

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Feats Recalled Of Eating Eggs

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

I PROMISED some egg eating tales when the Easter season arrived, and here are a few which have come to this desk. Myron Holmes, Kingston, recalls a tale his grandfather, the late Reuben Barrett of Kingston, told of William Beer, Kingston and another man whose name he has forgotten, having a bet on to see who could eat the most eggs at Easter. The other chap ate something like 24 or 25 eggs but he ate them on Saturday, Mr. Beer ate 22 on Sunday, but he challenged the legality of his opponent eating his on Saturday.

The argument raged for a time, and it was finally decided that the two men should race one-quarter mile to decide the winner. Beer won and he always maintained that proved the Saturday date was illegal for the Easter eating contest.

EASTER EGG eating was pretty general in former years, and Myron tells me it was always his job to see that hens were laying in time for Easter. Hens normally loafed through the months in those days.

WALTER O'BRIEN reports that Robert Lapierre drank 33 raw eggs one day in Alfred MacEwen's store at Bristol. He had bet he could drink three dozen and he was ready to drink the other three, stoutly maintaining he never felt better. But the spectators were afraid to give him the other three.

That was 70 years ago, says Mr. O'Brien, who got the tale as it has been handed down from that far off day.

Most Fantastic Eating Feat

A ST. PETER'S man ate 16 fried eggs one Easter Sunday morning which is a pretty good feat with the fried variety. But the most fantastic egg eating feat of them all was told in a letter from a clergyman friend of mine who asked me not to use his name. But he did direct me to John A. Steele, a Little Pond man who is a patient in the Provincial Sanatorium at the present time, and he told me the details.

Bill Blackett and Joe Campbell, both of Little Pond, tramped one day at Easter time to Blackett's Creek about one-quarter mile away. They had with them 52 hard boiled eggs, but when they prepared for the meal, they found they had forgotten the salt, although they had everything else. Campbell went back for the salt, but what do you think he found when he got back?

Blackett was just finishing the 50th egg and Campbell was so angry and frustrated, he grabbed the remaining two eggs and threw them at his friend in disgust.

The story is, perhaps, one hundred years old, and it has been handed down for gospel truth through the generations ever since. Blackett was not a particularly big man, the old stories state, but he was a big eater. Once he got drift on a floating ice cake and he is said to have eaten an entire wild goose, without even cooking it, when he finally drifted ashore on Boughton Island.

Causeway Announcement Greeted

I KNOW you expect me to say something about the Causeway, so here is a brief comment as space is limited.

Personally I think it will be a wonderful thing for the Island. I believe the Prime Minister was serious when he made the definite promise to build it. Now that he has made it, I only hope I'll live to see it completed, and have the pleasure of driving across it.

If I was a politician today, I'd probably be trying to grab credit for my party, as many are doing right now. That's the way the game of politics is played, so don't be too surprised at the tactics. But I suggest in all seriousness that 80 or possibly even 90 percent of our people don't care who builds it, so long as it's built.

But I can't agree with the few who take a completely negative approach. Liberal politicians, I suggest, can still find plenty advantageous talking points for debate, even though it's a PC administration that stole the show this week with the sensational announcement that it will be constructed.

Potato Embargo Imposed In 1925

... IT WAS back in 1925 that Britain placed the embargo on Canadian potatoes, I learned this week. The Guardian of February 21 carried the story which explained the British feared importation of the Colorado potato beetles — we call them potato bugs.

Island potato growers had surpluses even in those days, it seems, for Hon John E. Sinclair, a Queens County member of parliament, received a wire urging the "strongest possible protest" as "several ships now loading and know of no other outlet for large surplus still in farmers' hands".

The protests were made but they had no effect on the British, who had placed an embargo on American potatoes the previous December.

GROWERS HERE then did not think there was much danger of the potato beetle getting in on potatoes and Glen Ramsay, officer in charge, plant protection division here, tells me there seems no danger at all of the beetle being on the potatoes at this time of the year although he has seen the odd beetle on potatoes shortly after they were harvested.

The 1925 story suggested that with the British market shut out, the Cuban market "the only other market available" would be flooded.

A December, 1954 story had told of 1,200 tons of P.E.I. potatoes being shipped to Britain and at that time they were talking hopefully of "a regular outlet for some of the best Canadian varieties" in Britain.

The embargo has never been lifted, apparently, except in 1947 when this province shipped the equivalent of 3,500 carloads under a special arrangement.

Ice Boat Trip Is Recalled

LAST WEEK'S story of ice perils in the Northumberland Strait in former years stirred memories of wintry storms, and the days of ice-boat travel between Tormentine and Cape Traverse.

Mrs. Howard Callbeck, who lives with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Johnson, Charlottetown, recalls the time in 1905 it took her eight days to get from Sackville to Cape Traverse.

The then Nettie Simmons left Winthrop, Mass., on February 22, arrived in Sackville February 24, stayed there one day before driving the 35 miles to Tormentine—Fred Chandler of Charlottetown also made the trip—and then had to wait until March 4 to cross to the island. The weather was stormy and the crossing by ice boats could not be risked until it cleared.

The 35-mile drive was necessary because the trains were not running to Tormentine. They were not running on the island either, not for three weeks, her memory tells her, though she is not certain.

SHE DOES recall that her brother, Warren Simmons of Crapaud met her on "the board ice", about a mile off Cape Traverse and that he flicked the telephone wires with his whip as they drove along the road, so deep was the snow.

The late Walter M. Lea, later premier of the province, and John Moore, a prominent Crapaud farmer, were others who made the trip, along with two hockey teams whose names she does not recall.

Miss Simmons paid five dollars to sit in a boat. The men hauled on the ice and paid for the privilege, and jumped in the boats when they struck open water. Capt. Tom Howatt was in charge of the operation.

There's one other interesting item. Her trunk left Winthrop in February when she did, but it was May 3 when the SS Harland landed it on the wharf at Victoria. There was no explanation for the long delay, she told me.

There was an error in last week's story about the icebreaker Earl Grey. It was a Navy crew that took her to Russia in the early days of the First Great War.

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ISLAND NEWS PAGE

Montague, Souris, Kings County

4 The Guardian, Charlottetown, Thurs., Apr. 19, 1962.

Decision On Rink Said Not Urgent

No action regarding possible city purchase of the Sports Arena is expected for several weeks, it was learned from an official source Tuesday.

Carl Burke, managing director of MCA which owns the Arena, is out of the city and is not expected to return for at least two weeks. At that time, it is believed, a meeting may be arranged between city council and Mr. Burke to discuss the matter.

NO URGENCY FELT

No particular urgency is felt in the business as the Arena has closed for the season. Although admittedly a losing

Montague Fan Is Toronto-Bound

MONTAGUE — One of Montague's most enthusiastic hockey fans, Lloyd Fraser, his wife and family have left for Hamilton, Ont. for the Easter vacation. Mr. Fraser plans to attend at least one of the current Stanley Cup playoff games in Toronto.

business proposition — MCA is rumored to have lost a considerable sum in operating costs over the years — it is felt the big ice palace should not be lost to the city, if only for its value to the youth of Charlottetown.

At the same time, a great many rural residents enjoy its facilities, and for this reason it is thought possible some deal might be worked for city acquisition of the property with provincial government assistance.

It is also possible the newly-formed Sports Council and the Charlottetown Playground and Recreation Commission may take an active interest in disposition of the Arena.

11 CRUSHED TO DEATH

BOMBAY, India (Reuters)—Eleven persons were crushed to death and nine others injured Monday when a concrete chimney crashed through the roof of a house. Most of the occupants were asleep when the 60-foot chimney collapsed, bringing down with it parts of the two upper storeys of the building.

Liquor Possession Charge Dismissed By Magistrate

SOURIS — A charge of possession of liquor in a place other than his own residence against George Kenneth Blaisdell, Souris River, was dismissed by Magistrate James B. Johnston, QC, in Kings County magistrate's court at Souris yesterday.

Blaisdell had previously pleaded not guilty to the charge. Two Crown witnesses were heard with the first, Kenneth Llewellyn, Gaspereaux, telling of being the driver of a truck which was stopped on the night of Feb. 5 by Cnst. William A. Wilson, Montague RCMP detachment, at Greek River.

Llewellyn said the constable had found a half-bottle of beer on the floor of the car and he had been subsequently charged and fined in court at Georgetown. He said the accused was in the cab of the truck with him and had accompanied the constable to the police car and later returned to the truck and they had left the scene together.

The second witness, Cnst. Wilson, said he had found two open bottles of beer on the cab floor and had seized them. He said he was unable to positively identify the person in the cab with Llewellyn, but the second person had claimed the beer as his and at the police car had given his name as "John Francis Laybolt of Bristol." The officer said he had been unable to find such a person.

The magistrate dismissed the charge as he said one man had already paid a fine for possession of the same liquor.

In other cases before the court yesterday, John Charles Murchison, Glen William, was fined \$25 and costs or 30 days for possession

of liquor not purchased from a vendor. On a second charge of assaulting a police officer, Cnst. Harry W. Burns, RCMP, Murchison pleaded not guilty and was remanded in custody to appear at Georgetown April 25. Cash bail was set at \$300 and one surety of \$500.

Harold Joseph MacKinnon, Goose River, was charged with driving while his abilities were impaired. The case was adjourned until May 2 at Souris. No plea was taken.

William Hubert MacDonald, Souris, was fined \$20 and costs or 10 days on a charge of driving without due care and attention, speeding at 70 m.p.h. in 50 m.p.h. zone.

DUMP POTATOES

Two East Lake men, Elmer Basil MacLennan and Maurice Joseph Holland, were each fined \$10 and costs or five days in jail on charges of dumping potatoes in a trout stream.

Magistrate Johnston levied fines of \$20 and costs or 30 days on seven persons charged with intoxication, and eight others were fined a similar amount or 10 days for possession of liquor in a place other than their residences.

Chester James MacDonald, Souris, was fined \$110 and costs or 10 days after pleading guilty to driving while impaired.

Deputy Attorney-General J.A. McLaughlin prosecuted all cases.

OLD DUTCH

Haarlem in northern Holland, a manufacturing centre and also centre of the bulb-growing area, received its municipal charter in 1245.

BURTON

Sgt. T.W. Stewart, St. Simon Park, R.C.A.F. Station, Summerside received a promotion recently from LAC, to his present rank.

Sgt. and Mrs. T.W. Stewart, St. Simon Park, recently visited Mrs. Stewart's mother, Mrs. Eva Dalton, Burton. The funeral of the late Mr. Bennett Howard was held Tuesday morning April 10th, from his late residence in Glangarry to St. Mark's Lot 7 Roman Catholic Church where Solemn Requiem High Mass was celebrated. Burial was in the adjoining cemetery.

Marion, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lance Dalton, Burton, entertained her friends on Wednesday, April 11, on the occasion of her 8th birthday. The afternoon was spent in games and contests. Dainty refreshments were served to the guests.

The first robins of the season were seen here on Monday, to

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GEORGETOWN

Mrs. Frank Power of Elliotvale was a recent visitor to Georgetown, where she was the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Batchelder.

Mrs. William Hobbs of Moose Jaw, Sask., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George White.

Mrs. Guy Hemphill returned home recently from Moncton, N.B., where she visited her son Mr. Lloyd Hemphill and Mrs. Hemphill.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul MacLean

AS GUESTS, ARE VISITING MR. MACLEAN'S PARENTS, MR. AND MRS. WALTER MACLEAN.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest White of Halifax, N.S., were recent guests of Mr. White's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George White.

Miss Paulette Burke has resumed her studies at Notre Dame Academy, after having been ill at her home in Georgetown.

Mrs. Helen Martell, is visiting in Elliotvale, as the guest of her niece, Mrs. Frank Power and Mr. Power.

Mrs. Joseph Victor, is a patient in the Charlottetown Hospital.

MAYFAIR THEATRE - MURRAY RIVER

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6.70/15	26.25	13.95	
7.10/15	27.45	14.95	
7.80/15	29.75	15.95	
7.50/14	26.30	13.95	
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