



Diary of a Vagabond

BY DOROTHY BARKER

About every six months I get a request by letter or telegram to be in Montreal on a certain date for a business conference. When this happened recently I scurried around, making my reservations for roomettes and hotel accommodation and setting up the single outfit I would wear for the brief trip.

My mother must have rocked me to sleep when I was an infant if I prefer to travel by rail and by night the several hundred miles between my home in Aurora and Montreal. The rhythm of steel on steel and the gentle jiggling of the comfortable bed in my accommodation, I find, is a pleasant accompaniment to a sound sleep.

There is another reason I prefer to travel by night rather than by day on such a short journey. I like that last hot cup of coffee in the club car before retiring. There is usually another newspaper type there too, en route to an assignment. Guzzling the brew we often get into a healthy discussion on the state of the nation, or perhaps just politics in general.

On this recent trip, it wasn't the heat of the party that smelted, but an acrid odor of burning wool kept puffing up in my face. My companion of the midnight coffee break was gesticulating wildly, trying to make his point convincingly. Finally I got a word in edgewise. "Fardon me, haven't you lost the glow on the end of your cigarette?"

He brushed a litter of ashes from jacket and trousers, sniffed once or twice, passed a facetious remark about my being burned up because he had the argument clutched and went right on throwing his cigarette around to emphasize his convictions.

When I returned to my roomette I found his cigarette had flipped all right. Right into the lap of my dress. Little holes were burned in a scattered pattern making my favorite jersey look like a target for BB practice.

On arrival I decided I would have to purchase another dress, but when I found the holiday spirit had inspired merchants to take advantage of all the pro-

fit the law allowed. I passed up the idea. Instead, I decided, I could wear my coat for what I anticipated would be only a brief meeting.

Luncheon seemed a propitious time in which to discuss this vagabond's itinerary for the next six months. As we approached the cafe, I was asked if I wouldn't like to check my coat. I tried to smile beautifully, clutched it more closely to my frame and said I preferred to keep it with me.

I hadn't reckoned on a further conference in the office, or dinner later in the Beaver Club, the famous dining room in the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. Throughout the entire afternoon and evening I carted that fox-trimmed, interlined, pure wool coat around. As the day wore on, I was invited to "park that bed blanket" on numerous occasions. My tenacity only increased with each subtle suggestion that I get rid of the wraps and act like a normal human being. Gentlemen waiting to check their hats had a pitying look in their eyes as though they were thinking "this dame must believe all Montreal check girls belong to a den of thieves, or else she has an exaggerated evaluation of what that coat does for her."

Little did they know I was witted to the core.

When I think that I passed up an invitation to indulge my gastronomic yearnings in a flaming shish kabob, a gourmet's delight for which the hotel is famous, because I visioned the pelt around my neck being singed, I quiver at my feminine obsession regarding my appearance.

It wasn't until my host was helping me into the arms of that burdensome, fox garnished apparel, which had been draped around my shoulders for hours, that I relaxed enough to enjoy his delightful sense of humour. "You certainly have this animal well trained. Why, he didn't even snarl at a single beaver."

Is there anything more foolish than a woman's vanity? By the romantic glow of candlelight in the Beaver Club, who would have noticed the tiny holes in a vagabond's dress. Worst of all, my mouth is still watering for a shish kabob and six months must pass before another conference.

On Sat. eve. Winners were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Allan, Mr. Robt. Lane and Mrs. F. T. C. Brown. Lucky chair winner was Frank Bryant. Debbie Hamilton drew winners in a raffle. Charles James, Jr. won a deep fryer and Ron Hills and Mrs. Ralph Turner won low lunch served at the club.

Congratulations to Mr. Campbell Smeatman, newly elected for 1960 as Esquire.

Communion services will be held at Limehouse Presbyterian Church on Dec. 13.

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Georgetown Lawyer Chosen Vice-President by Halton Liberals

The annual meeting of the Halton County Liberal Association in Milton Town Hall named Peter Papillon, Acton, as president following the retirement of Lester Whiting.

Terry Campbell, Oakville, was named first vice-president, Maurice Manderson, Q.C., Georgetown, second vice-president, Mrs. Dorothy Mullin, Burlington, secretary and David Wardrop, Burlington, treasurer.

Provincial candidate in the last election Owen Mullin expressed his thanks to the outgoing executive. He summed up that "we worked hard, tried hard and were just a little short."

He introduced Vernon Singer, M.L.A. York Centre who complimented the meeting on the wonderful showing in Halton in the last election. Mr. Singer suggested that "in the new liberal group at Queen's Park you're going to see a real opposition."

Mr. Singer wondered how Education Minister Dunlop, a man over 80, could be interested in the development of an educational system. He wondered why a provincial official would write a letter recommending a privately sold fluoride dispenser and why a Hydro Electric Commission official would write a letter to building contractors outlining the qualities of a specific type of insulating material.

The speaker also reviewed the problems of Belleville and wondered, when copies of the auditor's report of every municipality must be filed with the Department of Municipal Affairs, how it was they did not notice the city auditor's comments outlining illegal actions. He pointed out the Minister claimed the Department could not be expected to read all the reports. "What can they do?" he questioned.

"We are the only province in Canada with a Department of Planning and Development apart from the Department of Municipal Affairs. It has created two ministers, two sets of staff and complicated regulations."

The speaker was thanked by K. Y. Dick who observed the Municipal Act was badly in need of revision.

W. L. Hampshire also addressed the meeting briefly and recommended consideration of the provincial government taking over the entire cost of education. "Costs are becoming prohibitive," he said and there is no reason why every child should not have an opportunity for equal education, no matter what part of the province they live in.

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Charter Is Presented To Police Association

Georgetown police have been granted a charter as members of the Police Association of Ontario Ltd., a body endeavoring to standardize all police departments on a professional basis.

The local police received their charter on Thursday, November 25th at a convention in the King Edward Hotel in Toronto attended by the executive. The president is Cpl. Jim Bilsborrow, secretary Cst. Ron Rankine and treasurer Cst. Ted Scott.

Larry Queltette of Windsor is the association's president, D. Laitin of London the treasurer and E. Kingston of Kitchener the secretary.

The charter states that the association "is empowered and authorized to conduct the affairs of the association members in the best interest of the police association in general." It also supports the federal association.

ROTARY CLUB ENTERTAINS
The Rotary Club Senior Citizens Night is next Monday evening, Dec. 14th, in the Knox Presbyterian Hall.

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Variety of Short Courses Offered Farmers at Guelph

J. A. F. Extensive plans are being made by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, for this year's Winter Short Courses, to be held on December 28th to December 31st, at the Ontario Agricultural College.

In addition to courses for special farm groups, there will be five subjects included in the Winter Short Course programme. Enrollment in the courses conclude on December 15th, and from advance enrolment, this year's classes would indicate a high enrolment.

In the Farm Shop course, practical work is given in various phases of shop mechanics, which include hand fitting and light sheet metal work. In addition to metal forming and Arc welding the "How and Why" of farm machinery repairing will be discussed. The Farm Mechanization course is a new course designed to outline some of the major engineering applications in relation to production problems on Ontario farms today.

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Meadowvale Farmland Becomes A New Botanical Garden

One of the biggest jobs necessary to turn 100 acres of pasture farmland into Canada's outstanding Botanical Garden has just been completed at Meadowvale, near Brampton, site of the new Meadowvale Botanical Garden. Some 40 huge dead elm trees at the southeast corner of the property had to be removed, the stumps sunk underground.

Many of the trees, all original growth in timber, had trunks six feet diameter, with a root spread the size of a small house, and highway contractors with their immense heavy equipment had to be brought in for this job.

Another big job was the levelling of the embankment of the old Guelph radial line, an unsightly landmark which crossed the Garden site. Three thousand cubic yards of earth brought from the embankment has been spread to fill low lying land.

A 50 wide belt of government trees had been planted in five rows along the west boundary, with white cedar spruce and pine, Scotch pine and Chinese elm. Heavy underground along the edge of the Credit River has been removed, the lower flats at the south end near the Malton Road ploughed and disked, and the whole area seeded ready for planting next spring. Mean while, grass has been cut on all the meadows and left lying as mulch.

Final step before winter sets in will be the installation of underground irrigation for all the lawns and plantings (about 15 acres). Water supply for this will be pumped from the river.

By next spring the beginnings of the Botanical Garden will be apparent to the public and work will continue on the extensive plans to make the site one of Canada's outstanding beauty areas.

GOATS WIN AT ROYAL
The Jersey cow Boek Ella Sporting Diane, 232046, daughter of the Superior-Sire Lindale, Aodna Lad 147116, has just been awarded a 4000 lb. certificate in 7 lactations she produced 82,604 lbs. of milk and 4,183 lbs. of fat. Diane, classed Excellent, is a winner of 3 Silver Medals, 2 Gold Medals, and a ton of Gold.

A Ton of Gold certificate has been issued to the Jersey cow Vallevanna-Musette's Merisa, 236323. In 1461 days she produced 2,057 lbs. of fat. Merisa, a Silver Medal cow, is classified Very Good. Both cows are owned by Kenneth I. Ella, Hornby, Ont.

To qualify for a Ton of Gold certificate a cow must at least produce 2,000 lbs. of fat in 4 consecutive years.

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