

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

One day in May of 1568 a small fishing boat left Salway Firth and landed at Worthington with 30 refugees from Scotland, chief of whom was the beautiful but unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots seeking succor from her cousin, Queen Elizabeth.

She was only 25, with a strange history already behind her, a history of achievements, tragedy and triumph, enough for one who had passed the three score mark: married at 16, Queen of France at 17, and a widow at 18, at 23 she had married Darnley, and at 25 was privy to his murder by Bothwell whom she married less than 60 days after the crime. The country had let her down so to speak. Her forces were scattered like the leaves of the forest when downed by the cruel winds of autumn. Elizabeth was her only hope.

For nineteen years she became a guest prisoner in her cousin's realm, and ended her days on the block after having been found guilty of a part in Babington's plot to assassinate the English queen and thus become queen herself.

What a tragic ending to a life once so full of promise! For Mary Queen of Scots was a mistress of modern languages, a poet and a writer of fine prose, a musician par excellence and one who dazzled whoever looked upon her beauty!

The pulpit in the church at Wreay, England, was made from a tree that was growing before the world had heard of Bethlehem. Hewed from a single piece of Bog oak, rescued from a submerged forest, it is older than any church standing on the earth.

It was in such fine condition that workmen were able to transform it into a beautiful rostrum, and to shape it after its natural form and decorate it with fossils. A small branch at one side is carved with leaves which serve as a candlestick.

The Bog oak was dug up by workmen at Woodside when the men were excavating to join two lakes.

In the British museum is an ancient sword with an iron blade in a bronze sheath, with red and green jewels on the hilt. This great treasure was once proudly worn by an early Briton.

The following epitaph was written over the grave of a faithful horse by its owner, William Ball: "His only fault was dying."

And Hartley Coleridge penned these lines after attending divine worship in a humble country church: Humble it is, and meek, and very low; And speaks its purpose by a single bill; But God Himself, and He alone can know; If spiry temples please him half so well.

John Dalton, immortal in science, was the founder of the Atomic Theory. Born 1766, of Quaker parents who eked out a meager living out of the profits of a small farm by weaving, he taught school at 12, and in due course equipped himself so well as to be appointed professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at New College, Manchester.

A few years later he started the world with his famous theory of Atomic weights.

When he died at Manchester in 1844, over 40,000 persons filed past his coffin.

The Luck of Eden Hall is the name given to the precious glass cup which had for centuries been

the property of the Musgraves family of Cumberland, Eng. According to an old superstition, the cup was stolen by their butler from a group of fairies he found "tripping the light fantastic toe" round the garden well. Enraged they warned the thief: "If e'er this cup shall break or fall, Farewell the luck of Eden Hall."

Eden Hall has been pulled down because no one would buy it as a dwelling house and not because of the fairies warning couplet.

The 700-year old cup is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Over six inches high it spreads out like a trumpet at the top, and is decorated with costly enamel work. It has a case of stamped leather made for it by a member of the Musgrave family 500 years ago.

Both Walter Scott and Robert Burns found themselves in such strained circumstances early in life, that both made up their minds to emigrate to Jamaica, at that time the land of languishing hopes! But their writings saved the day and brought to each immortal fame.

In the years between Traillgar and Waterloo there died in England, one Richard Dixon, who taught school for half a century, and was known as Happy Dick. When he died his friends erected a monument to his memory bearing this curious epitaph.

Seven times he taught the school And canvassed many a tedious rule: Five times seven, as you may mark He served here as parish clerk. He was a just and upright man, So far as we his life could scan; But now he rests beneath this clod, Till called upon to meet his God.

California's strong man bartender stands 6 ft. 2 inches. Weighs 335 lbs. Big Mac can get away with 15 steaks at one sitting and drink two cases of beer every day. In spite of all this he is a fine athlete, taking on all comers in such sports as high-jumping, wrestling, rowing and what have you. His real name is Mack Batchelor, and he's considered the greatest barroom athlete in all the world.

Ought to be a first class bouncer, too!

BETA SIGMA PHI

The members of Alpha Chapter Beta Sigma Phi met at the home of Mrs. Hugh Simpson on Wednesday evening, April 2nd with an attendance of 13.

The business meeting was conducted by the President, Mrs. Rayner, and plans were made for a tea to be held at the home of Mrs. Myron Bell.

The new executive was then installed and took over the meeting. The cultural program, led by Mrs. Simpson was in the form of a round table discussion on the aims and purposes of Beta Sigma Phi. Several members gave their ideas on what Beta Sigma Phi means to them.

The evening was brought to a close with refreshments served by Mrs. Myron Bell and Miss Marion Shaw, assisted by the hostess.

NEW PERTH SCHOOL

Honor Roll for March.

- Grade IX — Camilla Walsh, Gilbert Callaghan. Grade VIII — Bette MacNeil. Grade VII — Rae Minchin, Louise MacDonald. Grade IV — George Dewar, Curtis Callaghan. Grade III — Merrill Mellish. Grade II — Helen Burke, Joyce Dewar, Frances Callahan. Grade I — 1. John Cain and Joe Hennebery, 2. Kenny Mellish. Highest Average — Rae Minchin — 94.3 per cent. Teacher — Margaret McKenna.

Two Can Sing

by James M. Cain

CHAPTER FIVE

Part One

Cecil was there in the wings, a murderous look on her face. "You have flopped!"

"But Wilkins grabbed her by the arm. 'Do you want to lose them for good? Get out there—get out there—get out there!'"

She stopped in the middle of a cuss word and went on, smiling like nothing had happened at all.

I tried to explain to her in the intermission what had ailed me, but she kept walking away from me, there behind the drop. It was not until I saw her blotting her eyes with a handkerchief, to keep the mascara from running down her cheeks, that I knew she was crying. "Well—I'm sorry I ruined your concert."

"Did you have to blast them out of their seats?"

"Maybe I'd better go home." "Maybe you'd better." "Shall I do this other number?" "As you like . . ."

She did some Mozart, and took an encore, and came off. Wilkins looked at me and motioned me on. I went out there. There were one or two handclaps and I made my bow, and then paid no more attention to them at all. I felt sick and disgusted. Wilkins struck the opening chord and I started the recitative which precedes "Er-Tu," from "Un Ballo in Maschera" by Verdi. There's a lot of it, and I sang it just mechanically. After two or three phrases I heard a murmur go over the house, and if that was the bird I didn't care. It was to the end of the recitative, and then stepped back a little while he played the introduction to the aria. I heard him mumble, so I could just hear him above the triplets. "You got 'em. Just look noble now, and it's in the bag."

It hit me funny. It relaxed me, and it was just what I needed. I tried to look noble, and I don't know if I did or not, but all the time my voice was coming nice and easy. We got to the end of the first strain, and he really began to go places with the lead into the next. It was the first time all night the piano really had much to do, and it came over me all of a sudden that the guy was a terrific accompanist and that it was a pleasure to sing with him. I went into the next strain, and really made it drip. There was a little break, and I heard him say "Swell. Keep it up." I was right up to the high G. I took the little leading phrase nice and light, and hit it right on the nose. It felt good, and I began to let it swell. Then I remembered about not yelling, and I throttled it back, and finished the phrase under nice control. There wasn't much more, and when I hit the high F at the end, it was just right.

For a second or so after he struck the last chord it was as still as death. Then some guy in the balcony yelled. My heart skipped a beat and then others began to yell, and what they were yelling was "Bravo!" The applause broke out in a roar then, and I remembered to bow. I bowed center right and left, and then I walked off. She was there, and kissed me, then shoved me out again, and I hated to leave. When I came back she nodded, told Wilkins to go out with me this time for an encore.

"Yeah, but what is his encore?" he asked. "Let me do 'Traviata.'" "I went out and he started 'Traviata.'" Now, "Di Provenza Il Mar"

Fredericton and Vicinity

Mrs. Leslie Weeks, Elliotts, was a recent visitor to Fredericton.

Miss Amy Howatt, Elliotts, was in Borden on Saturday, March 29th, in the interest of her music class.

Mrs. Elizabeth MacKinnon returned to her home in Charlottetown on Saturday, March 29th, after spending a week visiting relatives in Fredericton.

Miss Ellen Buchanan, teacher of Stanley Bridge School, spent a recent weekend visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Buchanan, Fredericton.

Mrs. Woodrow Jackson entertaining the members of the Pleasant Valley Mission Circle at her home on Wednesday evening, March 26th. The President, Mrs. George Smith, presided.

Sincere sympathy is being extended to the family of the late Mr. George Walter Stevenson, Fredericton, whose death occurred in the Prince Edward Island Hospital recently. The funeral was held on Sunday, March 23rd from Fredericton Christian Church and was largely attended.

The Happy Gleaners Mission Band met on Sunday, March 31st at the home of Mrs. Harry Weeks. The President, Gordon Stevenson, presided, and the study period was led by Mrs. Harry Weeks. Miss Catherine Stevenson sang a solo "Away In A Manger" and collection was taken and "World Friends" distributed. Meeting closed by singing "Jesus Loves Me."

On Saturday evening, March 29th, a large crowd of neighbours and friends of Mrs. Eliza MacInnis, Elliotts, gathered at her home to celebrate with her, on her 84th birthday. This grand old lady is still enjoying good health, and attends to all her household duties. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies and a very enjoyable evening spent.

I guess the worst sung aria you ever hear, because the boys always think about tone and forget about the music, and that ruins it. I mean, they don't sing it smoothly, with all the notes even, and that makes it jerky and takes all the sweetness out of it. But it's a cake-walk for me, because I think I told you about all that work I did on music, and it seemed to me that I knew what old man Verdi was trying to do with it when he wrote it.

York and Vicinity

Mr. Gordon Crockett was a visitor to the City on April 4th.

Mr. and Mrs. Hazen Howatt, Cornwall, were visitors to York on April 2nd where they attended a shower for Miss Aneta Lewis.

Mrs. Barry Moore, City, spent Wednesday evening, April 2nd in York.

On April 2nd a large crowd gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lewis to tender a miscellaneous shower to their daughter Aneta whose marriage will take place in the near future, to Mr. Malcolm Allen. A huge basket beautifully decorated and filled to overflowing with valuable gifts was carried into the living room by Miss Christine Proude and Aloha Brown, after which the bride to be accompanied by her uncle, Dick Vessey entered the room where verses were read by Miss Parker Jewell. Kay Wood placed them on the table and all sang "She's A Jolly Good Fellow." Lunch was served which brought a nice evening to a close.

CANADIAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Canadian Legion, Victoria, held their monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Clayton Miller, on March 31st. The meeting opened with the President, Mrs. Keith Boulter, in the chair and the singing of "O Canada" was followed by one minute's silence in honor of the brave boys who have passed on.

Roll was then called and one new member was welcomed. Business was attended to as follows, \$3.00 was donated to the Red Cross collector and \$3.00 to "March of Dimes." Shut-in cards were sent and sick attended to by Mrs. James Boulter, who will remain on the sick committee for the next month.

Mrs. Ralph Miller and Mrs. Norman Boulter were appointed on lunch committee for the next month and Mrs. Ralph Miller for lottery.

The lottery for the month was won by Mrs. C. Miller. There being no further business to attend to the meeting closed by singing "The Queen." Place of meeting for next month is the home of Mrs. James Boulter, Victoria.

INDIAN ORIGIN

Pasamaquoddy Bay, an Inlet of the Bay of Fundy, derives its name from an Indian word meaning "Where the Pollock are."

Mt. Stewart and Vicinity

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Collins of Montague are visiting Mr. Collins' parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Feehan, Mount Stewart.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Affleck of Tracadie are visiting at the home of Mr. Affleck's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Affleck.

Mrs. Guy Glover has returned to her home in the City, having visited her mother, Mrs. J. Affleck.

A large crowd attended a shower held in the Legion Hall on Wednesday night, April 2nd, for Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Affleck.

The many friends of Mrs. Ernest Affleck will regret to learn she is a patient in the City Hospital where she underwent an operation on Wednesday, April 2.

Mr. Donald McLeod of Winthrop has returned to his home having spent the past three weeks visiting his brother, Mr. Joseph McLeod, Mount Stewart.

Friends of Mrs. John A. Barrett are pleased to hear she has returned to her home in Mount Stewart from the City Hospital where she recently underwent an operation.

The many friends of Mrs. Rita Ross, telephone operator, Mount Stewart, will be very sorry to hear of her illness in the City

Hospital, where she underwent an operation.

Mr. Lyman McEwen has returned to his duties at Mr. Daniel Clark's garage, having spent the past three weeks at his home in West St. Peters.

Deepest sympathy is being extended to Conductor William Jay and family on the death of his wife in the City Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Jay were former residents of Mount Stewart.

Married in Charlottetown on Saturday, March 29th, were Miss Marion Clark, daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. Edward Clark of Mount Stewart, and Nelson Affleck, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Affleck, Mount Stewart. To this popular young couple their friends are extending congratulations and best wishes.

The sympathy of the community is going out to the relatives of Mrs. (Capt.) A. A. MacDonald whose death occurred in the city last week. Mrs. MacDonald's husband, the late Capt. A. A. MacDonald, was a former resident of Mount Stewart. Her son, Capt. Cyrene MacDonald, also resided in Mount Stewart before moving to Georgetown. A.S.

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BUY WHERE YOU BUY FOR LESS ELLIS BROS. And FITZROY GROCERY PHONES 3094-2 2002 THIS WEEK ONLY ROBIN HOOD FLOUR 98 lbs. \$5.98 Acadia BAKING POWDER 29c Puffed WHEAT 33c (Regular 39c) Ewing's PEANUT BUTTER, 16 oz. 44c Lipton's TEA, lb. 95c Purity CAKE MIXES, 2 for 59c Rakwana TEA, lb. 95c Robin Hood CAKE MIXES, 2 for 59c Schwartz COFFEE \$1.05 Aunt Jemima CAKE MIXES, each 37c SEEDS GIANT SURF 69c BOOK NOW AT CENTRAL ROYALTY LAURENTIAN TURNIP SEED Registered and Treated. GARDEN SEEDS, MIXED HAY VEL, 2 for 69c SEED, CLOVER SEEDS, MANGEL SEED, Etc. ODEX SOAP, lge., 2 for . . . 23c Woodbury's SOAP, lge., 2 for 25c MOLASSES, per qt. 33c Fresh BULK COOKIES, per lb. 35c WE WILL HAVE GOOD QUALITY EASTER BEEF AT LOWEST PRICES.

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