

Book Review

By Thomas Van Dusen

When Dave McIntosh was a top reporter for Canadian Press he had a reputation for hard-rock honesty, which is preserved in this exciting book chronicling his adventures as a birdman in World War II. In a nutshell, the book is built around a young navigator flying Mosquitos over France and Germany with a Jewish pilot whose burning desire was to personally encompass the destruction of the Third Reich.

"Dave," I said on the phone, "were you really that scared during the 41 missions you flew in World War II?"

"You're bloody right I was," came back Dave's voice.

The book is funny, nostalgic, far out (when you think of what that generation did and against what odds) and beautifully written in the kind of professional prose that went out somewhere around Raymond Chandler and John O'Hara.

I was interested in Dave's claim to fear, because I had known him for some time as a Press Gallery political and National Defence correspondent; and while no one ever wins a DFC for being in the Press Gallery (MacIntosh won one for his 41 missions) there can be dicey moments in election campaigns, particularly when John Diefenbaker was the Leader.

I remembered that Dave had been in Cyprus with my brother Jack when a lot of guns were being fired on that island and in fact one night an enthusiastic junior cypriot had hemstitched a pattern on their hotel room ceiling with an automatic carbine from the street below. Jack reported that he became somewhat unerved but McIntosh just swore resignedly and rolled over and went back to sleep.

so when my wife told me that he and his wife Jean had dropped out one Sunday while I was in town, to leave a copy of the book prior to taking off on a promotional tour, I called Dave that night.

TERROR IN THE STARBOARD SEAT — 41 trips aboard a Mosquito, a true story of 418 Squadron. By Dave McIntosh. General Publishing, Toronto.

"How do you like it?" he asked.

"I'm at page 97 and I can't stop reading."

"That's better than a kick in the you know where," he said.

CASTOR CUPBOARDS

with Margot McCallum

Barbara Boland's OVEN STEW

2 lbs. beef stew cubed
1 cup sliced carrots
2 chopped onions
1 or 2 large potatoes sliced
salt and pepper
1 can mushroom soup thinned with
1/2 can water

Place all the ingredients in a casserole dish with a tight lid, a large bean pot is excellent. Oven 275 for 5 hours.

Barbara Boland (nee Clarke) was born in Ottawa. Married Stanley and moved to Lot 15, Con. 2 farm settled by the Bolands in 1854. She's a member of the UCW and secretary for the Russell Township Library Board.



Suzanne Schroeter's

Scrapbook

Hazel Carscadden and I are still neighbours. We used to live one street away from each other, but since the New Year, Hazel has taken up residence in the Russell's new Senior Citizen's residence.

It was through our neighbourly visits that we discovered, much to our mutual amazement, that Hazel's sister Mabel was my Grade eight teacher at Birch Cliff Public School in Scarborough! And of course, our paths crossed hilariously at the foot of Grouse Mountain during our visit to British Columbia in '79.

Now our visits take us across the river to Church Street where Hazel and many Russell friends and relatives are experiencing the warm fellowship that comes from the Seniors' "Buddy System", from the pride of being the first residents in this new venture, and from sharing the doubts and joys of moving at this point in their lives.

Hazel would be the first to admit she loves the new surroundings, but she also loved her little white house on First Street. Thoughtful neighbours are sorely missed. The beautifully landscaped grounds at the apartments will only partially replace the flower beds and vegetable gardens from before.

But the new life of leisure and companionship will gradually ease the pangs of old memories. The Golden Years ahead are to be free from worries, lawn-mowing, and carrying out the garbage. If the toilet doesn't work just call Mr. Latour! You don't even have to shovel snow! Enjoy the life of Riley.

If, when the spring weather comes, you ever get an urge to rake, weed or hoe Hazel, just come on over to Second Ave. Remember, we're still neighbours.

Castor Cuisine

For over a year now, the "Gourmet Club of Russell" has been going strong. Every month a new outing and new food. But the month of January will be memorable. The place: "Don Alfonso" — Bank Street at

Gladstone. The members of the club agreed that it had been "THE" place so far.

We started out with wine of course and deep fried squid as an appetizer. Don introduced the squid as "spanish onion rings" — a real taste treat. We then progressed to a five course meal, starting with soup. We tried three varieties: cream of cauliflower, minestrone and gazpacho. All three were well prepared and delicious. We then proceeded with a mushroom salad — Superb. Next we were served frog's legs, followed by seafood paella which included whole octopus, crab, shrimp, oysters and served on a bed of rice; the finale of entrees was chicken in wine sauce. Three desserts were sampled: cheese cake (the best ever tasted), diplomat pudding and caramel custard. Along with coffee and tea, we were given flamed sambuca, complete with coffee beans.

We made this place a grade above the others because of the service and warm welcome. Before every entree the table was cleaned, new utensils and warm plates were set. This is a very small restaurant that sits about 30 people. Reservations are a must.

WARD MALLETTE

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