

Acton library looseleaf



Some Acton viewers of a recent first-rate TV documentary on Lucy Maud Montgomery found themselves comparing notes about teenage memories of this famous Canadian author and her well-loved books. Reading Actonites generally took a possessive pride in L.M. Montgomery. After all, as the wife of Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Ewan McDonald, she lived only ten miles away in Norval. The manse visible from the highway, drew eager hopeful glances from local bus and car travellers. There was always the chance that the creator of Anne might be in her garden or otherwise visible.

fan persuaded a more sensible chum to accompany her on a shadowing expedition all over town, dodging behind trees and telephone poles, in order to see without being seen. A dubious operation judging by the amused look on the face of the distinguished visitor. Why not approach the school teacher and ask for an introduction? Too shy; besides it was more fun tailing the couple. Even that many years ago, teenagers were joyously daft.

Another admirer of L.M. Montgomery recalls her delight when the writer then living in Toronto, autographed a gift copy of The Blue Castle chosen for a favorite Aunt in England. Under her signature, the author sketched a row of smirking cats. This gesture would have completely won the book donor if she hadn't already been hooked for life on L.M. Montgomery and her books.

Youthful Acton readers used to trade fierce arguments about the merits of the Anne books versus the Emily books, some preferring Emily of New Moon to Anne of Green Gables because the former is more impish than red-haired Anne spelled with an E.

With the exception of The Blue Castle and The Tangled Web, all the Montgomery stories feature girl heroines. The Blue Castle not only chronicles the charming love story of spinster Valancy rated a hopeless old maid by her unlovable clan, it is set in Northern Ontario (the Muskoka district) a change from the Prince Edward Island background of most other Montgomery books. Lucy Maud loved her home island but she responded dramatically to the scenic beauty of old Ontario. Recently the library bought a paperback copy of The Blue Castle which has been missing from our shelves for a number of years. To quote a Staffer: "It stands re-reading." A test for any good book.

At the same time, The Tangled Web was also available in paperback. Another good re-read about the heirloom jug and its impact on the lives of a unique clan vividly portrayed by a natural story-teller.

Who is Harry Patterson? He is Jack Higgins who wrote under this pseudonym, two best-sellers, The Eagle Has Landed and Storm Warning earning him a reputation as a spellbinder. Both are what literary critics describe as "compulsive reading". His latest book under his own name is in the same category. The Title: The Valhalla Exchange.

Harry Patterson is very proud of his daughter Sarah who at sixteen authored The Distant Summer, a beautiful love story set in wartime England. Sarah's style is different from her father's, but she too is a story-teller unlike many so-called writers who produce big tomes about disa and data without really saying anything worth remembering.

Someone asked a member of the local library staff the meaning of "orienteeing" which sent the latter in vain to a dictionary. Definition of this new word which is not yet

in some dictionaries goes thusly: "Orienteeing adds a new dimension to hiking: the rally. The goal is to locate, using only map and compass, pre-designated control points set at varying degrees of distance and difficulty from a central starting point." Complicated? This new sport is described in Orienteeing for Sport and Pleasure by Hans Bengtsson and George Atkinson. A new paper back at the library.

For those who chuckle at Doreen Tovey's misadventures with her Siamese cats and donkey, there's Raining Cats and Donkeys for reading pleasure.

Detective thriller addicts should enjoy Death In The City by JRL Anderson, a new name in the library catalogue.

How many years since you read the incomparable "National Velvet"? The old magic holds on re-reading this one-of-a-kind by Enid Bagnold.

Obituary

Ross Patterson

Funeral service was held at the Wall-Custance Funeral Home, Guelph, January 12 for William Ross Patterson, who died suddenly in St. Joseph's hospital, Guelph.

Mr. Patterson was born July 8, 1900 in Erin township, and farmed in that area for many years. He lived at 229 Dublin St. N., Guelph at the time of his death on January 10.

He was predeceased by his wife, the former Elva McCutcheon. Left to mourn his loss are his sons, Bill of Milton, Robert of Acton, Alan of Rockwood and Douglas of Guelph, and brothers Pat of Limehouse, Arthur of Lakeland Florida, Eliot and Russell of Acton and Wilbur of Rockwood. He is also survived by nine grandchildren.

The funeral service was followed by interment at Rockwood cemetery. The Rev. Forbes of St. Andrew's church, Guelph, officiated at the service.

Members of Walker Lodge held a Masonic service January 1

Frank Marolt

Frank Marolt of 61 Bower Ave. died in Guelph General Hospital January 14. He was 70 years old.

Mr. Marolt is survived by his wife Maria, and two daughters Helen Marolt, Acton, and Doreen Slobodnik, of Toronto. He also had three grandchildren.

Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Acton yesterday (Tuesday). Interment was at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Water

Despite the very cold weather, the wild fowl at the lake have managed to keep open water for themselves. The small area of open water is behind the arena. Many ducks and swans are clustered around it. The birds are fed daily.

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