

Diary of a Vagabond

BY DOROTHY BARKER

Every once in a while I like to designate as "far mail." Far from home and lonely as a homing pigeon, I picked up my mail at the hotel desk and noticed one letter bore a Seattle postmark. My correspondent began, "I read your column every week." I flipped over the envelope again. Sure enough, "Seattle" read the postmark.

It appears this reader has a friend in Seattle, who has a sister in my experience. She laughed like a child while telling me about the chief winter sport in that town, and in turn she loans it to her friends and neighbours. This explains why my fan club has gained an international alliance.

The letter was written because this particular person said she enjoyed reading about the people I meet while travelling and my trials and tribulations with George, the gardener.

There was also an invitation for me to visit these dear members of the Vagabond while out west.

While reading this letter, it occurred to me that the most colorful and certainly the easiest pattern in Canada's mosaic is the variety of native children one encounters while travelling from coast to coast. For instance, when our train pulled into the station at The Pas, two inky black eyes of a tiny purpose peered at me over his mother's shoulder. I wrote about the Eskimo children who giggled and laughed their way into my heart. In Vancouver's Chinatown I found one of the most beloved boys of my childhood had come to life. She was a mite of Chinese doll, dressed in silken robe, her black pig tails swinging from her shoulders to her waist. She teetered on a miniature pair of wooden shoes built on tiny springs.

Little people of all nationalities haveunning ways, but it is a lass with russet hair and eyes as large and as blue as a swallow pattern saucer who unconsciously made copy as the dayliner tooted its way across the prairie fields.

It always amuses me how very formal people are when they first board a train. This plump teenager tucked her blue organza skirt in folds between us on the imitation leather seat of that dayliner. She tried to let on I didn't exist as she took three comic books and a chocolate bar from a paper bag.

I blushed twice when I read the titles of two of the books out of the corner of my eye, "Teenage Love," and "Kathy's First Love Affair."

Dayliners are the modern replicas of the old stage coach. They stop at any hamlet they have express for and while unloading, the station agent and train crew get caught up on all the local gossip. They unload boxes of biscuits for the grocer, dry goods for another merchant, an axe for the garage, or a piece of lumber to manufacture a farm kitchen.

It was during one of these polished stops that my soul in a moment of gloom I would exclaim a desire of water. This was the cue for the station agent to call for a friendly exchange of stories. He then turned to me and said, "I'm sorry, we can't get you water. We're out of water, but we'll get some for you." I was given a smile and the oldest could boast of three summers.

When she told me how she cleaned all the mussels, made bread, washed the children and cleaned the house I came to the conclusion that "Kathy's First Love Affair" couldn't lead this young miss very far astray. She already knew more about the facts of life than grandmother's aunt.

I told her I was bound for Drumheller and thus sent her into an ecstatic description of her beloved "Drum." Her father, she said, was a miner for years. "But of course there's hardly any coal mining in Drum any more." She knew all about pensions, lack of markets for coal, how many gallons of oil were pumped each day for storage from the producing wells in the area and where

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Halton, Peel Score Wins in Holsteins

Black and white cattle from six provinces and two U.S. states were shown at the Royal Winter Fair, the 363rd head shown by 128 exhibitors, making this one of the top Holstein shows ever held in Canada both from the standpoint of quality and numbers.

As usual, Halton and Peel breeders were prominent in the "win" list.

A most unusual situation developed in the Premier Breeder competition as this award went to Dr. Hector J. Astengo of Buenos Aires, Argentina, although he did not show any cattle and his Royal herd from Brampton was dispersed two years ago. His win was made possible through animals bred at Rousle but now exhibited by other owners.

In the milking aged cow class, the CN E. Grand Champion, Glenview Babe, Molnath, for D. S. Dunton & Sons, Brampton, was forced down to fourth.

The Hollys' herd for the best springer bred to one exhibitor was won by D. S. Dunton & Sons who also took the progeny of Dam class with the same pair. They were the N.E. Grand Champion and the eleventh place milking three year old.

Results of entries in the district include:

Junior Bull Calf - 2nd Howard Landau, Brampton, on Peacock Lodge Ebony, Sire, 3rd Bradfield Farms Ltd., Brampton, Bull, Senior Calf - 3rd Howard Landau.

Bull, Jun. or Yearling - 3rd Bradfield Farms Ltd. and J. M. Frazee, Brampton.

Bull, 2 years and under - 3rd Forte Lee Farms and A. Miller Farms, Milton.

Cow, 5 years or over, milking - 4th Barbara Y. Boyle, Oakville.

Cow, 4 years and under, 5 months or under - 1st Andrew C. McArthur, Brampton, on Kid Kenny, October Girl.

Bull, 2 years and under, 3 months or under - 3rd Barbara Y. Boyle, Oakville.

Cow, 5 years and over, in milk - 4th D. S. Dunton and Sons.

Senior G. of S. - 3rd J. M. Frazee, Brampton, on Peacock Lodge Ebony, Sire, 4th Bradfield Farms Ltd., Brampton, Progeny of Dam - 1st D. S. Dunton and Sons, on progeny of Glenview Babe, Molnath, M. T. McCarthy Silver Trav - 2nd D. S. Dunton and Sons, 3rd A. Miller Farms, Milton.

Holsteins, Challenge Trophy, breeder of two best Holsteins in the show - D. S. Dunton and Sons.

WORDS OF THE WISE

It is more important to thank God for blessings received than to pray for them beforehand. — William Temple

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