

'Christopher's Folly' Building Is Recalled

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

"CHRISTOPHER'S FOLLY" was the name neighbors gave to the boat Capt. Christopher LePage, Rustico built in his backyard a long way from the sea, some 76 years ago. But the Captain knew what he was doing.

The interesting story—it was written by Captain LePage's son, Garfield—has been passed on to me thanks to Mrs. Roy Bruce, North River who is Garfield's daughter, and Harold L. Smith, City is a nephew of the builder. The only son living now is James L. LePage, Hunter River, who was not born at the time the ship was built. Bradford, a one-time Lieutenant-Governor of P.E.I. was another. The ship was the Clara May, named after his two daughters—May died in infancy.

Here is the story as told by Garfield, prior to his death: In the fall of 1889 my father, who operated a large farm and store at Rustico, decided to extend his business, with the help of his two older sons who took over the operation of his farm and store.

In the early winter of 1890 plans were made for the building of the eighty-foot schooner. It took courage and foresight; although my father was a man of indomitable courage and strong will power he had never learned his trade as a ship's carpenter, but no doubt had been around ship yards in his younger days.

Arriving home from school one day, my brother Elisha and I were surprised to see the model and molds of a vessel being shaped. Then we realized that something was going to happen.

Now at that time the material for ship building in and around Rustico was very scarce, and had to be procured at a place called Springton—some distant. For forty dollars you procured the cutting rights of fifty acres of good hardwood; cutting any tree you wished in order to get the pieces and shapes needed.

Road Long, Weather Stormy

THE OWNER of the wood lot, a grand old Scotch man, (but not scotch with his wood) whose name I have forgotten, would tell the men when a tree lodged in the falling to cut down the tree it was lodged on, not sparing his own wood.

At the beginning of 1890 the work of cutting and hauling began. The winter was cold and stormy and the road long and hilly so it meant leaving home before daylight and sometimes breaking the roads. After cutting their loads it would be after dark when they arrived home. By the middle of March the well sheltered yard of the old home, one half-mile from the river where she was built, had taken on a lively appearance with logs of all shapes and sizes.

In the early spring her keel was laid, set on blocks four feet from the ground to allow the men to work under her. Three men, my father, Frank and Mosley Doiron, worked on her. They shaped and bolted the timbers together and to the keel. It was necessary that she remain on the stocks in order that the timbers dry out and be ready for planking.

Tobacco Spits Help

BEFORE THE planking could be done the timbers had to be smoothed off by a process called "dubbing". Often times I got quite a kick out of watching Archie, the dubber, spit tobacco juice on the timbers then cutting it off with his edge thus using his tobacco juice for a guide.

In the early part of the planking arrived, To Rouge Doiron and his two sons, Peter and Joe, were having "Big Joe" and "Little Joe". The father, Big Joe, was a man weighing around two hundred and seventy-five pounds with red whiskers and a big red face. He was a jolly old fellow who kept us entertained the long winter nights telling stories of which he was a vast master. After supper he would straddle a chair, arms under chin, with pipe in mouth and we knew then "the show was on". Some of the stories sounded very good to a boy of my age. One of which I still remember "Sunday to-day Comeau", in which he portrayed the life of a young boy who was always getting into trouble on the Lord's Day and being reminded by an unseen voice saying: "It is Sunday to-day Comeau!"

When bed time arrived he would lead the parade to the sleeping quarters which were upstairs over the back kitchen reached by steps to a small hatchway in which we always expected him to get stuck.

Peter, the son, was a great workman and but for him the work would not have gone on as well. "Big Joe" and "Little Joe" spent a lot of time wrangling. "Little Joe" having to be told many times: "Mind yourself, 'Little Joe', I'm your fadder".

Task Was Long And Tedious

THE WORK of planking was a long and tedious job as the planks had to be steamed and clamped into their place while still hot, and fastened with iron pins and wood trunnels.

Next came the caulking and I can still see Leong, the caulker, spinning the okum and driving it into the seams with the caulking iron and mallet. The sound of it still rings in my ears.

Ten men were now working on her and with the family this made seventeen in all. The cooking was quite a chore and I often wonder how my dear mother, even with help, could have overseen it all.

By the last of March after her bottom had received a coat of copper paint she was ready for the "Launching". Hardwood runners with greased skids underneath was placed on either side of her and the building blocks were knocked out from under her.

The power for hauling consisted of double and triple blocks on each runner with teams of horses on the falls. The hauling took six days and went on very smoothly until the second last day when the descent became greater and she started on her own power, running off the skids and into the mud. It caused quite an excitement as a large crowd had gathered to watch the launching. I remember quite well one man, Andrew Billy Martin, with his arms against her bow-trying to stop her.

Craft Was Finally Afloat

NEXT DAY she was back on her skids and on to the ice and the next morning having sunk the ice she was afloat. Now the deck rail cabin and fore-castle had to be built and then she would be ready for the spars.

The spars, sticks 60 feet long, 10 inches at the small end, were located at County Line—now called Norboro—18 miles distant. The job of cutting and hauling took two days with six men and eight horses.

They were made ready for installing by that grand old man of his day, George Smith, and his son, Lee. After being installed her top-masts and stays were set up; she was ready for her sails. They were made at Kennedy's in Charlottetown at a cost of \$250, a large outlay at that time.

Maiden Trip—Coal 50 Cents A Ton

ON DOMINION DAY 1891, with a crew of four men, she left the Bridge at Rusticoville. The day was fine with a brisk north wind causing her to beat to the harbor giving the country side the chance to judge her working qualities and call her a success. Next morning she was off on her maiden trip. Her sailing schedule was to Sydney, Glace Bay, Pictou and Port Hood for coal. (Incidentally, at that time some kinds of coal could be bought at the mines for fifty cents a ton.) To the Miramichi and New Castle for lumber, to Port Daniel for lime stone. She also had a couple of trips each spring and fall to Halifax and Sydney with farm produce.

At that time eight large schooners were sailing out of the port of Rustico and with the large number of fishing boats Rustico Harbor was a bustling sight.

In the fall of 1899 while on her way home from Halifax my father, who had been captain of her all this time, not wishing to take the chance of staying on the rocky coast made port for Jeddore. While beating into the harbor she mistayed, (not obeying her helm) and the mighty roll of the Atlantic rolled her up on the pebbly beach where her bottom was completely worn out.

This was the end of the once beautiful schooner "Clara May".

Gone are the ships and the men who manned them and today the port of Rustico is peaceful and quiet. The sturdy fishermen with their slick, noiseless motor boats go in and out, scarcely noticed bringing from the deep a goodly livelihood.



GOING OVER PROGRAM

Lt. Roy Clark and Fireman T. I. Knox of the Sherwood Fire Dept. were selected to attend the three day fire fighters workshop in St. John, N.B. Sept 15th to 17th inclusive. Shown above going over the three day program with the fire chief prior to their departure are (FROM THE LEFT) T. I. Knox, Chief Carmichael and Lt. R. Clark. Also attending this third annual conference from the Charlottetown area are Captains L. Gillespie, B. Hennessy and H. Crockett of the Charlottetown Fire Dept.

Board Of Trade Speaker Deplores Main Highway

By FRANK WEEKS

The main highway leading from western Prince County to Miscouche is in a deplorable condition. Rev. Gerald Steele stated last night at a meeting of the Board of Trade, Chairman of the board's transportation committee. Rev. Steele also voiced dissatisfaction over the discontinuing of ferry services during the recent strike.

It was approved that the board support the P.E.I. Government and other organizations in their efforts to prevent any future interruptions in ferry services to the mainland.

It was also approved that the board continue to press for an all weather highway, a bridge and causeway from McNally's Point to Gordons Wharf providing a second highway to western Prince County.

A discussion was held regarding a radio link with the tourist information booth at Beads Corner and also having a representative from western Prince located in the booth next year.

look for western Liberal seats when there's a deal like this?" He conceded that Saskatchewan is enjoying prosperity but said he needs guarantees of help in years when crops could be poor and revenues would drop.

He was not fully satisfied with the transition payments promised Saskatchewan for five years to ease its loss of all equalization payments under the new formula.

Manitoba and Alberta Premier E. C. Manning want negotiations to new five-year tax agreements shelved for a year or so. Mr. Roblin would use the time to reconsider priorities and ponder a royal commission report on the tax system.

Mr. Manning would have the two levels of government combine to fight inflationary pressures and conduct tax negotiations less hurriedly.

The Atlantic delegations urged revisions in grants and adjustment formulas and New Brunswick suggested a labor tax to attract industry to areas of unemployment.

Only Prince Edward Island expressed keen disappointment. The equalization formula would give the province only about \$200,000 more a year.

Premier Ross Thatcher of Saskatchewan, a Liberal, said: "Why should I go out and

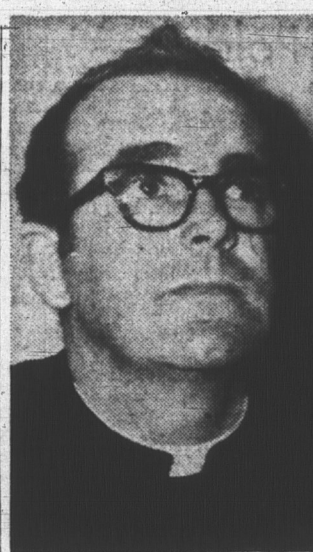
DEATHS

MacLEOD — At Kensington, Sept. 14, 1966, John A. MacLeod, age 86 years. Remains resting at the Davison Funeral Home until Friday, then to Long River Presbyterian Church where funeral service will be held at 2.00 p.m. Interment Geddie Memorial cemetery.

MacKENZIE — At Melville, Wednesday, September 14, William Murdoch MacKenzie in his 83rd year. Resting at the Gillis Funeral Home: Funeral Friday from St. John's Presbyterian Church, Belfast with service commencing at 2 p.m. Interment in Belfast cemetery.

JENKINS — At the P.E.I. Hospital, Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1966, W. Lawson Jenkins of Vernon in his 72nd year. Resting at the MacLean Funeral Home until noon today, Sept. 15, then to Trinity United Church for funeral service commencing at 2 p.m. Interment in Vernon River cemetery.

MacWILLIAMS — At the Community Hospital, O'Leary on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 1966, Mrs. Harry MacWilliams, RN, of O'Leary in her 43rd year. Resting at Jellie's Funeral Home until Friday morning at 11 o'clock then to O'Leary United Church for service at 2 o'clock. Interment in Bloomfield United Church cemetery. Visiting hours 2 to 4 and 7 to 10.



FATHER STEELE

Appreciation was expressed to the staff of the Western Hospital for printing a large amount of tourist information brochures for the board.

The President, Harold Phillips expressed thanks to all who had helped make this year's Aquatic Day a success.

Vapour Lights Are Approved

Six mercury vapour lights are to be installed in Alberton and paving is to be laid on Elder Street were two projects approved by Alberton Town Council at a meeting Tuesday night with Mayor Leard presiding and all councillors were present.

Five of the lights are to be installed on Main street leading to the Sacred Heart Church and one will be located at the corner of Popular and Albion streets near the Western Hospital.

Bills amounting to \$636.30 were ordered paid. A by-law was approved requiring all vehicles, including bicycles, to be equipped with a head light and a rear reflector.

The police report listed two cases under the Highway Traffic Act, ten under the Liquor Control Act and three break and enter.

WESTERN BRIEFS

\$100 FINE — Arthur Rogerson of Summerside was assessed \$100 and costs or seven days in jail when he appeared before Magistrate R.S. Hinton, Q.C. in Summerside Town police court yesterday.

MINOR ACCIDENT — The Summerside Town Police reported a minor accident at the wharf in Summerside.

The accident occurred Tuesday morning at 11.45 and resulted when a three-ton truck, operated by John Edward Gaudet of Bedouque, collided with a parked Volkswagen, which had been operated by Edward Pineau, also of Bedouque. The truck was turning at the wharf and the driver did not see the parked Volkswagen car. Estimated damage was set at \$75.

PEPS UP ICES — HAMPSTEAD, England (CP) — A London ice-cream manufacturer has applied for a liquor licence so he can sell whisky-flavored ice cream. Manager Alex Mansi said, "If we get the licence we shall sell about 40 different kinds of ice cream—but those with a punch will go only to adults."

Island News Page

Western and Central Districts

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Thur., Sept. 15, 1966. 3

Peck And Loren Appearing Here

Two of Hollywood's hottest box office draws, Gregory Peck and Sophia Loren, are the featured players in the latest spy-spoof comedy thriller "Arabesque", opening a three day run at Confederation Centre Theatre this evening at 8.30.

Peck plays an American professor of archeology at Oxford University who innocently gets caught up in a middle eastern intrigue and with the ravishingly beautiful Sophia Loren, a seductive Arabian espionage agent.

It seems the professor is selected to solve a cryptogram hidden in a group of hieroglyphics, unaware that two groups of agents are after the information. As in all good thrillers there are the "good guys" and the "bad guys", and Peck's problem is to figure out which is which, and which group Miss Loren represents. Along the way he also tries to prevent himself from getting killed in a variety of situations by a variety of ingenious methods.

It's one of those plots that moves around a lot, with technical sequences filmed in Trafalgar Square, The British Museum, London Zoo, Regent's Park and a clutch of other famous British tourist attractions.

Miss Loren's physical assets offer plenty of reason for the male audience to plunk down ticket money, but with this film she also will probably attract a sizeable female audience with her \$150,000 wardrobe of specially designed Christian Dior clothes. The outfit includes fourteen changes and fifty pairs of shoes, which is some gliding for the Italian lady.

The film has attracted favorable notices from most of the major reviewers including Life magazine who termed it "filmmaking at its marvellous best". Newsweek said it was "enriched with stylish zest and bountiful wit", and the New York Times described the climactic chase scene as one "that should make chase buffs swoon". Three time Oscar winner Hen-

Y'S Men Capture Trophy

SUMMERSIDE — The 14-year-old Henry Wedge trophy was presented to Y's Men at Queen Elizabeth Park here last night by little league commissioner Tim MacQuigan.

The Y's Men were victorious over Kinsmen, 13-7, to win the Summerside little league league championship, three games to two. Y's Men grabbed wins in the opening two games, but Kinsmen came back to knot the series and force a deciding game.

Kenny MacNeil went the distance for the win and struck out eight, while battery mates, Steve Kelly and Derek Roff

WESTERN FUNERALS

GALLANT FUNERAL — The funeral for Gilbert Gallant was held Wednesday, Sept. 14, from the Compton Funeral Home to St. Paul's Church, Summerside, where Requiem High Mass was celebrated at 9 a.m. by Rev. Pierre Arsenault, who also officiated at the interment in the Church cemetery. Msgr. J.P.E. O'Hanley was seated in the sanctuary. Pallbearers were Leroy Gallant, Edwin Gallant, Glorice Gallant, Jerry Sheen, William Sherry, and Theophane De Courcy.

FORTUNE

Continued from page 1

and the straightest furrow. This is most unusual. Plowing judges are David Peacock, P.E.I. department of agriculture, and Raynall MacNeil, president of the Prince County Plowing match—he's this year's Prince County champion, a title he also took a year ago. IN LIVESTOCK CLASSES Robert Rossiter and Harold Lewis, St. Peter's Bay had the champion male Ayrshire, with E. Lund and Sons, Bethel showing the reserve. The championship positions were reversed in the standing for the champion Ayrshire female.

George Phelan, Morell showed shared pitching duties for the Kinsmen.

MacNeil paced Y's Men to their win with a two-run homer, while Andy Walker had two doubles for the losers. Steve Kelly and Howie Connolly also had doubles for Kinsmen.

A large crowd of fans were on hand to watch the deciding game.

Members of the winning team are: Coach Timon Landry, players—Gordon Ives, Wayne Doyle, Leslie MacDonald, Chris Chaisson, Vince Landry, Stephen Walmaley, Brian Williams, Kenny MacNeil, Doug MacLean, Chris Gaudet, Danny Landry, Paul Richards, and Gregory "Diggy" MacDonald.

Kinsmen 600 103 — 7
Y's Men 150 34x — 13
D. Roff, S. Kelly and S. Kelly, D. Roff, K. MacNeil and D. MacLean.

and the Justice, under the grand champion Scotch Shorthorn bull. He also had the reserve grand champion.

Mr. Phelan also had the junior female champion and the reserve champion, among other rosettes.

The main opposition in the Scotch Shorthorn ring was furnished by Frank Hendricken, Peake's Station.

PLOWING RESULTS

Boys or girls, under 16 years—1. Arthur MacKay, Strathcona, best plowing; 2. George Mill, Annandale; 3. Merrill MacLeod, Forest Hill, straightest furrow, best crown, best finish.

Gang Plow, Senior — 1. True-love Taylor, Upton; 2. Allison MacDonald, Dundas; Taylor had the straightest furrow, best crown and best finish.

Tractor-Hydraulic Plow — The Reid and MacKenzie prize — 1. George Campbell, Primrose; 2. Vernon Yorston, Launching; 3. Kenneth Johnston, Poplar Point; Campbell had best furrow, best crown and best finish.

2-5od Tractor — 1. Edwin Mills, Bay Fortune, best crown, best finish; 2. Wendell MacLeod, Forest Hill, straightest furrow; 3. Dan MacGinnis, St. Peter's.

3-5od tractor — Irving Ott Tray — 1. George Campbell, Primrose, straightest furrow, best crown, best finish; 2. Albert Mill, St. Peter's; 3. Vernon Yorston, Launching.

DAM LOSES WATER

The reservoir behind the Vaal Dam, South Africa, loses 250,000,000 gallons of water a day in summertime by evaporation.

Progressive Conservative DISTRICT MEETING

1st District Kings County

Thursday, Sept. 15th

8.30 p.m.

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH HALL, SOURIS

Guest Speakers: Walter R. Shaw and Melvin McQuaid, M.P.

Each Poll Committee is requested to have five voting delegates in attendance.

All Progressive Conservative supporters are invited to attend.

All This Week Hillside Motors Limited

CONTINUE TO SLASH PRICES

ON ALL

★ DEMONSTRATORS
★ NEW 1966 CARS
★ GOODWILL USED CARS

DROP IN AND SAVE NOW

HILLSIDE MOTORS LTD.

ST. PETER'S ROAD

Where Customer Service and Satisfaction Comes First

PARKDALE

SAVE \$700 TO \$1000

On all 1966 Pontiacs in stock and demonstrators.

KEEN

(Continued from Page 1)

stand by the proposals in any case. "Just like medicare," he said, "Here today and gone tomorrow."

Premier John Roberts of Ontario made no comment. Premier Daniel Johnson of Quebec said little, but he had already roasted Mr. Sharp for "paternalistic federalism" and disregard of the British North America Act.

Mr. Johnson wants Ottawa to phase out all revenues from income and estate taxes in Quebec and a major share of corporation taxes from the province.

The Ottawa proposals indicate no further reduction of federal revenues from these fields.

WANTS REPORT STUDIED — Both Premier Duff Roblin of