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**Chatting . . .** With **M.H.B.**

**SINCE HEARING** Mrs. James Evans tell of life in the Bahamas, at a recent IODE meeting, we've developed a real yen to visit there some day. Perhaps some of you have heard Mrs. Evans tell of Nassau, while she and her husband lived there a year and a half during the war. At that time, her husband was senior RAF officer for Nassau. But for the benefit of those who haven't heard that fascinating talk, we'd like to tell you a few things about Nassau that struck us as being particularly interesting.

It is a very small island of unbelievable beauty — now a millionaire's paradise where the scale of living is very high. Mrs. Evans says when she thinks of Nassau it is to remember the whiteness of sailboats silhouetted against a clear turquoise sea — and beaches where the sand is as light and fine as icing sugar — and houses all in pastel tones, to blend with the tropical scenery.

The sailboats were so very numerous because Nassau is not at all fertile, and these boats are extensively used to bring staple food to the island. The native population, which numbers 140,000, is very black, and the percentage of white people living there is 5 per cent.

**TRACING THE DESCENT** of the natives from the time when Nassau was the "look-out" point for slave traders from Africa, was quite an interesting bit of information. The present population are descendants of a final boatload of slaves which had to be left there when the abolition of slavery made it impossible to land on the main-

land. Mrs. Evans found in the native population a never-failing source of interest. For the most part they are quite poor and live very simply on a diet consisting of coconut oil and grits. Their babies are fed rice water, since milk is an exorbitant price. And the mothers have very little laundry to do for their small children, since it is the custom to allow the children to go without clothes until their 3rd or 4th year. Many natives are employed in the households of the wealthy: as butlers, maids, cooks, etc.

**WHILE IN NASSAU** Mr. and Mrs. Evans were able to enjoy all the privileges of the wealthy, due to Mr. Evans' position with the RAF. They lived in a large pink stucco home, and had several servants which, Mrs. Evans said, look a bit of getting used to, but it was practically compulsory for them to live in that manner. When living in Nassau one must conform to very strict social behaviour. That was one aspect of living on the island which, while it has its very pleasant side as well, did not appeal too much to Mrs. Evans.

However, to get back to Nassau itself — we'll leave aside all the little personal highlights which made her talk doubly interesting just in case she may wish to give it again sometime, and we wouldn't want to spoil it for her listeners — Flower gardens are simply gorgeous in Nassau with the lush foliage and beautiful blooms of gardenias, orchids, jasmine, oleander and hibiscus. The

Evans had a banana tree in their back yard.

One of the most popular sports there is deep-sea fishing. It is particularly thrilling because the ocean is so clear you could take a photograph of the ocean floor without any difficulty. And the "catch" on such an expedition is rewarding, to say the least — It is not at all unusual to come home with two or three hundred pounds of deep-sea fish such as Kingfish and large Tunas.

**BUT OF COURSE**, the island does have a few drawbacks too. For one thing the heat is intensive and the humidity great during the months of June, July, August and September. There are no seasons except what is known as the hurricane season. One thing we were surprised to learn was that the palm trees grow on a decided slant, due to the high winds. Then too, on those beautiful beaches we told you about earlier, sandflies are a menace until you become immune. These insects are very hard to detect, because they look like cigarette ash.

The educational facilities are not too good and most people of means send their children to the States for their schooling.

**AN AMAZING** thing about Nassau is its Main Street. It is very old-fashioned and its merchandising methods not at all up-to-date. For instance flour is kept in open bins, and you can imagine, that the warm moist climate does not improve it any. Like almost any newcomer, Mrs. Evans wondered why some more progressive businessmen didn't take over, because a fortune could easily be made there. And she learned very quickly the reason for such a state of affairs. All retail business on the island is controlled by a monopoly

of a few wealthy men. Thus there is no competition and not much hope of a better shopping section.

**HOWEVER**, to go back to the glamorous side of life in the Bahamas, while Mr. and Mrs. Evans were there, the Duke of Windsor was in residence as Governor of the island, and the Duke and Duchess were very much the leaders of Nassau social activities. We, along with all the other members of the IODE enjoyed hearing the details of a reception which the Evans attended at the home of the Duke and Duchess. During those war years, the Duchess ran a Red Cross Canteen in Nassau, of which Mrs. Evans was cashier, and they worked together many times.

And now after telling you a few of the things we remember about Mrs. Evans' impressions of Nassau, perhaps we've given some of you itchy feet too. It does sound inviting, doesn't it?

**FARAWAY PLACES** evidently also hold allure for Roy Foulis, former Georgetown boy, an aeronautical engineer with T.C.A. at Dorval, who is off on a vacation to Europe. Roy is visiting England, Scotland, France and Switzerland. His brother, Jack, who has an electrical appliance manufacturing plant in Toronto, has just arrived back after a vacation in Bermuda.

A new draftsman with Smith and Stone, Ltd., William Copeland, and his wife, from York Mills have rented Mrs. Mary Bedell's house on Maple Avenue. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Coghill also moved to town recently, buying the Ron Latimer bungalow on Arletta St., and a sad blow to the family was the death of Mr. Coghill in Guelph on Friday. Both families are members of the Baptist Church.

**AND SPEAKING** of church, it keeps one busy if one is to attend all the various activities of church organizations at this time of year. A couple of weeks ago, we enjoyed St. George's bazaar and while sipping our tea had time to really appreciate the wonderful Halloween decorations which had transformed the Sunday School room for the occasion. Corn stalks had been tied around the pillars, making them look like sheaves, while large witches, goblins and black cats crouched about on the walls. Someone had made a skilled job of carving beautiful big pumpkin jack-o-lanterns, and the various booths with handwork and homemade goodies were festooned with orange and red streamers.

The Holy Cross Church bazaar last Wednesday, in the Rose Room was a large affair, which lasted afternoon and evening. During the afternoon most patrons were mainly interested in the delicious baking and hand-sewn and knit articles — to say nothing of that ever-popular bazaar rendezvous — the 'fish pond' — while in the evening a Bingo game attracted the bulk of the crowd. And for the first time in this family's history, a prize came our way. It surely makes a game more interesting if you win once in a while, doesn't it?

And on the same evening, — Wednesday, we attended a concert by Ronald Stewart at St. John's Church auditorium. A good crowd were present to hear this fine singer. . . . And the previous night — Tuesday, the family went to Norval Parish Hall, where St. Paul's Church held their turkey dinner. The meal was bounteous, to say the least. One little girl we know complained that every time she took a portion off her plate on one side, something fell off onto the table on the other. Not a complaint to be taken too seriously, ladies!

**CLOSE VALLEYVIEW HOME TILL SPRING**

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid (Pete) Hunter returned to town on Monday after spending the summer in the north. For several years the Hunters have been operating Valleyview Cabins on the highway just north of Huntsville. They report business quite good this season, with better luck than many tourist camp operators who were hampered by rainy, chilly weather. Valleyview Cabins is a mecca for people from this district when they head north and dozens of Georgetown and district people have enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Hunters when touring the north-land. This year Mr. Hunter built a new double cabin so that next season they will be able to care for a larger number of travellers.

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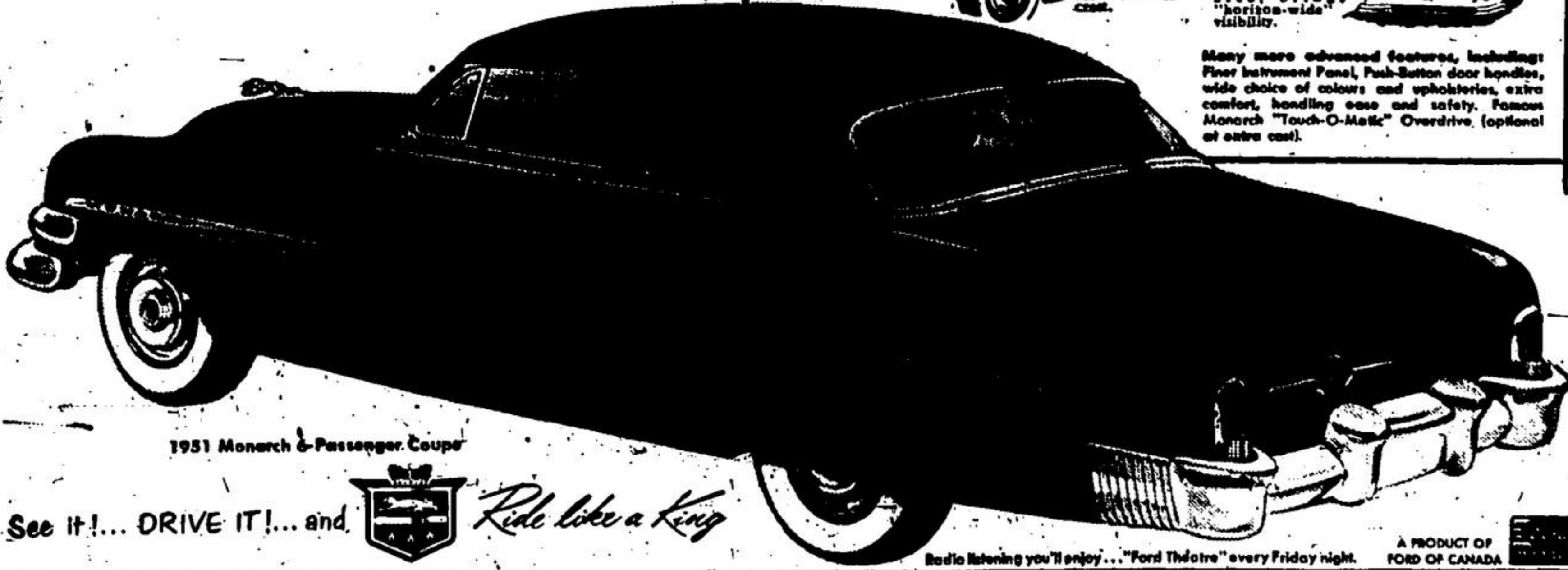
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