

## We And Our Neighbours

by Ruhamah Scheinfeld Frank  
ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

These are the days when many roads lead to Cavendish, or Avonlea, the lovely "Anne of Green Gables" country. "Creative Writing in Canada," Desmond Percy, head of the English Department of the University of New Brunswick since 1944, devotes a number of paragraphs to Anne. He quotes Mark Twain as calling Anne, "the dearest and most fascinating child since Alice in Wonderland." Mr. Percy states that "Supreme Court Justice unashamedly wept over it, and the heads of households were so eager to read it that their children hardly had a chance." And he concludes, "the whole book achieves a quaint and naive perfection that is fresh and charming still."

On a flawless summer's day last week I sat in our garden and read it very happily for myself. The velvet breeze was a blended perfume, with a dash of salt, of wild spruce and newly-cut hay, clover and bay-berries and ripe strawberries. Birds trilled and whistled and flew down to the fountain for a quick sip and shower. The blue waters were just a few yards away. As I read, this tiny garden seemed to merge with Avonlea and all other Island gardens, and I believed I had discovered one secret for the long and continuing popularity of the book.

Between its pages, rains and storms do not disturb Avonlea with Shining Waters, and the rest of the Island so generously endowed with woods and lanes and waters as beautiful, are preserved forever, bathed in the golden beauty of summer days as perfect as this Edward Island in their season. Visitors from all parts of the United States and Canada who have read the book, turn away from hot city pavements and come in search of this cool and lovely oasis. And perhaps this book is one among many lures that bring back those who lived here and read the book and loved it in their childhood.

Young people here still read and love Anne of Green Gables (as well as the other books by Lucy M. Montgomery). One librarian reported that new copies can not be ordered fast enough, so quickly are they worn out with much reading. When I questioned a

pretty teen-ager she said she and her friends liked Anne because, "she is as British as the rest of us and her imagination runs away with her as ours do". Mothers and older sisters feel that Anne's aliveness and frankness and adventurous spirit, act as spurs to the timid ones.

Perhaps this value was intended by the author, for as I read on, I found myself absorbed in a phase of the book not generally recognized. (Of course a farmer notices fields and crops as he goes by, while his friend, an engineer, notices bridges and other structures). An amazing number of fine insights into child nature and guidance and education are scattered through the pages. For example, in describing Anne's school life at the age of fifteen, the author says, "New worlds of thought and feeling and ambition, fresh fascinating fields of unexplored knowledge seemed to be opening out before Anne's eager eyes. Much of this was due to Miss Stacy's tactful, broad-minded guidance. She led her class to think and explore for themselves and encouraged them to find the old beaten paths to a degree that quite shocked Mrs. Lynde and the school trustees who viewed all innovations on established methods rather dubiously." This was written about 1908 and yet what we call "modern education".

Then there is the time when Anne refused to go back to school because she felt she had been unjustly punished by the teacher. Instead of being forced to go, nothing was said about it by Marilla and Matthew, her foster parents, and she stayed home for several weeks. She finally went back of her own accord.

I like to think too, of the new dress with the fashionable puffed sleeves, ordered for Anne by the shy and gentle Matthew because he wanted her to wear what the other girls had. There are still parents who buy clothes they themselves think suitable for their children. Matthew's ways were always kind and understanding of a child's needs. And as he watched her growing from a frightened too-dreamy child into a poised and happy young girl, he concluded, "Well now, I guess she hasn't been much spoiled; I guess my putting in my ear occasionally never did much harm after all. She's smart and pretty and loving, too, which is much better than all the rest." I think so, too, Matthew.

## CENTRAL GUARDIAN

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**DIES IN CHELSEA, MASS.** — Word was received in this city of the death in Chelsea, Mass., of Fred Cheverie, formerly of this city. Mr. Cheverie is a brother of Matthew Cheverie and Mrs. Christine Hennessey of this city.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.** — Central Parish Preparatory services this Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 P. M. in the Canoe Cove Church. Thanksgiving service Monday morning 10 A. M. Rev. Donald Nicholson, Minister.

**CONCLUDED REVIVAL.** — Evangelist Kenneth Chapman, from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, has just concluded a very successful Revival Campaign with the Fundamental Baptist Church at Central Bedeque. Mr. Chapman's messages were saturated with the word and forcefully delivered in the power of the Holy Spirit, bringing deep conviction and blessing to all. All meetings were well attended and many made public confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Mr. Chapman is associated with Dr. John R. Rice, internationally known Evangelist, editor and writer.

**PERSONALS**

**AB. Robert Henderson,** stationed at H.M.C.S. Stadacona, is spending his annual leave visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Henderson, Water Street.

**Ellen's Diary**

Continued from page 2

low tone out of regard for the sleeping household. "We'd better be up in good time. We plan to move another piece—and there's that we have cut, to save. I wonder how that new rake will work—I hope it will make a tidy job of it... and there now, Ellen, remind me to tell Rob it will need a bolt in the

## Receives Literary Award



London Free Press Photo.  
Dr. Frank MacKinnon, left, Principal of Prince of Wales College, is shown as he received the Governor General's literary award for one of the best Canadian books of 1951, from His Excellency, the Hon. Vincent Massey, at a recent dinner in London, Ontario. Dr. MacKinnon received the gold medal for his academic non-fiction work, "Government of Prince Edward Island", which was published in 1951. Mrs. MacKinnon was one of the guests at the presentation.

loader before we commence to take in the hay! He eased himself to a more comfortable position, and we came then to this room across the hall with our pen. His dreams, bless him, will be the haying!

Until tomorrow — Diary  
Good night.

## Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

A resident of Montreal spends \$537.94 every minute. Last year he spent \$275,000,000 to bring his eleven year total to \$1,650,000,000—a yearly average of \$155,000,000. The big spender is A. E. Bromley, vice-president for purchases and stores, C.N.R. A typical market day for Bromley includes buying a passenger boat, 3,000 head of lettuce, 500 box-cars and an army of telephone poles.

Hallifax county prison camp 109 is one of the most unusual penal institutions in the world, in that only six of its 81 cons haven't been converted to Christianity since July 28, 1951. All a tough lot, or were, until a local preacher visited the prison and performed the miracle. And strange but true, none are Protestants, Catholics or Jews. They prefer to be called plain Christians.

Too, the prisoners have their own society fittingly labelled "Fishers of Men Club".

Their by-laws are taken from the scriptures, and they drew up their own code of discipline, which, briefly, is that no cursing and swearing be permitted under any circumstances whatsoever; that no sulking and no riots be called; that they were to do their duty cheerfully while serving out their terms.

Prison guards as well as public officials are amazed at the change in the lives of these once hardened criminals, and they're praying that the rest will spread to prisons all over the world.

Arsenic poisoning remains, as ever, an unloved wife's preferred method of doing away with hubby. In 40 U. S. cities policemen pack regulation .38 calibre revolvers which they have been taught how to handle. Saccharine is 550 times sweeter.

## Do FALSE TEETH

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A man of 65 today has four times the life expectancy of a man the same age 50 years ago. He can look forward to an average 13½ years of continued good life. Every day in this year of 1952, 230 Canadians will cross the threshold of the 65th milestone—the generally accepted retiring age in this country. Better get yourself a hobby to cover those 13½ years.

A group of motorists brought before an Irish court for parking violations pleaded "not guilty" because, said they, "The no-parking signs were written only in Gaelic which they could not read."

Claude Dorell got in and out of jail twice the same day. The first time for being drunk, the second, when he discovered that the new home his wife had moved into while he was sleeping off his jag was none other than the unused suburban jail she had bought from the city of Tulsa, Okla., for \$500!

Travel-minded Edward Urry recently got a jail term in England for traveling on the railroad minus a ticket. Questioned by the judge, Urry said he had just got out of the cooler the day before, for traveling without a ticket. Asked his destination, he said he was heading for Salisbury to answer a summons. What for? Traveling without a ticket.

After farmer Gordon Reed was found guilty of a drunken driving at Karah, Ont., a businessman



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having the same name requested a radio station to broadcast he was not the man in question. Several hours later Reed found himself behind bars for the same offense.

Floyd Bailey, 22, took a paid ad in the Alaska Sun offering matrimony, provided the gal had the shekels to get him out of jail. Floyd got the money and the girl.

Alaska's giant Salmon derby became a competition between the sexes April 22, when Mrs. Celeste Gerde won the \$25 weekly prize and climbed to the top of the seasonal ladder with a 58-pound 12 oz. kipg. She held top place until May 20, when Mrs. Gladys Kieffer deposed her with a 59-pound 18-oz. king. The same day Mrs. Berdy Bucey got on the 5th rung when she landed a 50-pound 4-ounce king, and Mrs. Margaret Lane took 7th prize with a 53-pound 9-ouncer. The top 18 entrants on May 20 weighed 50 pounds or more each. Since the largest kings are usually taken in the Ashcroft area, it was agreed that even if anybody topped Mrs. Kieffer, women would be among the high prize winners at the derby's end.

Historians and anthropologists are still scratching their heads over a mysterious article in the Alaska Territorial museum. Why? Because the object of their interest is supposed to have been the ancient headress of a Thinget. Shaped like an owl, it has huge green eyes with red circles around them, leathery ears and a hairy mane. The mystery lay in the mane. The hair couldn't be traced to any animal native to the Yakutat region. A sample was sent to a lab for identification, and when the report came back, it was labeled cow's hair.

But where did a Yakutat shaman get cow's hair in those days? Listen. In 1796, before Silka was founded, a Russian named Alex Baranoff planted a tiny colony on that barren spot, but in less than

10 years the wild natives killed off a cow, whose tail furnished the colonists and destroyed their manure of the long-deceased Shabuildings and stores. The material man's owl headress. Strange but of the ill-fated colonists included true!



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