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## ACROSS THE ISLAND

### New Products For Province

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I'VE ADDED Zeger Salome, Bedeque to the list of men who have produced new Island products. Normally a feed mill operator, Mr. Salome has put a whole-wheat cereal, and a whole-wheat flour on the market and he's working on several other ideas. I was particularly interested in some of the equipment which he designed and built.

Mr. Salome had hoped to manufacture a mixed cereal from wheat, flax and rye, but the persistently wet season made the flax and rye too soft, and the idea was dropped for this year.

THE NETHERLANDS native had an ambition to manufacture flour on a moderately large scale - "I could use wheat from 700 to 800 acres," he told me - after probing the possibilities from Summerside to East Point. Island grown wheat has too much moisture with 13 to 14 percent, to make flour that will keep, but it would be good if it were dried. Western wheat, by comparison runs eight to nine percent, and it should be below 12 percent if the product is to keep, he added.

Many farmers in Western Prince, I found this year, grow enough wheat for their own flour needs. The Coleman mill looks after the grinding.

A man who grew up in a mill in Holland, Mr. Salome built his mill and his equipment for mixing molasses into the cattle feed he manufactures, using a concentrate from an internationally known company.

### Molasses Mixer Was Difficult

A COMPANY executive told Mr. Salome he couldn't build a mixer, but that didn't stop the ingenious miller. He built one that didn't work. The second one also left something to be desired. "But," he told me, "I was lying sleepless in bed one night when I suddenly got an idea". He arose immediately, tried it out and found it worked. The alteration cost him 64 cents. The mixer cost about \$250, which compares with the \$1,500 to \$1,600 a commercial machine would cost.

A simple looking bit of equipment is his "separator" which separates weeds from the grain. "That's a simple thing", he told me, and it does look simple the way he has it set up, but a commercial separator I saw last year looks fairly complicated.

### "Big Lobster" Catch Is Recalled

ALEXANDER BLUE, Little Sands told me a story about "big lobsters" I found interesting. Seeking the story behind a huge set of lobster claws Mrs. Blue has in her sitting room, I learned Mr. Blue found a big fellow clinging to the outside of his trap - it

was much too big to get inside - some 30 years ago. He grabbed the lobster with his hands and hauled it into the boat, but thought "there must be more of you big fellows down there" so went home and made a huge trap with a 10 inch ring. His first haul took 90 pounds of big lobsters.

He built 35 big traps over winter and he was taking eight to nine crates per day of huge Crustaceans, with many of them running 16 to 18 pounds. One of them hit 23 ½ pounds and that's the one that produced the souvenir claws.

THE BIG lobsters were caught in three to four fathoms of water, with a blue mud bottom, some of it clinging to the traps when they were hauled. The fishing was good while it lasted, but it didn't last long enough. Other fishermen caught on so they also made large traps and the supply was soon exhausted. Lobsters were eight to 10 cents a pound at the time, with no distinction between canners and markets.

The Little Sands man also recalled getting some unusually large trout once when Sam Dixon's dam broke many years ago. One measured 23 inches in length "there were dozens that ran 12 to 18 inches", Mr. Blue told me. There were no limits then and some people fished a bag full of them, he recalled, in a spot below the dam.

### Handicraft Skills Now And Then

I SAW some unusual and imaginative handicraft work which Mrs. Blue is doing, which reminds me once again that the present drive to develop handicraft skills is, in some measure at least, an effort to recreate some of the skills which we had years ago and have allowed to peter out. A story I'll develop later, tells of a boat being propelled by sails made from home-grown flax that was spun and woven into sails.

### Devil Appears In Ghost Yarn

THIS IS one of the dozens of ghost stories which I was told about last month, after my October 12 ghost story column. I got it from John Stewart, a Springton boy who was a tailor for William Callbeck at Bedeque and later managed a store for him, before Mr. Stewart went on his own and farmed among other things.

John Stewart who learned the tailor trade at Crapaud, was home for a weekend when he was persuaded by three neighbour boys to guide them on an apple-stealing trip to the Westmoreland-Crapaud area. They were nearing home on the return journey and, Mr. Stewart recalls with stern disapproval, the other chaps began to use language that involved the name of the Creator in a most undignified and disrespectful manner when suddenly one of them shouted defiantly "if there is a God, show yourself", or words to that effect.

SUDDENLY the spirited horse - there were no cars then, it must have been 65 years ago - shied to one side of the road, as a large imposing figure appeared at his head, then passed swiftly along the shafts to the wagon where a badly frightened trio of young men were huddled in shocked silence - Mr. Stewart had no part in the rough language - and finally vanished in a ball of fire and smoke.

“It was the devil, himself” Mr. Stewart told me as I talked with him in Breadalbane at the home of his niece. The suggestion I see Mr. Stewart came from Mrs. Reg Haslam, Springfield.

Strangely enough the scene is less than 200 yards below the spot where my October yarn of “the woman’s voice from the pig” originated.

### Rocking Chair From Franklin Home

I WENT to Norway, west of Tignish recently to see a beautiful old rocking chair that came from the home of Benjamin Franklin, American philosopher, author and statesman 1706-1790. It’s owned by Earl Gallant who received it from Mrs. Clifton Eddy whom he served as a chauffeur 1932-45. The American lady who was a relative of Franklin, gave Mr. Gallant the chair a few years before she died, along with an old chime clock which he also prizes.

Hand-carved from Cherry wood, it rocks on a wooden base. The seat and back have been reupholstered, but the rest of it is as good as new. I didn’t ask the genial Mr. Gallant if he’s interested in selling the chair, though I told him he’d have a lot of enquiries after this appears. If he does decide to sell, I hope he’ll ask enough for it. Antique collectors pay a lot of money at times for items they fancy, and this one has just about everything to make it desirable.

MRS. GALLANT, the former Elizabeth Bourque who came from Lincoln, N.B. just outside of Fredericton, showed me an attractive set of old dishes that date back to the turn of the century. Mrs. Gallant’s family turned the dishes over to her when she married and it was a gift which she still prizes highly, because of the distinctive pattern, as well as the age of the set. Fortunately the pattern is still in existence and pieces can be purchased for the set, Mrs. Gallant told Mrs. Matheson and me when we visited at their home in company with Mrs. Edith Eldershaw and her mother, Mrs. William MacLeod, Tignish, who guided us to the Gallant home.