

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

British decorations awarded Canada's soldiers in the First World War numbered 26,340. Sixty-two received the coveted Victoria Cross. In addition, one thousand, one hundred and fifty military decorations were awarded Canada's fighting men by foreign nations.

Canada's champion soldier did not come out of World War One or Two, as one might expect. The soldier who bore this distinction was a half-breed, Charles Langlade, who actually fought in 96 battles previous to his death at Green Bay in 1800.

Turning back the clock to 1832, I found the average salary for elementary school teachers to be \$90 a year.

Toronto folk who frown on the number of taverns now operating in the "City of Churches" may be shocked to learn that one hundred years ago the city had 162 taverns and 206 beer joints, while the population stood at a mere 30,000.

It cost 16 cents to send a letter from Charlottetown to Halifax, early in the 19th century.

The last slave to die in the Dominion was John Baker, colored serf of Robert Gray (first solicitor-general of Upper Canada) at the age of 106 years.

The first pumps operated in Prince Edward Island were made of spruce logs with a central bore of 2 1/2 inches. One of these crude water lifting gadgets may still be seen at Cornwall.

The Japanese insert tiny beads into baby oysters, then plant them in beds until the bivalves grow lustrous cultured pearls.

An old superstition that a pearl loses its life when its owner dies is partly true; the pearl is perishable, may be destroyed by age, sunlight, or acid.

Keeping pearls in circulation by wearing preserves their lustre, for skin moisture keeps them from drying out.

Water was peddled from house to house in Charlottetown in pioneer days. Rate was a penny a pail.

Founder of the famous Astor family was a pioneer Canadian Jew by the name of Jacob Franks.

A marathon race unique in the annals of history, was staged in March, 1847, between Portland, Maine, and Boston, Mass., for the right to be selected as the terminus of a railroad from Montreal. The test consisted in the delivery of a letter — the first messenger reaching Montreal would automatically make his community the terminus. Portland won the honors by arriving four hours ahead of Boston.

There was only one postoffice in Prince Edward Island as late as 1827. The office was at Charlottetown, and letters remained there until picked up by their addressees!

Would it surprise you if I told you that the postal system of this country was established by an American? Who, Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia.

The first B. A. degree granted to a Canadian went to Louis Vincent Sabatannen, a Huron Indian.

The bell which summoned the Marco Polo's first class passengers to their meals fell into the hands of an auctioneer at Charlottetown who rang it to attract customers. One day a Saint John man, J. S. MacLaren, father of the Lieutenant-Governor, D. L. MacLaren, turned up at a Charlottetown auction.

He didn't buy anything offered for sale. Instead he bought the auctioneer's bell.

Strange to relate, the bell came back to the good ship's home port — and today it's the dinner bell at one of New Brunswick's famous clubs.

A century ago there were twice as many buffalo in North America as there were people — more than 50,000,000, according to careful estimates. Today there are about 10,000 in the U. S. A. and Canada, while the population of the two countries has jumped to some 170,000,000 souls.

Only one Canadian in nine has drawn up a will and signed a testament to assure that his property will be disposed of as he wishes.

The custom of making wills dates back to 2100 B. C. Indeed, the whole matter of making wills for centuries was closely tied in with the custom of ancestor worship.

The provinces of Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, recognize the "Holograph Will" — that is, a will which is written by hand and signed and dated by the testator himself. No witnesses are required.

FERTILE AREAS

The inhabited area of Egypt is only about 13,500 square miles of a total area of 386,000 square miles.

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HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL

The following is the report for January for Hampshire School: Grade IX—1. Audrey Newson; 2. Evelyn MacPherson; 3. Alma Edwards. Grade VIII—1. Mary Proud; 2. Ariene Clow; 3. Wilfred Watts. Grade VII—1. Marion Easter; 2. Fred MacLean. Grade VI—1. Jean MacLean; 2. Sheldon Moore; 3. Hollis Diamond. Grade V—1. Robert Clow; 2.

Beryl Newson; 3. Temple Stewart. Grade IV—1. Judy Easter; 2. Marilyn Larter; 3. Bruce Newson. Grade III—1. Fulton Proud; 2. Harvey Younker; 3. Beryl Younker. Grade II—1. Delano Moore; 2. Allison Larter. Grade I (A)—1. Dixie Easter. (B)—1. Fay Edwards; 2. Doris Proud. (C)—1. Fulton Younker. Highest average, senior grades—Mary Proud. Highest average,

Junior grades—Delano Moore. Teacher: Mary Simpson.

COVEHEAD Y. P. U.

The Y. P. U. of Covehead met at the home of Erma and Chesley Hughes, January 22nd, with the president, Erma Hughes, presiding. The meeting opened by singing "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus." The scripture taken from John, Chapter 14, was read by Doreen

Hughes, and the theme story was read by Edith MacMillan. Hymn, "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us," closed the devotional part of the programme. The minutes were read and approved and the roll answered by 12 members and one visitor. Discussion on the Y. P. U. quilt followed and it was decided to have the patches and money passed in within two weeks. Alta Beairto and Jennie MacDonald offered to put it together, the latter to see

about getting cotton for same. It was moved and seconded that \$25.00 be donated to the M and M fund. The treasurer gave a very pleasing report of last year's work and showed a balance on hand of \$103.00. Some discussion followed about getting up a pageant in the spring, and several members were appointed to look for one. It was agreed unanimously to have more crokinole parties, the first one to be held at the home of Lloyd and Ruth MacMillan.

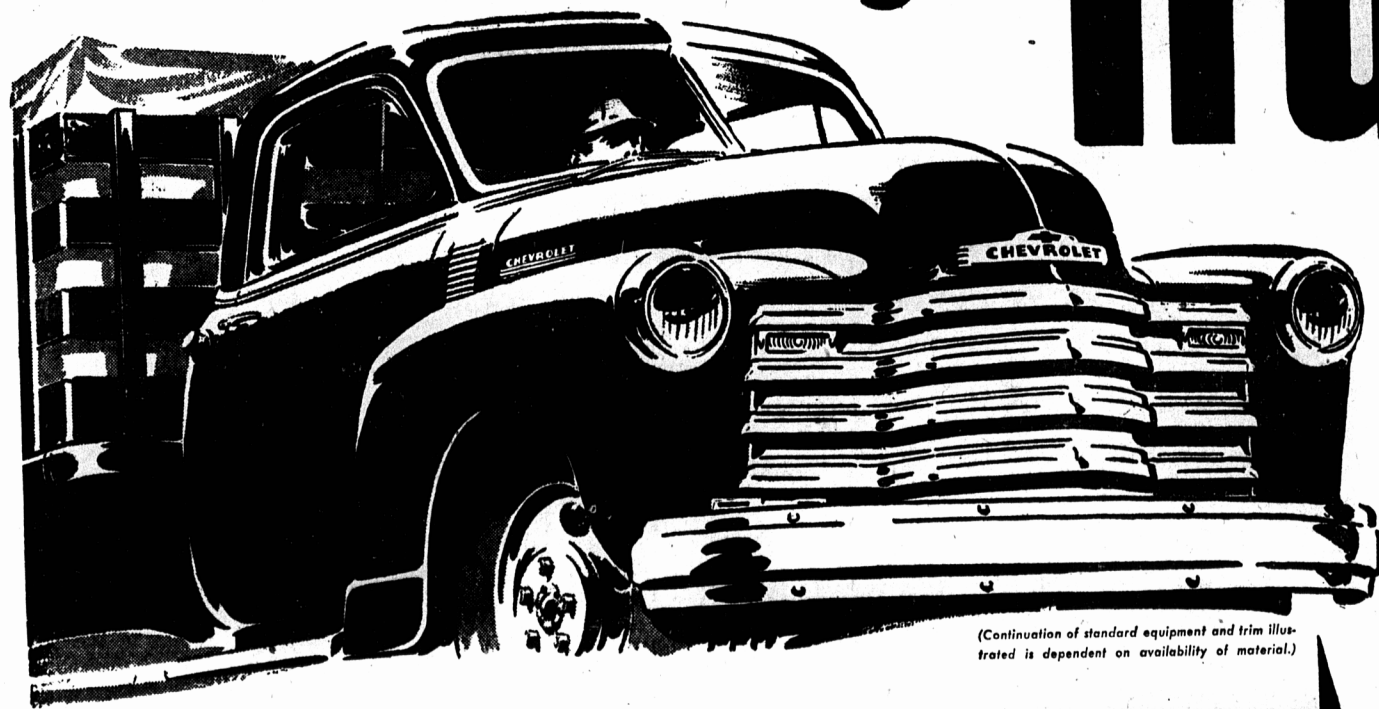
The next Y. P. U. meeting will be held at the home of Verna and Gideon MacLauchlan, the devotional leader for next meeting will be Edith MacMillan. The election of officers for 1953 took place with the following results: President, Beryl MacDonald; Vice-president, Erma Hughes; secretary, Doreen Hughes; treasurer, Grace Bell. A dainty lunch was served by the hostess and committee in charge.



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