

Goofy humour, nostalgia in Leacock winner

By Shirley Whittington
This year's Leacock Award winner is a real winner - That Far Greater Bay, by Ray Guy. This is the first time in the thirty year history of the medal that it has been won by a Newfoundlander. This, and the fact that there's a \$1500 check attached to

the award should give rise to some wry Guy By Chance, Newfoundland, and he's a

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comment in the future. Guy is a native of Come freelance writer and journalist for the St.

John's Telegram. He's 39, and married with one child.

An earlier book, called You May Know Them As Sea Urchins M'am was entered in last year's competition unsuccessfully.

Both his books are a delight to read. That Far Greater Bay is a

collection of articles originally printed in the St. John's Telegram and they range all the way from glorious goofy humour (Reflections From the Convalescent's Couch) through bitter social comment (The October Crisis) and everyday trauma (Down the Drain). There's one piece on Aunt Cissy, the aged chateleine of Wittless Bay Barrens, in which she spouts some of the finest in colourful Bay invective. ("Always on behind," she says, "like the cow's tail. How do you manage to get out of your own way at all, at all?")

Guy can be smilingly cutting too. He's "wonderful down" on Mr. Smallwood and his centralization program, which emptied the outports and brought the citizens into urban colonies. He calls Smallwood "the only living millstone" and says he may be depended upon to try and prove that Newfoundland would have sunk into the Atlantic Ocean without him. "It'll take a lot," says Guy, "to repair the damage and not enough forgiveness under the sun to cover the crime of those who thought they could plunge in like mad bulls and tear asunder a delicate thing."

The chief delight of That Far Greater Bay is the language. It sings in the rhythms of the outports - that peculiar blend of Irish on the rocks, with equal twists of irony and whimsy.

Some of the most pleasant writing comes in the entries in "Guy's Encyclopedia of Juvenile Outport Delights". There's Catching Conners, Tying Cans on Sheep's Tails, and Ranting, which is the sprint and belly-flop method of coasting down icy slopes on stove sides, toboggans, pieces of cardboard, old floor canvas, book bags and pants seats.

There's gentle nostalgia in That Far Greater Bay too. Guy gets almost poetic when he talks about the lilacs flourishing in abandoned farm yards, and the nice smell that comes from a back kitchen woodbox. There's a column on oil lamps and on "what feeds

It is a Newfoundland custom, Guy tells us, to call the older men of the community "Uncle" whether they are related to you or not. And the uncles (or aunts) can be "cross as the cats" or "deaf as haddock." "They say," complains

'Rocky' opens at Pen

by Terry Dupuis
One of the year's most highly-acclaimed motion pictures opens tonight at the Pen Theatre in Penetang. Rocky has been a big hit with both movie critics and the movie-going public. Several months ago it was awarded the top prize of Best Picture of the Year by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and also won the Best Director and Best Film Editing Awards.

Rocky made an overnight star out of Sylvester Stallone, who was previously virtually an unknown writer and actor. Stallone was the guiding light behind Rocky. He wrote the script in 3 and a half days, took it to a producer and refused to sell it unless he could play the title role himself. Such a thing was virtually unheard of in Hollywood. Starring an unknown actor in a movie is certainly a risky venture, and the producer had in mind actors of considerable box-office pull such as James Caan or Gene Hackman or Robert Redford.

Stallone refused, even turning down an offer of \$150,000 for the script. He ended up taking \$25,000 and five per cent of the Rocky profits, in order to star in the movie himself. Stallone's gamble paid off; his percentage of the profits will amount to several million, and he is reportedly now being offered \$500,000 per script.

Rocky is an over-the-hill musclebound fighter who finally gets a crack at the heavyweight championship. But Stallone sees it as "a love story, not a boxing story. It's the story of a man fighting for dignity." According to the movie reviews and people who have seen it, Rocky is a movie which contains a

good deal of warmth, heart and soul, and compassion, ingredients rare in most of today's movies. Reportedly Rocky is a movie which actually has the audience cheering for the main

or three times. Rocky will be running at the Pen for a full week, beginning Friday; two performances nightly at 7:00 and 9:15. Papillon The 1974 escape ad-

Movie review

character. Some people I know have been so impressed by Rocky and enjoyed it so much that they've gone to see it two

venture Papillon was one of the big hits of its' year, and it is now back by popular demand. It starts tonight at the Odeon

Davis, Dance Wintario stars

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Dance had only a few hours to spend in the town. There was time for a tour of the Military and Naval Establishments and they varied their usual dinner routine with a barbecue on the beach near the Community Curling Rink.

"We pulled the cars up close to the tables so everything would be handy," explained Davis, "and then I saw a police car pull up and I thought, oh-oh, we've broken a by-law. The policeman leaned out the car window and said "Hi Fred!" and drove away. Friendly town!"

That "Hi Fred" spirit was very much in evidence in Penetanguishene, as it is in every community where the pair travel.

"Don't forget now," admonished Davis in parting, "the numbers are the stars of Wintario."

Maybe so, but Davis and Dance are the real people who give warmth and charm to Ontario's numbers game. In two weeks, they'll be in Mount Forest, Ontario - the magic numbers, and the stars - Fred Davis and Faye Dance.

Theatre in Midland.

Papillon is based on the true life story of Henri Charriere, a rebel who was sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil's Island, the notorious French penal colony. Papillon (portrayed by Steve McQueen) is a self-disciplined leader of men with an insatiable appetite for freedom. The prison staff on the island is determined to break him.

Steve McQueen gives the finest performance of his career in Papillon, and he is matched all the way by a magnificent performance by his co-star Dustin Hoffman. Papillon reveals all the brutality and inhumanity of the French penal system as it once existed. The movie is gripping, moving and exciting.

Papillon was directed by Franklin Schaffner, whose most recent work was Islands In The Stream, another triumph. Other notable previous movies by the same director include Patton, Nicholas And Alexandra, The War Lord, The Best Man and the original Planet of the Apes.

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