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## ACROSS THE ISLAND

### Long Walk Recalled In Year Of Big Snow

By NEIL A. MATHESON

IN THE NEAR future I'll be having a story on the man who pioneered aviation in this province, and another on the Rena MacLean Memorial Hospital. Talking of early aviation, I'm told that a plane actually made flights in this city away back in 1912. I have to do some research, though, before that story is ready for this column.

For today I have a series of short items. I recall, for example, that several years ago George Keilly of Covehead told me he and a companion – I cannot recall the latter's name – “walked from Sackville to Covehead” and that was back in 1905, “the winter of the really big snow”.

“I remember it well”, said Mr. Keilly who explained they tramped to Port Elgin the first day and to Tormentine the next and the walking would be heavy over snow-blocked roads.

They left Tormentine the following day at 7:00 a.m. on the ice-boat route and landed four miles below Cape Traverse about seven in the evening, “in a heavy snowstorm”.

They had worked in the lumber woods at Westchester Mountain in Nova Scotia and had received no pay. Keilly had worked only a little more than a month, but his companion had been there since September.

### Unusual Feed For A Horse

A SIDE STORY says the CGS Stanley was stuck in the ice off Pictou Island at one time for 27 days, and there was one horse on board, and they had no hay.

What do you suppose they fed the animal? The answer I got was “Biscuits and hard tack”. Mr. Keilly insisted that was correct.

Dr. Carl Rogers was discussing silage quality here this week when he described the odor of one silage sample as like “sweaty harness”. Then he added “for you younger people, harness was what farmers wore on horses when I was young”.

And that reminds me of the advertisement in an old Island paper – was printed in 1891 – J. A. Stewart of the Montague Harness Shop was offering “a set of our new driving harness, manufactured from the best imported leather and American plated and solid nickel”.

He added “I have also in stock cart harness of all descriptions, breast straps, sweat pads, halters, curry combs, brushes, ankle boots, dusters, fly nets, harness oil and everything usually found in a first class harness shop.”

He was doing business, he said, in J. M. Aitken's old stand, just in case some older resident of that area can recall that name.

John T. Robinson, Montague Bridge was announcing that all persons indebted to him should pay their bills at once. He was giving out no more stuff on credit the druggist said.

### Claimed Wife's Hair Restored

ANOTHER AD in the old paper said “Ayer’s Hair Vigor not only prevented my wife from becoming bald, but it also caused an entirely new growth of hair. I am ready to certify to this before a justice of the peace.” The man was from Iowa and his name is not important.

His wife had had brain fever and all her hair came out, but Ayer’s Hair Vigor brought it back for her, he stated.

Occasionally I still see where companies offer to bring new hair growth, but I’ve never met anyone on which their minor miracle was performed.

F. T. Newberry, Charlottetown was agent here for the steamer “Halifax” which left Halifax every Wednesday afternoon for Boston and left on return for Halifax on Saturday noon. “Only one night at sea” was the punch line of this advertisement.

Passengers for Boston from Prince Edward Island, the advertisement added, “can leave Charlottetown by Stearn Navigation Company’s steamers via Pictou Tuesday morning and go on board on arrival at Halifax on Tuesday evening without extra charge.”

I have several really good stories of winter travel from Sackville to the Island back in the ice boat days. I got them from Alf Egan’s scrapbook and hope to use one of them in a few weeks time.

### How To Stay Young

I HAVEN’T got the author’s name but I offer this bit of advice in the hope it may help some readers to achieve the secret of keeping young, or at least keeping from getting to feel old:

#### HOW TO STAY YOUNG

Youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind. We grow old only by deserting our ideals. Years wrinkle the skin but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self distrust, fear and despair – these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust. There is in the hearts of all of us, whether seven or seventy, the love of wonder and the love of life. We are as young as our faith and as old as our doubt – as young as our self-confidence – and as old as our fear – as young as our hope and as old as our despair.

### Roland Taylor’s Brother Lives Here

THE REFERENCE to the death in the Boer War of Roland Taylor should have included that a brother, J. S. Taylor, optometrist, resides in Charlottetown. I’m sorry, Mr. Taylor, for the oversight. I just did not know that you are his brother until Roland Taylor called me the day last week’s column appeared.

They were sons of E.W. Taylor of this city. They lived where the Experimental Farm is now located, and Roland had talked some of going to Australia when the war was over. He was only 19 when he left the Island with the South African contingent.

TWO MORE letters came about Buffalo Bill Cody. One is from Wilson Adams, Kensington and the other from Col. Samuel R. Todd, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Adams saw Buffalo Bill’s Circus in Pasadena, California about 1917. He doesn’t think the man was born in the province. Mr. Todd’s letter enclosed a letter to the Chicago Tribune which

states Buffalo Bill was born in Scott County, Iowa as the Encyclopaedia Britannica states.

Cody was appointed judge advocate of the Wyoming National Guard and was elected to the Nebraska state legislature in 1872. He died 50 years ago the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month, the letter indicates.