

The Gregorlys

Only happy memories remain of year in Canada

Less than a month from now, the Gregory family will be on their way home to Australia after a fantastic whirlwind stay in Canada. The family came from "down under" last Christmas as part of a teacher exchange program. Bruce Gregory traded jobs and home with Jim McCulloch, R.R. 3, Acton. While Mr. Gregory was to teach deaf children at E. C. Drury School in Milton, Mr. McCulloch was to teach in a boys' school in New South Wales.

Mr. Gregory and his family, wife Judy, son Paul and daughter Melissa arrived at their country home on New Year's Eve. They had spent a week with Mr. Gregory's brother in Los Angeles before heading north to their new home.

In the year they have been here, the Gregorlys have taken full advantage of the time. During the summer holidays, they headed east for

five weeks going through Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Connecticut. They spent five days in Boston, three in Cape Cod, and a few days in New York City, where they went to a Broadway show.

After a week to rest up, the family left home to travel in the other direction for three more weeks. They drove west to British Columbia, and visited Montana, Wyoming, Yellowstone Park, South Dakota, Mount Rushmore, the badlands, Mitchell, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

Altogether they travelled 12,000 miles in the McCullochs' car. Even though they spent "a fortune" in gas over the two months, they saved a lot of money by using the McCulloch's travel trailer also.

Nashville, Tennessee was the destination on their last holiday at Thanksgiving. The family had, the previous week spent their first Thanksgiving at a friend's cottage on Georgian Bay.

Because there is no Thanksgiving holiday back home, the entire tradition was new and exciting to them. Mrs. Gregory was so impressed with the meaning of the day, she said the family has decided to carry on the event once they return home. She explained that each year, when Canadians are celebrating Thanksgiving, they will in a small way be thankful for what they have, and also remember their friends in Canada.

Father's Day, which is in June here and September in Australia, was celebrated by the Gregorlys on the Canadian day. However, when Father's Day at home rolled around, Mrs. Gregory said, naturally there were no cards in the

stores, nor advertisements in any of the media, and as a result, she forgot all about it. As a result, there are two grandfathers in Australia who did not get Father's Day greetings this year.

One question in Mrs. Gregory's mind now is how to get the accumulation of more than 12,000 miles of travel and one year of memories into a few suitcases.

At the Acton fall fair, she won a giant stuffed polar bear for Melissa. The thought of leaving the bear behind is too much for the young girl, and ways and means of getting it home are being thought of. Mrs. Gregory has called the airline and was informed it would cost \$52 to take it on the airplane. It only costs \$35 to buy at home. It would be possible to keep it on their laps the entire way back, but at 24 hours flying time, and a three day train ride to get to Vancouver, it would be too much to handle. It also costs a

fortune to ship it. She is currently looking for a good seam to rip open to take the stuffing out.

The bear is not the only thing causing problems. For his birthday, Paul received a ten speed bicycle. He also won one by selling chocolate bars for Erin High School. He will be selling one, and will have to carry an unassembled bike all the way home.

The family leaves by train for Vancouver on December 19. There they will catch a plane to Hawaii, and from there, travel home. When they arrive, it will be late evening of Christmas Day—right in the middle of the summer holidays.

For anyone with a penchant for summer, the situation was ideal. The family left home in the middle of their summer, arriving here in the winter. After a few months of the cold, they found themselves in hot weather again. When they leave behind the

beginning of winter here, they will find themselves in summer again three summers in one year!

This has played havoc with the children's schooling however. At home, Melissa was preparing to enter grade three, and Paul, grade seven. A lot of hard work and studying saw it possible for the youngsters to enter their grades here in Canada, although they were four months behind. When they return to school at home in February, they will be in grades four and eight, the same as in Osprey school. However, classes will just be beginning, and they will have to sit through the first part again. This means they will have a complete school year in Australia in those grades, plus half a year in Canada. In the end however, they did not lose any school time, and actually are more learned from their experiences. The family has seen more

of the North American continent than most who spend their entire life here. The only part they did not explore was down in the Florida area, mainly because they have very similar beaches at home, and they did not want to spend time seeing something they could see at home.

Even though the year has been an expensive one in regards to airfare, high cost of living, (Mr. Gregory's wages were sent to him from Australia), plus the usual expenditures while on a trip, it was a year the family will never regret doing. The experience was worth every

cent, they feel.

Mr. Gregory faced a great challenge when he accepted the position at the school for the deaf. He had to learn sign language, and get adjusted to the entire situation.

All felt pangs of homesickness, but no one more than Melissa. Living in the country, she was not able to make any close friends like the ones at home. Add to that an almost constant cold, and anyone would want to go home.

When they do leave though, says Mrs. Gregory, they are going to miss the huge house they had become accustomed to. They are also going to

miss their many friends and neighbors of whom they have become very fond. Mrs. Gregory does not know how her family can ever thank everyone for making their stay so enjoyable. Because of everyone's thoughtfulness and consideration, they are able to have happy memories of the past year.

Now they are packing to return home, they look ahead to the future, and hopefully foresee a return visit. Although there is no place like home, and they would not like to live here permanently, she says, another year or two in Acton and area would have been just fine.

Acton library looseleaf



Visitors to the Acton Library this week will see a special display of recent donations.

The inimitable Charlie Brown and Co. have always done more than their bit for literary excellence. The Charlie Brown Dictionary is no exception. This is not a new book but when the library's dog-eared copy finally disintegrated completely the "Acton Ladies Bowling League" leapt into the breach to provide a replacement and we're now back in business with a sparkling fresh compendium of definitions according to Snoopy and friends.

The Acton Women's Institute and the Library have been friends for years and as yet another of their many gestures of friendship the ladies of the institute this year presented two books to the library. The first is a detailed and heavily illustrated biography of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth by Frances Donaldson which traces their lives from family background and birth through their joint reign and follows the Queen Mother to the present with her unflagging joy in life. The second book comes a little closer to home with a collection of traditional "receipts" handed down through the generations and published in an attractive book called The Old Ontario Cookbook. Author Muriel Breckenridge's fascination with old family recipes has resulted in a thoroughly tested, well researched volume of wholesome, flavourful cooking that springs from the pioneer traditions of Ontario. The print in this book is particularly clear and large enough for easy use, and in addition metric equivalent measurements have been given.

Interestingly, many are reproduced life size—in their original small scale. Working in the bush, travelling by canoe and portage, Tom Thompson could not afford to carry large loads of canvases and many of his field sketches were never transferred to standard finished landscape paintings. These field sketches, actually, his trial runs for colour and form now supply the largest body of his work and they stand brilliantly as the mainstay of his reputation. This is a book for cold winter evenings with

energy restrictions, the heat of the colour will make fires and light unnecessary.

As a final note on donations: The Library staff would like to thank the Bonnette family of Acton for the multitude of books they have given us over the years. The list of titles is, truthfully, too long to publish and a display of their gifts would fill several shelves. The people of Acton have been enriched in a wide range of subjects by these generous people. Thank you.



ANN MARIE Lucas has a few important things to tell Santa Claus at the Y on Saturday afternoon.



IN A businesslike encounter, David Markham and Santa talk over Dec. 25's possibilities.

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