

Strange But True

By F.H. MacArthur

The custom of celebrating birthdays originated in Egypt. At first, it was only the gods whose birthdays were observed. Then high-ranking persons came under the custom. Later, when Christianity swept the world, the observance of natal days became more or less common among all classes of society.

Pharaoh and Herod celebrated their birthdays but the early followers of Jesus did not observe the custom because they saw no reason for such festivities. To them birth was the beginning of a life of oppression and persecution. Death, which brought release from their struggles, was looked upon as the greater of the two events.

It used to be the custom in colonial days to issue invitations on little paper flags which were hand-painted and tied with a bit of ribbon. At a Colonial Ball, the little flags were delivered personally by small boys dressed up in stunning costumes.

Canada has the greatest variations of climate of any country, due to its peculiar topography. Northwest and northeast of Hudson Bay the climate is too severe for the growth of trees.

A curious May-day superstition is that to bathe one's face in dew just before sunrise on May morning is to have a complexion of peaches and cream. Queen Catherine and her ladies-in-waiting availed themselves of the Mayday bath, but judging from their pictures not one of them would win a beauty prize today.

This scribble can recall seeing farm girls washing their faces in buttermilk to acquire that complexion of exquisite beauty. In this province every girl at one time believed this tradition, and from his practice arose the phrase "Buttermilk Complexion". Being a Roman citizen carried a lot of prestige, but being a Roman National was entirely a different matter. For example, Paul being a Roman citizen, appeared directly to Caesar and was not scourged at the time of his execution; but Peter, who was not a Roman citizen, suffered torture and crucifixion. Jesus not being a Roman citizen, could not appeal from Pilate's decision, and he was scourged and crucified without civil rights.

The honeybee is not a native of the Western Hemisphere but was introduced by English sailors in 1638. Bees were introduced in Florida in 1763 and in Cuba in 1769.

It is interesting to note that only about 10 percent of the plants brought to the New World from Europe, can be classed as "Welcome". On the other hand, Europeans got from America such high-priority things as: potatoes, tomatoes, maize, and of course, tobacco. The plant that wandered across the planet, choking every stream

in its journey bears the name Helodea. Helodea made its first European appearance in Ireland in 1836 and by 1888 it had almost disappeared everywhere. Why? The billions of water weeds which found their way from America to Europe and then multiplied at such incredible speed were all female flowers, pregnant in the New World before they set out on their long journey.

In spite of embargoes, poisons, etc., the potato beetle has made its way to almost every section of the globe, and still marches on. Incidentally, the name "Colorado beetle" came about in the following manner: somebody's note book contained the information that the beetle had been discovered in Colorado years before it got to the New England states.

Potato bugs will live under water in a tightly corked bottle for as long as twenty-six days without air or food. The eel is equipped with a special organ to breathe air temporarily and since this organ seems to work rather well the fish is in the strange dilemma of needing both air and water to breathe. If it does not get water it will die after some time, like any other fish. But if it cannot get air it will drown, strange but true.

The writing of the Bible extended over a period of 4000 years and strange to say many different writing materials were used during those years.

To name but a few: letters chisled in stone, clay tablets with a wooden style. The Ten Commandments were written on "tables of stone". Later, pen and ink were applied and the skins of animals, popaces and parchment. The first complete Old Testament books were written on tanned skins sewed together in large scrolls. All the New Testament books were written with pen and ink on papyrus, because parchment and vellum were too expensive. Papyrus has the same relation to vellum as a pulp magazine has to a slick.

Civilization has robbed man of his full liberty. Once he jumped, shouted, danced, etc., as his instinct prompted him. He ate any old time that food came to him, and slept at will. He didn't have to look through books of etiquette or that the right way, he paid no taxes, handled no money, and lived as free as the birds. So, went the course of his life from the cradle to the grave.

Today, life is cut up like a wedding cake and handed to some on a gold platter, to others on a wooden plate. The gold platter folks made the laws and the cunning ones the religions. So we stifle our natural instincts and follow the crowd.

FAMOUS VICTORY

The battle of The Nile was fought at Aboukir Bay, Egypt, in 1798 when Nelson completely defeated the French fleet.

Breadalbane and Vicinity

Mr. Ray Kennedy, Charlottetown, was a visitor to Breadalbane last week.

Mr. James Cummings, Toronto, formerly of Breadalbane, who is spending his vacation on "the Island" recently visited his sister, Mrs. Elton Somers.

Mrs. George Pound, Hazel Grove, made a business trip to Breadalbane recently.

On Sunday, June the seventeenth, the congregation of the Presbyterian Church enjoyed a service conducted by a guest speaker, Mr. Dalziel.

Mr. Dan MacKinnon, Charlottetown, was a recent visitor to Breadalbane.

Mr. Robert Toombs and Mr. Preston MacAskill motored to Mount Stewart on Saturday, June the twenty-third, where they enjoyed a visit with Mr. MacAskill's parents.

Mr. James Craig, efficient agent for the De Laval Company, recently installed an electric milker for Mr. Norman Matheson, a prosperous farmer in this vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Loman Cairns, Mr. and Mrs. J. Roach and their two children and Miss Isabelle MacKinnon were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Chappell last Sunday.

Miss Wanda Chappell who is employed at the Balderson Cabins, Winsloe, spent a recent week end at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Hedley Woodside, Breadalbane, motored to Amherst on Wednesday, June the twenty-seventh.

Before their departure for Halifax, Nova Scotia, a number of friends of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Doull, met in the United Church Mansie to express regret that "the Doulls" were leaving and to present them with a farewell gift.

Mrs. Charles Williams, Breadalbane, left last week for Buffalo, New York, where she will visit friends and relatives.

There was a record attendance of thirty at the Breadalbane Village School meeting on Tuesday, June the twenty-seventh. Mr. Elmer Wigmore was appointed as the new trustee.

Misses Diane and Naomi Willis, East Royalty, were visitors last week at the home of their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Murray.

Mr. Owen Still, one of the Professors in Alberta Bible College, Calgary, was the guest speaker at the Breadalbane Christian Church on Sunday, June the twenty-fourth. Mr. Still spoke very explicitly and

earnestly on the theme "Faith". Mr. Roy Jones and Mr. Merrill Nicholson, students at Alberta Bible College assisted with the service.

Among those who attended the United Baptist Convention which met in North River Baptist Church, June the twenty-second to the twenty-fourth, was Mrs. Hammond Newson, Breadalbane.

On Friday, June the twenty-second, Mr. Preston MacAskill, teacher of Breadalbane Village School, his pupils and a number of the parents motored to Park Corner where a very enjoyable picnic was held on the beautiful north shore. During the afternoon races were held on the beach and the teacher awarded the following winners with prizes: Grade 1, Florence Kennedy, Grade 2, Eddie Somers, Grade 3 and 4, Joyce Chappell, Freddie Wigmore and Keith Kennedy (equal), Grade 5, Keith Bernard, Grade 6, Lulu Toombs, Grade 7, Billy Chappell, Grade 10, Audrey Todd, Boys age 7 and 8 years, Eddie Somers and Allan Hickox (equal), Boys age 9 and 10 years, Keith Kennedy, Boys over 10 years, Wayne Bernard, Girls under 15, Leone MacLure, Girls over 15, Audrey Todd, Pre-school age, Grace Craig. Later in the evening all those present enjoyed a delicious supper of freshly-broiled lobsters and a picnic lunch. Preceding the latter, Wellington Murray read a complimentary address and little Miss Arlene Somers presented the teacher, Mr. MacAskill, with a gift on behalf of the pupils of Breadalbane Village School. All present greatly enjoyed this outing which was so well organized and thoughtfully planned by the teacher.

York and Vicinity

The June meeting of the Evening Auxiliary was held on Tuesday the 19th, at the home of Mrs. Harry Lewis. There was a large attendance.

Mr. Gerald Robinson has returned home from Toronto where he visited his brother, Verden and Mrs. Robinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Newson and family, York, visited recently at Kingston, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Green.

Mrs. Dan MacPherson, Orwell Cove, were guests at the home

BURGESS BEDTIME

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ing for an empty stomach. Buster's stomach was still empty. He wasn't happy. No, sir, he wasn't happy. And nobody was to blame for his unhappiness but himself. If only he hadn't slapped at PricklyPorky! Busy Bee came along and hummed in one of Buster's ears. It reminded him of honey and there is nothing in the world he likes better than honey. But how could he go looking for honey with such a sore paw? He couldn't. Buster was more unhappy than ever.

Hampton and Vicinity

Mrs. Elmer Inman and son Eric, have returned to their home in Hampton after spending a few days pleasantly in St. Eleanors with Mr. and Mrs. Birchfield Yeo.

Mr. and Mrs. Earle Callbeck and sons Moyses and Ralph were visitors to Kelvin, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Court.

Mr. John C. French, one of Hampton's oldest residents, who spent the past months in Riverdale, has returned to Hampton and opened up his summer home.

Rev. L. S. Woolfrey returned from Sackville where he attended the Maritime United Church Conference which was held there.

Miss Margaret MacQuarrie has gone to Charlottetown where she has accepted a position with the P. E. I. Travel Bureau for the summer months.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Shaw, opened up their summer home in DeSable last week after having spent the winter months in Charlottetown.

Word received from Messrs. James Ferguson and James Bartlett, two of Hampton's enterprising carpenters, who are at present in Toronto, tell us that they are hard at work and enjoying good health.

Friends will regret to learn of the illness of Mr. Leith Ferguson of her daughter, Mrs. William Crockett, York.

Mr. and Mrs. Rema MacDonald and little daughter Sandra, were recent visitors to York, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest MacDonald.

Many friends are glad to hear that Mrs. Alex Beaton, who was a patient in the P. E. Island Hospital, has returned to her home in York much improved in health.

Mr. Willard MacPherson, Orwell Cove, visited recently in York, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. William Crockett.

Mrs. William Watts, York, was a visitor to Covehead, the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Lloyd MacMillan.

Miss Marion Murray spent a recent Sunday at her home in York.

Mrs. Ira Lewis was a visitor to Covehead, the guest of her sister, Mrs. Lloyd MacMillan.

Mr. Lowell Watts, York, was a visitor to Covehead recently, the guest of his sister, Mrs. Lloyd MacMillan.

Messrs. Dean Watts, Rees Newson and David left on Wednesday morning for Hamilton, Ontario, where they plan on seeking employment.

which necessitated his removal to the Prince Edward Island Hospital. All hope for Leith a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Misses Beulah Ferguson, Roma Sherrin, Ramona Sherrin, Sarah MacQuarrie and Gladys Villet, all of Hampton School who successfully passed the Grade VIII examinations, which were held in Crapaud school for the surrounding districts.

Cpl. Nelson Cannon has left for Picton, Ont. On his return he was accompanied by Mrs. George Cannon who plans to visit friends in Manchester, N. H. and in other American cities before returning to her home in Hampton.

Messrs. Russel and Abner Campbell who came home owing to the death of their father, the late Mr. Duncan Campbell, Argyle Shore, have left for their home in Windsor, Ontario.

Mr. John Rogerson, who had the misfortune to injure her eye, went to the Prince Edward Island Hospital for treatment. An early return home is wished for her.

The W. M. S. met at the home of Mrs. George Cannon for their 25th anniversary. The Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Boyd MacQuarrie for their June meeting. There was also a demonstration of Stanley products by Mr. R. W. Mac-

Lean. A delicious lunch was served and an enjoyable evening spent.

June meeting and the Ladies Aid met at the home of Mrs. Mark Cameron on Wednesday evening, June 13th. Plans were made at these meetings for the annual picnic.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. MacQuarrie, Hampton, who on June 8th, celebrated 62 years of marriage. Mrs. MacQuarrie, who will be 85 years in September does her own housework, booked several large rugs last winter and attends her large flock of poultry. Mr. MacQuarrie, who is in his 80th year, enjoys gardening, takes an active interest in farm work, travels extensively and keeps up-to-date in reading and world affairs. They are the parents of five daughters and three sons and have 22 living grand children and eleven great grand children. This fine couple enjoy good health and their home is a centre of hospitality for friends from far and near. All join in wishing them continued health and happiness.

Recently two of Hampton's young ladies Misses Muriel and Annie MacQuarrie were tendered miscellaneous showers in Hampton Hall, prior to their weddings. The brides were escorted to two decorated chairs on the platform by Mrs. Elmer Inman and Mrs. Rowan Ferguson. Masters Henry Fergu-

son and Moyses Callbeck carried a pretty decorated basket of gifts which were opened by Mrs. Earl Callbeck and Mrs. Rowan Ferguson and verses read by Miss Eleanor Carson and Doris Myer. The brides thanked everyone for gifts and good wishes. After singing "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows" the evening was spent in music and dancing. Music being furnished by Mrs. Edwin Ferguson, violinist, and Miss Eleanor Carson, pianist. A dainty lunch was served.

NOW-She Laughs at age

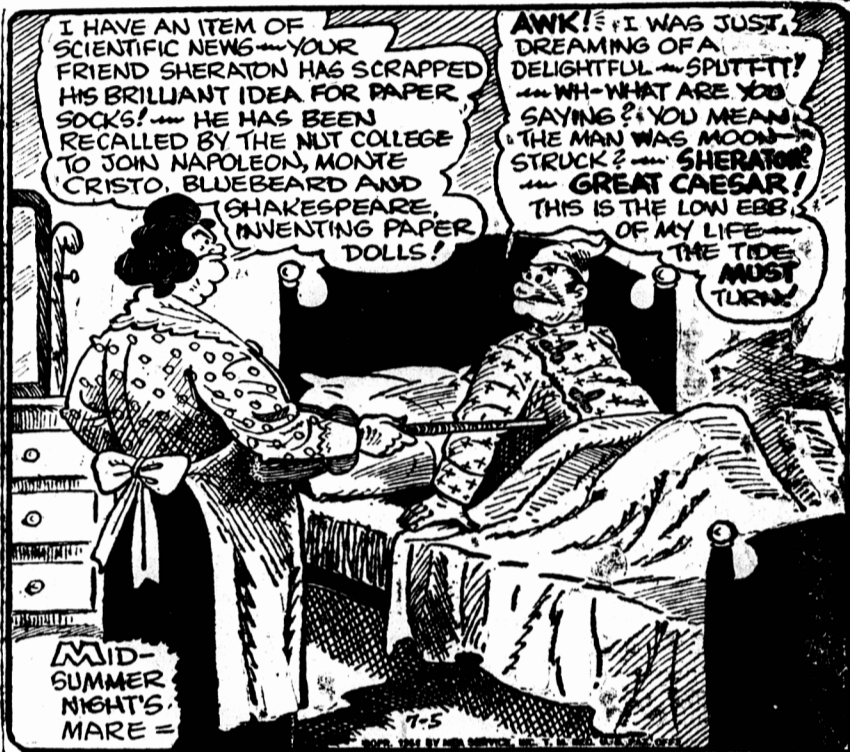
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