

Haunted House

by F. H. MacArthur

many years ago, John Squire and his younger brother Eric, left a vacation home on Prince Edward Island, enroute to the tiny village of Crapaud.

Safely arrived, the brothers settled down to enjoy a two weeks' vacation with their aunt, Mrs. Stoneham, who lived alone in a small cottage in the outskirts of the village. The brothers had chosen Crapaud because, being ardent disciples of Isaac Walton, they knew that speckled trout were to be had in great numbers in the stream that wandered through a nearby valley. It was here that the eldest brother John, met with the strange adventure I am now going to narrate.

One evening, after dinner, the brothers were seated in their aunt's living room when she brought up the subject of the haunted house. "Boys," she said, "you can see the place from the window half hidden by trees. It's the house on the hill."

"Well," said the boys. "So that's the haunted house, eh? Well, well, Auntie, surely you don't believe that fantastic story, or do you?"

"I certainly do," said their Aunt Maggie. "Everybody around these parts believes the story. The place has been closed up for years because those who tried to live in it couldn't account of the strange noises and the ghost they saw there."

The last family that occupied the place, their name was Peters — got the haunted house rent free, but they were kept awake nearly every night as everyone else had been, by the rappings and tappings on the walls. One day in a bit of rage Mr. Peters swore he'd solve a thorough examination of the premises from cellar to attic. Something white in a crevice in one of the walls claimed his attention. He tried to pull the thing out with his hands, but the aperture was too narrow to admit his arm. Then he got a small hatchet and soon widened the breach. What do you suppose he found? An old calendar dating back to 1800. On its leaves were written the names of some persons long since deceased, together with the date of their birth and death. On the last leaf was this message:

"Sam Small did not die by his own hand as the people around here say. Sam was frightened to death by a ghost — the ghost of his sworn enemy Bill Fry, right in this very room."

"Well, Peters lost no time in communicating his discovery, and although it was not thought of any great importance to villagers at large, yet strange to say the rapping stopped. Was the spirit of the disturbed person satisfied that the calendar had been found?"

"I wouldn't know," said her eldest nephew. "Is that all there is to the story?"

"The ghost appeared again," continued Aunt Maggie, "and he now haunts the place regularly. The noises, too, still go on."

"It's a good yarn," said the brothers, "but we don't believe a word of it — not a single word of it."

That same evening John's brother went fishing and John, unknown to the others, decided he'd take a look through the haunted house, might even spend the night there, so he thought. So when darkness descended over Crapaud he left his aunt's home and followed the main road till he came to the tree-trunk that led to the haunted house on the hill.

On the grounds of the deserted place, he used his flashlight to look around. He noticed a crumbling stone wall running along the north side of the house, and this partly enclosed a space which at one time had been a lawn, and in which even now the outlines of a few flower beds could be seen.

Swiftly he made his way along a walk to the old building, and then using his flashlight again found the door and crossed the rattling threshold. The floor creaked eerily under his feet. Opening a door that led from the kitchen, he found himself in a large room which had apparently served as a sitting room in other days, for there was still to be seen some odds and ends of furniture. The place smelt mouldy. Then he discovered the stairs and went up two stories, and opened an end door that led to a fair sized bedroom. It was partly furnished, a sofa, a table, and three old chairs. That's when he decided to spend the night in the house and see what effect the strange noises would have on him. He might not have been so brave had he believed in such things.

It was exactly 11 p.m. by his

watch when he lay down on the old lounge and pulled his coat over his body to keep out the chill of the night. Finally he fell asleep. Three hours later he awoke with a start. He sprang up to a sitting position on the sofa and tried to collect his scattered thoughts. For he hardly remembered he'd gone to sleep in the haunted house. Something unusual must have happened to awaken him in this manner, so he reasoned, otherwise he should have slept on till daylight. What could have happened?

As he asked himself this question, he distinctly heard three loud knocks on the wall near the sofa. Quickly he reached for his flashlight. It had fallen from the chair where he'd placed it before he dropped off to sleep, and before he could recover it and snap on the light, the knocks came again with redoubled force. John sprang from the sofa and commenced searching the room, but could not discover anything amiss. "I must have been half dreaming," he said to himself. Then he heard footsteps going down the stairs and then coming up. He grabbed one of the chairs, stood in a rigid attitude of defiance and listened attentively for a repetition of the sound.

"Several minutes went by, but there was nothing further to be heard."

"Pooh," he said at length, putting down the chair. "It was only imagination on my part. Funny how closed up for years because those who tried to live in it couldn't account of the strange noises and the ghost they saw there."

Half way down the creaking stairs he stopped short, his breath coming in short gasps like an asthmatic person. The wind howled and shrieked without and a sudden burst of rain dashed against the roof. A shadowy form was drawing closer; step by step it mounted the stairs. John froze in his tracks, and then the figure of a middle-aged man passed him, climbed the rest of the steps and disappeared in the hallway above.

The lighted flashlight in John's hand picked out the receding form of the ghost.

After that, John left the place on winged feet. "Seeing is believing," he told the others when they sat down to breakfast the next morning. "I wouldn't spend another night in the haunted house for all the gold in the world."

"Should receive credit?"

"One would think that this would be a time when Gen. Simonds would be receiving credit and praise for his brilliant service to Canada. Instead of that, it is being implied and in some cases written that the general is being fired."

Opposition leader Drew has asked Prime Minister St. Laurent to explain to the Commons why the "most highly skilled officer ever produced in Canada" is being retired.

The subject is expected to come up repeatedly when the defence estimates are before the Commons, possibly later this week.

Gen. Simonds' retirement was mentioned briefly in the House Monday when George Nowlan, Progressive Conservative member for Digby-Annapolis — Kings, referred to Defence Production Minister Howe's statement that the world situation now is more critical than in 1951 during the Korean war.


If this were the case, Mr. Nowlan said, then it was not consistent that Gen. Simonds should be retired.

HAS COMPLETED TERM

All Defence Minister Campney has said so far on the subject is that Gen. Simonds is being retired because he has completed the

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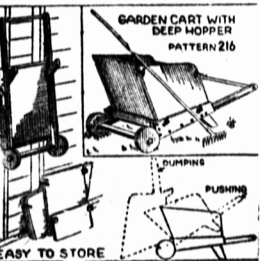
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Workshop Patterns

by Ruth Wyath Spears



This cart beats a wheelbarrow when the chores around the homestead. For example, it may be tipped up to rest the front on the ground so grass clippings may be raked into it. The deep hopper holds a lot of litter, meaning fewer steps to the compost heap. Having two wheels and a broad base it is easier to handle than a barrow. Eight-inch disk wheels would be better than the wooden ones shown in the sketch. When the garden is cleaned up for the winter just remove the wing nuts and hang the cart in an out-of-the-way corner of the garage. The pattern is 35¢ or it will be included in the Gardeners' Helpers Packet for \$1.50 postpaid.

Home Workshop Department, The Guardian, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

NEW YORK (AP) — A holdup man fleeing with a \$4,000 payroll was killed by a policeman Tuesday in an exchange of gunfire in downtown Broadway. The man committed the holdup in the lobby of an office building. He hid behind a parked car and exchanged shots with police until he was killed. The stolen payroll was recovered.

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Simonds Upset By Controversy

By DAVE McINTOSH
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP) — Lt.-Gen. Guy Simonds is reported upset by the controversy swirling around the announcement of his retirement next Aug. 31 as chief of the general staff.

A defence department official said Monday there is a department policy that chiefs of staff serve approximately four years. Gen. Simonds, 52, was appointed army chief Feb. 1, 1951.

The official added that the general is ready and willing to step down from his post if his retirement would permit advancement to himself. "I must have been half dreaming," he said to himself. Then he heard footsteps going down the stairs and then coming up. He grabbed one of the chairs, stood in a rigid attitude of defiance and listened attentively for a repetition of the sound.

Geo'town Annual School Meeting

On Tuesday, June 7, the annual school meeting was held in the Town Hall at 8 p.m. Seventeen ratepayers were in attendance. Mr. A. H. Stewart was appointed chairman for the meeting.

Mrs. N. W. Hansen, Secretary of School Trustees, read the minutes of the last annual meeting. Mr. Ray W. Solomon, chairman of trustees, presented the Trustee's report.

In his report he stressed the amount of damage done during the present term to school property and felt that much of it could have been avoided, with proper co-operation.

He enumerated the many improvements done during the past year, the principal one being the building of a new room. Other improvements included, painting of blackboards, building of a cabinet to hold Science Set, the purchase of a Science Set and radio. This report of the Auditor and that of the secretary were presented, discussed and adopted. Mr. A. E. Jenkins was re-appointed as Auditor. The supervisor's report was read to the meeting.

The Trustees were authorized to spend an amount up to \$125 for a capable music teacher. The amount of \$2700.00 was voted for supplement. The amount of \$2,150 was voted for running expenses.

Mr. Marcelles Gotell, the retiring trustee, declined re-appointment. Mr. Walter Solomon was

Retired Railwayman Honoured

William Edgar "Bill" Worthy who retired from the C. N. R. under super-annuation on April 30 after 36 years of service was recently given the traditional final run send-off by his fellow workers and railway officials. Mr. Worthy (left) receives farewell handshake from Mechanical Supt. Harold Moore. Acting Supt. G. O. Baker, right. — Barter's Film Lab.

appointed trustee to fill the vacancy on the board. Mr. Ray Solomon moved a vote of thanks to the retiring trustee, Mr. Gotell, and this was seconded by Mayor P. L. Boudreau. The secretary read the minutes and the meeting adjourned.

FOOD FOR JAPAN

Japan depends on imports for about 20 per cent of her minimum food requirements.

GREAT BRIDGE

A new arch bridge stretches 950 feet across the mouth of Inoura bay in Nagasaki, Japan.

OTTAWA (CP) — Examination of Salk vaccine results has revealed no case of polio among children inoculated with the vaccine in Canada, health department officials said Tuesday.

An official said it is too soon to judge the vaccine's results on a large scale because Canada is just getting the polio season.

To June 4 there were 90 polio cases this year among un inoculated children, only 70 per cent of the five-year average for the period.

Five persons have died of polio in 1955 but the official said they probably were patients who caught polio last year or earlier.

Results of Salk inoculations have been watched carefully in every province since the Canadian inoculation program began in April.

LONG AND NARROW

Chile, with an average width of 110 miles, has a coastline of 2,480 miles on the Pacific.



Retired Railwayman Honoured

OTTAWA (CP) — The Canadian Library Association's 10th annual conference will be held in Saskatoon June 20-25, the association announced Tuesday. Delegates will discuss problems of public, children's and government libraries, and hear reports from association officers.

KINGSTON (CP) — Mrs. Harriette Elizabeth Coverdale died at her residence, Le moines Point farm, near here Monday. She was the widow of William Hugh Coverdale, who was president of Canada Steamship Lines at the time of his death in August, 1949.

REMEMBER DAD

On **FATHER'S DAY**

Sunday June 19th

Men's Sport Shirts 1.95 to 4.95	Men's Socks 43c to 1.50
Men's Ties 50c, 1.00 & 1.50	Men's T-Shirts 93c to 2.95
Men's Shirts & Shorts 43c to 1.25	Men's Jackets 3.95 to 13.95
Men's Belts 1.00 to 2.00	Men's Straw Hats 2.95 and 3.50

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