



Diary of a Vagabond

BY DOROTHY BARKER



It was a pleasant trip from Montreal to our first long stop at Levis. Watching the countryside in its fresh blanket of snow was as fascinating as any summer spectacle. I was glad I had chosen this season of the year for my trip. Rabbit tracks made a crazy quilt pattern in the fluffy white surface of the strip farms by the railway tracks, which are peculiar to the Province of Quebec. Here and there would appear a large disturbed spot where perhaps a fox had flushed a pheasant feeding near a bush.

I watched for the fishermen I had seen at one time, sitting patiently on the frozen St. Lawrence, perched on a box or wooden chair over a small hole cut in the ice. I remembered the colourful picture they made with their bright habitant tuques and long knitted scarves dotting the wide expanse of white beauty with a splash of red or blue. This trip, so far, I had not spotted a single fisherman.

Long before insect repellents were concocted or the word "togetherness" was coined, I was taken on a fishing trip. I suppose searching the river for a bent over figure had reminded me of the incident.

We were summering that year, in the Haliburton Highlands of Ontario. Nearby was an excellent golf course which my husband was greatly enjoying, but apparently with a stricken conscience. One morning, when I was all packed up to kiss him goodbye and bid him to the beach for sun bath, he announced he was taking the whole family fishing.

I was instructed to pack frying pan, butter, salt and pepper and rolls. The idea was that we would catch a fish, then pull into shore and cook it pronto. This was supposed to teach the two lads something, I believe it was

camping lore, and provide a relaxing time for me with nothing to do but twiddle my thumbs. What fun we were going to have, all of us together!

Perhaps my husband could play par golf, but I soon had my suspicions he was no fisherman. Hiring the boat was a cinch. We were even able to augment the bamboo poles and "spinnies" we had bought at the corner grocery in the resort town, when advised by the boathouse owner, after he had looked over our tackle, to rent some of his equipment.

There were armies of mosquitoes and a few black flies left over from the spring invasion, who soon found my sun-suited hide was not only vulnerable but apparently tasty. After I had let out a few yelps I was implored to keep quiet or the fish would not bite. The house insisted, when I invited him to row further out on the lake away from insect headquarters, the fish always ran in schools on the rocky shoals close to shore.

I tried to hide my head every time our bloodthirsty second son changed the worm on his hook to "freshen up the line" and was almost overcome with admiration for No. 1 son, who calmly sat in the prow of the boat reading "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", oblivious of sun, insects or time.

We did finally catch a fish. But not before hours had been spent in unangling lines, seeking new and better spots and arguing at great length as to the advantage of trolling over still fishing. Personally I preferred the trolling, even if my hands were blistered from rowing while two boys and a man pursued their separate hobbies.

Building a fire was quite a task, especially when father insisted on showing the boys how to light the twigs and dry leaves we had gathered, by twirling one stick against another. When we were all practically exhausted with hunger he gave in and lit the fire with a match.

Thank heaven he volunteered to scale and gut the fish, which must have weighed all of a pound. We then cut it in four tiny pieces and fried it in the butter. It was at this moment, when we were all drooling in anticipation that we discovered I had forgotten the salt. If ever a proud fisherman was deflated, it was at that moment. The fish not only tasted flat, but the entire adventure had suddenly lost its flavour as well. Both parents decided "togetherness" or fun "en famille" was more enjoyable with one member of the family on the golf course, another on the beach, a third in a tree hut and the fourth stung in a hammock with a good book.

Wonder if the habitant wives ever sit over a fishing hole in the ice? Perhaps on the day my train rode along the river's edge, they had protested and won their argument that fishing is a waste of time.

FOUR CAN BE CROWDED

Yes, in a small apartment, a family of four can be crowded. That's why this family decided to build a home of their own. And this father has already made one wise decision. He has told his Sun Life agent that he wants to take out a Sun Life Mortgage Protection Policy. In that way, the house will really belong to his family if he should die prematurely.

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Lifford Hill Residents Petition Manvers Council To Cut Down Their Hill

A representative of the Peterborough Ski Club addressed the meeting of Manvers Municipal Council held in Bethany recently. He outlined the plans of the club for the next few years, and asked for the co-operation of the council in helping to maintain the road from 7A Highway to the Ski Club hill in a satisfactory condition.

A delegation of ratepayers from the vicinity of Lifford Hill presented a petition to Council requesting that this road be cut down during 1960. Council voted to file the petition, and to give consideration to the request when the road program for this year is drafted.

The necessity of stepping up the road construction program to reduce maintenance was advised by A. Ward, the municipal engineer. The council discussed the

prospective purchase of a truck for the snow plow with Mr. Ward.

A proposal was received from the Department of Highways concerning the possibility of turning back to the township certain sections of the old No. 35 Highway which are required by the department at present.

Council instructed the Township Clerk to notify the Department of Highways at Port Hope that the Manvers Municipal Council is not in favor of taking back the main street of Pontypool until a hot-mix resurfacing job is done there, and the other portions of the old No. 35 highway are left in good condition.

The Pontypool fire truck and the Workmen's Compensation Board of the Volunteer Fire Brigade was discussed. A mo-

tion was carried that the compensation on the Fire Brigade be increased from a salary basis of \$2,000 per year to \$3,000 per year in the event of injury to any of the firefighters.

It was decided to have a letter sent to the Minister of Highways, and to Alex Caruthers, M.P.P., outlining the advantages to be gained by having the road from No. 35 Highway on the 6th Concession of Manvers to the Cartwright Township Boundary taken over as a Development Road. This road is also known as the Ballyduff Road and goes through Lotus to the Development Road in Cartwright.

Accounts amounting to \$4,826.87 were passed for payment. Council agreed to make application to the Department of Highways to have signs erected along No. 35 Highway designating the concession number of each road leading off it.

To the Police Office and they started to smash up the evidence and smashed 22 bottles of beer. Police were told by the uncle of one of the boys that the boys took the car without his consent, they were just supposed to be taking it down town in Ajax.

"There will be lots of liquor for you to consume when you go for it," said the uncle. "You are just trying to be smart and that's foolish. It's the law of the Province and we are going to enforce it, commented the magistrate.

The license plates were taken from the car and forwarded to the Department of Transport as the car is defective, the muffler does not work, brakes are defective and the windshield wipers do not work.

"The most honest man I've ever met," was the comment of P.C. J. Cartwright when he gave evidence against a man charged with making an improper left turn and causing an accident. He was fined \$10.00 and costs of \$2.00.

Another liquor case was adjourned to Cobourg on Friday. The court wanted to check the comments of the accused that he had to go to see a Cobourg doctor about him being an alcoholic. Four charges of trespassing brought fines of \$5.00 and costs of \$3.00 each. Several speeders for 39, 56 and other speeds brought fines ranging from \$12.00 to \$22.00 including costs.

A 16 year old Oshawa girl

New Phone System Will Use Numbers But No Exchanges

A new telephone numbering system which will eventually eliminate exchange names is to be introduced gradually in the Ontario and Quebec exchanges operated by The Bell Telephone Co. of Canada, J. W. Lowry, Bell manager here, announced this week.

The new plan—known as All Number Calling (ANC)—will eliminate the exchange names from telephone numbers and substitute figures for the letters now used to designate exchanges. For example, a number such as UN-6-3911—would become 886-3911.

Initially the new plan will not affect existing two-letter five-figure telephone numbers, which will be changed to ANC only gradually over a period of years as changing conditions offer favorable opportunities.

According to the Bell manager, first use of ANC in Bell territory is scheduled to be in several Ontario and Quebec communities slated for dial conversion later this year. Most of those exchanges already in process of being changed over to the two-letter, five-figure plan will retain the telephone numbers that have been assigned to them, although a few may be given all-numeral, telephone numbers.

ANC numbers are also being introduced this year in several exchanges in the Un-

ited States. Extensive studies indicate that ANC is the most practical numbering method for today's condition, Mr. Lowry said.

An important advantage of ANC to the telephone user is that calls can be dialed faster and more accurately, using numbers only. ANC prevents misspelling and misinterpretation of office names and letter codes—of great significance where more than one language is spoken. It also eliminates the confusion between the figure 0 and the letter O, and the letter 1.

Tests indicate that seven-figure numbers are as easy to remember as name-and-figure numbers and, in practical use, customers have not found it difficult to memorize frequently-called seven figure numbers.

With the millions of phones across the continent in the process of being linked together by Direct Distance Dialing—the system whereby telephone users dial their own station-to-station long distance calls—ANC offers important advantages. The two-letter five figure plan allows only 540 usable combinations for exchange names in one DDD numbering-plan area, whereas ANC will permit up to 800. This will provide greater flexibility for future growth and for improvement in telephone service.

Magistrate's Court

A 29 year old Belleville truck driver, the father of 5 children, was convicted of careless driving and fined \$50.00 and costs. On a second charge of resisting arrest, for the careless driving, he was fined \$250.00 and \$17.55 costs making a total of \$320.55.

Prov. Const. Diamond told the court of the erratic driving of the accused at 1:45 am on February 6th. It was raining and the accused man had been drinking.

Diamond was kicked in the head and back and the man kicked the seat out of the police car, broke the constable's watch and dirtied his uniform. Damage cost \$14.55 to be repaired.

The accused admitted that the evidence was correct and in reply to a question from the magistrate, he stated he was tired and when he gets tired he gets ugly.

"You fellows who drink when you are on duty driving trucks, are the authors of your own misfortunes if you lose your license and your jobs. You look like a person who has been spoiled by your mother. If you are going to act like that, you are going to pay for it. If you come back in this court for any offence, on any summary conviction matter, I will suspend your license for the maximum period I can under the law," commented the magistrate.

A married 33-year-old, Oshawa Construction Inspector pleaded guilty to a charge of careless driving. He had been driving for 16 years without an accident and on the day in question was returning from a hunting trip. A blood test had been taken and was negative.

Judgment by Magistrate R. B. Baxter was as follows: "You are charged with careless driving. There is evidence of no alcohol. There is no evidence of speeding. Time is about 4:30 p.m. I find that if you had stayed on your own side of the road and not made this manoeuvre to go into the service station, this accident wouldn't have happened. The other car was there to be seen. The service station was well lighted and the second car was definitely visible. I find you didn't use due care and attention and I find you guilty as charged."

After representation from the accused's counsel, penalty was a fine of \$10.00 and costs of \$8.80 for a total of \$18.80.

Another careless driving charge involving a motorcycle and a small foreign car in

the village of Newcastle on the 23rd of last August was heard and Magistrate R. B. Baxter convicted a 29 year resident and imposed a penalty of \$10.00 and costs of \$7.40.

"It is not expected that we all attain perfection in driving on our highways. There are certain ordinary precautions that people should take on highways when they are entrusted with a motor vehicle."

"An independent witness saw the motorcycle coming down the highway. It was a quiet motorcycle. There has been evidence that the sun was in such a position at 8:00 this morning as to cause some difficulty. The accused didn't use his sun visors. We should use every precaution."

"There was evidence of black clothing on a black motorcycle against the black highway and the accused says he didn't see the motorcycle. I must find that the motorcycle was there to be seen. That it was an object that should have been seen. He had been driving for some miles against the sun, and I feel that he was looking for a service station that was open rather than exercising due care and attention."

"Your counsel states that this is a criminal offence, I agree with him. This has to be for the protection of the public, of a criminal nature, or else some people will drive willy-nilly and say I didn't see it. If the sun was bothering him, he should have known what to do to avoid it, or else stop until he can drive in safety. If I do not hold this way, we are going to run into a more intolerable situation on the highways. The majority of accidents are due to inadvertence-lack of care. If something isn't done, this condition could act like a boomerang if we lower the barriers of due care and attention. We are trying to make our highways safer. I find you guilty as charged."

Two young men 20 years of age, one from Ajax and one from Toronto, were arrested by Constable R. Parker on February 6th on charges of obtaining liquor while under 21 years of age. Each was fined \$25.00 and costs of \$3.00.

The car had been stopped on Duke Street because the rear bumper was obstructing the license plate. A scramble was made to change places behind the driver's wheel. On the floor of the car was a case of 24 bottles of beer. Both young men had been drinking. They were ordered to drive

Tragic Case History Just One of Many At Children's Aid

Douglas Nutter, assistant director of the Children's Aid Society of Durham and Northumberland, outlined his work to the Board of Directors of the CAS at their monthly meeting recently in Port Hope. Mr. Nutter is primarily concerned with the investigation of complaints about families.

The case history of a family which had been under the supervision of the society since 1955 was reviewed, with all the setbacks discouraging to the social worker.

Health Unit Alarmed The intervention of the society was asked by the Durham and Northumberland Health Unit, because of reported dirt and filth, Mr. Nutter said. After a program of housecleaning, regular weekly visits were made by the CAS, and with the help of the public health nurse the large family of young children received more adequate food.

At the end of two years it was decided that the family could not supervise itself and in 1957 the children were taken into care. This period of wardship lasted nine months. After the return of the children to the parents, whose conditions seemed improved, the social workers visited the family every two weeks for six weeks, then at two-month

intervals. After a complaint from the community, the CAS and the Health Unit had to take over again.

No Success The children came into care early in 1959 and from April to November attempts were made to improve conditions in the family without success. In November the children became permanent wards of the CAS.

Mr. Nutter remarked that there were approximately 45 situations similar in varying degree in the United Counties at present.—Guide.

Smart-alec attitude. Bowmanville Police had five prisoners over the weekend.

Talent Plus Historic Lore Makes Hobby

Local interest appears in the February issue of Chatelaine magazine. The Magazine has a new column called "What's New With You" comprised of short items about women who have unusual hobbies, avocations or vocations.

This month it contains a most interesting thumbnail sketch of Mrs. W. L. Paterson's hobby of seeking out and painting old buildings with particular reference to Moosonee and Moose Factory buildings which are historic and of architectural interest.

Mrs. Paterson, whose home is on Concession Street, has also captured on canvas local scenes and buildings such as the old blacksmith shop on Silver Street owned by Frank Cryderman, Vanstone's Mill and the Statesman Block.

It is interesting to note that the information and photo of Mrs. Paterson at her easel were forwarded to the magazine by Mrs. Roy Lunney.

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