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## ACROSS THE ISLAND

### Craswells Use Ancient Secret

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MOST PEOPLE in the province know Cleve and Clarinda Craswell, the husband-wife team of artists, in their photographic studio here. Like many of you, I've known for years that they do splendid work with hand painted scenes, but yesterday I learned the fascinating story of how they acquired the secret process which has made their work so famous. There are Craswell scenes in many countries of the world.

It was back in the early Thirties that a Japanese Yale graduate, Akira Takmira, came to Charlottetown. The tall, slender young graduate was seeing something of Canada before he returned to Japan. His artist's eye was attracted to the province's red soil and he wanted to take back with him an accurate reproduction. So he asked the Craswells if he could use their studio which had direct daylight lighting to do his work.

It was an unusual request from a complete stranger but finally the Craswells - they're used to helping people - gave their consent. For two weeks he worked at every opportunity - the Craswells had to use the studio when a customer came along

WHEN HE was here he saw hand-colored scenes, and a few colored portraits, that Clarinda had done, and realized her interest in that type of work. She had taken painting lessons from Miss Mary Doull, a well known Island artist, and from a distinguished teacher at Notre Dame Academy, so she wasn't a novice.

Takmira was filled with gratitude to this friendly couple who had been so kind. "I'd love to do something really big for you, because you have been so good to me", he emphasized.

Mrs. Craswell replied "If I could only color like you, that's all I ask." Having seen his work, she admired his artistry. "It was magnificent", she told me.

It was late the following afternoon that Takmira returned to reveal that his skill in hand coloring in oils was the result of an ancient secret, handed down through generations of his family.

"I have meditated for hours on what you have told me", he said. "If you wonderful people can give me your solemn promise that you'll never reveal it to a living soul", he said, "I'll give you the secret and tell you how it's done".

### The Secret Will Die With Us

THE PROMISE was given and the result is the beautiful work which those people have been doing over the years. "The secret will die with us", the Craswells assured me.

It involves such things as proper mixing of oils, the process of finishing a picture so it will accept the oils, and a special type of paper that is used.

Examples of the Craswell artistry have gone to many parts of the world. Australia, New Zealand, Madagascar Island, Checkoslovakia, Norway and the United States are a few of the places recalled during our chat.

The Souris lighthouse got the widest distribution. Hundreds of airmen who trained in Charlottetown with the RAF in wartime, bought the scene because they used the old light as their target in fake bombing runs as a part of their training routine. So the airmen purchased the colored scene to send home to their parents or their sweethearts

BUT THERE are many others. They're working now on a beautiful scene of the provincial park territory at Strathgartney. There are probably fifty different shades of coloring which bring out just about every tint that mother nature shows. I asked Cleve how long it takes to do a scene of that size but he couldn't estimate accurately. "It takes hours and hours", he replied.

It was back in the Thirties, too, I recalled that the Craswells had their own miniature idea of "Boys Town" where they lived then on Elm Avenue. I asked them about it yesterday. It started one day when a couple of boys were caught tearing shingles off the roof of an old barn just across the street. A friendly warning brought hoots of derision. So they decided to do something about it.

THERE WAS a special plot in the Craswell garden for the boys to grow vegetables which they sold from house to house. There were special trips to swimming spots, and picnic lunches. There were other deeds of understanding and genuine friendship. There were perhaps a dozen boys in the group. They ran from nine to ten years of age when the project started.

The boys of that day are scattered pretty well across the country now. But they have never forgotten their friends. "We hear from them regularly", Mrs. Craswell told me, and "everyone of them has made good."

#### Heavy Milking Ayrshire Heifers

THEY HAVE an unusual problem at A. MacRae and Son's Ayrshire farm at Central Royalty. A couple of 2-year old heifers are milking approximately 50 pounds a day, and the problem is to keep them in flesh to show at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto by mid November.

The heifers stood first and third in the 2-year old dry class at Charlottetown in August. Both are sired by Woodlands Royal Burton, grand champion at the Royal a year ago, and one of them is out of Fairvue Fashion Maid, an "Excellent" cow with more than 100,000 pounds of milk. She is by Glengarry Bit O Fashion, the sire brought here some years ago by the late Harold Clay.

The young heifers are not being pushed for milk either, Arthur MacRae told me yesterday. They're not getting that sort of feed.

#### Canadian Livestock To Cuba

CANADA IS going to do something to Castro if she continues to ship livestock to Cuba. Thousands of cattle have been shipped and a returning Canadian tells of 20,000 sows being maintained in pig batteries in asphalt floored pens.

The cattle are supplying milk for Cubans, and weaner pigs are being distributed to farms in an effort to raise the standard of living, reports indicate.

Lou Roper told me this week the Cubans have 7,000 milk cows in one center, where they are milked in milking parlors, that are operated around the clock. A Canadian who saw the operation reports the cattle are feeding in terrific pastures.

THIS PART doesn't make sense to me, though, for I recall an agent for a large milk supplier outside Boston who told me they just haven't time to put their cows out and take them in for milking. So they keep them inside all the time, force them for several years, and get rid of them when they are burned out.

Most unusual part I recall of the conversation is his telling me the disposal of manure was one of their biggest problems. They put two coats on their available land, as heavy as the spreaders would spread it, and there was still a lot left, he told me.

### Province's Best Pasture Seen

AND THAT reminds me that I saw the province's best pasture this week on the farm of Wilfred Furness and Son at Vernon. Hector Matheson, Heatherdale was the winner in Kings County and Keith Barrett, Lot 16 was the top man in Prince.

Prizes to these men and the 27 other place winners are to be awarded at a dinner next Monday evening in the Charlottetown Hotel.

Most interesting feature of the Furness pasture is the fact that six acres of it has been pastured for 24 years, and there has never been a sign of a bush on it. And there is a spruce hedge nearby that would be expected to seed it under normal circumstances.