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## ACROSS THE ISLAND

### Hawbush Tale Is Interesting

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NORTH CAPE, a bleak, lonely tip of land that thrusts out into the Gulf where it's often shrouded in storm-tossed mists, fairly reeks with interesting tales from the long ago. Frank Weeks and I could almost feel the ghostly figures of the past crowding in on us as we tramped and searched the coastline area recently with Sea Cow Pond's Perce Morrissey on an October afternoon, and listened to strange and wonderful tales from him and others in the area.

A lighthouse keeper there for 16 years until he retired at 65, Mr. Morrissey, 72, knows the area where the colorful yarns originated.

The story of the Hawbush is one of the most fascinating, though it's rivalled by the chest of gold that many believe is still in the water after more than 200 years, close to the famous North Cape reef that broke the back of many a ship in the stormy days of past. Mrs Reg. Eldershaw, our capable Tignish correspondent, told me about the Hawbush and she has done a great deal of research with me on this intriguing bit of Island history.

THE HAWBUSH - I'm told it was the only one on the Island - was planted long ago, close to the northwestern tip of P.E.I. Legend says it marked the spot where pirate gold was buried, though a few suggest it was French gold, which I'll tell you about later.

Many holes have been dug in search of the treasure over the years. We were unable to find any of them in our October search over more than a mile of rugged, tree-covered terrain, but a young man, Melvin Provost, told us he had fallen into one a few days earlier, as he roamed the same territory, which indicates some people still dig at times for the gold which they think is still there. I liked Mr. Morrissey's retort when I asked if any treasure had ever been found.

"NOBODY EVER admitted finding any, but some people got rich awfully fast", he told me.

### Old Bush Has Disappeared

THE HAWBUSH "went over the bank" some years ago, Mr. Morrissey told me, as the storm-tossed waves gradually undermined the spot where it grew not far from shore. That's not surprising, for he explained that the lighthouse had to be moved back a few years ago to escape a similar fate. More than three acres had been gradually eaten away at the Island's tip by the relentless approach of the sea.

William Agnew - director of trade here for many years, he lives now in Western Canada - and the late William MacLeod, father of Mrs. Eldershaw, were frightened away once as they dug for the treasure. They never went back to dig, though I haven't found

out what frightened them. Mr. Agnew still has old French coins his father picked up on the shore more than 60 years ago. He also has a picture, which I saw, of his father and others digging there in the long ago.

The area was a scary place in those days and dozens of grim yarns were spun about it. A man was seen there with no head, one story said, and all manner of other spooky tales were told.

BUT PERHAPS even more interesting to some people, is the story of the steel chest filled with gold that was dropped into four to five fathoms of water just off the Cape, from a French frigate wrecked there when it was taking gold to pay the garrison at Quebec more than 200 years ago. Many fishermen have reported seeing the chest over the years - Mr. Morrissey saw it once from his boat but could not locate it when he turned back to search.

One fisherman brought the chest to the surface when it became entangled in his back lines, I was told, but it slipped away before he could move to get the heavy chest aboard his boat. There is some confusion in the stories and some suggest the Hawbush also marked French gold, but the pirate treasure angle seems more believable.

#### Interesting, Valuable Items Seen

THERE ARE many stories along the cape. Scores of ships were wrecked there in former years, and on the reef which has broken the back of many a ship in other years. There were four ships on the reef at one time, Mr. Morrissey told me, and most homes in the area have their own stories of old wrecks. There are many old articles that should interest antique collectors.

We called at Henry Hogan's - it's closest to the Cape - and found many interesting souvenirs. An old sofa came from the Minnie Gordon whose master, Michael Gorman, lost his ship perhaps 60 years ago. Her cabin was hauled ashore and it forms part of a woodhouse and Irish moss shed. An old ship's bell, mounted on the roof, came from the Helena whose nameboard and anchor were salvaged.

WE SAW a "night and day" telescope that was made by Spence and Sons, London, England. It's old and battered, but it still picks up objects far out on the water when brought to eye level. There, too, is an old desk used by Veronica Perry, the wife of Angus L. MacDonald, Canada's wartime minister of defense for naval affairs and several times Nova Scotian premier, and the aunt of Joseph Bernard, Tignish, who was one of P.E.I.'s Lieutenant-Governors. She used it to teach Henry Hogan and his brothers and sisters when their father, Patrick Hogan, kept the lighthouse.

A tiny shell house was made by a Mrs. Oliver, Kildare Cape and won by Patrick Hogan once in a raffle. A model-size house, it is of wood frame and covered with tiny snail shells, with larger clam shells at either gable to represent windows.

#### Brisk Trade - Tignish, Miramichi

A SHIP, the S.E. Spanking Breeze that was wrecked at the Cape was thought to be Russian, I was told, and there were many others whose names are not available

A brisk trade in farm products was carried on by ship between Tignish and the Miramichi in the early days, I learned. Access to accurate records indicates there were such seafaring skippers as Dan Gillis, Ed Perry, Jim McGrath, Ernie Perry, Edmund Gillis, Terence Farrell, and Captains Gavin and MacCarthy whose first names were not available.

One person said those persons took over farm produce and brought back lumber and other products. Those who could afford it brought back spirits for the winter, the informant added. Many of the shipwrecked sailors who survived would find an escape route from the Island aboard some of those ships, it was explained.

I spent four of my most interesting days in the western Prince area. There are many more interesting yarns - indeed I have many of them in my notebook - and I hope to get back on another story hunt next year.

#### New Attractions In Alberton Area

THEY'VE BUILT a lake just below the new Westerner Motel at Alberton and next year, Manager Charlie Gordon tells me, the owners plan to stock it with trout to add a source of amusement and recreation to what is already a definite scenery asset for this fine motel.

And Fred and Gordon White have their new drive-in theatre beautifully located on the shore of Cascumpec Bay where they plan bathing houses and tennis courts and expect to provide other entertainment for their theatre customers, which sounds like another smart idea.

I'VE OFTEN wished since I started to roam the Island, that more of our tourist traffic could go both east and west. There are many interesting spots in both directions. The scenery beyond Souris, for example, is really beautiful and they are developing some fine accommodation. And the same goes for the western part of the province.