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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Several Looms Reported Here

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We still have looms on P.E.I. I learned this week. And there's a great deal of interest in the Phantom Ship, both of which I mentioned in last week's column.

A Kilmuir lady has her grandmother's loom, a couple of the many blankets she has seen woven on it, and she has a bundle of "white warp" although I gather she doesn't weave. She still spins yarn though, which she cards from wool with the old-fashioned "hand cards".

Joe Mooney, Iona has a loom, I was told at the tobacco meeting this week by Doug Roloson and Albert Pauley, Ocean View, and a Sackville, N.B. man, Earl J. Bowser, describes his loom as six and one-half feet tall - that would be at the center cross piece I imagine - about the same length or perhaps a little longer and not quite as wide.

AND I learned with pleasure only yesterday from Mrs. Mary Brehaut, Charlottetown that the historical society has one stored away, which they received from Miss Josie Blanchard. This one was made at Rustico by Miss Blanchard's father many years ago and it is all wood with no metal and that's the way I remember the one my mother used. The loom was used until recently by Mrs. James E. Harris, Charlottetown. Miss Blanchard's sister, Mary. I understand wove many hundreds of yards of blanket cloth on this loom for family and friends.

This and many other items, I hope, will find a permanent home in our museum when we get one - I have seen many things in my own trips across the Island that should be preserved - and it's not to our credit that we haven't provided a provincial museum long ago. No, I'm not forgetting your interesting museum at Montague which I visited with a great deal of interest a couple of years ago.

Phantom Ship Called "Storm Light"

THE KILMUIR lady - she asked me not to use her name - recalls seeing the Phantom Ship off White Sands as a girl and says her father used to call it the "Storm Light". She adds "The little Carruthers girl - Judy Carruthers, O'Leary - is right about seeing men in the decks and in the rigging."

The lady tells me that Blue Stone was used in former days to treat "shoe boils" on horses and a letter from Retired Pharmacist Clyde C. Rammer, Hunter River recalls it was used on his father's farm in Saskatchewan to treat wheat before sowing, to prevent smut developing in rainy weather.

"THE AMOUNT of wheat to be sown next day would be made moist the night before by sprinkling and stirring with a shovel." He knows, he tells me, because he had to treat

several hundred bushels every spring. No smut was ever found on wheat that was treated and they called the job "pickling the wheat," he adds.

The former pharmacist tells me that the Blue Stone - it is really Copper Sulfate - was used in a variety of prescriptions, from eye drops to hair tonic.

Good Neighbour Spirit In Action

NEIGHBOURS AND friends from his own and surrounding districts gathered to harvest the potato crop one day last week for Kenneth MacNeill, Clyde River whose wife died a few days earlier. There were something more than a half-dozen there in the morning but there must have been close to 40 there in the afternoon. Richie MacPhee of nearby New Haven said it reminds me of the days when neighbours gathered almost automatically to help someone who was in unusual difficulties. The volunteer harvesters cleaned up the patch of close to five acres, I was told.

I recall that Clifford Holmes told me several years ago that neighbours from miles around were in his woods the afternoon of the day his barn burned at Kingston, to cut lumber to build a new one. Some evidence of the kindly spirit of neighbours of other years remains with us, which is all to the good.

Hon. Walter Jones' Feats Recalled

HONOR CAME to this province early this week when a painting of the late Hon. Walter Jones was unveiled in the Agriculture Hall of Fame at Toronto. As noted in a newspaper story recently the Abegweit Holstein herd which he developed at Bunbury achieved many notable records, including no less than four world records. Two of them, I recall, were made by Abegweit Milady in successive years which is most unusual.

I knew Mr. Jones for many years here when he was a member of the legislature and later premier, but it was not until I had the privilege of working with him at Ottawa for a short period, that I realized what a great Islander he was. His constant theme was "What can we do for the Island?" This province lost an enthusiastic and effective booster when death cut short his career in the Senate after only a few months.

Returns 32 Years For Service

I TALKED last weekend with Major D. A. MacDonald, Moncton who came back to his beloved Wheatley River home, as he has done each fall now for the past 32 years, to arrange the Remembrance Day service in honor of the sons of that area who fought and died in two world wars. I believe that must be a record, certainly it is most unusual to find a man who has so consistently returned to the old home district for such a purpose.

Mr. MacDonald was the chairman of the committee that financed the monument that was unveiled by the late Lieutenant-Governor Frank R. Hertz in August, 1925. T.D. Lang and William Carew were the other committee members.

MY OLD friend - I remember working for him as a boy when he was building road culverts in the Rose Valley area some 40 years ago - recalls that the late Dr. W. J. P.

MacMillan, a former premier, never missed a service there for 29 years. Others who were at the unveiling included Premier J. D. Stewart, D. A. MacKinnon, Charlottetown, J. H. Buntain, Rev. J. S. Bonnell, Rev. R. Hensley Stavert and a Rev. Mr. Barber.

When I asked Mr. MacDonald what prompted his continuing interest in his old home - he's giving the old farm for a park, he told me - he replied "I love my home. I love my people. I love my neighbours. They were brave, kind and gentle."

Mr. MacDonald financed the addition of the names of the heroes of World War Two and he told me a steel flag pole and flood lights have been added this year, and the monument straightened up.

Many Buyers Want Gordon Buick

I SAW a 1932 MacLaughlin Buick automobile at Montague this week for which owner Stafford Gordon has been offered twice the \$2,660 he paid for it 30 years ago and that's a standing offer. There's 29,000 miles on the old car which looks like new, with not a dent or the trace of a scratch on it.

"I have many letters on my desk from people who want to buy it", he told me, and he has had all kinds of requests, but he's not selling.

"I suppose Mr. Gordon", I suggested "a man gets sort of attached to a car he has had for such a long time." And his reply "That old car and I are pretty good friends" showed I was right.

When I asked if he would ever part with it, he replied "I don't know," then indicated he might give it to somebody sometime.

Mr. Gordon has had just three cars since he purchased a Briscoe in 1919. The second was a MacLaughlin Buick touring car.

MacCaull Gets This Lady's Vote

A SUMMERSIDE lady writes that a newspaper story under my byline mentioned about all of the Senate applicants "except the man who is really going to get it, Peter MacCaull, Ellerslie." My only reply is that I listed the names top ranking Conservatives in the province suggest are the top choices. I have no pipeline to the Prime Minister's mind and he's the one who will make the final choice.

Mr. MacCaull is a close friend with whom I have been working closely in an effort to boost the West Point ferry project, and keep it constantly before the public. I called on him last week in his store and had a most pleasant visit and chat with him as usual. I certainly wouldn't do anything to hurt him. There are many other applicants - I was taken to task earlier for not mentioning several other people - but I reported only what I was told by the people who are in the best position to know.