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**DEPENDABLE LIGHT**

**Strange But True**  
By F. H. MacArthur

The male polar bear does not hibernate, though the female does for the purpose of bringing forth her young and for their protection while they are in the infant stage. This becomes a mist with mamma bear else how could her family survive the rigors of exposure to the Arctic winters.

Up until quite recently it was believed that all bears hibernated during the winter.

It is the duty of many of the peasant children of Spain to help maintain the home by selling flowers and fruit, or by laboring in the vineyards and orange groves. One would fancy from the above picture that the children of Spain had little opportunity for play. Nothing could be further from the truth for Spain has so many national festivals there is ample leisure for both children and grown-ups.

Among the curious customs of the Spanish people is the practice of offering bread and corn to deceased relatives and friends on the anniversary of death.

Love smitten maidens eat heart-shaped cakes, and rosemary and verbena are burned as offering to the great god of love.

Of all the underground homes that animals make none is more interesting than that of the prairie dog. It resembles a miniature mine shaft. The entrance to the home is crater-shaped to keep out water. It also serves as a sentry post. The main dwelling is often 15 feet below the surface, and to reach it the little rodent nose-dives the entire distance.

I have often looked at the diagram of a prairie dog's home and wondered just how the little mites could dig straight down or up, where they dispose of the loosened soil taken from such a depth. No doubt some of it is carried to the surface, but not all of it.

A peculiar thing about prairie dogs is that they will come straight for you even though you are picking them off, one by one, with a gun. During my last visit to Irma, Alberta, my cousins and I used to go hunting these pesky little animals, armed with .22 rifles. Immediately we began to

shoot, the whole colony started moving in our direction. To me, it seemed like a slaughter of the innocent, but the prairie farmer will tell you that the prairie dog is a great destroyer of grain fields. Besides, they undermine large areas of soil, causing cattle and horses to stumble into these holes, often breaking a leg.

What with poison bait, guns, traps, etc., this little rodent of the plains will soon become extinct.

The amount of food stored for winter use by a chipmunk is nothing short of amazing. Records show that a single animal has stored over half a bushel of material consisting of acorns, nuts and seeds.

Muskrats open clams by biting the muscle that holds the shell closed. They are eaten on the half shell, like some folk eat oysters. Here's how the muskrat gets fresh oxygen when swimming under an icy surface: it breathes a bubble of air against the undersurface of the ice and then inhales the same bubble!

Did you know that some of our fresh water fishes build nests? The nest is usually wrought by the female in the sandy bottom of sands and rivers. The African Osteoglossid makes her nest in the underwater vegetation. The walls are made from the stems of the plants which the fish removes from the center of the space she chooses to make her home. When the foundations and walls have been firmly set, the Osteoglossid cover the structure with a barrel-shaped roof, all the different pieces being held in place by a kind of glue taken from the creature's kidneys. This secretion hardens into a tough varnish. Then mamma fish goes off in a search of a mate to share the new home.

**Kensington and Vicinity**

—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Humphrey, Kensington, motored to Charlottetown on Saturday, November 29th.

Mrs. Fred Tuplin of Indian River underwent a minor operation in the F. E. Island Hospital recently, and was able to return home on Saturday, November 29th.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mill of Anagance, N.S., visited Mr. Mill's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mill, Kensington, recently.

Mr. Fred Arsenault of Kensington returned recently after a visit with his daughter and her husband, Adrian Gauthier, and brother-in-law, Edmund Gallant, and wife, in Hamilton, Ont. He met a large number of former Kensingtonians and other Island people in the great industrial centre.

Mr. Edward Manuel of Bermuda, B.W.I., was a weekend guest of his friend Marvin Clark, Kensington, who is his classmate at Mt. Allison University. He also visited Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Humphrey. Mr. Humphrey had married his father and mother while in charge of the United Church in Mr. Manuel's home town in Bermuda.

Mr. Alfred (big Fred) Arsenault has recently bought the farm on the Kensington-Malpeque road lately occupied by Mr. Ellsworth Bernard. This farm was originally known as the "Mattie Dunn" farm, in the days when the settlement was peopled entirely by Irish immigrants in the 1840's, and was called "Paddy's Land".

**Trinity United Church Missionary Society Meets**

—The Afternoon Auxillary of the W. M. S. of Summerside Trinity United Church held its December meeting, which was a Christmas and Love Gift Service, in the Church Parlor on Tuesday. The president, Mrs. Hammond Johnson, occupied the chair and Mrs. L. M. Callbeck was pianist. Opening with soft music, the doxology was sung and prayer offered by the president.

After the routine business, Mrs. L. M. Callbeck was presented with a Life Membership. It was reported that the Society went well over the 1952 allocation, including the ten per cent increase asked for.

Mrs. W. K. Liewelny was in charge of the Worsnip Service and was assisted by Mrs. D. J. MacLeod, Mrs. H. D. Smith and Mrs. J. L. Lund. Mrs. G. L. Sheen conducted the Love Gift Service when the following hymns were sung "Angels from the Realm of Glory" and "Hark the Glad Sound." Mrs. A. A. Lockhart and Miss Minnie Wright received the offering which was dedicated by Mrs. Sheen.

Donna Bradshaw was heard in a recitation "Christmas in England" and Carol Maclean and Roberta Clark were heard in a duet "African Lullaby." The closing hymn "His Name Forever Shall Endure" was followed by the benediction after which the Love Gift received.

**MEADOW BANK W. I.**

The members of Meadow Bank Women's Institute held their December meeting at the home of the president, Mrs. Victor MacPhail, with a good attendance. The meeting was opened by singing "Silent Night", followed by members answering roll call with "Christmas Suggestions".

Minutes of the annual meeting were read and approved. It was moved and carried that the Institute's share of the cost of the bulbs for the monument be paid.

Mrs. Gordon McLean with Mrs. Pearl Scott as assistant, was appointed leader of the Girls Sewing Club for the coming year.

The sick committee reported remembering sick during the month. The Red Cross committee will send for material the first of the year. The school committee reported purchasing articles for the school and presented bill.

It was decided that the Institute would prepare a program for the children at Christmas closing and the children will be treated as in other years.

Correspondence consisted of receipt from A.C.W.W. and report from the hall. Secretary, Mrs. Daniel Gass, was re-appointed. The sick committee was asked to purchase a box of get-well cards for their use.

The next meeting will be held again with the president, when the lunch committee will be Laura Crosby, Mrs. James Yeo and Mrs. L. H. Drake.

Mrs. Victor MacPhail had the pleasure of attending the leadership course and reported on same. Mrs. Harvey McLean gave a very interesting demonstration on "Christmas table centres and decorations".

The meeting closed with "The Queen" and lunch was served. Christmas carols sung and a social hour enjoyed by all.

**IT'S PART OF THE FUN TO SERVE**

**Coke**

**BURGESS BEDTIME**  
Continued from page 10

more bashful than did Mite.

Now since he had come to live in Mouseville he had met many other Mice, but never one like this one, without knowing just why he had a queer feeling. It was the first time he had never had such a feeling. Mite had suddenly fallen in love. It seemed to him that he just couldn't lose sight of Nettie Meadow Mouse. He did lose sight of her. She suddenly turned and ran, and she

**HISTORIC NAME**

Prince Edward Island, Canada's smallest province, was known as Isle St. Jean until 1799.

could run faster than he could. She dodged around from one little path to another. Whenever Mite would lose track of her and not know which way to go she would slyly peek around a corner, and make sure that he saw her. She was a coy person, was little Miss Nettie Meadow Mouse. She was making sure that Mite would follow. He did.

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