# Ring Reminiscences

## — Fights and Fighters —

(By James Pendergast)

The quietness of life in the Yukon was conducive to reading and writing. During the first winter (1907) I spent in Alaska was a reader's paradise. We got mail by dog team twice a month. We got the Dawson Weekly News, some outside papers and the Cosmopolitan magazine. It was near the beginning of magazine popularity. We had "novels" and Shakespeare's plays. The long nights (2 P.M. till 10 A.M.) were ideal for leisurely perusal of reading matter. There was quite a number of English college and university graduates about Dawson who could conjure up some weird products of imagination. They were generally on the extravaganza order, similar to the Paul Bunyan and Baron Munchausen stories.

Two Englishmen, who had a cabin on the Stewart River about fifty miles above Dawson, built a story around a mythical remnant of the prehistoric animal age which surpassed the now famous "Blue Ox" of the fabulous Paul Bunyan, present day mythical hero of Northern lumber camps. It took two pages of the Dawson News to contain the written account. They named it the Yukonosaurus. They got the inspiration from the curiosity of two Indians whom for a certain reason the Englishmen wished to be in some far distant place. Sam Henry of Dawson had cleared a small farm on the "flats" and sold his little crop in Dawson to good advantage. Mr. Henry kept a pair of horses at the farm.

Two Peel River Indians who had never seen a horse came to the Stewart with the intention of staying for the rest of the winter. They saw the excrement of the horses on the trail, and were astounded—scared, by the size of the elongated spheroid of the horse feces. That was "cue" enough for the Englishmen. The Indians knew that a moose (1,200 lbs.) made small globules of manure, not much larger than that of a sheep. They had never seen a horse. Therefore they reasoned that the animal which passed that sized excrement must be about ten times as large as a moose. The Englishmen took their cue and produced instantly a vivid description of the monstrosity. They depicted it as one hundred feet long and at least fifty feet high with cloven feet, the better for travelling over the rough country with two legs on one side shorter in order to get around side hills and mountains easier. It had one large eye in the centre of its forehead which shone brilliantly at night, a horn on its nose ten feet long with which it hooked down trees which were in its way. When angry and excited it would belch forth streams of flame from its nostrils which was particularly lurid at night.

It had little trouble going through an ordinary grove of timber. The immense weight of its body knocked down the trees like brambles. When it was in a sportive mood it would elevate its tail about 40 feet and cavort through the timber, the expulsion of gas from its rectum sounding like the combined ripping of a thousand sails in a tornado among sailing ships at sea. Needless to say that the Indians quickly took their departure for parts unknown.

The Stewart River country was a hunter's paradise. It had all kinds of game. An old country Scotch hunter, Jim Christie, had a hunting cabin and trap line on the Stewart. One day he met a grizzly bear coming toward him. Christie aimed and fired his rifle at about one hundred yards distance. The bear kept coming. Christie pumped several shots at him and he still kept coming. He was alone with the bear. It was around 40 degrees below zero. By the grace of God two other hunters came along within half an hour. They found Christie's head in the bears jaws. He was unconscious, with a fractured skull, and the grizzly was dead. He had been shot through the head and through the heart.

It is quite a common occurrence for a wild animal to travel about 100 yards after being shot through the heart. I have known it to happen in a caribou hunt. A caribou will cover more ground than a bear in the same time. Christie's good samaritans were men of resource and quick action. They wrapped him in blankets and furs, bundled him onto a large dog sled, and with a team of dogs started at once for the Dawson City Hospital (over 50 miles). It was 55 degrees below zero when they arrived at the hospital after travelling all night on the lonesome river trail. Christie remained in a state of coma for more than a week, but his outdoor existence had given him robust health and tenacity of life. He recovered his usual good health and strength and remained in Dawson for the rest of the winter.

After the opening of navigation he bought a special excursion ticket to the Glasgow Exhibition in Scotland, expecting to make his home in Scotland for the rest of his life on earth. Lo and behold! When the fall came he was back at his old hunting cabin again on the Stewart. Like many of the old timers, he couldn't stand the vanity and frivolity of the denizens of the outside world. He pined for the solitude of the mountains and rivers and the wide open spaces. The "call of the wild" had gotten into his blood and bones. There was a peculiar variance in the price of transportation tickets at the time. The "excursion" ticket to Glasgow was cheaper than a ticket to Halifax. People who were going to the East bought tickets for Glasgow.

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the most economical enamel
NEEDS NO PRIMER
OR UNDERCOATER

## DAILY CROSSWORD

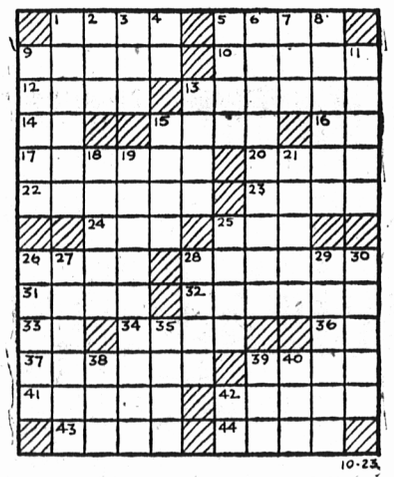
**ACROSS**

1. Pack away
5. Brownish-yellow
9. Frighten
10. Like an old woman
12. River (It.)
13. Title of address
14. Gill (abbr.)
15. Thin strip of wood
16. Water god
17. Come into view
20. Consumes
22. Long-legged birds
23. Projecting end of a church
24. Anger
25. Anglo-Saxon letter
26. Passable
28. Titles of address (India)
31. Public
32. Believe
33. Sloth
34. Brilliance
36. Behold!
37. Highly seasoned meat dish
39. Side of a room
41. Obese
42. Affray
43. Comfort
44. Incite

**DOWN**

1. Manuscript (radio)
2. Shade of brown
3. National god (Tahiti)
4. Plural pronoun
5. Lure
6. Withdraw from a scabbard
7. Paroxysm
8. Naval forces
9. Medieval stories
11. Rub out
13. God of war
15. Body of water
18. Equilibrium
19. Mistaken
21. Plant insect
25. Merit
26. Flies aloft
27. A narcotic
28. Tax
29. Lodge, as soldiers
30. Long scarf
35. Musical instrument
38. Gazelle (Tibet)
39. Network
40. Malt beverage
42. Masurium (sym.)

Yesterday's Answer




**DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:**

is LONGFELLOW
AXYDLBAAXR

One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophies, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

**A Cryptogram Quotation**

K YC LIW CJSSP, UQW K ZI UJ-RQKMJ WGJ WGKLR K YC, UP TJJC-KLR IWCJSBKTJ—TGYOJTVJYSJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THEY WOULD HAVE ALL MEN BOUND AND THRALL TO THEM, AND THEY FOR TO BE FREE—SCOT.

## Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

"It was all the pet monkey's fault," said George Eleff after his automobile crashed into a bridge in Joliet, Ill. Eleff told the cops that his pet monkey suddenly grabbed the steering wheel and headed the car into the bridge.

The judge let the monkey off scot free, but the owner was fined $10 for reckless driving.

World War II has not ended—that is, as far as 100 Japanese soldiers entrenched in the wild hills of the Philippines are concerned. This handful of die-hards still refused to surrender though they live like wild beasts in their enforced hangout.

Their guerrilla strongholds lie along the ridge of the Apo mountains, on Mindanao Island, and on the Islands of Lubang and Mindaro.

And there's a good reason why they don't surrender. They fear the vengeance of the native islanders for cruelties committed by the Japs during the war.

* * *

It took but five hours to build the Montgomery village Presbyterian Church near Santa Rosa, Calif.!

The prefabricated redwood building was nailed together by 180 workmen who went at it at 7 a.m. to the signal of a pistol shot. Twenty minutes later the walls were up, and five hours later everything from pews to steeple was in place!

Few worries, plenty of leisure time, and a happy existence, makes life one continuous round of pleasure for Chief Malgu Vaa, leader of a tribe in the jungle near the Gold Coast of Africa.

The chief's real name, however, is W. L. Shirer, and believe it or not he was born in the United States—not a drop of African blood flows through his veins.

A one time missionary and writer, the white American chief is one of the key men in King Ya Naa's tribe of 175,000 souls.

Shirer went into the jungle country in 1930 as a missionary and was very successful in his work, spreading the Christian faith among the natives and teaching them up-to-date farming methods.

For this service the African king offered the stranger the position of tribal chief. That was two years ago. Shirer accepted and he and his wife were inducted into the strange tribe.

* * *

The average person needs but six pallbearers to carry him to his final resting place. But it took ten pallbearers to carry the shell occupied by Eber Palmer, Michigan's 600-pound farmer, when he shuffled off this mortal soil recently.

A rush order was sent to a Cleveland manufacturer for a specially made coffin—the largest case ever put out by the firm. It took 10 men to carry the body from the home to the hearse for transportation to the funeral home.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had so much work to do that he got up at 5 o'clock in the morning. Yet he often took time off to send out 75 autographs in a single day, just to make other people happier.

At 13 he penned his first poem, "The Battle of Lowell's Pond". All his thoughts were so pure and noble that he never wrote a single line which he was not proud of.

Of how many writers can this be said?

* * *

It was a whim of King Charles V of France which resulted in an error on the face of clocks. When Henry de Wick placed one of the first time pieces in the king's palace the latter remarked:

"It appears to work all right, but you have made a mistake in the figures on the dial."

Wick looked at the clock and then said, "You're wrong, your Majesty."

"A king is never wrong," replied the monarch. "Four should be four ones. Correct the error."

So to satisfy the whim of a king the clock maker did as he was ordered. That's why we see IIII instead of IV on some clocks with Roman numerals.

"KIND TO HANDS"

### BIG YIELD

Ontario dark air-cured tobacco had the highest average yield of Canadian tobacco in 1951, at 1,392 pounds per acre.

### SEA VIEW SCHOOL

Following is the report of Sea View School for the month of September.

**Senior Department**

Grade X.—1. Carl Murphy; 2. Ethel Adams; 3. Robert Adams.
Grade IX.—1. Rita Murphy; 2. Eleanor Campbell; 3. Enid Donald.
Grade VIII.—1. Joan Duggan; 2. Lois Murphy; 3. Ethyl Adams.
Grade VII.—1. Donnie Adams; 2. Walter Stewart; 3. Terry Murphy.
Grade VI.—1. Willis Adams; 2. Marjorie Adams.
Perfect Attendance — Joan Duggan. Highest Average — Joan Duggan, 92%.
Wanda G. Murphy, Principal

**Junior Department**

Grade V.—1. Helen Murphy; 2. Fannie Adams.
Grade IV.—1. Vivian Duggan; 2. Doreen Adams.
Grade III. Sr.—1. Jerry Adams; 2. Leigh Sutherland; 3. Lowell Caulson; Jr.—1. Sylvia Murphy; 2. Lorraine Caulson; 3. John Mountain.
Grade II.—1. Judith Murphy; 2. Winston Cousins; 3. Buddy Clark.
Grade I. (a)—1. Darrell Adams.
Grade I. (b)—1. William Cousins and Georgie Murphy, equal.
Most Stars—Judith Murphy and Vivian Duggan.
Perfect Attendance—Vivian Duggan, Doreen Adams, Georgie Murphy and Winston and William Cousins.
Mrs. Helen Y. Champion, Teacher.

### BIG DEMAND

Close to two billion caps for milk bottles are made in Canada each year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SPECIALS FOR
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Men's Zip-In Lining
TOPCOATS— Reg. $39.50 ..... 29.50

Men's 100% All Wool
GABARDINE TOPCOATS, Reg. $39.50 ..... 29.50

MEN'S SUITS— All Wool Worsted—2 Pairs of Pants—Reg. $49.50 ..... 39.50

20% OFF ALL OTHER
SUITS — TOPCOATS — OVERCOATS

Men's
STATION WAGON COATS— Reg. $39.50 ..... 19.50

USE OUR LAY AWAY PLAN — A SMALL DEPOSIT WILL HOLD ANY GARMENT.

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MEN'S STORE 144 GREAT GEORGE ST.



17th ANNIVERSARY SALE

SCHEDULED TO PUT A FUR COAT IN EVERY WARDROBE

From a humble beginning back in 1935—Island Furriers today represents one of the largest - - - most complete, satisfactory fur services in Eastern Canada! Spacious Fur Salon - - - modern efficient fur factory - - - it's 2,000 capacity cold storage vault - - - personal shopping service - - - and the associate fur stores in Halifax and Moncton is all entirely due to the confidence of many thousands of satisfied customers. Island Furriers extends its thanks and appreciation to all its friends and customers by offering unprecedented savings in the finest furs during this great occasion.

BEAUTIFUL FUR COATS
AT ANNIVERSARY SALE PRICES!

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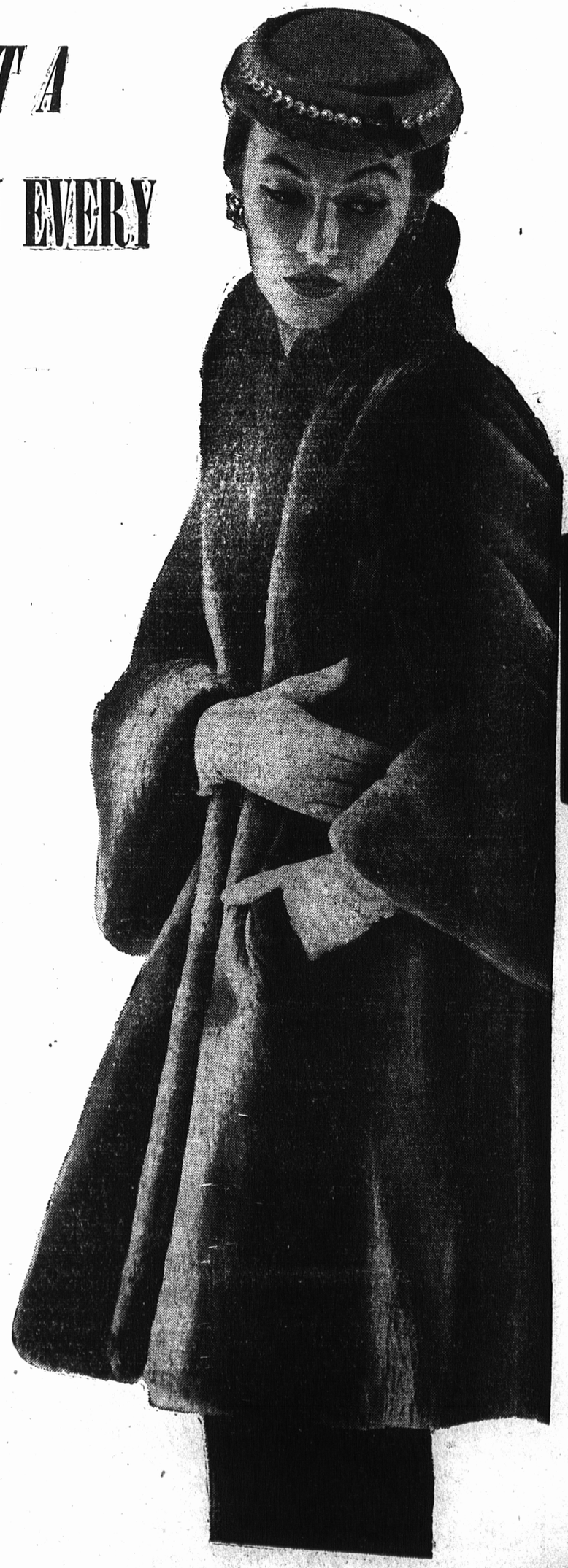
17th Anniversary Feature Group!

JAPANESE CONEY (dyed rabbit)
ELECTRIC SEAL (dyed rabbit)
MOUTON (processed lamb)
LAPINS (dyed rabbit)
RACCOON
MUSKRAT (pieced)
PERSIAN LAMB (sides)
$189

SEE - - - COMPARE - - - SAVE!

BLACK PERSIAN LAMB
HUDSON SEAL (dyed muskrat)
RUSSIAN SQUIRREL
GREY PERSIAN LAMB
SHEARED RACCOON
$445
AND UP TO $695

17th Anniversary SPECIAL
MUSKRATS
Truly a beautiful collection - - - dyed in all the most flattering shades. Choose from more than 50 beautiful models.
$298
and up to $495



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