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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Lady Had Strange Mystical Powers

By NEIL A. MATHESON

A LADY by the name of Maggie Clarey is one of the many interesting people I have been told about. The first tip came from a lady in England who had been reading my columns, and she passed along what she hoped would be a useful tip.

When I told my wife about the letter she recalled an interesting personal experience with the unusually talented lady.

Margaret – this was before we were married – had been working at P.J. MacDonald's store here and a cash book had been mislaid. The store owner was inclined to blame Margaret for losing the book, and this charge was strongly refuted.

Finally someone suggested Mr. MacDonald ask Maggie Clarey who had just walked into the office.

Without a moment's delay she told him "the book is behind your safe". And, Mrs. Matheson recalls, that's where the book was found.

Bill Burnett, a fellow staffer at the Guardian, recalls once his mother lost her ring. She asked Maggie Clarey for advice. The Burnetts lived on Kent Street at the time and Mrs. Burnett had some chickens in a building in the back yard. "When you go out to feed your chickens in the morning, the first place you stop, stoop down and scratch among the litter with your fingers. Your ring will be there", Mrs. Burnett was told. And that's where the ring was found.

Was Guardian Printer

MY NEIGHBOR, Harold MacKie, visited us a few days ago, and he had some further stories about this lady who was a printer for "The Guardian" before she died perhaps 30 years ago.

Harold told me the names in all cases but I am not using them here because I haven't been able to check with the people involved.

A Mount Stewart boy had lost a watch that had been given him as a present. His father talked with Maggie Clarey next time he visited Charlottetown. She said your son has been operating some sort of vehicle that makes hills. He had a breakdown and stopped the machine to fix it. That's where he will find the watch.

Sure enough the boy recalled where he had stopped, went to the spot and dug among the clay, and found the watch.

A Charlottetown man, who was noted as a singer of unusual talent – he is now dead – had lost a valuable ring. He was told he had been chopping or splitting something. The youngster went to the spot where he'd been splitting kindling for the stove. His ring was found there.

A well-known Charlottetown lady had been looking at two dresses in different Charlottetown stores. When she went down town the next day she had Maggie Clarey with her. But she hadn't told her anything about the dresses.

When the pair were nearing the stores where the dresses were, though, Miss Clarey said "I think you had better purchase the blue dress."

#### Amount Of \$750 Was Missing

A MAN who worked on the ledger in a Charlottetown bank had mislaid the amount of \$750 in currency. He remembered having the money in his hands, but could not recall where he had placed it.

Finally it was getting serious and the bank manager was going to fire him unless he produced the missing money. Miss Clarey said "you were working with a certain book that day, when you finished at the end of the day, you left the money between the pages of that book".

Suddenly he recalled he had done just that, went to the book, found the missing money and everyone was happy, including the manager who was going to fire him only the previous day.

Miss Clarey had been a printer at The Guardian and she placed money at the disposal of the Prince Edward Island Hospital before she died, that would pay for the cost of a bed for any patient who worked in a newspaper. I'm not sure whether that included only employees of the Charlottetown newspapers, or whether it took in employees of the Summerside papers – there were two at the time.

But I know of a number of people, both from the Guardian and the Patriot who took advantage of the provision which Miss Clarey had made for them.

I'm sure there are many other stories about this unusual lady, but these are the ones I have been told.

#### Victory Of Alma Celebrated

ANOTHER STORY Harold MacKie told me concerns a lady who lived in the vicinity of Stanley Bridge. This lady, the name was something like "Merrin" – that's the phonetic spelling, so far as I can learn, though the actual spelling may be different – sang a song and danced the Highland fling one night at a gathering of people.

Overseas mail came at that time after a period of perhaps several months. But when the overseas mail finally arrived, it revealed that personnel of a famous Scottish regiment had composed that song – the words were the very same – and danced the Highland Fling, to celebrate their victory at the battle of Alma. That was in the Crimean War which was fought in the middle 1850's

The Stanley Bridge lady never heard the song when she had sung it, but she had it word for word with the one the Scotch soldiers had composed in the Crimea.

This column has been missing for the last several weeks. The reason is I have been doing a great deal of research, and writing, on a number of subjects which are important to this province. I'll try to let you know when the edition is coming out that will include this work.

My Farm Column has also been missing for several weeks for the same reason. It also will be returning shortly.