

Hiked 1,400 Miles For Neighborly Visit



After a 1,400-mile hitch-hiking jaunt to Nova Scotia, Freddie Abrams, 14, gets a warm reception from his mother, Mrs. Earl Abrams, at St. Catharines, Ont. Freddie and a chum made the long trip in four days on \$7. They visited former neighbors in Nova Scotia.

Yule Trees Big Business Now

The Canadian Christmas tree has grown into a \$2,500,000 seasonal industry. Canada produced almost 11,000,000 trees in the 1949-50 season, exporting some 7,500,000 of them for the tidy sum of \$2,317,000. The rest went into Canadian homes. The take probably will be larger this Christmas.

This proof that the Christmas tree trade has become big business is contained in a report by the Department of Resources and Development entitled "The Christmas Tree Industry in Canada."

It showed that British Columbia produces most trees—2,260,000 in 1949-50—but Nova Scotia exports the most—2,026,000 last season. More and more private land now is going into "plantations" for commercial production of trees.

The report sees this growth of the Christmas tree industry as a good thing, despite "attacks" aimed at the industry from time to time.

Actually there are only two kinds of Christmas tree cutters whose actions are harmful—those who cut greatly in excess of the demand and those who destroy older trees to sell the tops, said the report.

"These operators—very small in number—are rapidly disappearing with the advent of Christmas tree plantations and orderly marketing systems."

The departmental report sees the industry allowing farmers to make a profit in clearing otherwise-useless trees from pasture land. Forests which required thinning could be thinned at the Christmas season at a profit. And the industry furnished winter employment where and when it was most desired.

"Finally," said the report, "the emotional and inspirational value of the Christmas tree custom is so great that its preservation might well be worth some sacrifice from the conservation standpoint."

The laboratories of the National Film Board of Canada processed over ten million feet of movie film during 1949-50.

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**SUCKED IN BY JET ENGINE, LIVES, PANTS POCKETS TORN OUT, EMPTIED**  
Sergt. Robert Lewis, a 33-year-old air National Guard mechanic, is alive today only because a fellow mechanic kept him from being completely sucked into the air-intake scoop of an F-84 jet plane. The suction was so intense that Lewis' gloves were turned inside out and pulled from his hands, the buttons and zipper on his clothes were ripped off and his pockets and their contents were yanked from his pants. He was pulled from the ground and drawn into the narrow snout when he reached up to pull a colored streamer from the intake. A fellow mechanic held his legs until the motor was shut off. Capt. John E. Mead said Lewis was lucky his eyes weren't pulled from his sockets. He escaped with only bruises and cuts.

Interest Was \$12,097 On Provincial Bridge

One of the most "painful" debentures ever issued by the County of Ontario has just been completely retired. Over a period covering the last 20 years, the county paid a total of \$12,097.22 in interest payments on a debenture of only \$20,000. It was for construction of the highway bridge at Atherley. To make matters worse, this county bridge was taken over by the province very soon after it was built. This was in the period when the provincial highway system was rapidly expanding. However, the province did not take over the debentures and the county continued to "hold the bag" though a very expensive matter it proved to be.

Today, the debt is all paid off and it is all water under the Atherley bridge, so to speak. Another important debenture was retired last week, Clerk-treasurer William Manning said. Last payment was made on the \$106,000 debenture being the county's share of construction of provincial highways. This debenture also bore a high rate of interest—5 per cent. Ontario County's debenture debt is now comparatively low. The main item, now is the \$450,000 debenture which was issued last week to cover construction and equipment of the Home for the Aged, now under construction in Whitby.

As if there weren't too much confusion in the world, someone has introduced a brand of canasta played with four decks.

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