the name you may have correctly surmised, that it was with branches of this shrub that Christ was crowned as He hung upon the cross. The plant is about four and a half feet high, and the branches are covered with long spiky thorns. Oddly enough, the rough bare branches blossom out into quite pretty foliage and a pink flower at their outer extremities . . .

MRS. JOHN S. McMASTER, who with her late husband lived on a farm just outside Glen Williams, moved to Warton on Monday, to make her home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Huehn. Walter T. Evans has purchased the farm . . .

Another recent move from town is that of Mr. and Mrs. Hyde Parker. Mr. and Mrs. Parker have sold their home on the corner of King Street and the 9th Line to Mr. W. I. Hunter of Toronto, and are now living in a home situated on No. 7 Highway, near the Malton Road. Mr. Hunter is offering the house for re-sale. The Parkers came to Georgetown from Galt exchanging houses with Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hogg, two years ago . . .

The members of the Girls Pipe Band treated themselves to an evening of relaxation and fun together last Monday night, December 12th, when they had a chicken dinner at the home of Miss Margaret McCallum, near Milton. There were over thirty girls present and a few guests, including Mr. and Mrs. James Murphy. After dinner they had a Christmas tree with gifts, each girl having drawn the name of a fellow-member. Music on the violin and piano by Mary and Tommy Joyce provided excellent accompaniment to a bit of dancing, while James Burns played for a sing-song. Miss Lucy Scott was in charge of plans for the dinner. Thought their arrangement for it was good and very simple, so we'll just mention it, in case some other organization might like to plan something similar sometime. The hostess' mother, Mrs. McCallum, assisted by Mrs. John Pullen, baked the chickens and cooked the vegetables. Then every girl in the band was asked to bring something to complete the dinner, such as salads, pickles, rolls, fruit juice, pies, etc. In that way there wasn't too much work for anyone, and the product was a delicious and exceedingly ample dinner . . . In appreciation of her work, the girls presented Mrs. McCallum with a lovely cup and saucer . . .

IT'S GRAND to be able to report that people who have been ill have completely recovered, and especially so around Christmas-time. Last week we saw both Mrs. W. V. Grant and Mrs. A. Cowie home again, after being in hospital . . .

Former Main Street merchant, Stan Grabb, who has completed his training period for the Provincial Police, was posted to Chatham last Monday . . .

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Mr. and Mrs. Edward Melanson formed Ladies Auxiliary to the Boy Scouts catered . . . and made newly completed apartment. Mr. an extremely good job of it too, Melanson is the accountant for we hear . . .

Arrived home again, in time for Christmas with their families, after a visit of several months in England, are Mrs. Reginald Broomhead, and Mrs. James Russell . . .

Conalescing after an illness at the home of her daughter here, is Mrs. W. F. Willson of Fort Erie. Mrs. Willson is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Chapman at their apartment above the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

About fifteen girls from the Assembly Department of Smith & Stone Ltd. had a chicken supper in the auditorium of St. John's United Church last Thursday evening . . . The recently

The Connaught tunnel through Mount Macdonald in the Rockies is more than five miles long.

Angler's Note: Fish are generally near-sighted.

Lake Superior, 31,000 miles — is the world's water body.