

**Strange But True**

By F. H. MacArthur

The gin-gee tree of Australia has gray bark and blossoms that look for all the world like sunflowers. When this strange tree is in blossom it attracts relays of honey-imbibing birds during the day, and at night dozens of squeaking flying foxes. Indeed all manner of birds, and insects which have regard for color and sweetness come to the gin-gee to feast. Terns lay their eggs in coral islands and they are as hard to find as the proverbial needle in a haystack. Not until one gets down on hands and knees can the eggs be detected, though there may be dozens around one's feet, the colors — round white with gray and brown and purple spots blend perfectly with their environment. When the young are hatched they, too, are almost invisible. The little birds will, at the approach of an enemy, lie motionless within a few inches of your hand, and remain perfectly passive when picked up.

Menu in a Chinese cafe in Hong Kong: Wild ducks' eggs, salted sharks' fins and tails, stewed pheasants' and ducks' tongues, fowls' cat, rat soup, silkworm grubs and so on. Makes one smack one's lips, eh?

Scientists tell us that anyone with a good memory and a natural flair for numbers can, if he devotes his time and talent in constant practice, emulate to some degree the feats of the calculating prodigees. We wonder.

It seems to me that it would take a lot of mental slugging to emulate Henry Safford for example, who in the early years of this century, astounded audiences throughout the U.S.A. with his amazing feats of memory and calculation.

Asked how many grains of corn would fill a volume of 202,680,000,000 cubic miles, he gave the correct answer after a period of intense concentration.

Simpler problems he solved with lightning rapidity. Asked to multiply 79,532,853 by 93,758,479 he arrived at the correct product in exactly 54 seconds.

Outside of Australia the only known pouch carrying animal is the opossum of South and Middle America.

In the case of the baby kangaroo, they remain in their mother's pocket for about eight months, growing in that time from diminutive creatures less than an inch long to fairly well-formed kangaroos of ten pounds weight which stick out their necks when their mother is grazing and crop the grass beneath them. And like certain species of beetles and spiders and caterpillars, they feign death as a last resort when danger threatens.

Believe it or not, but the great bowhead whale yields as much as 275 barrels of oil, the right whale produces 130 barrels, while the whale bone of the two may amount to 3,000 pounds!

Butcher shot by pig, would have made a fitting headline for this true news item.

The setting for the amazing tale is Lueneburg, Germany. And the butcher was shot when the porker kicked and set off the gun the man was aiming at the pig!

Much has been written on the change of color of the varying hare and other mammals and birds which is not true. For instance, we read of the change taking place in a single night, coincident with the first snowfall. The change is gradual from brown to white.

The polar bears, however, wear their white coats all the year round, while in most parts of our own country they wear white suits for six months and brown suits during the rest of the year.

It is a curious fact that a number of the most thin-skinned

mammals are capable of enduring the hardships of an arctic life, and travelers tell us they have come upon polar hares living on ice fields over frozen seas 20 miles from the nearest land.

Gray squirrels warn each other of danger with a rasping bark, which can be heard for almost one quarter of a mile in calm weather.

The red squirrel has more vices than an alley dog has fleas. He is quarrelsome, nippy, and forever poking his nose into other creatures' affairs. When this scribe was a boy red squirrels were numerous in this province and I spent many hours observing their petty thievery and mischievous antics.

Many's the robin's egg I saw going down their gullets. They rob birds' nests high and low, and they keep busy throughout the entire year. There is no idle season for them.

When I used to snare hares "down on the farm" I always enjoyed the company of the little red chatterboxes who never failed to greet me each morning with a volley of exclamations from the tree tops. Or maybe they just scolded me because I hadn't brought along more oats and bread crumbs for their tummies.

On more than one occasion I have watched them tapping the sugar maples and drinking the juice.

In tapping the maples they gnaw saucer-shaped cavities in the upper side of the branch and drink their fill of sap, coming back many times a day for the sweet refreshment.

Once I found a squirrel's nest in a hollow tree. The winter's store consisted of apples and a large water pail of beech nuts. I left the apples with my red-coated friend but conscripted the nuts which were hulled and ready for eating.

In Van Nuys, California, seven clerks whose job is collecting traffic fines were fined for parking all day in two-hour parking zones in front of the courthouse.

**Savage Harbour and Vicinity**

Two cars collided at MacLeod's Corner, Mt. Stewart, on Saturday night. None of the occupants of the cars were seriously hurt but both vehicles suffered considerable damage. The R.C.M.P. were called to the scene.

The monthly meeting of Savage Harbour Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Cyril Morrison with the president Mrs. Ernie Doyle presiding. Roll call was answered by donating some article later to be auctioned before the meeting. Mrs. Clarence Murphy accepted the roll of auctioneer and handled it in a most commendable manner. After considerable discussion on the matter of cleaning the school it was decided that in future all women of the district having children attending school would be asked to take their turn in scrubbing the school. The ever-present question of funds and how to raise them was earnestly discussed and although nothing was finalized yet the idea of holding a pantry sale in one of the Mt. Stewart stores is being seriously considered. The following committees were appointed: sick Mrs. Temple Murphy, Mrs. Clarence Murphy; school, Mrs. Valentine MacIntyre, Mrs. Fred Mosher; lunch, Mrs. James MacKay and Mrs. Cyril Morrison. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Temple Murphy when roll call will be answered by "where I first met my husband."

All potatoes in this area have been disposed of and now farmers are engaged in hauling fertilizers and preparing the ground for another year's crop. It is reported that potatoes are quite in demand of late and this of course breeds hope that another year prices will be better. Mr. Wilfred Coffin, Manager of the Community Potatoes Warehouse at Douglas and who also handles the fertilizer reports that sales are as high if not higher than last year. The fishermen are having a good year, let us hope that dame fortune will also cast her winning effective smiles at the

**East Baltic And Vicinity**

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Harris and family, Elmira, were Sunday visitors to Georgetown, with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Bruce, South Lake, attended the Nurses' graduation in Charlottetown May 25, when Mrs. Bruce's sister, Miss Gladys Dixon graduated from the nurses staff of the P. E. I. Hospital.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Manford Jenkins, (nee Miss Shirley Croucher of Souris) whose marriage took place at Red Point by Rev. H. R. Beel on May 7.

Mr. L. B. Goodwin of Charlottetown, was on a business trip to North Lake on May 21.

Mr. Emmanuel Sutherland, Black Pond, returned from a business trip to Boston, Mass. He was accompanied by Mr. ...

Mr. Lee Darrach, Charlottetown, was on business to North Lake, where he insured several fishing boats in that area.

Cropping is in full swing in the many localities and the steady hum of tractors can be heard far into the night and the old faithful horse peacefully sleeping.

Sincere sympathy is expressed to the family of Mrs. John MacDonald, Glen William, in the re-

effort of the farmers so that prosperity will be general throughout the Province. CH

cent death of their father and husband.

Mr. Francis Campbell, Charlottetown, spent the weekend with his mother, Mrs. John C. Campbell and brothers, Red Point.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Robertson, Kingsboro, were May 23 guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sorrey and family, Montague.

Miss Minnie Seaman of Souris, is at present a patient in the Souris Hospital. Miss Seaman for many years operated the telephone office at Souris and won for herself a host of friends through her friendly and obliging manner, who do sincerely wish her a speedy get-well.

Mr. George Robertson, Kingsboro, was a May 23 visitor to Montague.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. James McLean of Montague, on the death of her father, Mr. John McDonald, Glen William.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dixon, Bothwell, attended the graduation of their daughter, Gladys Dixon in Charlottetown on May 25. Miss Dixon graduated from the P. E. I. Hospital.

Mrs. Lydia Stewart, Charlottetown, is spending some time in Kingsboro with Mr. and Mrs. Foster Young.

Mr. Robert Rose, North Lake, spent a pleasant week-end with friends in Middel.

Mr. George Grant, Charlottetown, was on business to North Lake.

It is regretted that Mrs. Clarence

**Peakes And Vicinity**

Mrs. Ralph Gillan visited Charlottetown on May 28th.

Mr. and Mrs. Pius Griffin, Mt. Stewart, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Handrahan on May 23.

Mr. Alphonus Byrne visited his brother, Mr. Walter Byrne, Cardigan, on May 25.

Messrs. Thomas and Brendan Dunphy, students at St. Dunstan's College, are spending their holidays at their home.

Mrs. Raymond McKinnon, Forest Hill, spent a few days of the week of May 23, at the home of her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. MacDonald.

Misses Laura and Rita Kenny, Morell, R. R., visited Miss Ruth Donnelly, St. Patrick's Road, May 23.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Birt, visited

Rose, North Lake, is a patient in the P. E. I. Hospital. Her many friends wish her a speedy get-well.

Messrs. Johnnie Young, Red Point, Peter Stewart, Kingsboro, motored to Charlottetown recently on business.

Mrs. Page of the nursing staff, Souris Hospital, is spending a few days at North Lake.

Mr. Daniel MacDonald returned to his home at South Lake and his many friends and neighbours are all pleased to see him so greatly improved in health. —U.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McInnis, Peakes Road, May 23.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKinnon, Morell, visited friends in this vicinity on May 23.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hackney and daughter, Covehead, spent the week-end of May 22 with friends on St. Patrick's Road.

Miss Rosella Devine, student at St. Dunstan's College, returned to her home recently where she plans to spend the summer holidays.

Miss Peggy Bradley, Charlottetown, spent the week end of May 22 at the home of her parents.

Mr. William Grant, Boston, Mass., is spending his vacation with his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gallant, St. Patrick's Road.

Mr. Joseph Kenny, returned recently to his home in St. Theresa's, after spending the last four months with sisters and brothers in New York.

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Gillan visited at the home of Mrs. Marian

Gillan and family, Charlottetown, on May 25.

St. Clair Fisher, student from St. Dunstan's College, is spending his holidays at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dunphy.

Mr. Wilfred Kiggins, druggist, Borden, spent the week-end of May 22 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Handrahan and family.

Many friends of Mrs. James Edwin Birt regret to learn that she is a patient at the Prince Edward Island hospital. All join in wishing her an early return to good health.

Mr. Earl Trainor left recently for Ontario after spending his vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Trainor, Windon.

Mr. John T. Valley, teacher in Peakes Road School, was a business visitor to Charlottetown May 25.

The continued illness of Mr. Joseph MacDonald Sr., is regretted by his many friends.

—B. U.

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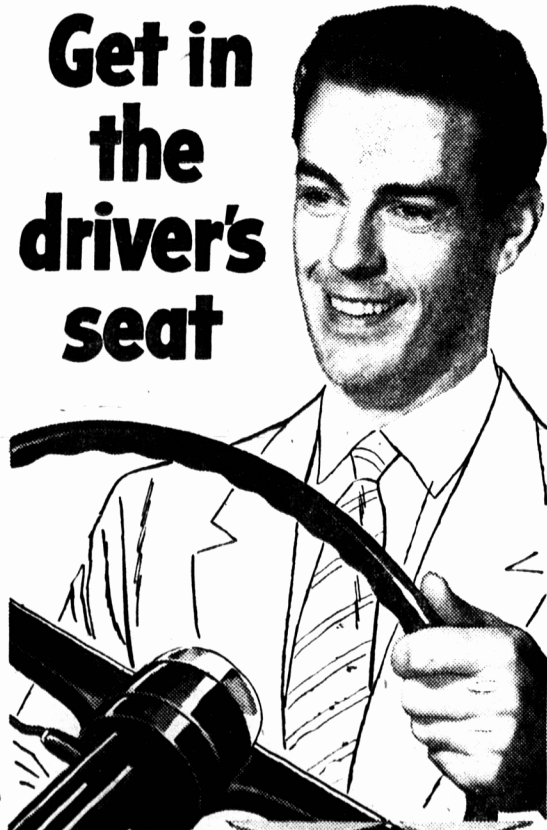
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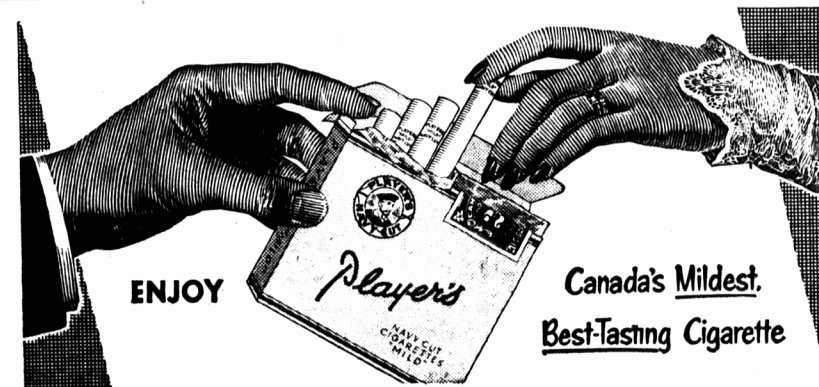
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