

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Pioneer Days In P. E. I.

By F. H. MacArthur

Child life in the early days of this island was vastly different than it is nowadays, but we are not at all certain that they were less happy. In this brief sketch, I am going to try to point out some of these differences as the article takes shape.

Have you ever thought how much is done for the boys and girls of this generation? The school of today is a palace compared with the school of pioneer days: costly books are printed for them, toys are unlimited and amusements of many kinds are provided. This was not the case then: children were expected to be seen and not heard, and they were also taught to obey their parents and respect other folk, especially the elderly persons in the district.

No doubt parents loved their children then as much as they do now, but they were not pampered or spoiled by having things their way or by over-indulgence. The life of our forefathers was one long grind of poverty and hard work. They had to do without many things, and so did their children, for large families were quite common — eight or ten being an average family. Often children were named after flowers or again, names would be taken from the bible, such as Pansy, Buttercup, Daisy, Jeremiah, Jacob, Adam, etc.

In the earliest days of the settlement there was little regular education of the children. The brighter of the boys learned to read, write, and do a few simple problems in arithmetic; the girls did a bit of sewing. Their parents were too busy making homes and providing food for the family to give much attention to education, but once the home was firmly established their minds turned to education: and so, the log-schools came into being.

"Treading like snails," the children, often against their wishes, were packed off to the little log building where, after a few years, they received a sort of miscellaneous education — and a few, a very few — climbed the ladder to the citadel of fame.

The school day was from seven a.m. till four p.m., during summer months; and from 8 till 3:30 in winter. In a previous article I mentioned the crude desks and seats, so will omit such details here.

The girls wore homespun linsay-woolsey petticoats and bodices. White kerchiefs — sometimes colored ones — were worn around their necks, while their footwear consisted of very coarse shoes made by the local cobbler. The boys dressed in knee-breeches, long vests and heavy coats, mostly two sizes too long for them. Their shoes, too, were heavy grained leather, often well tanned to keep out the water.

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WEST ROYALTY W. I.

The West Royalty Women's Institute held their September meeting at the home of Mrs. Fred Gates. The meeting opened with the Creed.

Twenty-one members answered the roll call. Mrs. Russell Bell read the minutes of the last meeting while Mrs. George Crosby acted as secretary for the evening. Mrs. Bell reported on proceeds re catering to Convention, and also reported that a contribution was forwarded for Miss Robin.

The planning of Card Parties for the fall season was left until next meeting. Miss Velma Burke invited the next meeting to her home with Mrs. Edgar MacArthur, Mrs. Willard Lank, Mrs. Eric Hurry and Mrs. Irwin Millar on the lunch committee.

Following the business period a surprise baby shower was held for Mrs. John England after which the hostess and committee in charge served lunch.

GUESTS OF QUEEN LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister and Lady Eden will fly to Scotland Saturday to be weekend guests of the Queen at Balmoral. The prime minister may discuss with the Queen a list of government changes he is understood to be preparing. It was regarded as unlikely, however, that any announcement of cabinet changes will be made until just before Parliament reassembles on Oct. 25.

KINGSTOWN, Ont. (CP)—Canada's longest submarine cable re-entrant carried hydro power for the first time to Pelee Island in Lake Erie from nearby Point Pelee. The cable took six weeks to make but was laid across the nine-mile strait in four hours. Each of the two main sections weighed 55 tons.



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

LIVE AND LEARN

Learn and live. Who fails to learn. The right to live will never earn. —Old Mother Nature.

Young Reddy was a smart young fox. He was the son of Reddy Fox, and it was because he looked so like his father, and because he was like him in other ways, that he was called Young Reddy. He had just made a mistake. Yes, sir, he had made a mistake. He had jumped to conclusions, and that is never a safe thing to do.

Young Reddy was over in Farmer Brown's cornfield where the corn was standing in shocks. He had found out that was a good place to hunt for mice. You see, many meadow mice had moved in from the Green Meadows, for mice are very fond of corn. They were making new homes in the shocks of corn. Of course they didn't know that a little later that corn would be taken away.

When Young Reddy was hunting, he used his eyes, he used his ears, and he used his nose. He used all three at the same time, as all good hunters among the Foxes do. What his eyes and his ears might not tell him, his nose might. What he might not hear or see, he might smell. What he might not smell or see, he might hear, and what he might not hear or smell, he might see. Just now his ears had told him that someone was behind a shock of corn. He suspected it was a mouse.



"Don't you touch me!" cried the young Muskrat in a squeaky voice.

Carefully, oh so carefully, he crept around that shock. Sure enough, there was some one there. Because he expected to see a mouse he did see what he thought was a mouse, only it was a giant mouse. It was so big that instead of springing on it instantly as he was prepared to do, he checked himself. In the dusk, for the Black Shadows had already covered the cornfield and the Green Meadows, he could not see as clearly as by light of good for seeing in the dusk. Then day, although his eyes were very keen, he told him that this wasn't a mouse at all. It picked up a scent he had never found in the cornfield before, nor had he ever

found it on the Green Meadows, or in the Green Forest. But he recognized it right away. You see he had found it around the Smiling Pool. It was the scent of musk. This wasn't a mouse at all.

Young Reddy had often visited the Smiling Pool. He had often seen Jerry Muskrat with Mrs. Jerry, but only at a distance, and usually swimming. He had never seen a Muskrat on land and close to. This one was much bigger than he had thought a Muskrat could be. So he hesitated. But he still looked like a great big mouse, and big as he was he was still much smaller than the young Fox himself. So once more Young Reddy prepared to spring.

Just then the young Muskrat for it was one of the two young ones who had come to live in the Smiling Pool, turned and saw Young Reddy. He didn't run as the young Fox expected. Instead, he whirled around to face Young Reddy, and he showed a set of teeth that made the young Fox once more hesitate.

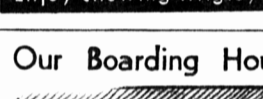
"Don't you touch me!" cried the young Muskrat in a squeaky voice. Young Reddy took a step forward. "Why not?" he snarled, as the young Muskrat backed away a little.

"I'm not afraid of you!" the latter squeaked.

The young Fox still hesitated. He didn't like the looks of those teeth.



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FIRE DESTRUCTION

OTTAWA (CP)—A total of 1,340 forest fires reported in Canada during August destroyed about 107,000 acres, the National Research Council said Tuesday. The number of fires was 10 per cent higher than the average for August during the last 20 years and brought the total for the first eight months of this year to approximately 5,000—almost 2,000 more than for the whole of 1954.

FORD'S WEEK-END SPECIALS

- RUMP ROASTS BEEF, lb. 49c
 - RIB ROASTS BEEF, lb. 49c
 - SPARE RIBS, lb. 15c
 - LARGE CABBAGE, each 19c
 - ISLAND CARROTS, 3 lbs. 25c
 - RED ROSE TEA, 1 lb. 1.15
 - BULK VINEGAR, bring containers, gal. 79c
 - NESTLE'S CHOCOLATE QUIX, 1-2 lb. 29c
 - HEINZ JUNIOR BABY FOODS, ass'd., 6 for 54c
 - RIPE TOMATOES, 2 lbs. 29c
 - Chop Suey & Vegetables, 20 oz. can 15c
 - GRAPEFRUIT JUICE, 48 oz., each . . 35c
 - ORANGES, 2 doz. 69c
 - Oakleaf TOMATOES, 28 oz. can . . . 25c
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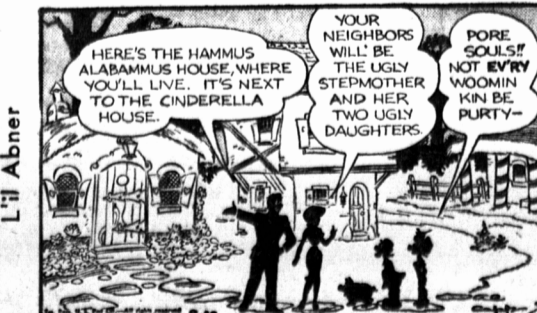
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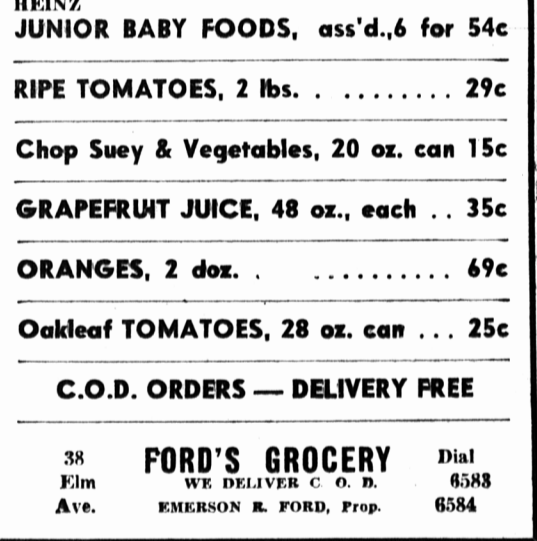
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