

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The following is from a guest editorial which appeared in the National Fur News some time ago. The author is Ronald G. Stephenson, general manager of Herbert A. Nieman & Co., one of the largest breeders of silver fox and mink in the world.

About this time some bright public official in the Treasury Department decided that a cloth coat was a necessity but that the addition of a fur collar transformed that coat into a luxury, entitling the proud owner to pay a 20 per cent retail sales tax.

The answers may also be of interest to the mink farmer, now riding the crest of prosperity in his Cadillac convertible. The lessons learned from the experience of the fox farmer might well be used to stave off or at least soften the impact of a similar disaster in mink.

It is plain that both fox and mink pelts are subject to style cycles determined by supply, distribution, promotion and the uncertainty of women's wants. Any of the old timers in the fur market can recall three low spots in the demand for wild mink within their life time.

In those days mink farming was not even considered respectable and the fur trade held out little hope of ranch raised mink ever amounting to anything. Towards the end of the 20's fox pelts became more abundant and it was fashionable to wear two foxes gracefully draped over the shoulders to indicate that the old man was in the money.

We must find ways of keeping the highs from getting so far out of hand that the penalties of over expansion, and over supply and the lows from falling so far that we have a repetition in either fox or mink, of the present plight of the fox farmer.

The passing of J. D. Jenkins early this week came as a great shock to his many friends. Dan had been from his earliest youth a lover of the out of doors and a successful hunter.

Fox jackets developed into coats, fox pelts were down, some fox ranchers even felt the pinch. Then the trimming trade began to buy up the low grade pelts and there was a brisk market for scraps and junk.

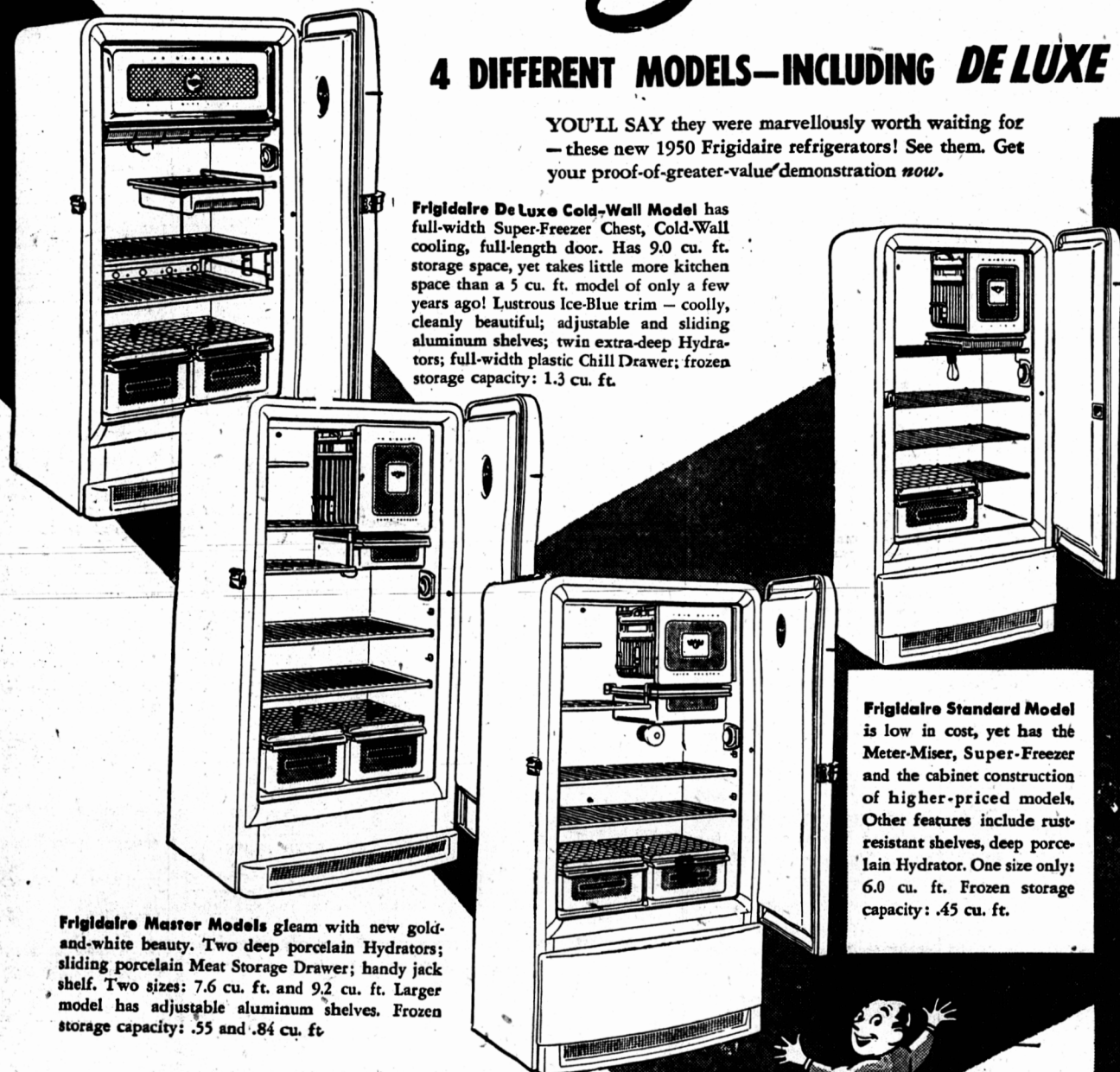
The passing of J. D. Jenkins early this week came as a great shock to his many friends. Dan had been from his earliest youth a lover of the out of doors and a successful hunter. The writer can remember that in addition to other activities he was a purchaser of pelts of red foxes, mink, muskrat and other wild furs as long ago as 1908.



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Pioneer Days Continued from page 2 his profession for some years in the U. S. A. and was paying a visit to his childhood home when the tragedy occurred.

of the Rocky Point district found themselves caught in a sudden squall while crossing from the city to their homes. A light snow was falling when they set out, and before they had covered half the distance, the storm broke loose, suddenly and furiously.

her blanket over the desolate scene. The lights of the city blacked out; the trees vanished from sight; the horse lost its way and then — then they were hopelessly at the mercy of a blizzard. After wandering about for hours, the now thoroughly exhausted animal plunged headlong into the open water and sank almost immediately.

if only we could learn their stories, hear them sing their epic songs. Today when the land is filled with so many unhappy occurrences, perhaps it would be wise to let the past bury its dead. Yet I somehow have the feeling that there are plenty of thrilling tales of ice-travelling days that never have been recorded and which readers of the "Guardian" would like hear. So, if you know a good true yarn, won't you please send it along? Address a. l. pioneer stories to this writer, care of the "Charlottetown Guardian". ONCE MEXICAN TERRITORY New Mexico became a United States territory in 1848.