



# Diary of a Vagabond

BY DOROTHY BARKER

Canadians and the population of the United States use a deluge of mail to service men of both countries stationed at Churchill. In this town on the rim of the Arctic, not every day of the brief summer season is as warm as the one on which we arrived at the destination of our journey.

When we left the train, like many others I was bundled to the chin in warm woollies, a heavy wartime trench coat, brogues as heavy as lead, and slacks with baggy knees and a rain hat tied tightly beneath my chin. Obviously we all expected freezing weather in a matter of minutes coats were shed and hats thrown back on the platform of the sleeping cars. Only apparel I did not regret in the 85 degree temperature were the baggy, heavy, sandy gravel under foot made them essential as walking gear. I had a queer sensation of being pretty close to the Al night, for all the world had suddenly turned to sky. It spread above us like a huge blue vault with only a small bit of treeless land left on which we stood. A few buildings hugged each other in Hudson's Bay Square.

Army buses took us to camp where the finest international relationship in the world exists. Canadian and United States forces work as a unit in this bleak lonely camp that looks as though a high wind could blow it into Hudson's Bay. We were shown the apparel, rations and tenting equipment used by the army, air force and navy personnel of both countries while in Arctic training. Compulsory postings to Churchill are for 18 months to two years. I knew next day when the weather 'went out', as the natives say, why we owe three men such a debt of gratitude. The sky hung like lead and high winds whipped our clothing and burned our faces lobster red.

"Summer," said the young Army captain who conducted us through the camp. "is never more than a day at a time." CNR officials had given us good advice when they cautioned us to bring warm clothing. One could imagine that all there is to see at Churchill could be covered in a matter of hours. It took us two full days and one unusual evening before we felt we had grasped what this outpost of civilization means to the democratic world.

The tide was out when we arrived and I played hop scotch over huge boulders to reach the sea and dabble my hands in the salt water of this great port. Stones on the shore glistened with bits of gold and crystal and members of the group aware they could see white whales gambling on the distant horizon.

Only whales I saw were two that were harpooned by a member of the tourist party and laid or deposited on shore. Looking like great mounds of plastic blubber, they cost slap-happy photographers a mint of money for film before 200 tourists had satisfied their picture-snapping phobias.

The annual Churchill Ball was planned for our visit. It was a ball all right, for Indians,

Eskimos and Service Personnel gathered to trip the light fantastic. I made the great mistake of wearing a red dress of the shindig. Red to an Eskimo or Indian, must be the color of a sign, for I had hardly taken off my coat when a great brouer in fringed jacket, sporting a Comanche haircut, made a bee line for me. A jesterbugging teenager is hard enough to follow, but when you add fire blood to his caper, it becomes a contest to see how often you can get your feet from under his challenges. The next day we visited British and Norwegian freighters in port for loading grain and lumber to the very heavens above within the government elevator. I was enthralled watching freight cars stand on their noses to dump their load of huge gleaming machines and belts, miles long that convey tons of grain to storage bins and finally down chutes into the holds of ships. Canada truly seemed the bread basket of the world 190 feet atop those concrete elevators. I had come a thousand miles due north from Winnipeg to see this sight and I was speechless at the wonder of man's ingenuity and fore-sight.

### Talent Finals at Rock Hill Park

Finals of the season's talent shows held at Rock Hill Park, near Shelburne, on October 9, proved an outstanding success from both a talent and attendance standpoint. A record crowd of nearly seven hundred was on hand, and the number of performers kept the show going at a steady pace from 8:30 until well after midnight. Master of ceremonies was Mr. Roy Matthews, Shelburne, and guest artists were the accomplished Mercey Brothers, instrumentalists and vocalists, also proprietor Elwood Hill's little daughter Mavis, who captivated the great crowd with her animated vocal selections.

Winners in the 16 years and under class were Arthur Ireland, Mansfield, Evelyn Keating Corbett, and Marian Webster, Creemore. In the open class, Jim Seymour, of Collingwood placed first, and Donna and Larry Ward placed second. Third prize money went to the Grant brothers of New Lowell. It is understood that the display of talent made such a hit, that by public request a special repeat performance will be given early at a place and date to be announced. Judges for the occasion were Messrs. Jack Montague, Conservatory of Music, Toronto, Willis Tipping and Fred Claridge of Shelburne. Dancing in the pavilion followed the stag program which was held outside to accommodate the crowd.

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## Work Begins on \$45,000 Maple Ave. Baptist Church

Will Hold 250 Plus 300 Church School

Construction on the new Baptist church to be erected on Maple Avenue began last week. The contract has been awarded to the Schedel Construction Co. of Hespler and coat of the new structure is estimated to be close to \$45,000. The architecture of the church is to be colonial in style, having a portico with four columns down the front. The interior will follow the same pattern with colonial type pulpit and pews. The church will be equipped with three nurseries, one for babies in cribs, another for creepers and toddlers, and a third for the two to three year old bracket. Separate departments are envisaged for the beginners, primaries and juniors. A total of fifteen classrooms will be included for the Sunday School which will be equipped to accommodate up to three hundred.

Ample room for parking will be provided and still give room for future development. The long range plans call for an extension to be built to the south of the present building, with room for a larger church to be built should the growth of Georgetown warrant it. The present church building has a gallery and will accommodate a congregation of two hundred and fifty.

## Mission, Auxiliary Ladies To be Combined as One

The Halton Presbytery of the United Church of Canada met on October 4th at Trinity United Church, Burlington, for its first meeting of the fall. Reports by three delegates to General Council, which met in Edmonton in September, were presented. Mr. P. Scott summarized some of the financial reports, including the costs of lands and erection of the new headquarters building in Toronto. Mrs. Flouts of Coxsack, Ontario, reported on the progress of the Commission, which is working towards a United Women's Group, merging the present W.A. and W.M.S. organizations. Work was begun on this in 1955 and the first report was presented to General Council in 1959. The proposed constitution was presented this year. The new name is to be The United Church Women of the United Church of Canada. This will be constituted as a board of the Church on Jan. 1, 1961. Rev. Keith Milligan, Chairman of Presbytery, spoke at the lunch hour on some of the issues and challenges of the Church at the present time referring to the addresses of the retiring Moderator and others.

The Missionary and Maintenance Committee outlined plans for three Presbytery Halls to be held this month at the Home, Acton, with interment in Fairview Cemetery, on Friday, Sept. 30th. Fallworkers were neighbors Joe Massey, Mike Bennett, Morris Courtney, Fred Cunningham, Stan Coette and Jack McKellar, Hamilton, a buddy through the war. Born in Milton, the deceased was the oldest son of the late Mary Ann Armstrong and Jacob Johnson. An employee nearly 38 years with Beardmore & Co., he spent his life more & Co., he served overseas six years and was a prisoner of war. He was one of the first two men from Acton to enlist when Canada declared war on Sept. 3, 1939.

## Beardmore Employee One of First Enlistees

The funeral service was held on October 1st for Robert Anson Johnson, a life-time Acton resident who died suddenly Tuesday, Sept. 27 at the Georjeth Hospital. He was in his 59th year. Rev. A. H. McKenzie of Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton, officiated at the service from the Home. A shoemaker, funeral was held at the home of Mr. William Home, Acton, with interment in Fairview Cemetery, on Friday, Sept. 30th. Fallworkers were neighbors Joe Massey, Mike Bennett, Mor-

## Reviews High School Work in Amitsar, India

On October 4th at St. George's Anglican Church, the rural dean of Halton, the Rev. K. S. G. Richardson, was celebrant at a service of Holy Eucharist, which preceded the annual denary meeting of the Women's Auxiliary. Close to seventy women from branches throughout Halton, attended the service. Clergy of the denary were the choir, and the Rev. H. F. Thomson organist. The flowers on the altar were placed there by St. George's branch, in loving memory of those members of the W.A. of the Church Universal, who have entered Eternal Life. Tables beautifully decorated with autumn leaves, flowers and fruit, delighted the ladies as they assembled in the parish hall for lunch.

The business meeting was opened by the Richardson with prayer and an address of welcome. The hostess branch president Mrs. S. Walker welcomed the members, and Mrs. R. D. F. Bourne, diocesan president, presided. The minutes of the last annual meeting and financial report were given by Miss H. J. Tremaine, denary secretary. Each branch representative answered the roll call and gave their annual report. Miss Betty Gossett, a teacher on Burlington from Alexander High School in the diocese of Amitsar, India, was guest speaker, and made a very vivid picture as she reviewed her work of the last two years. She also modelled clothing and jewellery worn by the women of the Punjab. She asked especially that the members would pray for all those in the mission fields regularly at their devotional meetings. After the offertory hymn "The love of Christ constraineth," short addresses were given by the diocesan executive. It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Grace Church, Milton.

## MERE TRIFLE

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