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## ACROSS THE ISLAND

### Water Divining Really Works

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I'VE READ stories in national magazines debunking water divining or "switching" - they said it couldn't be done - but I talked a few days ago to a Cornwall man, Hazen Howard, who finds water regularly. He can even tell you the depth at which it will be found.

I've known Hazen for many years but it was Claude Murphy, who also works for this paper, who gave me the tip.

There's nothing new about the forked-stick method of finding water. But I never knew anyone before who could do it. And I've often heard people say it's only a fable, that it can't be done.

WE VISITED the Howard home on a cold, frosty evening, so he gave me a demonstration in his warm kitchen. A stream flows diagonally across the kitchen, 32 feet down. He knows the depth because his pump is on the stream.

Mr. Howard grasped the two ends of the fork, and the single-stick end bent down sharply as soon as he stood astride the stream, with the stick parallel to the stream, and directly above it.

He can even tell the direction the stream is flowing, as the stick points to the source.

He uses mostly any kind of switch for the work. A No. 9 wire will work, he told me, if it is twisted into a forked shape.

I have a feeling Mr. Howard doesn't want me to tell how he can find the depth of the water, so I'm going to skip that part, but he showed me how it is done, and I can vouch for it. There's one reservation. It's difficult to tell the depth if the stream is more than 100 feet down, he told me.

### Water Is Found Only 2 Feet Away

THERE ARE many examples. I'll give you one or two.

A 40-foot pump went dry some years ago in the barn of Kenneth MacNeill, Clyde River. Mr. Howard's stick told him that water could be found only two feet from the dry hole 30 feet down. An explosive charge was lowered in the dry hole to blast through the rock. The water came into the old hole and that was that.

A well-boring company that had sunk several holes in a shore field for Aubrey MacPhail, York Point, was unable to get anything but salt water. Hazen found fresh water about 10 feet away from one of the holes. That was "at least 15 years ago" and there has been no difficulty with salt water since.

I FOUND that the most interesting part of it. I asked him how he could tell with his stick that the water he found was fresh. The answer was simple, the stream was flowing toward the shore, so it was fresh.

He said they would find water at about 25 feet. They found it at 27 feet.

The United Church and the manse at Cornwall are two of the many places he found water. The Cornwall minister, Rev. Isaac Walls, preached a sermon shortly afterwards. Mrs. Howard said her husband felt most people in the church were looking at him during the sermon. And they probably were. But the minister's message was not criticizing the business. He had seen for himself how the thing worked.

### "At Least 100 Calls" In Dry Year

MR. HOWARD who is in the trucking business, discovered he had the divining gift when he was 18 or 20 years old. A Nova Scotia chap was doing some water switching at Cornwall corner. He invited those watching him to try their hand at it. The switch turned for Hazen and he's been at it ever since. He must have had at least 100 calls in the dry year of 1960, Mrs. Howard told me.

Strangely enough the stick won't work over open water, like a brook. But it will work from the Howard rooftop, where he tried it once just for curiosity.

The magic - or call it what you will - seems to be in the palm of the hand or in "the lifeline" area. Mr. Howard can grasp the forked stick with the fingers, or the outer part of his hands, and nothing happens. But as soon as he moves in to grasp it deep in his hands, the stick bends. And the tighter he holds it, the better it seems to work.

ON SEVERAL occasions he has found someone who can work with him and make the stick work. Hazen grabs one end of the fork with one hand, the other person grabs the other fork, and they clasp their free hands. But it doesn't happen often. I tried it, just for fun, so did Mrs. Matheson, but the stick ignored us.

Mr. Howard accepts no pay for his work in finding water. I only hope he will not be swamped with requests for help, because of the publicity this column is giving his work.

### Many Great-grandparents

THE HOWARDS we find have a great-grandson who has two great-great-grandparents alive and four great-grandparents.

Baby Donnie Arthur Shaw DeSable is 7 months. On the Howard side there are his mother, Mrs. James Shaw; his grandmother Mrs Ford Wilson, Cornwall; his great grandfather Hazen Howard and his great-great-grandfather, Frank Howard, Cornwall.

On the other side there are his mother, his grandmother, Mrs. Ford Wilson, his great-grandmother Mrs. Hazen Howard, and his great-great-grandmother Mrs. Herbert Lewis, York Point.

THE OTHER great grandparent links go like this. There are Baby Shaw, his father James Shaw; his grandmother, Mrs. Archie Shaw and his great-grandmother, Mrs. James Matheson, all of DeSable.

On the other side there are Baby Shaw, Mrs. James Shaw, his mother, Ford Wilson, his grandfather and Reuben Wilson, Thetford, Ontario who is his great-grandfather.

### 1,000 Turkey Broilers

ALBERTON'S HERB Matthews has 1,000 turkey broilers coming along now for the Easter market, in a new development for P.E.I., by its biggest turkey producer. They'll take 14 to 16 weeks to mature and 90 percent of them are from American eggs.

"Why do you use American eggs?" I asked the man who used to keep 1,000 breeding hens and sold poults all over the Maritimes, as I visited him with Frank Weeks recently.

"The Americans have developed better birds from the standpoint of feed conversion and eye appeal through their testing and artificial insemination programs, that we haven't been able to match here", he replied.

THE HOUSEWIFE wants eye appeal, he told me, and it does count heavily as she roams the supermarkets in highly selective buying tours. The broadbreasted birds are broader than ever - that's where the meat is stacked - and everyone knows the value of feed conversion development.

He'll probably raise 5,000 mature turkeys this year. He used to raise 7,000. Turkey poult hatching is big business now, and it's an all-year round proposition, said the man whose incubators can accommodate 20,000 eggs at a time. The poults are delivered to Maritime producers in 24 hours, he told me.

Mr. Matthews is also into the beef business now with 13 pure bred Angus cattle which he bought last year from some of the top Ontario breeders.

### Fall Election Latest Prediction

LATEST GUESS from Parliament Hill is for a late autumn election, perhaps in October, Leo McIsaac tells me after a weekend Ottawa visit for a New Democratic party federal council conference.

Diefenbaker wants to be Prime Minister for the Confederation Centennial celebrations in 1967, so he's banking on a victory in October, then he could stay the full five years which would take him through the most of 1967 and the big celebrations.

I don't know whether the guess is good any more than you do. But I can tell you the chaps who are thinking that way now, are among the top political observers in the country, and they come from the Liberals and the New Democratic groups.

It's an interesting thought at any rate, so I thought I'd pass it on to you.