

Powassan Highlights

1976

by Mrs. Dorothy Millar
Intended for last week
POWASSAN: Early residents in the area would enjoy a touch of nostalgia had they heard a tape presented by Rev. D. Woodward at the service in the United Church on Sunday morning. The tape was narrated by Father Roland Ford Palmer who was a student Anglican priest in the Nipissing, Restoule, Golden Valley charge early in the century (1912). At the time Father Paris was serving the Powassan Anglican charge.

Father Palmer told of the hardships of the pioneers in the district, and the names of the Beattys, the Armstrongs, the Floyds, the Rowlandsons and the Maltbys were some of those mentioned in his narration. However, perhaps the chief character was "Granny Bower" who had moved into the area earlier. She and her husband had travelled by canoe up the Ottawa and Mattawa rivers, had crossed by way of Trout Lake, Lake Nipissing and the South River to the lot designated to them. Over the various portages along the way she had to leave her children alone while she helped her husband carry their meagre supplies.

POWASSAN: Our congratulations to the Ottawa Roughriders, on their winning of the Grey Cup. Though many of us do not understand the fine points of the game no doubt we are interested in this yearly competition. The spirit of the day seems full of enthusiasm and yet without bitterness, no matter which side wins!

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gauthier to our town. They have taken up residence on Hwy. 11 N. Mrs. Gauthier is the former Judy McIntyre, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McIntyre of Mill Street. Mr. and Mrs. Gauthier resided formerly on the Manitoulin Island.

Miss Hattie McColeman of Timmins was a weekend guest of Mrs. M. Graff.

Mrs. John Campbell, who has been visiting her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. Jamieson of Scarborough, arrived home on Saturday. She was accompanied by Mrs. Jamieson (Sheila).

Over 100 of our local senior citizens took advantage of the clinic at the Town Hall on Thursday afternoon when the "flu vaccine" was given by the district nurses.

When they arrived at their destination they built a rude shack, cleared away a few trees, and planted potatoes and turnips. Later they acquired a cow, and slowly conditions improved somewhat.

In spite of hardships Granny Bower managed to exercise a close control over the affairs of her beloved Anglican Church, and did all she could to obtain new members. At one time she and another, Granny Maltby had some differences regarding new resident's church affiliation. On this occasion Granny Maltby won for Knox Presbyterian but Granny Butler affirmed that next time, she would get there first. Eventually the differences were forgotten in intermarriage.

In those days, no funeral parlours or undertakers were available, so the women had to prepare the dead for burial, and flowers were whatever was at hand, in one case a cross was made of maple leaves.

A story is told of Granny Bower and Granny Maltby who sat all night with another - Granny Thomas. Said Granny Bower, "We've sat up with her three nights, and she isn't dead yet".

various parts of the world, we cannot help feeling fortunate that we have not yet been called upon to face similar calamities. We really are fortunate and it seems a pity that we show our appreciation by engaging in strikes, questionable dealings, etc. One writer expressed it thus - "Canada has become the laughing stock of the world with its many and varied strikes". Though we have the highest standard of living in the world we are not satisfied. Perhaps by our greed we may lose what we have. "M"

Plans were made at the meeting of the Golden Sunshine Club on Thursday evening for the annual Christmas dinner and party to be held Dec. 16. Following the meeting the evening was spent in dancing to the music of the club orchestra. Members are looking forward to visiting the North Bay Club on Dec. 7, and South River on Dec. 18. This Thursday evening (Dec. 2), the North Bay Music Makers will be guests of the local club.

Ironically she survived Mrs. Bower.

Interesting superstitions of the time were told by Father Palmer - one told of him being asked by a lady to borrow a piece of bread and butter from a neighbour - to cure her children's whooping cough. (She said it did). Another story was about the pennies which were given in the offering. Apparently Father Palmer stored them away. When he inquired why no more pennies were being given, he was told if he would put them back in circulation they would be.

Time did not permit the playing of the entire tape but a fitting conclusion was the singing of a hymn composed by Father Palmer "Sing of Mary", no. 494 in the Hymnary.

We are sorry to learn that quite a number of our town-folk have had to enter hospital and we wish all a speedy return to health. Included are Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. M. O'Shell, Miss Islay Phillips, Mr. J. Cotnam, Miss E. Bower, Mrs. L. Boxwell, and also Kris Millar of Powassan. Don't miss the Valentine Tea and Bake Sale in the United Church on Saturday.

Apparently two fine and worthy aspirants have thrown their hats into the ring in a bid for the opportunity of serving our town in the capacity of mayor for the next two years. Councillor Mrs. Shirley Scinto is contesting the incumbent Mr. Merv Oshell. Voting day, Monday, Dec. 6.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Johncox of Aurora were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Graff.

We notice that Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Topham and family have moved into their spacious attractive home on Edward Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Paul and Mrs. H. J. Paul were visitors to Toronto during the week.

Many Powassan folk visited the Chisholm Tea and Bazaar at the United Church on Saturday afternoon, and took advantage of the many sales opportunities and enjoyed the delicious tea and social time.

As we hear the tragic news of the recent disastrous earthquakes in Turkey and

up life

POWASSAN: Well, here I am back, following a brief absence. Our gratitude to those who sent in news via the box or in other ways to help daughter Jeanne who kept our space in Highlights. It really is difficult to "do" a column without a great deal of co-operation. And, again, many thanks to those who remembered us with cards, letters, and contributions in Lindsay's name to the Heart and Cancer Foundations. Since each of us must face his day of reckoning, a time like this should be not of despair but of hope, if our Faith means what it should.

To my own surprise shortly after arriving in the city, I found my self in North York Hospital. I say "surprise" because a complete blackout descended on me suddenly, which lasted about two days, and caused my enforced visit. I have not heard of

Algonquin Chapter, Powassan, hosted a reception for Mrs. Muriel Pilgrim, District Deputy Grand Matron of District 21, Order of the Eastern Star on Saturday evening, April 24th, in Powassan Junior Public School. Many members and guests attended from the District. Entertainment was provided and a dainty lunch served.

Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Pilgrim who attended the above function included Mr. and Mrs. Harry Scott of Elmira; Mr. and Mrs. Clare Stickney of Palmerston and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Flewelling of Arthur. "M"

POWASSAN: With the ominous reports of the flu coming nearer, one has the uncomfortable feeling of hostile armies coming closer and closer! Which will strike first? The Texas bug, the Russian or the Swine? So far there is certainly an enemy right in our midst and several who have suffered from the malady may not be able to name it, but they can testify to its strength and devastating effects.

Curling at the new arena has got off to a good start with various teams having been formed. Initial competitions were held during the past week and stiff muscles were reported in many

many who have had a similar problem, but it would be interesting to compare notes if there are any. (It was not a "trip" from drug addiction).

A little poem left by the Chaplain at the hospital read:

Pray don't find fault with the man who limps,
Or stumbles along life's road
Unless you have worn the shoes he wears
Or struggled beneath his load.
There may be nails in his shoes that hurt,
Though hidden away from view;
Or the burden he bears,
placed on your back
Might cause you to stumble too.

Actually the above is very fitting as a broken toe suffered during my unconscious wandering is proving quite

troublesome.

We extend deepest sympathy to Mrs. Audrey Plaunt (nee Graff) whose husband, Mr. Harvey Plaunt of New Liskeard passed away suddenly last week. North to attend the New Liskeard wervice for Mr. Plaunt were Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Graff and Mrs. R. Millar.

The spring tea and bake sale (April 22) and the dance (April 29) held in the Golden Sunshine Hall were both reported outstanding successes. Approximately \$180 was realized from the former which is a first attempt for the Club in this line. Renovations to the kitchen area have simplified considerably any efforts in this type of venture.

Mr. Gerald Skuce of Toronto spent part of last week with his parents Mr. and Mrs. John Skuce.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Mary Closs home after spending some time at her daughter's home in Mississauga.

Our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John Gaudreau of Kelowna, B.C. who are the proud parents of a baby girl, born April 17, Angeline Marie. Mrs. Gaudreau is the former Shirley Brownlee.

Recent guests at Mr. and Mrs. Harold Barton's home included Mr. Blake Kilgour and son Allan from Quebec and Mrs. Marjorie Martin of Orillia.