

ARE ALL THE CHILDREN IN?

The darkness falls, the wind is high, Dense black clouds fill the western sky...

They're coming softly to my side; Their forms within my arms I hide...

But future days are drawing near— They'll go from this warm shelter here...

Will they have shelter then secure, Where hearts are waiting strong and sure...

And love is true when tried? Or will they find a broken reed...

God knows it all; His will is best, I'll shield them now and yield the rest...

Menu Hints

Recipes for New and Novel Dishes; Health Ideas and Suggestions

LIFE BEGINS AT BREAKFAST

"I save time by giving myself thirty minutes for eating breakfast," was the startling contribution of one busy business man...

THE OLD MAN OF THE BIG CLOCK TOWER



THE SECRET OF A HAPPY DAY

Just to leave in His dear hand Little things; All we cannot understand...

When I read this news last week that the Kenney boys had sold their shoe store...

I was also interested in the anniversary arrangements at the United Church. The ranks are getting pretty thin of those who were at that opening of the new Kirk sixty years ago...

But I must get on with my own history of Acton. The last block on the south side of Mill Street, west of the G.T.R. yards...

Mr. Paul Jarvis and family lived here for a time. After the marriage of their daughter to Mr. William Shaw, miller, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis removed from Acton.

The next purchaser was Mrs. Jennie H. Cameron. She enlarged and improved the residence and by skillful arrangement of flower beds and shrubs and a well-kept lawn...

Mr. Cameron now of Oliversville, N. Y. He intended to build himself a home there. In fact went so far as to put in the foundations, but his plans were changed and he removed to Oliversville.

Mrs. Cameron became Mrs. R. B. Wood, and went to reside in Guelph. Mr. John Gibbons bought the property. He resided in Rose Cottage for a number of years, until he purchased a farm in Exeter, where he passed away.

And that old station. What a place it was and what memories cluster about it! A little low frame building, severely rectangular in its outlines, painted a dirty drab...

At the station, Johnnie Ahern had a notable staff. Patrick Kelly and Luke O'Reilly ran the switches, the baggage, the wood racks and carried the mail, John Euard, of Montreal, was for a time also on the job.

and her daughters now reside there. The rear lot was sold as the site of the shoe factory building.

About eighty-five years ago, when the Grand Trunk line was being constructed from Toronto to Sarnia, the station yards for Acton were laid out.

In those early days the convenience of the railway, its sidings and switches, were evidently carefully considered, but any consideration of the comfort or convenience of the public was manifestly never in the mind of the projectors of the road.

The station was planned about midway between Mill and Queen Streets. At the east-end were cattle yards and all sheds and tool house and freight shed, with no passage-way to the station except on the railway track itself.

At the west end there was the big woodshed, with a capacity for three or four thousand cords of wood, with woodracks beside the track and between them and the track lines the semaphore lines were stretched.

No place but the track on which to get to the station from Mill Street. Then, to make matters more inconvenient and dangerous, the water-tank was located near Mill Street.

In winter time a constant drip of water to spout the spring millinery and delicate costumes of passengers who inadvertently passed in or out to the station by that route.

Later the tank was moved in to the end of the station platform. Many a tumble took place there by unwary passengers who were unfamiliar with the slippery places, where poor sinners were supposed to stand.

Finally, when the present station supplanted the old chack, which had done duty for half a century, a fine new tank was constructed on a metal frame on property outside the railway limits and hydrants adopted for supplying the engines.

But even water tanks for railway engines had their day and a couple of years ago this tank was torn down and the big engine no longer got water at Acton station.

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At the operators' table were Tim Rue and Jack Lancelley. Tim went wrong with drink; Jack Lancelley entered the Methodist ministry and became one of the shining lights of the church.

He died in March, 1900, at the age of fifty-two years, greatly mourned by thousands to whom he had ministered after preaching for thirty years.

Mr. Lancelley was a great favorite when in Acton and came pretty nearly marrying one of our brightest maidens, but "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip."

Mr. Ahern was succeeded by Thomas Gunn, a thorough business man and popular alike with shippers and passengers. When he left sixty years ago, to take the agency of the G.T.R. at Belleville, the head of that division, our citizens gave him a farewell banquet at Agnew's Hotel and presented him with a fine gold watch.

was a character. His circles called him "Bob." He appeared to have the notion that his time during business hours did not all belong to the G.T.R., though the official paymaster paid his salary in full every month.

He contracted for telegraph poles, had an interest in the manufacture and placing upon the market of the Acoustic Telephone, and during the old Scott Act campaign, nearly sixty years ago, conceived it to be his duty to publish the Scott Act Review, an anti-temperance journal, calculated to combat the arguments put up by the liquor press and public speakers in favor of the liquor traffic.

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Manitoba's "Burbank" May Change Prairie Diet From Prunes to Pears

Frank Skinner wins wide renown as horticulturist

By J. F. C. WRIGHT Central Press Canadian Writer

Dropmore Manitoba, May 25.—Pears may oust prunes from prairie farm-homes, tables of Frank Skinner, Manitoba's "Luther Burbank," sets his way.

Formerly a farmer, horticulturist, Skinner has experimented with plant breeding in Manitoba ever since he came from northern Scotland and had his first taste of prunes and raisins growing on the western slopes of the Riding Mountains here, 41 years ago.

Eighteen years ago he brought the first Siberian pear tree into Manitoba. In Manitoba's climate it felt at home from the beginning, but the fruit was the same as in Siberia—too tough and thorny for table.

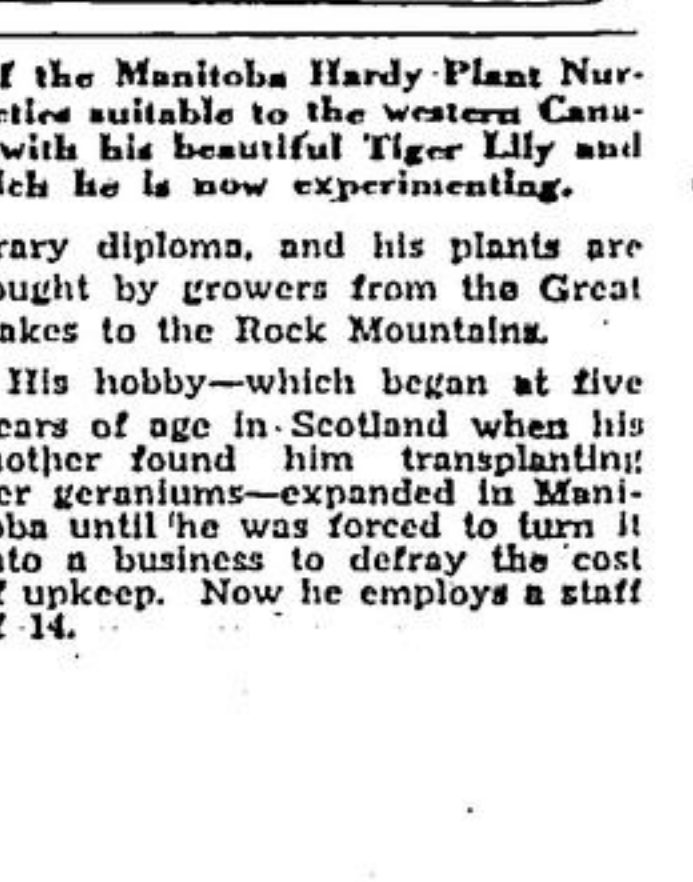
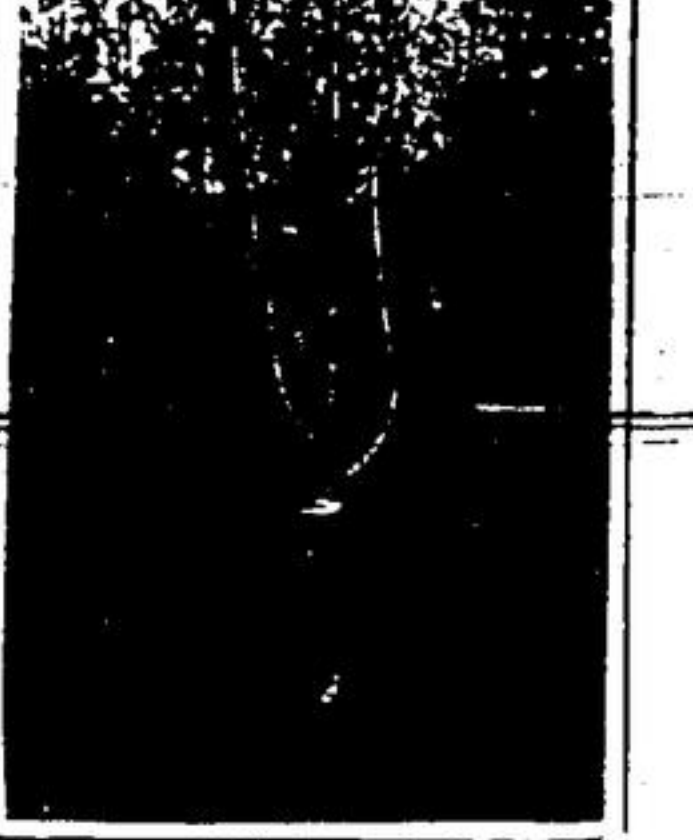
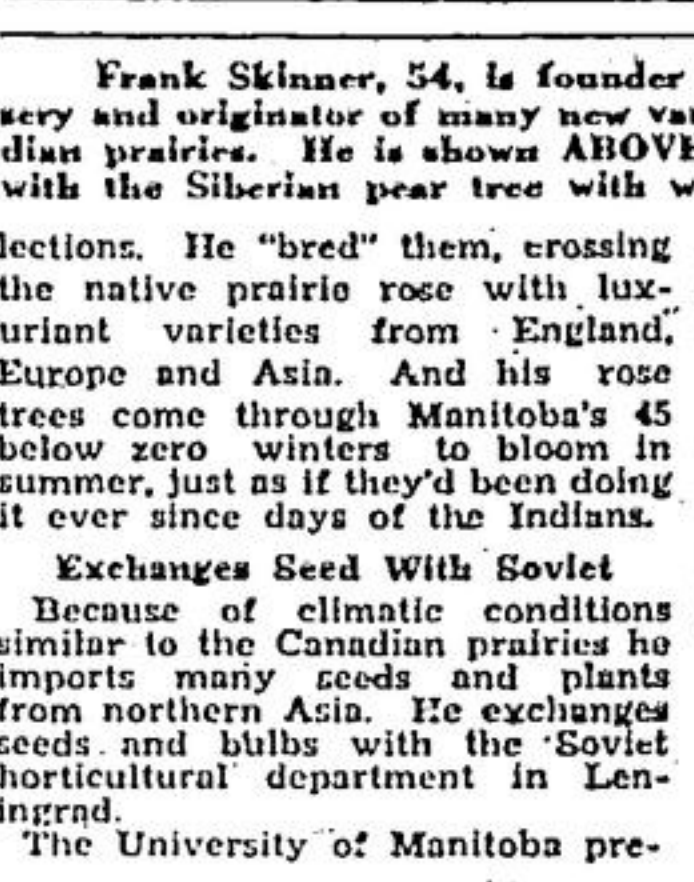
Grafted on a Branch Skinner scratched his head and wondered how he could get his Siberian pear tree to have eatable pears on it. Then he heard of Alex Young and his pear trees near Brooks, Alberta. Alex Young, farmer, while in town one day, some years ago, bought himself some pears. Alex ate the pears and planted the seeds on his farm. These grew into trees, blossomed and bore fruit. So Skinner got a branch from one of Young's pear trees and grafted it on to his own best Siberian pear tree at Dropmore.

The graft came through the severe winter in fine shape and this spring it looks as if it will bear fruit in the fall. If so, it may mean the beginning of a species of pear hardy in Manitoba, and the prairie provinces generally.

Pears occupy only a part of Frank Skinner's time. A 60-acre tract of his two sections of farmland is devoted entirely to horticulture. He grows lilies on a larger scale than most Manitoba farmers grow corn. This year he has four acres of lilies, scores of different varieties. A few years ago, it was thought unlikely that anything other than the native tiger lily would thrive outside a hothouse in Manitoba. But Skinner has produced many luxuriant and hardy lilies. With his Moss-will lily—produced by crossing—he won the Cory Cup, awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society, in London, for the best hardy hybrid shown in 1931. It was the first time for the Cory Cup to come to Canada.

His farm-home and nursery is more than 1,500 miles north of either southern Canada or Florida, but his hardy hybrid roses look like Pasadena and Tampa selections. He "bred" them, crossing orary diploms, and his plants are sought by growers from the Great Lakes to the Rock Mountains.

His hobby—which began at five years of age in Scotland when his mother found him transplanting her geraniums—expanded in Manitoba until he was forced to turn it into a business to defray the cost of upkeep. Now he employs a staff of 14.



Business Directory

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The Acton Free Press PHONE 174



Bowl of Mixed Cereal (Corn flakes, bran flakes, rice krispies) Sliced Bananas

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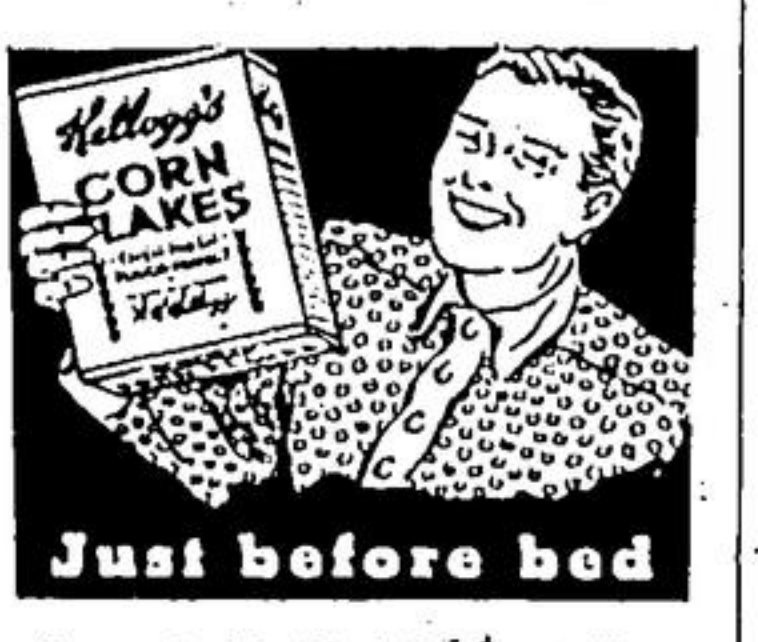
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3 tablespoons crisp, dried bacon 4 tablespoons cooled bacon fat Soak all-bran in buttermilk. Sift flour, baking powder, soda and salt together. Cut in dried bacon and bacon fat until mixture is like coarse meal.

Add soaked all-bran; stir until dough follows fork around bowl. Turn onto floured board; knead lightly a few seconds; roll or pat to 1/4 inch thickness and cut with floured cutter. Bake on lightly greased pan in hot oven (450 degrees F.) about 12 minutes.



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