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Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

No event recorded in the history of Prince Edward Island equals the destructive effect of the Yankee gale of 1851. The awful tragedy nearly wiped out the Province's fishing fleet and left an estimated 83 widows and three hundred fatherless children.

It seems to me, when I look back, that when I was a youngster I had the most fun. My ability to find amusement in the face of complete adversity amazed everybody who crossed my path.

Take, for instance, the first day that eerie sound came over the air from Killow's Hollow. What could it be? Like the flying saucers, everybody in our neighborhood was talking about it, and wondering and guessing.

Persons driving to and from Charlottetown would draw rein long enough, when they came to Kellow's Bridge, to listen and perhaps make a few caustic comments.

The first settlers in the district believed that the hollow was haunted, and we of a later generation, were no less superstitious. Anyway, a fearsome noise kept coming from the place and everybody kept talking about it but did nothing to ascertain the cause of same.

Then one day, when I came home from school later than usual, Grandpa asked me if I'd been fishing in the brook. I said "no". Then he said, "What takes you to Kellow's Hollow so often of late? and what goes on there? I hope you're not up to any pranks like you did at your school and kindlings in the house. I think I'll look into that racket myself."

The next thing that happened made me a bit jittery. Why? Because I saw the old man, axe in hand, heading for the brook.

When he returned, an hour later, my worst fears were confirmed. He now held in his hand, beside the axe, a great coil of telephone wire.

"Where's that boy?" he said to mother.

"He's gone to bed?" mother said. "I guess the poor kid is dog tired. He runs about so much!" (I could hear and see grandpa from a crack in the wall that separated us). "Tired is he," snapped the old man. "Well, when I get my hands on him he'll be more tired and not even able to run about. Why that young skinflint had the damndest contraption set up in the brook ye ever did see."

"You don't say," interrupted mother. "What was it like?" "Like nothing anyone ever saw before," said grandpa. "I knowed it was that brat's work the minute I laid eyes on it. There it was, Ellen, a small dam across the stream, an old wagon wheel, and this here coil of wire."

"What's these things got to do with the noise," mother said. "Now don't be too hard on that boy, Father. Remember you were young yourself long ago." "But you didn't see the contraption, Ellen. The wheel was going round in the water like sixty, and this coil of wire was fastened—one end to the steel hub and the other end to a tree. That's what caused the unearthly noise in the hollow."

Just then I sneaked upstairs to bed and by morning grandpa had cooled off and the tragedy was averted.

There are 84 families named Harper living at Island Lake, Manitoba. They include John Harper, A. B. C. D. and E. That's a lot of Harpers for a place with a total population of 1,000.

For the first time in the history of Cornwall, the village church bell tolled on three successive Fridays. On Friday, Jan. 16, it tolled for the funeral of Bert Warren, York Point. On Friday, Jan. 23 it tolled for the funeral of Alfred Yes, North River, and on Friday, Jan. 30, it was again tolled for Mrs. A. S. Weir.

The missing ten dollar bill turned up. The bill disappeared some years ago from a farm home at North River, and that was that.

Then one day, while house-cleaning, the lady of the home started cleaning out the contents of an old desk. Among other odds and ends she came upon a deserted mouse nest in the centre of which rested the slightly chewed



HANDY-CYCLE — French inventor Charles Duval, above, thinks he's solved a big problem for cyclists. He claims that leg-muscle strain can be eased by switching to hand pedals which he has mounted on his bike's handlebars. Or, if you prefer to make like a jet, you can use both hand and foot pedals to increase your speed. The gadget is one of many shown at the annual inventors' exhibit in Paris.

When Summer trips across our countryside, and never again will I agree with the rod and reel fans that "there's no fish worth taking at Crosley's pond."

The largest fish, like the oldest rats, display an uncanny knowledge of man and his snares, and keep a safe distance from both. If this were not a fact we should have few rats and fewer fish.

The village of Upsala in Ontario's Thunder Bay district was named after Upsala in Sweden.

These big fellows will no doubt retreat to the depths of the pond.

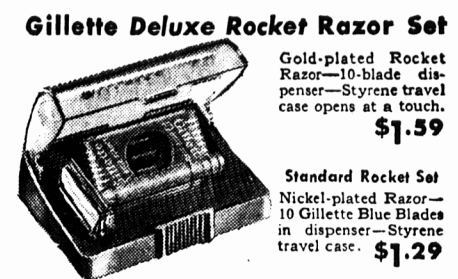


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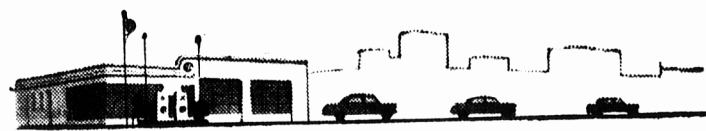
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