THIS FAMILY PHOTO of the Pendergasts was taken May 31, 1958 when the entire family of seven sons and two daughters returned from many parts of Canada to attend the ordination to the priesthood of the second youngest son, Arthur. Front row, left to right are, Edward, Winnipeg. CPR electrician; Patricia, Mrs. Ray Stanyer, Richmond, B.C.; Mr. and Mrs. Pendergast; Frances, Mrs. Thomas McSwiggan, Brockville, Ont. Reginald, Goose Bay, Lab. teacher; Back row, left to right, Austin, Kensington, farmer and Sun Life insurance agent; William, Winnipeg, Man., detective branch of the police department; Father Arthur, Seven Mile Bay; Thomas, Saint John, N.B., manager Sun Life of Canada branch, Eugene "Casey", RCMP, Springhill, N.S.

Teachers Fed. Governors Reject Souris Resolution

The P.E.I. Teachers' Federation Board of Governors has rejected a resolution by the Souris Local to petition the government to amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

Voting 38 to five against the resolution the Board of Governors took the advice of the teacher representatives of the Superannuation Commission who had studied the proposal. The committee recommended at the special direntors' meeting Saturday, that the resolution be rejected.

The proposal had asked that the Teacher Superannuation Act be amended to allow all monies paid toward the pension fund to be refunded in full if a teacher left the profession before becoming eligible for pension. Under the act the first two years' contributions are left in the pension fund.

In recommending the rejection the committee said that the request should not be presented to the executive council "until such time as the government, in addition to guaranteeing the pension fund, has agreed to contribute annually a minimum of three per cent of the total salary of teachers, which contribution to the fund we have been requesting since 1959."

The report came after the committee, comprised of Miss Mabel Matheson, Davis Lidstone and Reginald MacDonald, studied the pension plan on the Island as well as the superannuation acts of the other provinces. The teacher members of the commission were appointed by the government to assist in administering the act, a number of years ago.

DISCUSSION HELD

Following the report of the committee, the meeting was open for discussion which continued for quite some time with many questions being asked of the commissioners, all of which were answered to the full satisfaction of the members it was stated.

At the conclusion of this discussion a recorded vote was taken which resulted in the commissioners' report, and recommendation, being adopted by a vote of 38 to five. This meant that the Board of Governors had rejected the Souris resolution sponsored by Alfred Morrison for presentation to the government.

TAKEN TO TASK

Following the vote on the commissioners' report, Mr. Morrison, a new board member representing Souris Local, was taken to task for his public statements in the Guardian, Dec. 9 regarding the dispensation of this resolution and the board members' attitude to the business which came before the meeting it was stated. The board members were well aware that this resolution had been dealt with constitutionally and according to democratic practice at the December meeting, and some members felt that a severe reprimand to Mr. Morrison was justified, but in the interest of harmony and unity among all our teachers, and the furtherance of the objects of the teachers' professional organization, the matter was carried no farther it was said following the meeting.

The special meeting which was attended by 43 governors in Charlottetown, Saturday, was presided over by Thomas Hall, Summerside, president.

ISLAND NEWS PAGE

Western And Central Districts

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Mon. Jan. 20, 1964. 3

Pension Fund Lacking Contribution By Gov't

SUMMERSIDE BUREAU OF THE GUARDIAN

Davis Lidstone, principal of Summerside High School and chairman of the P.E.I. Teachers Pensions Commission, was the main speaker at a weekend meeting of the Summerside local of the P.E.I. Teachers Federation.

He outlined the provincial Teachers' Superannuation Act, comparing it with the pension acts of other Canadian provinces. Mr. Lidstone pointed out that since 1947 the Prince Edward Island government has contributed nothing to the pension fund.

The provincial governments of other provinces do contribute to the funds in their respective provinces, Mr. Lidstone said, and until 17 years ago the P.E.I. government had contributed an amount equaling two and one half per cent of the salaries of the teachers.

Two members of the Souris Local of the Teachers Federation Board of Governors, Alfred Morrison and George Mullally, were present and urged the Summerside Local to support a Souris resolution that, when a teacher leaves the profession, all the money the teacher has paid into the pension be returned to the teacher.

Five per cent of a teacher's income per year goes into the pension. In recent years the money paid by the teachers in their first two years as a member of the federation has been retained by the fund.

WESTERN BRIEFS

IN BOSTON

J. A. Noonan. Alberton, is spending some time with relatives in Brighton, Mass., and other centres in the Boston area.

IN WESTERN HOSPITAL

Mrs. Harvey Jeffrey, Alberton, is a patient in the Western Hospital.

IN ALBERTON

Miss Ada Williams, Summerside, is spending a few days at her home in Alberton.

AT FUNERAL

James Arthur, Alberton, left Friday for Hopkinton, Mass., to attend the funeral of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Frank Cone. He was accompanied by his brother-in-law. Willard Inman of Breadalbane.

WALSH FUNERAL — The funeral for Mrs. Fred Walsh Maple Plains, was held Sunday afternoon, Jan. 19 from Tryon Baptist Church, where service was conducted by Rev. Keith Holm, Summerside. Hymns sung were "The Lord's My Shepherd" and "Abide With Me". The organist was Mrs. Lloyd Rogerson. Pallbearers were George Robbles, Percy Howatt, Claude Vessey, George MacKay, Walter Wood and Lewis Cairns. Interment was in Peoples Cemetery, Tryon.

Heber Bell Dies At 71

The death occurred Sunday afternoon at the Prince Edward Island Hospital of Heber Bell, 75 Hillsboro Street, in his 72nd year.

Mr. Bell was well known in railroading circles, having served with the Canadian National Railways for some 44 years, retiring in 1958 as a conductor.

He was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bell of Murray Harbour and was a long-time member of the Masonic Lodge of Montague.

He is survived by one daughter, Shirley, at home, and four brothers, Orin, his twin; Daniel and Robert all of Murray Harbor, and Clifford in Cambridge, Mass.

His wife Etta predeceased him three years ago, and three brothers and three sisters also died several years ago.

His remains are resting at the MacLean Funeral Home, where funeral service will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will be in Floral Hills Memorial Gardens.

BLOOD EXPERT DIES

PRETORIA (Reuters) — Professor Adrianus Pijper, 77, one of South Africa's most brilliant medical scientists who gained world renown for his research into red blood cells, died Sunday. He invented the diffraction method for diagnostic treatment of red blood cells and an apparatus for the method was built and marketed.

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'A LEGEND IN HIS OWN LIFETIME'

'Big Jim', Islander Of 1963

By RALPH CAMERON

Big Jim Pendergast! Islander of the Year!

An heroic figure of a man tramping across the pages of the 20th century to leave an imperishable imprint on the annals of this province and become a legend in his own time.

From an Island farm to the sidewalks of New York; from a Boston street car motorman to a sourdough in the Yukon; from the prize rings of America finally to a life of retirement with out idleness. Farmer, goldseeker, boxer, sportsman and writer. That is the saga of Jim Pendergast.

A powerful man and a great athlete he was always in top condition and once tramped 400 miles along the Dawson Trail in a search for gold that ended in success.

40-YEAR DREAM

A onetime school teacher he later made the New Annan harness racing track a byword among horsemen and the most popular racing plant of its day. Another time he promoted a Maritime tour of a spectacular barrel jumper and figure skater from New York.

Last year at the age of 83 he made a 40-year-old dream come true when he successfully promoted the first Northumberland Strait swim.

Back in the era of ring immortals he once fought the great Jack "Twin" Sullivan.

It is little wonder Big Jim has become a legend even while he lives to enjoy his reputation. It is no wonder he was chosen Islander of the Year.

He has had a lifetime of activities, a mind full of curiosity about distant fields and now a scrapbook full of lovely memories. To them Jim is proud to add the honor which has come to him today.

MOVING MOUNTAINS

There was nothing that day back on September 8, 1879, to tell the proud parents of a baby boy that the child was destined to go through the world either moving mountains or walking over them. Jim was born on the farm near Kensington that his father had bought.

It was on the Malpeque Road, but the east side of the main highway had seen a great influx of Irish settlers and that section of it had become known as the Paddyland Road.

Jim went to school there and when he was 17 attended Prince of Wales College. After that he taught school for four years in Miminegash and Pleasant View. He then became great friends with a youngster who used to come over from Tignish — Joe Bernard, who later became lieutenant governor of Prince Edward Island.

HEADS FOR YUKON

He gave up schoolteaching in the fall of 1901 and headed for that popular Mecca of Islanders of the era — Boston, where he became a motorman on the Boston Street Railway before the days of the elevated. He left there for a visit home and in 1904 went to New York where he was a clerk in Siegel Coopers department store.

It was only a short stay in the Empire State and Jim was soon rolling again. This time he was accompanied east by the professional barrel jumper who gave demonstrations in nearly all Maritime Provinces centres.

After spending the famous winter of 1905 on the Island he headed for the Yukon in the spring of 1906. But first he returned to Boston and went from there by train to Seattle and thence on a three-day boat trip to Skagway.

Jim says by then there was a good trail to Dawson with roadhouses every 30 or 40 miles. With his brother William he tramped the 400 miles over the White Pass winter trail. His best day's travel, he recalls, was 42 miles.

'FRISCO' QUAKE

Dawson was a "modern" city, he states, but it "still had the dancehalls and gambling places". It also had a telegraph line and the night he arrived the word was flashed along the wire of the big San Francisco earthquake.

Prospecting for gold through the following years, he finally made a strike along Coal Creek after being grubstaked by the Dawson City newspaper for a 10 per cent interest. Later the claim was held to the late Senator MacRae who was a onetime campaign manager for the political battles of Prime Minister Bennett.

Jim remained in Dawson City for two years with the fire de-

Large Number Of Nominations Made Task Of Judges Difficult

Seeing yourself as others see you, would be a pleasure indeed for the candidates for Islander of the Year honors offered for consideration to the judges through letters of nomination.

The nominations, 44 in all, ranged over the full spectrum of Island life, included men and women, the rich and poor, the prominent and little known. But all the letters had one common denominator — all showed the respect and warmth of feeling Islanders hold for fellow Islanders.

With so many nominations solidly backed with detailed accounts of the candidates' accomplishments, the task facing the judges of choosing one among them as the most outstanding in 1963, was not easy.

After several hours in seclusion the three judges John S. Wright of Summerside, Miss Iphigenie Arsenault of Charlottetown and Melvin J. McQuaid of Souris selected James T. ("Big Jim") Pendergast for the tribute.

STRAIT SWIM

Several letters were received suggesting Mr. Pendergast for the Islander award, all underlining the prominent role he played in establishing the Northumberland Strait Swim as a major sporting event and the wide and favorable publicity received by P.E.I. as the result of it.

In the final analysis the judges felt that this accomplishment established Mr. Pendergast as the person "who best used the means available during 1963 to serve a worthy Island purpose.'

However, as the panel stated in its citation, "Our selection was a difficult one". It was only after much discussion that the final choice was made. Several others received careful consideration. These included:

Mrs. Marguerite Godfrey of Marshfield, who, as chairman of the Marshfield Women's Institute's safety committee directed and co-ordinated a safety campaign in the school district that has become widely known to Islanders through the great amount of publicity it has received.

Said one letter: "—The work that Mrs. Godfrey has done in the interests of safety has served a worthy Island purpose both in terms of publicity for the Island and in preserving the lives of our Islanders".

Many letters pointed out the campaign was a community effort but credited Mrs. Godfrey with being the sparkplug that gave it meaning and direction and led eventually to the winning of a national award, the Carol Lane Safety Award.

Robert L. Cotton of Charlottetown, whose philanthropy has made him widely known through P.E.I. One letter of nomination said simply "I think he has given more happiness and pleasure to people all over the Island, young, old, rich and poor than any other citizen."

"He has done a great deal for P.E.I.", said another. "First, he was instrumental in bringing into being home beautification. Then he endowed the Bunbury Nurseries which enabled people of ordinary means to secure shrubs and flowers to adorn their homes".

Dr. A.A. ("Gus) MacDonald of Souris, a medical doctor who "is a humanitarian of the highest order and one who could carry your honor with dignity".

Another sponsor wrote: "How many of us even hope to accomplish even half of the work he has done during the past year, much less the past 60 years'. The letter continued: "A call from him when you need him is like having a friend as well as a doctor come to your house.'

Mrs. Fred Osborne of Sherwood received many nominations including one from Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova, director of the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada.

"Thanks to the enthusiastic and effective leadership of Mrs. Osborne, this USC branch exported more than 20,000 pounds of 'Instant Warmth' overseas in 1963 — an almost unbelievable achievement when you consider that the all-Canadian objective was 225,000 pounds for 1963. Your province with a population of 100,000 thus contributed one-tenth to the over-all goal, and I am convinced this feat would never have been achieved without someone of Mrs. Osborne's caliber at the helm. Now in many thoughts and hearts of people around the globe, the name of your province is linked with the most genuine conception of Canadian generosity forever."

Mrs. Evelyn Cudmore of Charlottetown has long been a leader in community affairs and a wide range of charitable endeavours. Her contributions to the Island and the well being of Islanders were well recognized in several letters of nomination.

Summing up her contributions one letter stated: "Mrs. Cudmore's dedicated work with the Red Cross is well known to every Islander. Her instructions and guidance in water safety have resulted in the saving of many lives and she has enriched the lives of hundreds of young girls throughout the province by her exceptional leadership in the Girl Guide movement."

Sister Mary Henry, director of the Catholic Welfare Bureau is, a sponsor writes: "A woman who has dedicated her life to helping others", regardless of creed or color.

Another writes: "She gives her time and energy freely to alleviate the condition of underprivileged people and, unlike many others, does this work without receiving any remuneration whatsoever."

Brig. W.W. Reid of Charlottetown received enthusiastic support for his work over the years with the youth of Prince Edward Island and for his participation and dedication in a wide range of worthwhile community activities.

"He has done a tremendous job" in developing character in so many Island young people. "You cannot have any worthwhile strength unless it is in the character of the people. His life has truly been an example of the better way."

And there were many, many more.

BACK TO TERMS

But the judges kept coming back to the terms of reference they were asked to used in determining the Islander of the Year for 1963: "that man or woman who, during 1963, used the best means available to serve a worthy Island purpose".

They, of necessity had to pass on those whose contributions, although impressive and great, took place over a period of years, and look for an outstanding accomplishment during 1963.

Their final decision to name Mr. Pendergast, fit all the qualifications listed in the terms of reference.

Mr. Pendergast now joins Prince Edward Island's most exclusive club made up of those few who have received the honor of the Islander of the year Award.

TO RECEIVE PLAQUE

"Big Jim" is the fifth member joining Lt.-Col. E.W. Johnstone, 1959; Capt Carl F. Burke, 1960; Dr. Frank MacKinnon, 1961 and Dr. E.M. Found, 1962.

Tribute will be paid Mr. Pendergast at a meeting of Rotary Feb. 3 when he will be presented with the award by Lieutenant-Governor W.J. MacDonald. A large plaque will be inscribed with his name and displayed in a prominent place during 1964. He will receive as a keepsake a smaller version of the plaque.

SUCCESS OF STRAIT SWIM WAS DECISIVE FACTOR

The following citation was issued by the panel of three judges following their selection of James T. ("Big Jim") Pendergast formerly of Kensington, now of Charlottetown, as the outstanding Islander of 1963:

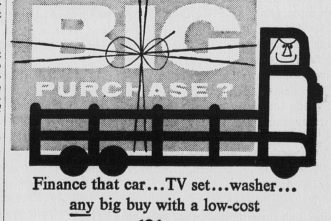
Our selection was a difficult one, necessarily influenced by our terms of reference which clearly indicated that consideration had to be given to what the candidate of our choice did in 1963 to serve a useful Island purpose.

The outstanding accomplishment of Mr. Pendergast in 1963 was his effort in promoting the Northumberland Strait Swim which brought much favorable publicity to our province. In his effort to promote this major sporting event "Big Jim" although in his 84th year travelled across Canada and sold his belief in the idea of the swim to sports enthusiasts all over the country.

The panel of judges recognized that, in the words of one of his sponsors, "he has been an ambassador of goodwill since his first trip to the Yukon in the early days of the Gold Rush."

Always a man of excellent character, Jim Pendergast devoted his lifetime to the promotion of good clean sport in Prince Edward Island and his contribution, by his good example, to the character building of the youth with whom he was in close contact, cannot be overestimated.

A long career of active participation in sport and sports promotion is now given provincial recognition by his being chosen as the man who best used the means available to serve a useful Island purpose in 1963.



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