

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

FOUR PAGES

Georgetown, Ont., Wednesday, September 21st, 1955

SECOND SECTION

Shape Plans for Bigger, Better Georgetown Fall Fair Next Week

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With fall fair time in Georgetown just a week away, plans are shaping up for a bigger and better show for '55. This is the 100th annual fall show sponsored by the Esqueving Agricultural Society.

The directors of this organization have been working for some weeks preparing a program of interest to district farmers, townspeople and especially, the newer residents of our town, many of whom may attend a fall fair for the first time.

There is still time for the district ladies to enter in the huge hall exhibit of domestic science, ladies work, crafts, etc. Just send your entry to the secretary, then bring your exhibits to the hall Friday morning, Sept. 30th and join in the fun. There are many valuable prizes — so get your

free prize list now.

On Friday evening, September 30th the hall will be open for inspection of the many exhibits and the work of the school children. Also the same evening there will be the usual dance in the Arena Rose Room with a good Orchestra.

Saturday afternoon, October 1st, should see another record attendance for the grandstand, show of horses, harness racing, music by the Girls Pipe Band and other attractions. Stanger's Midway has promised three or four rides and there will be games galore, lunch booths, etc.

Remember this is the biggest day of the year for Georgetown, and with fine weather this year's show should be one of the best.

Chatting...

with M. H. B.

To continue where I left off last week, telling you about June Thompson's impressions of New Zealand, I had been writing about the thermal region around the city of Rotorua, with its boiling lake of mineral water, geysers, seething fields of mud, and volcanoes. So it's easy to understand why Rotorua is the big tourist attraction in New Zealand.

● **IN ADDITION TO** the wonders of the thermal region, however, they also display the last relics of the ancient Maori civilization. Many Maori people live in Rotorua, just as the other citizens do, and their ancient way of life has been preserved in model villages. There you may see their meeting houses decorated with quaintly carved figures and woven ta-nelling, their handsomely carved war canoes, and how they cook their food in plaited flax baskets in the hot thermal pools.

The Maoris are handsome, light brown skinned people who have been assimilated into the population much in the same way as our own native Indians. Once in a while you may see an old warrior of high caste on the street in Rotorua, still bearing the old time tattoo marks on his face, and also see the occasional very old woman, who bears the tattoo marks on her chin, indicating she was of "high caste". Their colourful ceremonial costumes and dances are reserved for special occasions, and tourists

● **ANOTHER HIGHLIGHT** of June's stay in New Zealand was a 50 mile hike she and a party took, climbing 3400 feet through MacKinnon Pass to the beautiful Milford Sound. This walk or hike is known as one of the most spectacularly beautiful in the world.

● **FROM THE PICTURES**, it is somewhat similar to the grandeur of our Rocky Mountain region, but it is more accessible. The trail led through valleys laced with mountain streams. Biggest hazard of all was the torrential rain. The storms came up suddenly and it poured heavens-hard. June has never seen so much rain fall so quickly. She has snaps of the big streams cascading down from the mountain tops on every side. They are without a doubt the biggest waterfalls in the world while they last. There is no vegetation to hold them back, and down they thunder to the valley below.

The party had a narrow escape the first time a big rain came. The erstwhile small stream beside them, fed by water pouring down the mountainsides, suddenly became a deep raging torrent, up to their necks. With the aid of ropes and quick manoeuvring, they made high ground safely, and returned to the hut nearest them. These huts are established every ten miles along the hiking trail, with a permanent staff, meals and bed accommodation.

Some of the world famous sights June saw, while on the hike, were the Sutherland Falls, second highest falls in the world. She has a good picture of the Falls snapped with an ordinary Brownie camera. She had to stand in the middle of the stream below to get the shot. The Falls are very high, but not too wide. We remarked that some of the cascades off the mountainsides during the big rains looked higher than the Sutherland, but June explained that they are not considered true waterfalls, because as soon as the rain stops they dry up.

They also climbed on the renowned Tasman glacier, largest in the Southern Hemisphere. This terrific reminder of the Ice Age is found nestling in a mountain forest. Another impressive sight was Mount Aorangi, which is the Maori name for Mount Cook, which means cloud piercer. It has an altitude of 12,000 feet.

● **THE HIKE ENDED AT** Milford Sound. Then just for a change of pace, the party went for a boat trip up the majestic Milford Sound where the mountains, both verdant and barren, jut steeply from the sea.

The water here is very pure and crystal clear. As the boat travelled up the sound, they could see schools of seals basking on the rocks.

Which led me to ask June about animal life in New Zealand. I was surprised to learn that there aren't many native animals. In fact, the island originally had only birds, until the white man came. Some of the pigs Captain Cook brought with him escaped into the forests, to become the ancestors of the wild pigs now hunted and found in New Zealand. Hunting pigs is one of the most popular sports there. Their meat tastes the same as our pork, except that it has a little stronger flavour.

Two of the most interesting birds to be seen there are the parrots, which are quite tame and will feed from a person's hand, and the kiwi, a swift practically defenseless and therefore almost extinct bird. The parrots have dark green plumage with brilliant orange on their undersides. The kiwi is brown, almost as big as a chicken, has no wings and a big beak. It's covered with fine hair like feathers.

● **ON THEIR VOYAGE** down to New Zealand, and also coming back, the ship docked at the Fiji Islands long enough to give the passengers a good idea of the islands. They impressed June as being very much like Hawaii, but very primitive. They have open market places where the ship docks, surrounded by lush tropical scenery. Their beaches are beautiful — long white stretches of sand, with crystal clear water protected by the jagged beauty of coral reefs. The natives are very dark with hair so thick and fuzzy that it stands right up from their heads.

● **THE SHIP ALSO** called at Honolulu for a day. When the boat goes into the harbour, the lovely Hawaiian girls come out to meet it and to board with armfuls of orchids and leis of flowers which they give to everyone. The girls toured the beautiful island and saw the justly famous Waikiki beach, the pineapple plantations and fields of sugar cane.

● **THAT WAS THE** last stop before docking at Vancouver. Coming home, June saw the Rockies for the first time. She was being truthful as well as loyal when she said they ranked second to none of the wonders of the world she has seen. June arrived back in Georgetown August 6th, and has resumed her position on the staff of the local Bank of Commerce, where she had been working prior to embarking on her year of adventure and travel.

Georgetown Fall Fair O'Keefe Six-Horse Team at

Through the efforts and cooperation of Harold C. McClure, the O'Keefe six horse team will provide one of the attractions at Georgetown Fair this year.

This team is highly in demand for show purposes, and the fair board directors are grateful to Mr. McClure for his interest and influence in getting them for the local fair next week.

It's worth the price of admission to see this fine team of six horses put through their paces.

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