

JACK MINER CANADIAN NATURALIST, AUTHOR AND LECTURER

Owner of the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary— Originator of the Sanctuary Idea of Artificially Feeding and Protecting Birds

By LEVI CHADWIN

Miner has been written about Jack Miner as a Naturalist and Conservationist, but the most remarkable and undisputed fact about Jack Miner's career as a bird lover and conservationist is that he is the man who originated the sanctuary idea for protecting, feeding and conserving the wild fowl of the continent. In these sanctuaries, artificial safety is afforded the migratory waterfowl of the North American continent which winter in the southern part of the United States and spend the summer and breed in Canada.

Jack Miner's sanctuary dates back to 1904. Very few, if any, sanctuaries on the continent date back earlier than that and what has been accomplished is now known the world over, as a look over Jack Miner's mail will prove. In his mail, which comes in twice daily, you will find letters from Australia, New Zealand, Africa and many countries in Europe. The most recent is a letter from a count, formerly of Russia, now living in France, who, having read Jack Miner's book entitled "Jack Miner and the Birds," has started a sanctuary in Northern Russia based on the Jack Miner principles. Thus, as I stated above, Jack Miner's achievements are not only nation-wide but world-wide.

Jack Miner is sixty-two years of age and, as he says in his book, was "born in the United States and made in Canada." His birthplace was at Dover Centre, Ohio, from which place he moved to Canada when but only thirteen years of age, with his parents. As the land in Essex County, Ontario, Canada, is very level, there was a huge market for drain tile and his father being a drain tile manufacturer in the United States, Jack Miner followed that profession. When he grew to manhood, under financial difficulties, he started what he called "one-horse tile yard," which he and his sons still operate. As the clay is excavated, the cavity is made into artificial ponds for the ducks and geese to find as havens of rest.

Being a poor man financially, Jack Miner often makes the remark that too much credit is given him personally in regard to his success in placing before the world a sanctuary which is an example and a demonstration of a decided way to protect birds from becoming extinct and increases the chance of the the-shooters-of-the-community one mile away from the sanctuary. Jack Miner says, "The credit should be given to Jack Miner and his friends, the emphasis on friends." It costs him now annually between five and six thousand dollars to run his sanctuary, which money is raised by the contributions of the community and the Dominion Government, a four hundred dollar grant from the Provincial Government and the balance—four or five thousand dollars—by his lecture fees, royalty from sale of his book and donations from his wealthy friends, bird societies and clubs who contribute toward the cost of the food for the birds. All contributions are given without Jack Miner making request for same as he says, "he could steal easier than beg."

As a lecturer it is doubtful if any bird lover or conservationist has ever appeared before more people during the last fifteen or twenty years to deliver a lecture on birds than has his name Jack Miner. No doubt there are men who have appeared before as many clubs and societies but not the actual number of people attending. For instance, his lecture has filled the largest auditoriums in Canada, such as Massey Hall, Toronto, which has a seating capacity of over four thousand people. This he has filled on several occasions. To explain more

fully, I reproduce a clipping from a Winnipeg paper after his appearance there. It is as follows:—

"Winnipeg had the good fortune to hear two famous men within one week. The great little Welshman, one of the world's greatest statesmen, David Lloyd George who spoke to eight thousand people, while about thirteen thousand men and women and children heard Canada's greatest bird man, Jack Miner. There is at least one characteristic strongly pronounced in both of these men—their love for and their trust and faith in their Creator."

Jack Miner has crossed the continent five times in three years, going as far as Alaska on one occasion and lecturing in the various cities. This travelling has allowed him to study bird life in each part and territory of Canada and the northern part of the United States.

Last winter it is estimated that in six weeks he spoke to over two hundred thousand school children during mornings and afternoons, holding meetings in large auditoriums in the same cities each night for at least a week before such societies as the American Camp Fire Club of America; the American Game Protective Association; Chestnut Hill Garden Club; Audubon Societies; Isak Walton Leagues and practically all the leading bird protective clubs in Canada and the Northern States. Last spring he appeared as a speaker at the banquet of the National Convention of Isak Walton League on the same programme with the Hon. Herbert Hoover, Secretary of the United States. Mr. John Burroughs, President of the American Game Protective Association, calls him "the Billy Sunday for the bird family of North America."

As an author, he wrote the book entitled "Jack Miner and the Birds," published by Reilly-Lee Company of Chicago, which, during the last five years, has had a record sale in the book stores throughout the country, thus making it necessary for several editions to be printed by the publishers. The profits derived from the sale of the book go to Jack Miner's Bird Fund. Comments on the book, written by Dr. William T. Hornaday's comment on same is as follows:

"Jack Miner and the Birds." This is its title and is a genuine one hundred per cent. contribution to the practical and helpful literature of birds. It is great. Buy it and read every word of it for its most helpful bird-lore, its bird propagation, its pest, bird protection, bird banding, bird migration and all the rest of it. The chapter on Quail is alone worth the whole price of the book. I hope five hundred thousand will be bought and read. (Signed) W. T. Hornaday.

Jack Miner is the only man on earth to catch and tag wild Canada geese to study their route of migration. He has thus given to the world, facts as to the exact location where the Canada geese, which migrate through his territory, nest and winter, and where they are each season of the year. To do this he had to invent a unique trap which has proved a success to this extent that he has caught as many as three hundred geese at once which were kept only long enough in captivity for him to place an aluminum tag on their legs and liberate them. Jack Miner also invented the now famous Jack Miner crow trap. Crows have increased in Canada by the countless thousands and are the cause of the more valuable birds decaying to an alarming extent, to say nothing about the duck and game bird eggs the crow destroys. Jack Miner worked up a plan to reduce the crows, built and put into operation a crow trap which, if put into practice, will reduce the crows in any locality by the thousands. He has caught as many as five hundred and ten of these "nest robbers," as he calls them, at one catch. He says, "I would not want to see crows or any other bird become extinct, yet I would like to see their numbers reduced to the same extent that they have reduced our more valuable birds."

One thing which should make the people of the continent happy is the fact that Canada appreciates Jack Miner and his activities in that country. Recently McLean's Magazine, the largest magazine in Canada, arranged a vote among its subscribers as to who was the

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ALBANY AND VICINITY.

Mr. George Prizel was a recent visitor to Albany.

Mr. Percy Allen was in Albany on business, Monday.

Mr. Ian MacKenzie spent the week-end in Charlottetown.

Messrs. Alden and Keith Thomason were in Summerside Saturday.

Miss Margaret Affleck was a visitor to Summerside on Saturday.

Mr. Harold Campbell, Cape Traverse, was a recent visitor to Albany.

The many friends of Miss Dorothy Carmichael are sorry to learn of her recent illness.

Mr. George MacLeod is busy in this vicinity grading potatoes for Mr. Emmett Gorman.

Mr. Harold Holland, Lower Bedouque, passed through Albany on Sunday, enroute to Tryon.

Fine new cars have been purchased by Messrs. E. V. MacLeod, J. L. Jelly and Wm. Buchanan.

Miss Helen Trainor, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Trainor, spent last Monday in Carleton.

Among the visitors to Summerside recently were Messrs. George Burris, Joy Hayes and Walter Hammill.

Mrs. John Thomas, Tryon, is spending a few days in Albany, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Thomas.

Among those who attended the dance in Cape Traverse Wednesday evening, were Miss Eileen Keough and Duncan Carmichael.

A very enjoyable evening was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Turney on April 27th, when a miscellaneous shower was tendered Miss Sadie, who is one of the principle heads in an interesting event soon. The evening was spent in music and dancing, music being furnished by Messrs. Shery and O'Connell. The presents were opened by Miss Jennie McDonald, and the verses were read by Miss Annie Cameron, Miss Tierney then thanked the people for their kindness. Everybody went home feeling that they had a great time.

An English inventor's score pad for golf players is worn with a lead pencil on a bracket like a wrist watch.

To effect fuel economy a Purdue University scientist has invented an automobile engine with movable cylinder heads that reduces the volume as speed decreases, maintaining an equal pressure.

An attachment for carrying ice on automobile running boards has been patented by a Kansas inventor.

The Cheer Up Column

By JOHN P. MacPHIE.

The habit of looking on the right side of things is worth a thousand pounds a year, says Johnson. It is better to find a happy man or woman than to find a five pound note, says Emerson. A hearty laugh is worth a hundred groans in any market, says Lamb. The moral is to laugh when you can and when you can't laugh, smile. It is far better medicine for mind and body than pills or powders. A merry heart doeth good like medicine, says Solomon, the wise man of the ages.

But Solomon said another wise thing: Happy is the man that findeth wisdom. Happy is the man that findeth that true wisdom comes down from above. Happy is the man that has the upward look. Life has two sides like every piece of cloth. It is more than a laugh or a merry tale. It has a sober, thoughtful side. It needs to look up as well as down. It needs the two to give it balance. It takes heaven and earth to complete a life.

Our adopted poet Longfellow said: Life is full of shade and sunshine. Every person knows whether he is a poet or not that life is full of care and trouble, whether he goes it single or double. So I am putting something in this column to laugh at and something to think about; something to turn up the corners of your mouth and something to lift up your eyes to the hills.

I find, wherever I go that men and women need cheer and encouragement. Life is full of mysteries and providences that are hard to bear and still harder to understand. To hold together and not give up need all the help and uplift that can come from God and man.

Dr. Dale, a great English preacher once said, "People need consolation and help—really need it. They not only need it but must have it or they will lose heart."

Dr. Campbell Morgan, the greatest Bible teacher of the age, says he needs the inspiring and encouraging word that comes from others. Over the door of his house in Glendale, California, is written the Greek word—Ataraxia—which means—be without trouble. It comes from same word that the Master used in fourteenth of John when he said, "Let not your heart be troubled." On the wall of his study he has hanging the following lines by that devoted woman, Madam Guyon:

To me remains nor time nor place,
My country is in every clime;
I can be calm and free from care
On any shore, since God is there.

This verse was found on the fly leaf of Mary Lyon's Bible after her death. She was the founder of a Ladies College, near Boston. Put any burden on me, only sustain me,
Send me anywhere only go with me,
Sever any ties but the tie that binds me,
To thy service and thy heart.

An earnest devoted missionary wrote these words at close of a busy life:

Any one can carry his burden, however heavy, till night fall. Any one can do his work; however hard, for one day. Any one can live sweetly until the sun goes down, and that is all God asks of us.

We have had some smiles. Prince Grant was a mastery solicitor for the needs of Queens University. One day Sir John A. Macdonald dropped in to see Sir David Macpherson and found him in conversation with Principal Grant. "What do you think," said Sir David in an assumed air, "Grant thinks I ought to give more money to Queens"; and the last time I gave him a check he said it would do for all time."

"That may be," said Sir John quietly, "but hadn't you better give a little for eternity." Hon. D. C. Fraser in his day was one of the best political speakers in Canada, and an excellent story teller. It was hard to beat him but once upon a time he met his mate, giving a public address on one occasion in a town in Ontario in the Liberal interests he incidentally condemned the corporal punishment of his school days. With much enthusiasm he said, "I never was whipped in school but once in my life, and that was for telling the truth."

A canny Tory who happened to be present called out, "And that whipping cured you didn't it, Mr. Fraser?" One of my class mates in Auburn Seminary settled in a small country charge where there were very few young people. As a result he had no marriages but many funerals, and he got so accustomed to saying, "Friends will now have an opportunity to view the remains," that it got on his nerve. One day however, two young hearts came to be made one and it being his first marriage he was very nervous and had a hard time to get through. He stammered through to the close of "he service and instead of saying, "The friends are now ready to receive congratulations," he said, "The friends will now have an opportunity to view the remains."

An Irishman recently landed in Pasadena and boarded an electric car which was very much crowded. Holding on to the leather strap as best he could, the car gave a sudden lurch in coming round a corner which landed Pat quite unexpectedly in the lap of a rich lady. Looking at him with much contempt, she said, "What are you anyway?" "Be jabbers," said Pat, "when I left Ireland I was an Irishman, but since I came to Pasadena I am a Laplander."

Who, a California inventor's device is inserted in a milk bottle retains the milk when the cream is poured out.



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Jack Miner is the man who originated the sanctuary idea for protecting, feeding and conserving the wild fowl of the continent. Jack Miner loves the Birds—the birds love Jack Miner, they come back to him season after season; they are as tame with him as our domestic fowl. Hear him tell how he does it.

It costs him between five and six thousand dollars annually to feed the birds that come to his sanctuary. Jack Miner is the only man on earth to catch and tag wild geese to study their route of migration.

Jack Miner has crossed the Continent five times in three years talking in the various cities, to crowded houses. Here's a clipping from a Winnipeg paper, "Winnipeg had the good fortune to hear two famous men in one week. David Lloyd George spoke to 8,000 people while about 13,000 men, women and children heard Canada's greatest Bird man, Jack Miner."

You'll regret it if you don't come.
Make no Other Engagement for May 9th

