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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Horse To Jets In 50 Years

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Provincial - Farm Editor

(The annual vacation comes up next week, which means this column will not appear again until August 16.) [Actually there was no column until August 23, 1963]

I talked this week with Mr. and Mrs. John F. Huntley, Vernon who had just returned from a cross-Canada trip, which was their way of celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

They were married in Orwell Cove at the home of the bride, Lina Nicholson, June 26, 1913 and their trip to Charlottetown and the Revere Hotel by horse and wagon took almost as long as the jet plane trip from Moncton to Toronto - three hours - on the same date 1963. It's wonderful and the only way to travel, Mr. Huntley told me when I visited him and his wife on Wednesday afternoon. "It's as comfortable as sitting in a rocking chair", Mrs. Huntley observed.

THEY HAD been planning a cross-Canada trip several times in recent years, but the doctor had advised Mrs. Huntley against it. This time she went without asking advice, and she felt fine, she told me.

They saw Mr. Huntley's brother, Louis in Blairmore, Alberta, in the foothills of the Rockies and a brother Herbert in Vancouver. They had stops at Banff and Calgary in addition to the ones at Toronto and Vancouver.

I asked Mr. Huntley - he always had a good driving horse - how long it took them on their honeymoon drive from Orwell to Charlottetown 50 years ago, but of course he couldn't remember. How could you expect a chap to think of the time of travel, when his bride of an hour or so was sitting beside him. He did remember, though, that they had a fine stable service at the Queen. You just gave them the reins as you arrived and they looked after your horse and rig, he said. And they looked after them well, he added. He thinks it was Ernie Farquharson who looked after the horses, and that's a name I've heard a great deal about from horsemen through the years.

MR. HUNTLEY went west in the old Harvest Excursion in 1906 and believes it was \$13.50 he paid to go as far as Winnipeg. He came home and settled on an Island farm and has never regretted it.

"In all of my travels, I have never seen farm land that looked as good as our own on the Island," he told me.

Natural Refrigeration Trick

DIG A hole about one and one-half feet deep under a spruce tree, put butter in it, cover it carefully with spruce boughs, and the butter will be so cold it will be too hard to spread, Gordon Kerr told me this week when I asked him what he uses for refrigeration

when he is acting Quartermaster for the Scout and Cub camps during the summer outings.

They use an old well for a refrigerator at Camp Buchan and it's an excellent refrigerator. I've put fish fillets down the well and two days later found that the ice crystals were still on the package," he told me. Mr. Kerr suggested the oldtimers did not have such a bad time with refrigeration if they knew the tricks of the trade, before modern electric and other mechanical refrigerators were developed.

Our ancestors had amazing success with some of the methods they developed. I'd like very much to recall as many of them as possible for today's readers, and am suggesting now that you mail, or tell me in person about some of the old-fashioned remedies our grand parents used.

RAE BARBOUR told me in Alma last weekend her grandmother, Mrs. Douglas Barbour - she was Mary Mountain, Darnley - had insisted on using mouldy bread for poultices 100 years or more ago. But it was not until 1929 that Sir Alexander Fleming discovered Penicillin accidentally. A certain mould was isolated and was found to produce a substance which had a powerfully destructive effect on many of the common bacteria which affect man.

I know that bacteriologists will tell us that there are many moulds that are not helpful in this way, but the fact remains that the people of 100 years ago or more, used mouldy bread successfully as a poultice for sores.

There must be scores of old-fashioned remedies that would make interesting reading for people who follow this column, and I hope to hear from many of you in the near future.

Claud Smith, Charlottetown suggested the idea to me late last winter but I never got around to doing anything about it until now.

Mustard Plaster Used On Foal

I NEVER hear much about mustard plasters now, but recall they were a standard remedy when I was a boy. Several years ago I told in a guest sports column for Pius Callaghan about Christine Shaw, a registered nurse, using mustard plasters to cure a standard bred foal of pneumonia. The little filly grew up to become Christy Budlong, one of the best Maritime-bred racing mares of her day.

The beautiful little animal was brought into the huge kitchen Jim and Christine Shaw had in their home on the Brudenell River - they live in Montague now - and the foal was wrapped up warm behind the range, and the plasters were applied regularly. The date was 1939, the year that World War Two broke out, and that was before we developed our fine veterinary medical service in this province.

THERE MUST be scores of stories about such remedies. I know some of them and Mr. Smith has some others for me, but here's an invitation to tell me about some you know.

I just recalled that I asked C. W. Judson, 101, at Churchill if he recalled any of the old remedies. The only one he could recall was "Castor Oil. It was horrible tasting stuff and they gave it to you for just about anything," he recalled with displeasure.

Tormentine - Borden Swim Tomorrow

The big Tormentine - Border swim comes up tomorrow and James (Big Jim) Pendergast whose mind conceived the idea several years ago, told me last night my former neighbour Evelyn Henry who originated the Strait swim idea when she was the first to do it in 1950, will be a guest on the official boat. Evelyn who is now Mrs. Douglas Brown of Australia, is home for a few months and will naturally be one of the most interested spectators. Jim tells me an attempt is also being made to have Mrs. Dorothy Gallant Peters, Summerside, on the official boat. She swam the strait when she was Miss Gallant and has since married.