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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Cherry Valley Man Has Rare Type Fish

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I SAW a big Ocean Sunfish yesterday on a shore field on the farm of A. H. Mutch, Cherry Valley. The big fellow weighed an estimated 400 pounds when it drifted ashore recently. The body of the odd looking flat fish has shrunk considerably since that time, but one can still get an idea of the size of the unusual visitor to Island shores. See page 24 for picture.

This type of fish is a rare visitor, apparently. Beecher Court, a veteran fisherman from North Rustico caught one in the Gulf of St. Lawrence a few years ago. That was the only other instance available, I was told by Warren Farrar, Canada department of fisheries here. I understand that the Mutch fish is considerably larger though.

The big fish has a small mouth though the people who know, say the teeth are large and powerful. One authoritative publication suggests that rare specimens grow to a weight of a ton. But a book "American Wild Life Illustrated" Mr. Mutch showed me yesterday states that one report from Sydney, Australia describes a Sunfish "which was killed by a steamer's propeller was 10 feet long, 14 feet high and 4,400 pounds in weight."

That may be a fish story. IT sounds like one. I pass it along for what it is worth.

Grandfather Clock – Heifer Is Smart

INCIDENTALLY I saw a Grandfather Clock at the Mutch home that must be 200 years old, though nobody knows for sure. It was brought to the Island, reportedly, by the first Irving man to land in that vicinity. Mr. Mutch's grandfather, Robert Mutch, purchased the clock at an auction sale of the Irving effects.

Alex Irving who died in Montreal a few days ago, offered \$150 for it some years ago, but it remained in the Mutch home. It has the phases of the moon, and the days of the month, among other things. It stands eight feet tall, which is probably normal height for one of those beautiful old clocks. I have seen a number of them in homes I have visited, but I can't remember measuring one accurately.

THEY BRED purebred Shorthorn cattle for some years and Mrs. Mutch told me about a heifer they purchased from Ed Anderson who lived on the Tantramar Marshes on the N.S.-N.B. border. The heifer developed the knack of turning on a water tap in the yard, when the tub was empty. Then she would hold up her head, open her mouth, and let the water trickle down her throat.

The heifer turned the tap with her mouth. Only trouble was that she wouldn't turn off the tap, when she was through drinking. They sold the animal to J. O. Hyndman who owned a farm where Fort Amherst is being rebuilt at the present time.

Liberals "Built Bridge, Railway"

WARREN LORD, Euston Street gave me this week a copy of "The Daily Patriot" of 61 years ago that carried the story of the construction of the Hillsborough Bridge. I'll tell you something at a future date about the more interesting engineering problems as the Patriot described them. But I got a real bang out of the way the story was colored to laud the Liberal government, here and at Ottawa, and to damn the Conservatives at the same time. The local Tories, the old Patriot claimed, voted against the resolution to build the bridge.

The opening paragraph of the story, incidentally consisted of one 70-word sentence. Here it is:

"Among the monuments to the enterprise and practical patriotism of Canada's business Liberal government, among the beneficent results of a Liberal provincial administration and a Liberal federal administration working in harmony, among the great measures which Liberal representatives have secured for their constituents in Prince Edward Island are those two important public works, one a complement to the other – the Murray Harbor and Belfast Railway and the Hillsborough Bridge."

And here's the last paragraph of a story that covered almost four full pages:

"It is a work that Islanders can ever point to with pride, and the water will have ceased to flow down the Hillsborough and swirl around the massive piers firmly seated on their rocky bases before the memory of the good deeds of the great political party that gave us the Hillsborough Bridge will pass from the minds and hearts of a grateful people."

In between there is some interesting descriptive material which I'll try to condense for you in a future column. But I thought you would get a kick out of the extreme effort made on that occasion to grab credit for the political party the Patriot supported at the time.

Murray Harbor Completion Date

ONE PARAGRAPH in the old story said that the railroad link between Murray Harbor and Southport was completed and the first engine to run over it arrived at Southport at two o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, November 28, 1903.

The entire link was handed over to the Dominion Government in late November 1904.

Lobster Meat Will Be Costly

LOBSTERS ARE bringing more than 90 cents per pound down on the South Shore of Nova Scotia, I'm told, and that's a long way from the prices for the tasty shell fish back in the early days of the century.

Eddie Hammil, who used to work at the Patriot, told me he saw people buying lobsters on the Market Square for a cent apiece. For bigger lobsters, he said, the price was two cents. And that was retail price.

I heard Reid Sangster say last week that he remembers when Lobsters brought \$5.00 per ton to the fisherman, which works out to one-quarter of a cent per pound.

Incidentally that price on the Nova Scotia shore cannot be compared with our summer price. Winter fishing is a hazardous operation, where fishermen don't dare risk all of their gear at any given time. The winter price always is considerably higher. But the 97 cents per pound I've been told some Lobster fishermen have received for their catch is really something. Imagine what the choice Lobster meat will cost when it is ready for the table.

Original 'Vision' Note Is Seen

Mrs. Tom Arbing, 187 King Street showed me this week the original note that Madeline Hilchey wrote for the train crew about which Alf Egan told me for last week's column. Tom Arbing – he died in 1961-had carried the note in his purse for 19 years.

To those who missed last week's column the note said:

"There is a man who walks between the tracks on a slight curve. Be very careful for 'Thou shalt not kill'". The last four words were in capital letters.

LAST WEEK'S item about Mrs. Hector C. MacMillan of Charlottetown seeing the drowning of Lord Kitchener in the days of the First Great War should have read June 1916, instead of 1914. The man who was recognized as one of England's greatest military strategists at that time was drowned when the warship carrying him struck a mine and sank with the loss of almost all aboard.