

The Guardian

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew"
 Published every day except on Sundays at 150 Prince Street,
 Charlottetown, P. E. I. by the Thomson Company Ltd.,
 41 King St. W., Toronto.
 Montreal Office, 225 University Tower Bldg.
 Editor, Frank Walker
 General Manager, Ian A. Burnett
 Member, Canadian Daily Newspaper
 Publishers Association
 Member of The Canadian Press
 Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
 Branch offices at Summerside, Montserrat and Alberton
 Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office
 Department, Ottawa.
 Printed at Charlottetown, Summerside \$15.00 per an-
 num. Elsewhere in P.E.I. \$9.00. Other Provinces and
 U. S. \$12.00 per annum

"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

THURSDAY, FEB. 23, 1956

A Lucy Maud Biography

The story of L. M. Montgomery is the title of an interesting biography by Hilda M. Ridley, which has just been published by the Ryerson Press, Toronto. While it tells little that friends and acquaintances in her native Prince Edward Island do not know about the creator of "Anne of Green Gables," and is in no way intended as a critical work, it does fill a popular demand and will be read with wide appreciation. Chiefly it is of value in presenting something of the background of Lucy Maud's youth and creative period in this Province, so that we may see how her character developed and trace to its source the springs of her inspiration.

There is reference, of course, to all her literary activities; but readers will appreciate particularly the details of her first big success. Lucy Maud began "Anne of Green Gables" at Cavendish in the spring of 1904 and finished it in October 1905. She typed the manuscript herself, using an old, second-hand machine that never made the capitals plain and wouldn't print "w" at all. She submitted it unsuccessfully to several publishing firms, then put it away in an old hat-box in the clothes room, intending one day to reduce it to the original seven chapters she had planned for a serial, which might bring her thirty-five or even forty dollars! The manuscript lay in the hat box until the author ran across it one winter day while rummaging. She decided to try the publishers once more, this time L. C. Page & Company, of Boston. After six weeks of waiting the acceptance letter came. It is said that an intelligent stenographer in the office staff of the firm, who was sometimes employed as a reader, was so much impressed by the merits of the manuscript that she urged her employers to publish it. Deciding to take a chance, the Boston firm bought "Anne" outright for five hundred dollars.

Success came not gradually but immediately. Hundreds of letters from all over the world poured into the home of the modest, thirty-four-year-old author, not only from children, but from soldiers in India, missionaries in China, traders in Africa, monks in far away monasteries, and from trappers in the Canadian north. The sale of the book was helped by the comments of outstanding critics and writers. "Anne," declared Bliss Carman in a review, "is one of the immortal children of fiction." Mark Twain pronounced it to be "the sweetest creation of child life yet written."

Some years later the vexed question of copyright came up. The Page firm had complete control of the book and all rights pertaining to it. But they had not the right to publish any of the author's other work without her permission; so when, in 1920, this company brought out some of her longer short stories in a book, and failed to consult her about the matter, she sued them for unauthorized publication, and a case began before the courts which was to last for nine years before it brought her ultimate victory.

More difficulty arose over Hollywood's silent screen version of "Anne of Green Gables," starring Mary Miles Minter. The author disapproved of the interpretation, and she was obliged to see, with angry eyes, the scene of Green Gables transferred to the United States, and the Stars and Stripes flying over Anne's school. As she had sold her book outright, she received nothing for the film rights, and had no control over the treatment of the story. In 1934 "Anne" was screened again, this time as a "talkie," and the young actress who took the leading role became quite famous in it and adopted "Anne Shirley" as her screen name. In this picture Canada and the Island were given some credit, and the author, on the whole, was well satisfied.

L. M. Montgomery's life makes a wonderful success story, achieved

by hard work as well as by native talent. Miss Ridley, who is editor of "Canadian", a literary quarterly published by the Macnab Historical Association of Sudbury, Ontario, has conscientiously emphasized both of these factors in her narrative. Literary aspirants will learn from it that publishers are not infallible and that of the many firms that rejected the "Anne" manuscript, four of them returned it with a cold, printed note and another wrote: "Our readers report that they find some merit in your story, but not enough to warrant its acceptance." This "damning with faint praise" is what irked Lucy Maud the most, and discouraged her almost to the point of giving up. The moral of the biography is that she didn't!

Of local interest are the references made to Mrs. R. E. Mutch, of Charlottetown, who was a classmate of Lucy Maud at Prince of Wales College and a lifelong friend, and who supplied much interesting material, as did also Mrs. George Campbell and her son, James Townsend Campbell, of Park Hill.

After The Festival

The consensus among those who attended this year's drama festival seems to be that the entire programme was a signal success. That, too, appears to have been the considered judgment of the distinguished adjudicator, Miss Pamela Sterling. There were, of course, degrees of artistic excellence among the various players; but, in the main, each participant gave a performance that betokened talent, painstaking direction, and much hard work. This is all that theatre-goers have a right to expect from amateur players and their coaches.

The granting of trophies and prize money to the Little Theatre Guild of Charlottetown for a superb performance of "Angel Street" under the direction of Mrs. Scantlebury will meet with general approval. Almost anyone who witnessed the three plays would have given the same decision. It was, indeed, as the adjudicator pointed out, "a most dramatic and most powerful" performance. To the individual players—each one of them—and to Mrs. Scantlebury, the people of the province are indebted for an unusually rich contribution to this year's drama festival.

At the same time, a word of praise and encouragement is due the directors and players of the competing performances. Although they did not win prizes, they assuredly received the commendation of their respective audiences, and they need not apologize in the slightest particular for the manner in which they carried out their several assignments. In the case of the Montague players, especially, the venture was a courageous one for two reasons: the play selected was exceedingly difficult for amateur presentation; and it was the first time that the players had tried for festival honours. With the experience gained, the Montague Dramatic Workshop, under the capable direction of Mrs. McGowan, can confidently be expected to give far more serious competition to their rivals another year.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A man is getting old when he begins to tell you about the severe winters of the past.

The trouble with eating candy to break yourself of smoking, comments a cynical exchange, is that you may eventually have to resume smoking to break the grip of candy.

President Eisenhower has announced that the United States stands ready to make surplus farm commodities available to Western Europeans who are in distress as a result of the current cold weather and floods. What is to stop the Canadian Government from taking similar action? Why is it necessary to wait for formal appeals from the governments concerned?

Experts have been wrong before, and they can be wrong again. Nevertheless, it is comforting to hear from the United States Atomic Energy Commission that it is impossible for atomic stock piles to explode accidentally. Moreover, according to the same authority, making atomic weapons go off is a very complicated art. There has to be "just the right way" before anything can happen.



TIME WILL TELL

OTTAWA REPORT

Coffin Case In Retrospect

By Patrick Nicholson

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of current events. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

NEGLECTED BOAD

Sir,—Earlier in the winter a letter was sent in from this important (except at election time) district of Forest Hill about the "Forgotten Road" and immediately the plow was sent out so the writer hopes this letter will once again have the necessary effect.

We realize this has been an unusual winter but the services we have received are deplorable to say the least. We understand the driver of the snow plow is not to blame and we have a good man behind the wheel. Thinking that the dispatcher could help us out we have gone to him but without avail. Where do we go from here?

Anyone who says a mailman has it easy has never lived in the Forest Hill area and driven through the by-ways. The main road through to Stratheona fares off not too badly as it is generally run through some evening after the pavement and most other roads have received attention and when another storm is about due; but we on the by-roads with our pulp and produce to move are entirely forgotten.

Whoever is to blame please get busy and become acquainted now and we will know better where to stand when an election rolls around.

I am, Sir, etc.

FAIR PLAY

Forest Hill, P. E. I.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files

TWENTYFIVE YEARS AGO

(February 23, 1931)

Charlottetown suffered a disastrous conflagration when "Edge-water", palatial residence of the Hon. Frank Hertz, former Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Hertz, Water Street, which has been the scene of many brilliant functions during the past few years, was completely destroyed. The estimated loss in building, furniture, and other valuables was well over \$50,000.

Official announcement was made today in London that secret tests had been completed on a new type of fighter aeroplane which may revolutionize air combat. The machine is a single seater, capable of carrying six machine guns controlled in unison, and four twenty pound bombs, and has a speed of 194 miles per hour.

A co-operative Egg and Poultry Circle has been organized in Tryon and surrounding districts, which it is hoped will be a success. Mr. Billy Anderson of North Tryon was appointed to gather the eggs which is done every two weeks during the winter months.

TEN YEARS AGO

(February 23, 1946)

Indications of increased trade between Prince Edward Island and Brazil are seen in the Brazilian Government's trade bulletin issued at Ottawa this week. Imports required by Brazil are seed potatoes of the Green Mountain, Red Bliss, Bliss Triumph and Irish Cobbler varieties and codfish in cases or barrels.

Mr. William Champion, who has been employed in the hardware department of R. T. Holman Limited, Summerside, has taken over the restaurant business of Mr. Joseph Davison in Kensington.

The execution of William Coffin has touched off a demand here for the revision of our Supreme Court Act. The circumstances of the execution of the Gaspé guide have also reinforced the arguments of those M.P.s who are pressing for the abolition of capital punishment.

One M.P. predicted that few of the Cabinet would be able to sleep peacefully on the night of Coffin's execution. He felt very strongly that there was reasonable doubt whether Coffin was guilty. Most M.P.s felt considerable doubts about the dignity of a judicial system which turned up so many points of criticism in one case.

Apart from the matter of the questioned evidence, the convicted man's execution date was fixed for eight different dates and postponed seven times. If that was not sufficient mental torture, Coffin was left uncertain, throughout what proved to be his last night on earth, whether he was or was not to be hanged. The next morning he was told that on that eighth occasion, the execution positively would take place. If he were guilty of murder, that left him a bare 14 hours to achieve peace with his Maker.

The Cabinet had made its final decision of execution on the previous day. But the persons concerned had closed their working day, and gone off to what deserved to be an indigestible dinner and a sleepless night. Only when they returned to work the next morning did they complete the formalities, and confirm to Coffin that his last appeal had been turned down.

SON'S UNWED MOTHER
 An incidental point, which kept even Bishops of Coffin's church working on the case up till the last moment, was his last request. This was to be allowed to marry the woman with whom he had lived for years, and who is the mother of his son.

Coffin had not been permitted to see his common-law wife for many weeks, and his final request was refused.

The bungling of the Coffin case goes much deeper than those seven postponements and his final tortured night on earth. In the first place, our archaic Supreme Court procedure needs amendment. As it stands today, a person pleading for his life must obtain from one judge of the court leave to appeal to the whole court. In stark contrast, a litigant with no more than \$1,500 at stake in a civil suit can appeal to the whole Supreme Court as a right. Thus,

FOR YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS

CONSULT:

HYNDMAN & CO. LTD.

Insurance Since 1873.

Our experience of over three quarters of a century as Insurance Underwriters, is at your disposal.

Offices: CHARLOTTETOWN - SUMMERSIDE - MONTAGUE - ALBERTON.

AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sundesen, M. D.

WOMEN NEED NOT SUFFER WITH MENSTRUAL PAIN

Many women suffer unnecessarily during menstrual periods. Maybe you are one of them.

In this condition, which we call dysmenorrhea, the pain is usually cramplike. It can be mild or severe and is usually located in the lower part of the abdomen. In some patients, however, it is in the thighs and back.

You may have the pain just before or during the menstrual period. It may last only a few hours or it may last several days.

Disturbances of the uterus or womb may be responsible. Sometimes a disturbance of the glands of internal secretion is the cause.

OVERWORK A FACTOR

Emotional and nervous disorders also play an important part in causing dysmenorrhea. Overwork is often a contributing factor, too.

You physician can do a lot to help you. There are many forms of treatment, but he can advise the best one for you after he determines the reason for your discomfort.

Mild sedatives and drugs which relieve spasm might help you. Various glandular preparations such as estrogen and progesterone have been found useful. Moderate doses of testosterone, or the male hormone, have helped. But never take any drugs without proper advice.

Do not, however, rely on drugs. The underlying cause of the condition must be determined by the doctor so you can get permanent relief.

AVOID OVERWORK

Meanwhile, you can make things easier for yourself.

Do not become overly tired or exhausted. Get at least eight hours sleep each night, more if you can. Rest occasionally during the day, too.

Heat often brings relief from pain. Place a hot water bottle or an electric heating pad on your abdomen when in pain.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mrs. M. A. W. I have had black spots on the bottom of my feet. What would cause this?

Answer: It is impossible to tell the cause for the black spots on your feet. They might be due to a fungus infection of some other type of infection.

Examination by a skin specialist would be advisable.

Shirts LAUNDERED TO PERFECTION RITE-WAY CLEANERS Dial 7387

everybody LOVES our... SUPER VALUES!

MATCHES 3 Boxes 25c	MILK 6 Tins 83c
Baby Cereal All Varieties 21c	FIRST GRADE BUTTER Lb. 61c
HEINZ KETCHUP BOTTLE 25c	BROKEN PEKOE TEA Lb. 79c
Royal Instant PUDDINGS, 2 for 25c	CHOICE MEATS
KAM, tin 39c	STEAK, lb. 59c
48 Oz. Tins	ROAST BEEF, lb. 39c
APPLE JUICE 29c	HAMBURG, lb. 33c
SHINOLA WAX, tin 39c	BACON, lb. 45c
PEACHES, 2 for 43c	SPARE RIBS, 3 lbs. 49c

FISH

FRESH FROZEN MACKEREL, SALMON, SMELTS, COD, HADDOCK AND SMOKED FILLETS, FISH STICKS, SALT HERRING AND CODFISH.

WEATHERBY'S

Corner Douglas and Upper Queen
DIAL 3644

HOURS: Mon. to Thurs. Open To 9 Fri. & Sat. Open To 10:30

Prompt C. O. D. Delivery In City

MISS TRUMAN QUITS
 NEW YORK (AP) — Margaret Truman will give up her NBC radio network job of fill television commitments. Since last fall she has been hostess on NBC radio's "Weekday," a daytime series presented Monday's through Friday's. She leaves the program after next Friday.