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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Stories Written From Hospital

By NEIL A. MATHESON

YOU WOULDN'T think a hospital would be a good place to gather stories, but I have two for you this week. One is a ring-tailed snorter of a "tall" story, the other is true.

I'm writing this from the P.E.I. Hospital where a score or more of attractive and wonderful ladies have been spoiling me now for almost two weeks. In between my doctor got me into "surgery" for a short period Monday.

I should add that the men folk here are just as nice, and their service is the very best. They not only do their work but, like the nurses and the other people who help look after us, they bring all of their skill and effort into doing the job just as well as is humanly possible, and they always wear a smile.

And don't forget the doctors, the key figures in the get-well procedure. I've always known these men are busy. Two weeks here, listening to them being paged constantly over the public address system, makes that realization even more acute.

Walks, Cooks On Broken Hip

MY TRUE story concerns Mrs. Johnny Williams of Charlottetown – she's the widow of the Johnny Williams who started the jewelry store that is operated now by their son.

Mrs. Williams was in front of Steadman's at the Royalty Mall, when she fell heavily to the ground. She didn't know it then but her hip was broken.

The lady was close to the front of a car, so she managed to pull herself to her feet. After standing there for a time she walked to her home, perhaps three blocks away.

Then she proceeded to cook a steak dinner.

I asked her when I walked into her room, and heard her story, why she bothered to come to hospital when she was doing so well on her own. I was kidding of course, but this lady is now walking up and down the corridor regularly with the aid of a walker. Her experience surely must have been a most unusual one.

In the same semi-private room is Mrs. Fred T. MacRae, Union Road who was injured severely in a car accident on Sunday. This lady had her warm and friendly smile back when I saw her on Tuesday – I had been tied up pretty well through Monday.

This Yarn Is Really TALL

THE OTHER story came from Fred Acorn, Bridgetown and it's one that's been told in the Dundas Centre-Poplar Point area for many years. As I said, it's a "tall tale"; it's really tall.

A man sometimes called Jimmy Province – Fred thinks this might have been a nickname – had a very fast horse. The story concerns the horse and an unusually heavy rainfall.

Province was coming from Souris once, with his horse hitched in a dump cart. When the rainstorm was noticed some distance behind him – the water was literally spilling

down – Province called on his horse for all possible speed, later he asked for an even faster clip. The man was trying to get home without getting wet.

Province and his horse finally made the trip; they dashed into the big barn floor before the rain could wet either of them.

But here's the punch line. Province was sitting on the front of the cart and wasn't touched by so much as a drop of rain, but his dog that was with him followed the cart closely and had to swim all the way. The water was that deep.

If that's not enough, how about this?

The man had to dump the cart box four times to empty it, after it had filled with water. I told you in the beginning that it was a TALL story.

Bloomfield To Guernsey Cove

I'VE MET and talked here to people from Bloomfield – the man's name is Joseph Martin – to Guernsey Cove, and this young man is Russel Beck.

Rev. George Tilley is in the room directly across the corridor, and I'm sure he would feel much better if he could only climb on a sulky and drive a standard bred horse. He jogged many of the ones Willard Kelly owned at Southport, Mr. Tilley told me. He is recovering satisfactorily from an operation.

Earl Diamond, Winsloe has gone home this week after an operation. His sister, Ella, Mrs. Archie Auld, is from Covehead. Milton Smith. Millview was also across the corridor.

I was walking down the corridor one night when a man asked me in Gaelic "How are you?" We've had many talks since then. He is Alex MacLeod from Valleyfield.

Everett Somers, Charlottetown came originally from Breadalbane. Mrs. Leslie Frizzell, Rose Valley, has returned to her home. Michael MacKenzie is from St. Peter's.

Chesley Hughes, Covehead was operated on Tuesday. John Colwill, Elmwood, Mrs. Edward Gillis, Charlottetown, John Foster, Suffolk and Mrs. Paul Cormier, City and Melville Bell, Desable are a few of the others I've met. I've been most fortunate.

It's important who is with you in a semi-private room and Jack Hambly, City was with me first and Glydon Maund, Winsloe has been with me since Sunday. Both men are most congenial and are really good chaps to have with you. Both join in thanking everyone here who has been so very good to us.