

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Mon., May 10, 1971

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Canadian Final Played In 1939

By NEIL A. MATHESON

A YOUNG colleague on this paper's staff said recently that this is the first time an Island sports team played in a Canadian final. My friend was wrong. An Island team played in a Canadian hockey final away back in 1939. I saw them play and wrote the story of the game. I believe that an Island team played the very next year also in a Canadian final. But I haven't the details on that one, though I hope to get them for next week.

It was back on April 9 and April 10 of the year 1939 that the Charlottetown Islanders played here against the Preston Rivulettes.

Canadian Champions Since 1934

OUR GIRLS didn't win the title, for they were up against a club that had held the Canadian title for several years – they had been Canadian Champions since 1934.

The first game ended 4-2 with Vimy Jones of Bunbury – she's now living in Toronto – getting both Island goals. One of them was on a play with McInnis and I believe that was the girl friends knew as "Googs" MacInnis. The other goal was scored on a lone effort.

The powerful Ontario team came back the next night and took the second game 7-1.

Playing for the Island in those games was Mrs. M. MacDonald in goal; Brennan and Lund were on defense.

Forwards, along with Jones and MacInnis included Jennie Cudmore of Montague, now living in Vancouver, B.C.; Aylward, Hennigar, Wood, Mrs. Clifford Montgomery, the former Helen Leard; her husband was one of the stars with the old Summerside Crystals Club that had so many thrilling battles with the Charlottetown Abegweits in the 1920s. The other forward listed in an old Guardian was Gallant. Sorry, I do not have the first names of the girls whose surnames only are mentioned.

Combined Island Team

BUT THE game I remember best is one which a combined Crystal Sisters and Abbie Sisters played against the same Preston Rivulettes. I recall such Summerside stars as Irene Linkletter and Zilpha Linkletter.

Irene could skate like a man; she would stand out in any ladies game. But the Preston Rivulettes had a number of players who could skate equally well.

I talked to several ladies last weekend who recalled, with me, some of those contests of far off days. Vi Montgomery – she's Monty's present wife – was helpful, so was Sybil MacMillan who was a member of an Island ladies hockey team that played the Preston Rivulettes in Galt, Ontario in 1938. They played at Galt, because Preston, a small centre, did not have a rink big enough for such action.

Monty (Clifford Montgomery) agrees with me that a combined Crystal Sisters – Abbie Sisters did play Preston Rivulettes in this province. But Monty believes the game was played in Summerside. I believe it was in Charlottetown.

I hope to have the story of that combined Crystal Sisters – Abbie Sisters, or should I merely say a combined Island team, against the Rivulettes. As I've said, I hope to have that story for you next week.

And that reminds me of a girls hockey note in lighter vein. It was something during my time at Mt. Allison that the Abbie Sisters came over from Charlottetown to play the Mt. Allison girls.

I don't remember the score but it was a rout, with the Abbie Sisters scoring almost at will.

Mt. Allison Girl "Was A Man"

SUDDENLY a Mt. Allison "Girl" came onto the ice, skated speedily through the entire Abbie Sisters' team and scored.

The Mt. Allison girls had persuaded the University men's team captain to don the uniform the girls of that date wore. I can't recall the man's name, though I did know him when I was at University in Sackville, but the stunt enlivened the contest and gave the Mt. Allison student body the only chance they had to laugh all night.

A P.E.I. Railway note I have in an old file says, "The railway under the management of Mr. McKechnie, prospers beyond the most sanguine expectations of its promoters. It was opened April 1875 and the statement of operation to the end of August the same year was:

When Railway Prospered

"47,847 passengers, \$35,655 passenger fare, freight, \$14,381; mail \$1,737 for a total revenue in that short period of \$51,773."

Here's one for school teachers of the present day:

"Salaries of teachers range from \$113.56 to \$324.44 and only about 20 teachers receive the larger sum." The comment was that the province "cannot by any possibility, command the necessary talent, and must be increased if the education system is to be out on a proper basis."

Taught For \$225 A Year

DR. W.J.P. MACMILLAN, a premier of this province back in the early 1930's, said once that he had taught school for \$225 a year. A friend of mine who was visiting this province a few weeks ago told me she had paid \$1.75 a week for board when she taught at St. Catherine's school, and that would have been in the early 1920's I believe.

A colleague of mine taught in the early 1930's for \$50 a month – that would be \$500 for the 10 months – and the supplement was \$100 a month. And he was a first-class teacher, the highest rank obtainable at that time.

He recalls that his mother boarded teachers in the period 1920 to 1926, or thereabouts, for \$2.00 a week.

My late friend Charles S. MacDonald, who taught first in the latter 1880's, I believe, told me that in those days a teacher's supplement "went from nothing up and it didn't go very far".

I recall that he told me that he taught once in Kelly's Cross and there was no supplement at all.

That Word "Supplement"

IF PRESENT day teachers are confused by the word "Supplement" it was an amount paid by the district, over and above what the government paid for a teacher, and that was according to the class of license the teacher held.

In order for a first-class teacher to get first-class pay from the government, the district had to pay at least \$100 in supplement. Over that minimum amount of supplement, the government matched the district dollar for dollar, up to a certain limit.

For example if a district paid \$150 in supplement, the government would pay another \$50 to match, in addition to the regular salary.

I'll stop here in case I'll only confuse you. And I don't know that much detail about those events anyway.

I often wondered about that "first class" license. When I went to Prince of Wales College first, a student who completed the work of the first year successfully got a second class license. In those days the first-year students received a limited amount of teacher training and it was limited.

But the students who came back for the second year at P.W.C. as it was known then, got a first-class license if they successfully completed the year – but they got no additional teacher training.