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### Some More Notes on Early Days of Camp

H. A. Preston, Old-Timer Adds Information to References in Recent Issue of H.S. Magazine.

South Porcupine, May 31st, 1935 To the Editor,

The Advance, Timmins. Dear Sir—I read in The Advance about the "Romance of Place Names in the North," as published in the Porcupine Quill. When I came to the end of steel on the T. & N. O. Railway, most of these names were unknown. The Quill forgets to mention McDougall Chutes, now Matheson, named after the McDougall family who lived there more than one hundred years before the T. & N. O. Railway was built. I would like to mention that The Quill is a little wrong on some things it says. One is, it states that in 1905 Geo. Bannerman and J. P. Geddes, of Timmins, were two of the first men in the camp. It should have said Geo. Bannerman and Tom Geddes, and that it was the latter part of May, 1909, that they came. Just two weeks after the Wilson party, of whom the writer is one, and he saw George and Tom come into the lake early in the morning. Tom was in Porcupine the year before but he never lived in Timmins because poor Tom, a real gentleman, was burned in the fire.

George Bannerman and the writer are still alive here at Porcupine, and George will tell anyone that the writer has always told the truth and gives credit where it belongs. It was during 1908 that the Hunter claim was found but nothing much was done at the time. In June, 1909, the writer found the Dome, and in October after the rush started Hollinger and Gillies came and started Hollinger. In September, Geo. Bannerman fetched out the first gold and started the rush. George erected the first building and a few days later the Dome camps of the Wilson gang were built. When the Wilson and Bannerman gang were spending the summer alone at Porcupine there was minus 13 of these names mentioned in The Quill. All that summer we never saw a porcupine and we used to wonder why it was called Porcupine Lake but it came into our heads the shape of the lake was why it was called Porcupine. If the Quill wants to know the happenings at Porcupine from May 12th to September, 1909, George Bannerman

and myself will be pleased to meet the publishers and give them all the news they wish and the writer will give them one hundred dollars if it can be proven what they tell The Quill is not true. The writer was left alone for 12 days at Porcupine and then on the return of the rest of the gang the camp has grown to what it is to-day.

H. A. Preston.

### Nature Study in the North and Elsewhere

Northern Swamps are Storehouses of Knowledge. Something About Nature Study in Switzerland.

The variety of the contents of The Porcupine Quill is a specially interesting point about the recent issue, and anyone realizing the number and interest of the many clever articles in the present number would naturally wish to own a copy of this excellent magazine. The Porcupine Quill is now on sale at the bookstores in town.

Nature study is taken up in The Porcupine Quill, there being two very interesting articles in this regard. One is on the wild life in this part of the North, and the other deals with nature study in Switzerland. The writers of both articles know from actual personal knowledge and experience of the subjects upon which they write.

Wild Life at Our Doors (By George B. Darling)

Ever since I caught my first pike and brought him home for the family bathtub, I have been intensely interested in wild animals. My parents fostered this interest and from then on I was allowed to keep as many pets as I wished, provided that I no longer utilized the bath-tub.

When I could swim, my father gave me a little red canoe, and with it the key to the river. I learned to paddle and I believe the prow of my craft penetrated every hidden waterway within a five-mile radius of the town. Although few people realize it, a swamp is a storehouse of knowledge. To watch a bittern is fascinating. This big water-bird stands as upright and motionless as a stick, seeing everything. A frog swims by; there is a lightning stroke of beak and a short gulp; the frog disappears and the bittern resumes his motionless posture. The bitterns warn the marsh of the approach of danger, for they are always on guard, these sentries of the sedge flats. Lat-

er in the day great blue herons fly to their nests in the trees. How they ever land in a tree is a marvel, for their legs are very long and unsuited for grasping limbs. Their nests are built in hundreds on large trees, the great birds revisiting and repairing these heronries every year.

Beside this particular swamp stood a red-pine forest. Wandering through the pines and listening to the wind singing through the needles was an experience I have never forgotten. Every tree was full of rollicking little chickadees with black-capped heads and impudent beady eyes. The chickadee is an acrobat and hangs upside down by one toe, while he picks insects from the bark. Their incessant "chick-a-dee-dee" is very monotonous, but every once in a while some little fellow overflowing with emotion sings his love note, "phoebe" to his mate on the next branch. Suddenly the chickadees cease twittering and the weird loon-like cry of the pileated woodpecker, or "cock-of-the-wood", breaks the stillness. From the top of a lofty pine this red-headed fellow, largest of our woodpeckers, screams his harsh challenge. The chickadees resume their twittering, but it seems to have a different note. The nuthatches have oined them and running up and down the trees these slaty-blue fellows add a squeaking intensity to the chattering of the chickadees.

One day as I walked out of this forest two great birds rose suddenly from the swamp and flew away on whistling pinions. My heart leapt and missed a beat at the sight of the elusive and wary Canada goose.

Always as I paddled homeward the muskrats ran through the reeds and swam across my path, rippling the water. Often the course of a mink was indicated by a bigger splash and a heavier rippling. At the neck of the swamp and near the creek a pair of wood-ducks could usually be seen, the male swimming and bowing before his indifferent mate. At the end of such a trip I housed my canoe while the red-winged blackbirds flew by overhead. Often I have wished that I were one of them, even if I had to risk the dangers of their carefree life in the swamp.

Nature Study in Switzerland (By Ben Bauman)

The Edelweiss is a flower about 4 to 5 inches high. It has very long and strong roots which grow on the rocks and enter into cracks in the rock. In the springtime when the sun is shining on them they seem a very light white colour. The stem is very hard but when it freezes it breaks easily. In the summertime when the juice is in it it is possible that you can bend them and they do not break. So to say, they have very small green leaves with hairs which make them look white. The animals won't eat this because the juice is a very strong odour. The sepals are in the centre of the flower and all out as soon as it is ripe. It is something like cotton because the seeds have fibres. Their flowers grow always against the sun. The petals are like a star and look like velvet.

The edelweiss is one of the prettiest flowers of all Switzerland but it is very hard to get them because they are growing only in the cliffs of the high and snowy mountain. Many men have been killed who wanted to get some, or in the earlier time the eagles and vultures were bad and killed many men too. I never was to get edelweiss in the mountains but I bought the one I have.

In the forest there are others what are as pretty, and around some flowers are made fences, because they are very rare. There are some names here—woodbine, wife-shoe, wild elder. The people go and they take too much and so the plant in a short time dies out. The forests are very pretty, and there are many roads, and the ones who have not very good lungs can have a morning walk in the fresh morning air. Not only the flowers make the bush pretty but the birds with their wonderful songs. The sick pupils have every year a walk of about ten days in the bush and in the green fields where are cherries, plums and pears, and if they see the farmer they ask him how much he would like to have for a tree of cherries and if it cheap they go to the tree and fill their stomachs with any kind of fruits they desire.

The flowers which grow in the garden and fields are: snowballs, geraniums, irises, roses, daffodils, tulips, and many more. The vegetables are the most important in Switzerland and here also. The people there eat very many because they grow very well, and so you can see in the evening in the summer many people, after a long hard work, working in their gardens. What I liked the best in our garden was the strawberries and the peaches who are so fresh and juicy. I could not say how many flowers there are, but in my herbarium I had eighty more which are of the rarest plants you can possibly find in Switzerland.

### New Liskeard Modernizes Traffic Regulations

New Liskeard town council has revised traffic regulations in that town and has erected signs in regard to "U" turns, stopping near hydrants, passing stop signs, etc. Bright yellow strips indicating areas for pedestrians to cross the street and signs advising against parking near hydrants is only part of the accident prevention campaign that has been mapped out by the council. A by-law prohibiting the making of "U" turns at intersections is being prepared while signs advising motorists of school areas are being erected.

Toronto Mail and Empire.—Mr. Davis J. Walsh writes in the Star: "He, in the words of the immortal Henley, had made the good fight; he had kept the faith." Maybe his head was bloody but unbowed like St. Paul's.

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Keep on the Sunny Side of Life

### Handicrafts Show Skill of the Nations

Notable Event at Noranda Recently, Sponsored by the Council of Friendship.

Several references have been made in The Advance to the "Council of Friendship" established some time ago at the Rouyn mining camp with the purpose of increasing understanding and friendliness between the various races and divisions of the people of the camp, increasing the general tendency to co-operation and goodwill, and making for the building of a better community in every way. All through the North, and indeed, all through Canada there should be interest in the experiment at Rouyn and Noranda. For this reason The Advance has no apology to offer for particular interest in the "Council of Friendship," nor for the publicity given it. Last week there was a reference in these columns to the handicrafts exhibition held in the Noranda curling rink the previous week. This exhibition was the first big effort of the "Council of Friendship," and it seems particularly interesting. Accordingly The Advance is giving herewith the full report of the event as published last week in The Rouyn-Noranda Press:

Handicrafts Exhibition was Credit to Community

"The handicraft exhibition conducted last Wednesday and Thursday in Noranda curling rink under the auspices of the Council of Friendship was concluded on Thursday evening under conditions and with an attendance really gratifying to all.

"It is estimated that over 4,000 people visited the display during the two days, and all who saw it marvelled at the extent and variety of the great collection of art and fancy work, antiques and novelties assembled in the different booths, all tastefully arranged for effective display. The booths in themselves were distinctive, and there was pleasing variation also in character and designs, especially in art and fancy work, according to the nationality represented. Lady visitors, of course, found particular interest and fascination in the wonderful showing of fancy work in each booth, and they simply revelled in examining and admiring the work and skill evidenced in the products of the women of all nationalities, not only in fancy work but in other arts as well.

The Rouyn-Noranda Press had intended this week to attempt to give the names of those responsible for the collection of articles for the different displays and the building and arrangement of the booths, but so many were assisting in the whole undertaking that to do full justice in this way seems out of the question and rather than omit some who are worthy of mention it would seem advisable not to attempt such a task.

French-Canadian Display "There will, however, be no criticism on the part of anyone if credit is given to Rev. Father Pelchat, of Noranda, for the splendid part taken and the enthusiasm shown by him in connection with the preparation of the French-Canadian display. He arranged for the building of the habitant cabin and the gathering of the furnishings and antiques which made it such an attraction during the two days, going to Ste. Rose for the hand-made loom and the old spinning wheel which were in operation both evenings, and collecting for the interior a chair which was made 300 years ago, a grandfather's clock which has ticked off 200 years of time and other primitive household articles and utensils which had their origin in the early days of French Canada. Mention should be made also of the splendid work done by Mrs. J. A. Raymond as convener of the French ladies' booth, and the general enthusiasm of the French-Canadian people, many of whom on Thursday night were in picturesque habitant costume and during the evening staged a dance which the large crowd watched with interest.

"Mrs. Harry Coll, too, in charge of

the I.O.D.E. booth, was outstanding in her contribution to the success of the exhibition, putting into it enthusiastic and intelligent effort, assisted by a number of other members of the organization, and the booth, with its patriotic background and wealth of art and fancy work and other hand-made products, was a most creditable one.

"The Croatian booth (on Thursday evening was a centre of much attraction and those responsible for the arrangements deserve generous praise. They brought from Kirkland Lake the six-piece orchestra of the Croatian Peasant Party of that town and with native stringed instruments they dispensed delightful music throughout the evening which all in attendance highly appreciated. In this booth fancy work predominated and there was truly a splendid array, to which Mrs. John Krancevic alone contributed fully a hundred pieces. Little girls in native peasant garb gave an old country colour to the scene which added to its attractiveness. The Croatian people have asked The Press to express their appreciation to Rice's department store and M. Zion, carter, for kindly co-operation.

"The Jugo-Slav committee also provided excellent music through their local orchestra and with ladies in native costume, one operating with deft fingers an old-fashioned loom, their booth attracted much attention and commendation.

Czecho-Slovak Music "There was pleasing native music also in the Czecho-Slovak booth, and a most creditable display of work by their ladies, while the thatched-roof Ukrainian booth, with its old country peasant interior, including fireplace and bed, and its showing of native products, was highly interesting and distinctly original. Considering the comparatively small number of Ukrainians who were responsible for this showing, they deserve all the praise so generously bestowed on them. The same is true of the Finns, whose contribution through a relatively small number of people showed a splendid spirit of co-operation and was much admired and

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appreciated. "The entire display involved much work and effort on the part of all elements and the fine spirit displayed, as well as the enthusiasm of all those assisting provided a fine example of what can be accomplished by co-operation. "The Boy Scouts of Rouyn and Noranda had their part in the show, dispensing refreshments, and made a nice profit on their enterprise."

Greensboro (Georgia) Herald-Journal.—The watch on the Rhine is now an alarm clock.

Detroit Free Press.—Paris fashion show has skirt levels at new high. Maybe the women are demanding more knee action.

Ottawa Journal.—All of us should favour unemployment relief—where it is necessary. No deserving man or woman should be permitted to go hungry. But Canada can't afford to permit relief to pass into a "racket." Can't sanction the idea—becoming all too prevalent—that indolence should be rewarded. Can't get to the position where relief becomes number one Big Business.

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