

Ring Reminiscences

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the legend of the "long long time" the Yukon kept frozen over all summer — ice never left the river. Come to think of it, there is historical record of a very cold year on all the earth's surface if memory serves right it was the year 1815. The Baltic Sea froze over that year.

The old chief may have "had something". Strange and unusual phenomena have been observed in relation to seasons, days of night-like darkness, and other irregularities, since the dawn of written history. The Indians of the Yukon, especially the lower Yukon, didn't look much like the Siwash of the Pacific coast. They were more "Skookum" (strong) in physique. Their chief diet was moose and caribou while the Siwash mainly depended on fish.

The Yukon Indians had the profile and facial contour of Asiatics. Some of them resembled overgrown Japs and Mongolians. The exigencies of the climate and country required resourcefulness, and they were equal to the occasion. "Necessity is the mother of invention. They made traps for every living thing necessary to provide food and clothing. Moose, caribou, bear and other furbearing animals. They even made wicker salmon traps out of the small willows growing on the banks of rivers.

They also had a contraption of water-wheel placed close to a flat bank. The fast flowing river kept the wheel turning all the time — if any salmon came near the edge, they were scooped up in one of the pockets of the wheel, shot into a pole chute and landed on the bank. They could make wick-ups (houses) from willow shrubs.

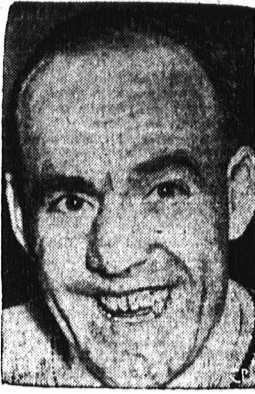
In the sort of nomadic and dependent existence of those days, there would naturally be some "lean and hungry" times — especially when the big game had gone to the remote recesses of the mountains and more inaccessible places, and the Indians would be waiting for the usual "salmon run" in July — sometimes three or four days later than usual, the aching void of the "inward" had their usual effect, as on all humans, of producing feelings of lassitude and despair, but before they get desperate the salmon arrive and are speared as they venture close enough to the river bank.

A fire is built, the fish is cut into cubes of about an inch which are impaled on sharp sticks and held to the fire till partly roasted. The cooked part is eaten off, and the performance repeated — and continued for many hours — till all are stuffed almost to suffocation. They are so satiated as to be in a soporific condition and simply lie prone on the gently rising ground in the arms of the Indian god of sleep.

It was reminiscent of the great painting which was reproduced on the drop curtain of the old Globe theatre in Boston in the early 1900's depicting a "feast at the house of Lucullus", the gourmand Roman emperor.

The scenery along the Yukon is majestic for the 440 miles to Dawson and for 800 miles further — to Fort Gibbon, at the junction of the Tanana. The speed of the current is seven miles per hour. It is quite narrow in the upper portion, as far as Dawson, where it is one quarter mile wide. At Fort Gibbon it is a mile wide and still flows fast. It is augmented by many large trib-

Hockey Great



For nearly 30 years, Francis Michael (King) Clancy has been identified with professional hockey, as an inspirational-type player, as referee and coach. He played for the former Ottawa Senators and Toronto Maple Leafs in the National Hockey League before retiring in 1937. He then became a referee. He coached Cincinnati, before becoming coach of Pittsburgh in the American Hockey League. (CP Photo)

utaries in the space intervening. The view at Miles canyon and Whitehorse rapids is awe-inspiring. The water enters the deep dark canyon from the lake above, and comes over the three quarter mile rapids in a raging white torrent. It is hard to visualize them being so venturesome as to go through in an open boat, but it was done quite often during the rush to the gold diggings 440 miles down river where the Klondike joins the Yukon.

There were boatmen who made a regular business of taking prospectors through the canyon and rapids for a fee of \$50.00. They, the prospectors, would rather pay the fee and take chances than pack their provisions overland for several miles. There is at least one man alive and well today who "shot" the Whitehorse in 1898. He is living in Summerside and is 91 years old. His name is William Higgins. With him were two other Islanders viz John McGinnity and Joseph Johnston. Both are gone to their eternal rest.

It may be presumed that there are few, if any, living who piloted a boat through those rapids. The length of the canyon and rapids is close to two miles — a boat goes through in seven minutes. There is a legend about the origin of the sobriquet, "Swiftwater Bill", applied to one William Gates. The companion swore to shoot the rapids — he got her in the boat while he held it against the slower current of the lake above the canyon. Anyway his hold slipped, either by accident or design, and she was carried into the current, then through the canyon and over the rapids, and mirabile dictu! She kept the boat righted and lived for many years after.

"Swiftwater" was a notorious figure in several mining camps — a plunger — made several fortunes and lost them. He was anxious to bask in the effulgent smiles of the pulchritudinous Hattie LeMarr of Dawson. He knew that she was inordinately fond of eggs for breakfast. He also found out that there was only one case of eggs in Dawson at the time (Spring of 1898).

He immediately proceeded to corner the egg supply, at a dollar an egg. I never heard the sequel to the story — whether or not she came to him for her favorite breakfast food. "Swiftwater" was no one and the same with that other fabulous millionaire gambler "Bet a Million" Gates. The latter was a product of the rich places of California, and the quartz mines of Colorado and Nevada.

The greatest of the scenic wonders on the Yukon is the "Five Fingers". There are five pillars of rock about one hundred feet high directly across the river, which is forced to run in six narrow channels. At certain stages of water, steamboats have to be "lined" up. This consists of fastening wire cables to ring bolts placed in the rock walls, which are attached to capstans aboard ship which are powered by the ship's engine. There is also the beautiful "Rink Rapids" and "Hell Gate" (named after New York's Hell Gate).

The portion of the river called the "Clearwater" is quite an oddity. One can see the rocks and the waterworn boulders at the bottom (6 or 7 feet) as clearly as if one was looking through glass. The water is very muddy and murky farther up, but the mud is gradually deposited in lakes and places where the current is slower, till eventually the water becomes clear. This is especially so in Lake LeBerge which is 30 miles long and

three or four miles wide, with very little current. About five feet of ice is made on Lake LeBerge during the winter. I remember a mounted policeman telling me how he could shoot a hole through the ice of the lake in four shots with his rifle. First he would chop a hole in the ice about a foot deep, then four shots would do the rest. I never tried it, or saw it tried — just took his word on faith. The ice stays in LeBerge till June 15th. The remainder of the river is clear about May 7th to May 10th. The white river comes in on the left bank, which pollutes it with white muddy substance.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

The change from the brown of summer to the white winter coat of the fall, and vice versa, is due to molt and not to a change in the color of the animal's hair.

Some squirrels and mice actually sing. Some of these notes, as in the case of singing mice, have a peculiar and remarkable musical character, very much like the warblings of canaries!

There are no bats in the polar regions, though they are to be found in every other part of the world. The flying foxes of Australia sometimes hang in such numbers from the dead branches that the trees appear to be loaded with fruit. They are a pest to fruit growers.

Seeds of the poppy were used as food long before the medical value of dried latex was discovered. The natives of Peru used to chew the leaves of the coca plant to buoy them up on long journeys. Dr. Livingston, while journeying across Africa was attacked by hostile tribes, shooting poisoned arrows dipped in an extract of the juice of certain trees. Little wonder that fear struck at the hearts of his little band of followers, when they found the smallest wounds resulted in death within a few hours.

The common shrew is a lone wolf and a cannibal. When two are placed together a battle to the death follows, and the victor devours the body of its companion at a single meal. The digestion of these animals is so rapid and the call for food so insistent that they never seem to get filled up.

There's an old saying that bats bring bedbugs to infested houses. Don't believe it. These animals are tortured with small parasites, some of which look like bedbugs, but they are not bedbugs.

Another popular notion is that bats destroy mosquitoes, and in this way eliminate malaria from infested areas. The evidence of these animals serving any useful purpose in ridding a district of the dreaded fever is nil. It may be chalked up in their favor, however, that all bats in common are insect destroyers and should not be killed.

A bear and a human have two things in common. Namely, both are very fond of sweets and fruits, and the hind feet of a bear and those of a man are almost identical.

Wise Old Mother Nature puts forth a plant for every ailment, and if we knew our herbs, better we should have less acquaintance with our doctors. One of the most valuable of heart medicines (Digitalis) comes from our native foxglove. From the poppy we get opium. From the castor oil plant (its home is India), we get a rich oil, which, apart from its medicin-

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Davis Cup Team Selected

MONTREAL, July 22 (CP)—Dr. Georges LeClerc, chairman of the selection committee, announced Brendan Macken, Montreal, Lorne Maine, Vancouver and Montreal, and Jack Spencer and Henri Rochon, Montreal, have been chosen as Canada's 1952 Davis Cup team.

Dr. LeClerc said Canada's representatives will meet Mexico in the second round of the American zone play at the Mount Royal Tennis Club here, Aug. 1, 2 and 3.

He said the committee believed James Macken of Vancouver, who had a good record in tournament play this year, was entitled to a position on the team.

Both men were elected in January by vote of the Baseball Writers Association. Addition of Wanner and Heilmann raised to 62 the members in the hall. Wanner is a three-time National League batting champion who made 3,152 hits in his career.

Two Enshrined In Hall of Fame

COOPERSTOWN, N. Y., July 22 (AP)—Paul Wanner and the late Harry Heilmann were enshrined in Baseball's Hall of Fame Monday in ceremonies conducted in front of the Baseball Museum.

Wanner was present as Warren Giles, National League president, unveiled the plaque and gave him a miniature version. Heilmann, who died July 9, 1951, was represented by his widow.

Protest Admission At Sunday Game

SAINT JOHN, N. B., July 22 (CP)—A protest received today by the Saint John Common Council, from the Lord's Day Alliance, against the charging of admission to Sunday baseball games here, was forwarded to the Boosters Baseball Club.

After similar protests last year, the Council suggested that the complaining groups lay charges and submit evidence in magistrate's court. Councilors said today that although such a course remained open it had not been followed.

New Gadget For Night Racing

COLUMBUS, O., July 22 (AP)—The United States Trotting Association has announced the first successful use of a photographic system to supplement officiating at night harness track racing.

The U. S. T. A. said the new system, now in effect only at Sportsman's Park at Cicero, Ill., probably will be adopted at other night harness tracks.

The association said development of a new-type film by Eastman Kodak eliminates exposure problems heretofore encountered at night. Until now, officials said, no method had ever been devised to insure photographic success at night. The new film is sufficiently hard to allow the use of hot developer, which is necessary in the processing of film under exposed by night photography.

Moths vary greatly in size. Some are almost invisible while others have a wingspread of seven or eight inches.

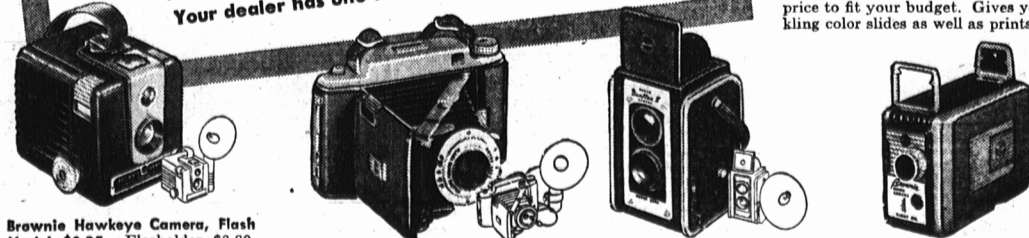
Snapshots give you a ticket back to Vacationland

• Snapshots will add to your fun all along the vacation trail. And then they'll pay lasting dividends... because longed-for places and friends will be as near as your snapshots... yours to revisit anytime.



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Brownie Hawkeya Camera, Flash Model, \$8.25. Flashholder, \$3.80. Simpler, surer than ever before—it's the slickest Brownie camera Kodak has ever made. Factory-focused, factory-set, gets grand snaps every time.

Kodak Tourist Cameras, 4 models. As shown above with Kodak Lens, \$29.00. Flashholder with guard, \$11.85. 1952 in style, simplicity, versatility—it's Kodak's famous folding camera. Big negatives in black-and-white or color.

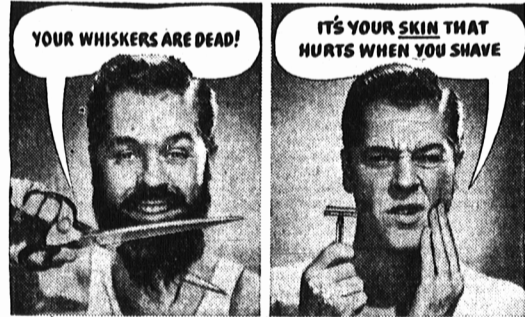
Kodak Duaflex II Camera, Kodak Lens, \$16.75. Flashholder, \$3.35. You'll like the modern twin-lens design... and the "preview" finder that shows the picture before you shoot.

... and for movies—Brownie Movie Camera, only \$51.00. Gives you thrilling color movies at a really low price. F/2.7 lens; built-in exposure guide; loads and shoots as easily as that box "Brownie" you grew up with.

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tive to soothe tender skin. Shave in real comfort for the first time!

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