MRS. WALTER SHAW, wife of the premier of Prince Edward Island, prefers living at the Shaw farm at St. Catherines, 10 miles from the provincial capital. During the winter, however, she lives in Charlottetown. Mrs. Shaw, 67, shows her 74-year-old husband a flower from the garden of their summer home called Strathnairn. (CP Photo)

Island's First Lady Prefer's Farm Home To Life In City

(Editor's note: This article about the Island's first lady, as distributed to Canadian Press newspapers from coast to coast, was written by a Halifax member of the staff of CP, on the basis of a recent Charlottetown meeting with Mrs. Shaw.)

By DAL WARRINGTON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The first lady of Canada's smallest province is a motherly-looking matron of 67 who shies away from publicity, does her own cooking and prefers farm life to the city.

Mrs. Margaret Shaw, wife of the Prince Edward Island premier, says living in town is all right in winter—in a small city like Charlottetown anyway—but her heart is really in the rolling hills of the West River country, about 10 miles away, where the Shaw farm lies.

"I can stand it in the city until March," she said, sitting in the living room of their winter house here. "But when the days get longer and warmer then I want to get home again". She produced some pictures to illustrate why.

The Shaws have been married almost 41 years but Mrs. Shaw has been a premier's wife little more than two. Walter Shaw, 74, accepted leadership of the Progressive Conservatives in Prince Edward Island in 1958, at an age when most men are well into retirement.

OUSTED LIBERALS

He was a political novice who had spent most of his life as a farmer and civil servant, including many years as deputy minister of agriculture under the Liberals. After the 1959 election he became premier.

His late plunge into politics was not undertaken lightly. The Conservatives had not formed a government in this province for 23 years.

"But I went along with it," Mrs. Shaw said. "What else could you do? Walter loves P.E.I. and he's working for P.E.I. That's why he did it."

Actually, she said, Mr. Shaw seems to have more time home now than when he was a deputy minister. "Then he was always travelling to meetings or conferences. He used to be away for days on end."

She accompanies the premier on some of his trips but avoids the limelight as much as possible. "I'm still a little afraid of the press," she said. But reporters and photographers find her friendly and co-operative.

MADE FIRST FLIGHT

She had never travelled by air until last year. "I refused to go near a plane. Then we flew to a ship launching at Halifax last fall and I loved it." Since then she's made several flights.

Mrs. Shaw was born of Scottish stock at Northam, a rural hamlet about 20 miles west of Summerside, P.E.I. Her maiden name was Margaret MacKenzie but Premier Shaw always calls her "Mom." She is a trained nurse and practised her profession in Massachusetts for a while but has lived most of her life in P.E.I.

Why do the islanders have such affection for their home province, no matter how far or how long they are away? She thinks it's because most of them are farm - born, never losing their love for the open spaces, pastoral atmosphere and easy-going life of the country.

Strathnairn, the Shaws' farm, is situated in some of the best P.E.I. scenery, with long sloping lawns and terraces, trees and hedges and a river sparkling nearby. It is named for the Shaw ancestral home in Scotland. They lived there all year until recently. Now they move to Charlottetown for the winters.

DOES OWN COOKING

The house is a modest frame building surrounded by beautiful flowers. Gardening is the premier's hobby, roses his specialty. In adjoining fields the Shaw herd of fine beef cattle grazes.

Mrs. Shaw has a girl to help her with the housework "But I still like to do my own cooking."

None of their children is home now. All three are married and there are 11 grandchildren. Son, Dr. W. M. Shaw lives in Oshawa, Ont., daughters Mrs. A. J. MacLeod in Ottawa and Mrs. Hugh Simpson in Charlottetown.

They were all home last July, though, when Walter and "Mom" celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. The Shaws held open house at Strathnairn and more than 700 people called to wish them well.

ELLEN'S DIARY

Northbound Canada Geese Herald The New Spring

The first V of Canada Geese we were to see this spring, flew over the valley this morning.

"Come and see!" Mack called at the door when we were breakfasting. High, following some sky-trail of their own choosing, they flew. The south behind them, into the north, they winged. Their calls floated down to us in the yard, enchanting bugles of the spring.

"They don't sound the same as in the fall, do they?" we said. "Their honks are cheerful now."

"I guess," Mack smiled, "it's all in our minds. In the fall, when we hear them we are thinking of the winter-storms and the frosts ahead. Now it's different. Summer is coming. I wonder if they'll come down in one of our fields-back where the stubble is baring, perhaps? They've come a long way."

"And it's likely they have a long way to go before they arrive at quiet nesting-grounds," we said.

"It would be a shame to shoot a goose now, wouldn't it? Because if anyone wanted such game, think of the increase in the flocks there would be by fall! Each downed now, would be much less shooting then. But, I suppose some don't stop to reckon things that way. . Well," he nodded, "now we can say it's the spring!"

Last fall, we had trusted themtaken their parting "Au Revoirs" as their bond. And here they were. Spring and summer and the delights of autumn on their wings, brought to us in gift: lilacs and apple-bloom, roses and clover, gold and scarlet leaves.

"Were you wishing to see a robin?" Alex questioned coming by in haste after dinner. There's a pair now over on our lawn! Mother found them. They," he smiled, "have come back to the nests in the birch tree."

It was too much to expect-too much promise: Canada geese and robins, all in one springtime-day.

And the day itself? Was there ever a spring-day more balmy? Or with a cleaner, clearer sky of blue? Or blessed with more sunshine? Peter, the one-past fellow, allowed to set his young steps on the ground for the first time was more or less awed by this adventuring, though obviously pleased. And was for a minute heart-broken when taken indoors.

Also, exploring drifts on the lawn, made a step which to his dismay left a rubber boot lodged in the depths, when after a struggle, he himself was free though with one foot unshod.

"Gran'daddy!" he called to James in the barnyard, "Come quick to me!"

Yet how lovely it was for the children to come to this outdoors after the cold white of the wintry days.

"It's so mild, this evening, we might expect to hear the frogs," we said to James at the door. But the sound we heard was one familiar to the folks at Alderlea at this season of the year: the mighty fall of the spring - flow at the spillways in the dam. Quite fearful it is to see, as it tumbles in a tumult of water to the white-spumed pools and hastens off in heavy flow to the head of the river below.

"I hope our bridge will take care of the flow there," James offered a bit anxiously.

"If it goes out, we would be quite cut off from the world," we said. And the night-stars keep an ancient watch now over the farmsteads-over stream and field.

Until tomorrow — — Diary— Good-night. . .

HAPPENINGS

Hostesses at the Charlottetown Curling Club on Saturday will be Mrs. Wendell MacDonald, Mrs. D. C. MacKay, Mrs. William MacNeill, Mrs. Kenneth Green, Mrs. Cyril MacDonald and Mrs. James Grindlay.

Fourteen tables of bridge were in play at the regular weekly meeting of the Charlottetown Duplicate Bridge Club held at the Charlottetown Hotel on Monday night. The winners were: north-south, tied for 1st, Mrs. J. M. Bell and Mrs. J. M. Larabee and Mrs. Robert Hines and Mary Duffy; second, Mrs. Carl Green and Mrs. M. A. Farmer. East-west, 1st. J. C. Sinnott and Bill Ledwell; 2nd. Mr. D. I. D. Rozman and Tom Cauty.

The Bank of Nova Scotia recently announced the appointment of Lloyd A. Cameron, formerly of Charlottetown, as manager of the Quinpool Road branch of the bank in Halifax, N.S. Mr. Cameron will succeed K. C. McGratan, who has being transferred to the superintendent's office. Prior to receiving this appointment, Mr. Cameron was manager of the branch at Canning, N. S. He joined the bank in 1947 and since then has served in all three Maritime provinces.

Miss Mona Thom, 40 Villa Ave. Charlottetown, was the winner of the recent turkey dinner draw sponsored by the Charlottetown Kinette Club.

The Phyllis Britten Missionary Society meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Donald MacFarlane on Wednesday, March 21, with the president in the chair Mrs. Leslie Waugh had the devotions.

Roll call and minutes were read and approved. Collection amounted to $8.00 and Mrs. George Campbell was appointed on the parsonage committee. Financial report was given by Mrs. Robert Neil and Spiritual Life Work by Mrs. John Parker. Mrs. Harold Clark introduced the special speaker, Mrs. Florence Lord, who spoke on the Truro School for Girls. A vote of thanks was tendered Mrs. Lord from the group by Mrs. H. Estabrooks.

Next meeting to be held at Mrs. Willard Waugh's and Mrs. Lloyd Jewel and Mrs. Donald MacFarlane are on the lunch committee. Meeting closed by repeating the Mizpah benediction. Lunch was served by hostess and committee in charge.

On Friday evening a miscellaneous shower was tendered Miss Francis Bryenton in the Malpeque Hall. Appropriate music was rendered by Miss Elaine Adams as the bride-to-oe was escorted to the "seat of honor" by her sister, Mrs. Gordon Champion.

The many beautiful and useful gifts presented Miss Bryenton were opened by Miss Norma Craig and Miss Sandra Craig, while the accompanying verses were read by Miss Nancy Mill.

Miss Shirley Bryenton arranged the gifts on the table.

A social hour followed the shower and a delicious lunch was served.

MARY HAWORTH

Making The Ends Meet Is Almost Impossible Job

Dear Mary Haworth: Having been married 18 years, I find it impossible to make ends meet. My husband's take home pay, around $90 to $95 a week, is never enough to cover expenses. We are always in debt, which upsets me so that it interferes with all I do.

We have five healthy children who descend on the kitchen like locusts cleaning out a grain field. Sometimes I think we should economize on the food bill, but as we have practically no doctor bills —a nd good food builds good health—perhaps that wouldn't be a saving.

I have practically no clothes; the house needs repairs; we can't afford more than one pair of shoes at a time for the children and their expenses will rise as they get older.

Being badgered by creditors bothers me no end. In my parents' home, nothing but a car was ever bought on credit. But my husband's family charged everything. My husband seems to think our situation is all right; but I don't.

I know we can't afford the interest we pay every year for credit. What can I do? Getting a job in a factory or store doesn't bring in enough to make it worthwhile. Is there anything I can do at home? What new skills may a 38-year-old woman learn?

I have no intention of going on this way and want to prepare to take a job when my 4-year - old starts school next fall. I love my children and hate the idea of not being home with them all the time, but we can't continue ignoring our creditors and letting house repairs slide.

Your column always has such practical, down-to-earth solutions for everyone's problems that I thought perhaps you could set me straight. Is there help for my problem?

F. R.

Dear F. R.: You say you can sew, and are good with your hands. Yet you also say that you have virtually no clothes. I would think that a woman who can sew ought to be able to clothe herself adequately, by buying remnants thriftily and, in fact, gradually build up quite a good wardrobe.

By developing skill of this sort, you might find yourself in demand as a neighborhood seamstress or designer, and thus promote a home-based source of income.

Evening courses in adult education, sponsored by the public school system in various communities, have been known to include sewing classes and perhaps they exist in your town. Call the school superintendent's office for information about what is available. Also the local Y.W.C.A. might be a help on this score.

Another possibility of being a wage earner, without losing track of your children, after the 4-year-old starts school next year, is to get a job in the school cafeteria.

Or you might set yourself up in business as a baby sitter in your own bailiwick, taking care of small fry during specified afternoon and evening hours, provided neighbors wish to park their pre-school-age children with you, while they run errands.

It shouldn't be a haphazard arrangement, but defined: for example, minimum service, 2 hours at 75 cents per hour, or $1.50, even if the child is parked with you for less time.

You might designate certain hours for this service: say, 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, plus Tuesday and Saturday evenings, from 7 to 11 p.m., with priority given to regular clients. And with maximum enrollment never to exceed, say, x-number of children for any one period.

You won't get rich by these efforts, of course; but they are ways of putting your energies to use, hence overcoming the frustration that frets you now. To exercise the talents you have is the surest way of overtaking larger opportunities. As a Chinese proverb tells us: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." M. H.

Mary Haworth counsels through her column, not by mail or personal interview. Write her in care of The Guardian.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

St. Alexis CWL Council Hold 1962 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the St. Alexis parish council of the Catholic Women's League was held on April 1 in the chapel of the St. Alexis Church.

The meeting was chaired by the president, Mrs. Edwin Peters. The minutes were read by the recording secretary, Mrs. Henry Peters: and the financial statement for the year was given by the treasurer, Mrs. George Christian. The financail report showed a succesful year for the group.

Correspondence was read and discussed.

The following slate of officers were presented to the meeting for the year 1962-63: president, Mrs. Bert Mullaly; first vice-president, Mrs. John E. Chasion; second vice-president, Mrs. Robert White; third vice-president, Mrs. Felix Peters; recording secretary, Mrs. Edwin Peters; coresponding secretary, Mrs. Eugene McAulay; treasurer, Mrs. George Christian (re-elected).

Rev. W.A. Keefe addressed the meeting congratulating the new officers.

WHIM ROAD W. I.

It was decided that Mrs. Edwin Peters would be made honorary president of the council.

It was decided that Mrs. Ed-

The Whim Road WI met at the home of Mrs. Lawrence Stuart for their April meeting. Mrs. Richard Campbell presided.

The correspondence was read and discussed and a penny sale was put on by Mrs. Russel Hickeen and won by Mrs. Freeman Millar.

Mrs. Richard Campbell put on the program, which was won by Mrs. Leslie Stewart and a social hour followed.

PROMOTED COMMODORE

OTTAWA (CP)—Capt. S. M. Davis ofOttawa and Montreal, director - general ships for the Royal Canadian Navy, has been promoted to commodore, it was announced Wednesday. Commodorg Davis, 43, was damage control officer aboard the British battleship Rodney when it took part in the sinking of the German battleship Bismarck in May, 1941.

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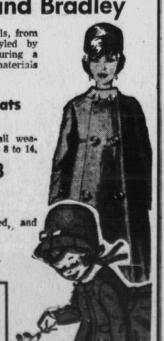

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