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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Youth Going To Dogs View Held Ages Ago

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IN CASE you are one of those people who think the younger generation are much worse than you were, that sort of talk has been going on for some time.

When Dr. William (Bill) Jenkins, Truro, N.S. was here recently, speaking to the 4-H Club annual, he talked about this "the youth are worse" trend and quoted a world famous figure as follows:

"Our youths love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for their elders, and love to chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when their elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up their food, and tyrannize their teachers."

That's almost as bad as what we hear all too often now, from the older generations. But there is a difference. This statement was made by the Greek philosopher, Socrates, and written 400 years before Christ. That makes almost 2400 years of railing against the youth. So there's nothing new about it.

I have never thought that the younger generation is going to the dogs. I've always admired the younger people, I still do. For the most part they are an encouragingly fine bunch of people. Sure they have some stinkers, but so did your generation, and mine.

Hunts Grandfather's Background

IT WAS last summer when I talked with Vernon Johnson, a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania man, who was here trying to trace the background of his grandfather, William Smallwood Johnson. The parents of this William Smallwood Johnson, were believed to be Joseph Johnson and his wife who was formerly Mary Keough.

My apologies to Vernon Johnson for forgetting my promise to use this item in my column until now. It's been rather a rough few months, and the usual trend of things at our house has been upset, so I'll use that as an excuse for the delay.

This man, Vernon Johnson was honestly putting forth so much effort to trace his grandfather, that I couldn't help offering my assistance. So if any reader knows anything that can help Vernon trace his grandfather, please write to him at 4965 Park View Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, or let me know and I shall pass along the information.

Vernon's knowledge of his grandfather's background is hazy, but the man has worked now for several summers in what thus far has been a fruitless search for information. He worked in the archives here during his entire vacation period.

He has found that a William Johnson worked as a teamster for a lumber company in Bangor, Maine in 1900, but Vernon is not sure that the man was his grandfather.

There's even a possibility, he told me, that the Smallwood part of the name might refer to the family that raised his grandfather, after his own parents had died.

I don't know that this will help but information on his American naturalization papers – it was taken from the Cameron County court house in Pennsylvania – indicate William Smallwood Johnson arrived in Bangor, Maine on October 1, 1891, via the old Intercolonial railway. The man was naturalized, apparently, on April 10, 1916 and was 42 years of age at the time.

I know this information is pretty sketchy, but it's the best his grandson had when he talked with me late last summer. If anyone can help him get better information, I know he will really appreciate it.

Charles S. MacDonald Is Praised

A LETTER received at this office, and passed on to me, remarks on the remarkable and the keen intellect of Charles S. MacDonald who lives now at the Nellie Campbell boarding home in Montague.

I am heartily in accord with the opinion expressed by Willard MacLean, Peters Road, if I have got his name correctly.

I have written about Mr. MacDonald many times in this column. He is one of the most interesting men I have met in my travels "Across The Island".

Mr. MacDonald was 100 years of age on July 23 of this year. He stands straight as a youngster, and his step is still lively. How this man has kept abreast of the modern developments is most unusual. His language is beautifully chosen when he uses his considerable power of description, and his interest in developments is keen and completely alive.

The letter observes in part:

"An extremely modest scholar Mr. MacDonald keeps his hearers in awe, as he recites lines from Milton, Poe and other great men of the past. His general conversation and kindly manner all go to make a chat with Mr. MacDonald something to be remembered, even if one could not remember all the wealth of knowledge heard when in his company."

Mr. MacDonald suggested to our letter writer that a few of the greatest Conservative leaders were Sir John Thompson, Sir Robert L. Borden and the Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker, the letter states.

Incidentally I am looking forward to meeting Mr. MacDonald again as soon as things straighten out a bit at home and having another of our interesting chats.

Read Farm Column Next Week

TO THOSE of you who normally do not read my farm column which appears each Tuesday, I suggest that you read it next week. It will feature information obtained in a chat with Keith Kennedy who was in Russia recently at a world poultry congress. Keith has some most interesting observations about Russia and her people. He has had some unusual personal experiences there. I'll be telling you about some of them next Tuesday. I expect I'll also have Keith in next week's "Across the Island" column as well.

