

Diary of a Vagabond

BY DOROTHY BARKER

Under the Spell of Genius

As I walked through the Alexander Graham Bell Museum at Baddeck Harbour on the Island of Cape Breton I was enthralled with the evidence of Bell's early experiments with flight — the fifty-year-old kites that hang from the ceiling. But I think I was even more awed with the man's versatility.

There was no limit to his investigation and inventive genius. A mechanical jacket in an exhibition case could have been the inspiration for today's iron lung. I was fascinated by his simple solution for refining salt water, his work among the deaf, the Bell-Baldwin hydro-bull designs and his experiments with breeding sheep to produce a high percentage of twins and triplets rather than solitary births.

Pays Homage

By CNR train and by limousine I had traveled many miles to experience this exciting morning in the Alexander Graham Bell Museum. But not quite as far as an elderly gentleman who stood beside me straining his vision toward the curator who was conducting our party through the museum. He held me after the lecture from New Zealand to visit Baddeck. His ancestors had left this fishing and ship-building village by about generations ago to seek their fortunes abroad. Though he had been born and raised on his farm in New Zealand, he had always considered his homeland Canada and its native shire, Cape Breton Island.

He had a twofold interest in returning to Baddeck, his homecoming and the fact he wanted to pay tribute to Alexander Graham Bell. It was Bell's eyes, made of his dead world bearable. He was an interesting old fellow and possibly because he was surrounded by historical artifacts he skipped into his past and took me with him on a travel adventure which he lived in a soft voice with a hint suggestion of his Scottish ancestry. He startled me by commencing his story, asking "I could prove my religion. I realized I couldn't as he found a medal on his heavy gold watch chain and asked "See anything different about this?" The powers of observation were a low ebb that morning for

I hadn't an inkling why that small disc of metal was not only a life saver but became a passport when proof of religion had escaped the traveler.

It was not a medal at all, but his army identification disc during the first world war. It was dented and scarred where it had stopped a bullet on its way to his heart in 1916.

During the past summer he was trying to enter an Arabic country from Israel. He smilingly told me he didn't blame the Arabs for disbelieving his passport's veracity of national identification. No person of Jewish faith is allowed to enter Saudi Arabia and he thought he had no other means of proving his Protestant religion to the boundary guards.

While he was sitting rather remotely in the guard house a young woman, also being held for further identification, became curious about the tiny disc of metal dangling on his round stomach. She discovered where the bullet's nose had hit, there were four small letters "PRES." It only took a moment to convince the guards that these stood for "presbyterian" indicating the old soldier's religion.

Good Advice

"If you are going to trip all over the place, young lady, you had better get yourself an identification disc. Comes in handy only don't try to stop a bullet with it." The elderly cackle of his humor followed me to our waiting car as I turned to snap a colored picture of Dr. Bell's memorial.

I was reminded of my much traveled friends a little later when we visited the museum at St. Ann's. In a case were hunks of Kour gum, chief revenue of early St. Ann's settlers who had returned from their adventure in New Zealand and brought with them stores of their amber sap from native Kour pines. It was an invaluable ingredient for varnish. On view also were the chair and some clothing of Giant MacAskill, a nine-foot human resident years ago in the district and nearby, the only Gaelic college in North America. We were too late for the annual Gaelic Mod, an exhibition of Scottish dancing and games but everywhere there was evidence that ancestors of St. Ann's villagers had smelled the perfume of the heather and danced the Highland Fling.

Spot on Seven In Duncan Hines

(Ithaca, N.Y., December) — The Spot on 7 in Georgetown, Ont., has received national recognition in the new 1962 edition of the Duncan Hines Travel Book 'Adventures in Good Eating' Roy H. Park, editor-in-chief of the Duncan Hines Institute, announced today.

The Spot on 7 is one of 4500 eating places in North America 'Recommended by Duncan Hines.'

Other Duncan Hines books are the companion travel book 'Lodging for a Night', also newly republished; and the Duncan Hines guide to resorts and holiday spots, 'Vacation Guide,' the latest edition published in July.

"This is our twenty-seventh year of continuous publication, and service to the American travelling public," Park stated. "It is also our fifth year of continuing surveys — our public opinion audit of eating and lodging establishments. This year we received 60,000 nominations of more than 12,000 restaurants, hotels, motels and resorts from 11,000 people who have the means to eat and stay at the best places in North America."

3 Out of 100

These survey results plus comments from the travelling public and an actual inspection by a staff field representative, Park said, provide the guides for making the final selection of the 3 out of 100 establishments in the hospitality industry listed in the three Duncan Hines Travel Books.

"It has been our policy never to apply public ratings to places receiving the Duncan Hines recommendation," he explained. "Listings give the facts and are so worded that the traveller can decide for himself which establishment best suits his tastes and needs. Listings give the facts and are so worded that a traveller can decide for himself which establishment best suits his taste and needs. Listings are by merit only. There is no charge for a listing — in fact, no charges of any sort — nothing hidden, no membership fees, no commissions, no acceptance of advertising or gratuities."

The 1962 editions have been completely rewritten and revised, listing by listing, the editor-in-chief pointed out, as well as having revised covers.

More Pages

"The new 'Adventures in Good Eating' contain more pages than ever before — 432 — but fewer listings. Anyone using this new book will find many new eating places included, for we made 750 changes in places newly listed or deleted since 1960," Park pointed out. "Although we reduced our net total number of recommendations by some 250 in the past two years, the increased number of pages was required by inclusion of much more detailed information on every establishment listing — complete prices, specialties, hours of service and days closed."

"Lodging for a Night" represents some 450 changes in places newly listed or deleted since last year. This new edition is also the largest ever published in number of pages, 416. Again, more detailed information and inclusion of the new hotels and motor hotels built in North America in 1961 necessitated increased size, the Institute spokesman reported.

Minor Hockey League Seeks Better Grouping

Tri-County Minor Hockey officials huddled last week in a general meeting which included in the agenda, the question of classification of teams.

The meeting was called as it has been felt that some of the teams in the league are considerably stronger than others. The thinking is certain teams should be classified as to their ability.

Doesn't Seem Fair

An example could be given when it was revealed that Acton, a town which has not done too well in hockey and baseball in the past, is playing in the same grouping as Oakville and Brampton, two perennial contenders. Officials have hinted that the stronger teams should step up into higher classifications while the others should play in another division.

At the present time the ruling for classifications is by population of the community represented. Milton is in the "B" category along with Acton, and usually Milton knocks off Acton whether the sport is

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Nativity Pageant at Two Anglican Churches

The Nativity Pageant by the members of the choirs of St. Stephen's Church, Hornby, and St. John's Church, Stewarttown, was presented on Sunday morning at St. Stephen's and again at the evening service at Stewarttown.

The members exchanged Christmas gifts and lunch was served. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Rev. J. E. Maxwell read the story while the players acted their roles. The play was directed by Tom O'Neill with Mrs. Maxwell and Miss Joan Harrop as organists.

Christmas carols rang out from St. Stephen's belfry before and after the service on Sunday morning. The system has been presented to the church congregation in memory of Jack Royce by his family.

Albert George Waite Western Homesteader

Albert George Waite, 85, well known resident of the Sovereign district, died in hospital at Rosetown, Sask.

Mr. Waite was born in Streetsville and went west to homestead in Sovereign in 1912. He later went into the implement business. In 1916 he married Miss Grace Hurlburt in Regina, and in 1926 he sold his business and returned to farming. He retired in 1959 and he and Mrs. Waite had spent their winters since 1946.

He leaves his wife, a son, Hurley and a granddaughter Judy; and a sister Mrs. Frank Hustler of Brampton. Another sister, Mrs. Charles McLaughlin, Hamilton, died on Tuesday, December 19th.

Funeral service in Sovereign United Church on December 1 was conducted by Rev. W. Graham. Mrs. Ed Burt was at the console of the organ and accompanied the congregation as they sang 'Safe in the Arms of Jesus' and 'Abide With Me.' The choir sang the 23rd Psalm as an anthem.

Interment followed in the family plot in Sovereign Cemetery with the following acting as pallbearers, Jack Procter, Les Whyte, Lindsay Nesbit, Hee Lewis, Russell Webb and Bob Turner.

Happy birthday to Jimmy Talyn on December 23rd, to Howard Bradley, Sr. on Dec. 24 and Darlene Leslie on Dec. 26th.

The First Hornby Cubs and Scouts met jointly on Thursday night for a going up ceremony. Robert Hilson was presented with his first star, house number badge were awarded to Howard Bradley and Robert Hilson, collectors badge to David Bousfield and gardeners to Johnny Saunders.

After shaking hands and saying goodbye to the members of the pack and their leaders Paul Thompson, Paul Beene, Robert Brigden, and Larry Rutledge were introduced by clubmaster Geoffrey Drew-Brook to scoutmaster Les Rutledge and A.S.M. L. Bye who assigned them to their troops.

The evening ended with a fun feed topped off with cookies and pop.

The Evening W.A. met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Neelands on Monday night with fifteen members and three guests present.

Mrs. Harold Learmont presided over the meeting. Mrs. John Wallace gave a devotional on the true meaning of Christmas. Mrs. Tom Bousfield was nominated as chairman for the January meeting.

THE DATE BOOK

Dec. 17, 1903 (58 years ago) Wright Brothers made first powered flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C.; Dec. 18, 1861 (100 years ago) American composer, Edward Alexander McDowell born Dec. 19, 1886 (75 years ago) Ty Cobb, baseball great born; Dec. 20, 1860 (101 years ago) South Carolina became first Southern State to secede from the Union;

AULD LANG SYNE

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