ACROSS THE ISLAND

Tales Of 'The Occult' Heard In Cape Bear

By Neil A. Matheson
Provincial-Farm Editor

SOME UNUSUAL events of the past were recalled by Mrs. Dave White at Cape Bear when I called on her a few weeks ago. The former Bella Dutney who was born at Peter's Road, told me her grandfather, John MacDonald, and father, Charles A. Dutney, were coming home from Beach Point one night in a horse-drawn cart when they approached a spot close to Murray River where a stream ran across the road.

"Dad said to Grandpa 'Look, what's that?' as both of them saw a woman standing by the side of the road with a baby in her arms. The horse stopped in his tracks as soon as he saw the strange looking pair. My grandfather asked the woman who she was and what she wanted, but she kept her silence.

"Finally a third man in the cart spoke up roughly. 'Speak woman, or get to H--- out of here.' With that the woman disappeared and they never saw her again". That would be about 90 years ago, Mrs. White told me, as she was a baby at the time and she is now in her 82nd year.

MRS. WHITE has had interesting experiences herself, I found as our talk continued. "Once when I was 18", she told me, "I was working at Albert Prowse's place in Murray Harbour and started to walk to Murray River well after dark.

"Just as I reached the Wood Islands road a man came out onto the road. He was wearing an old fashioned pea jacket, and I said 'good night', but he didn't answer."

Mrs. White explained that the man walked along with her for more than a mile. "He walked on one wheel track and I walked in the other. He never spoke and as he turned on to another road, he failed to answer my 'good night'. A minute later she looked and the man was not visible.

'Has Never Spoken To Anyone'

WHEN SHE got home, she told her story and Walter Corney, who was at her place, said, "I met that man many times. He has never spoken to anyone yet."

The old story handed down is that the man had come from Cape Breton to teach school at Murray River. He had been found dead on the road in the vicinity, and his ghost was seen many times in the years that followed, I was told.

The talk changed to forerunners, things that were seen that usually presaged a death in the family, or to some close neighbour or friend.

Yes, Mrs. White had one of those experiences. Most unusual, she saw the forerunner along with her husband, though it was his death it was forecasting.

THEY WERE sitting in their living room one night in late autumn and he called suddenly, "come to the window and see this". Looking out she saw a blue light, about the size of a normal candle light, burning perhaps 6 inches from the ground.

Mrs. White was never nervous, and always investigated any unusual things she saw. So she told her husband she was going out to see what it was. Dave White was a nervous man, and he tried to persuade her not to go. However Mrs. White went out, saw the blue flame and knew it was a forerunner of something that was going to happen. But, of course, she did not know whom it would affect, certainly not her husband she thought at the time

Knowing that Mr. White was nervous she saw an empty can in the yard close to the house, and she kicked it fairly hard so that the noise could be heard in the house.

Coffin Placed At Exact Spot

WHEN SHE entered she succeeded in convincing Dave that "the light" they had seen was nothing more than the light from the window shining on the can.

Mr. White died the following February—it was in 1941—and, she told me, the house was kept very warm with the fires burning bright, so that it became unusually hot in the room where the remains were laid out in the coffin.

It was decided to carry the coffin outside in the cold weather, to halt any suggested process of decomposition of the body. And the coffin was laid carefully on pieces of lumber in the same place where the late Mr. White and Mrs. White had seen the eerie blue flame burning, though none of the people who placed the casket on the spot had been told anything about the eerie experience.

Lime Trees, Wood Carving Seen

I RAN OUT of space last week on the story of Inkerman House. I wanted to tell you about the two rows of Lime trees Col. Gray planted for his residence to North River Road. They are still beautiful and imposing, and it is hoped the city of Charlottetown, which has taken over a portion of the lane, will take appropriate measures to preserve the trees for future generations.

A Lime tree on the Lawson lawn is interesting in itself. The tree forked into two main trunks about four feet from the ground, and the two split apart in a storm many years ago. But Mrs. Lawson's people—they owned the Boyle tannery then—moved an able body of their employees to the spot, straightened up the two trunks, brought them together again, did appropriate repair work on the tree, and tied the two trunks together with a strong chain.

The chain is still there, though the tree itself has grown around it, and the beautiful old Lime adds much to the attractiveness of the Inkerman House lawn.

MR. LAWSON has some unusually interesting pieces of wood sculpture on the lawn and in Inkerman House. I know that "carving" is the term usually applied to wood, but many of Jock's pieces are so finely done they give the impression of sculpture.

Several of the female figures have a delightfully naughty appearance, and the work shows the tremendous patience and attention to detail that marks the really devoted student of the arts and crafts.

Jock has achieved an almost unbelievable reality with many of his pieces. An alligator on the lawn—it's carved from Lime wood—makes the visitor shudder at first glance. It's that realistic.

Mr. Lawson has also achieved some realistic results with driftwood he has gathered in various localities. Some of the pieces are realistic in themselves, but others have been approved by the Lawson eye for detail.

Inkerman House is an interesting historic spot with a great deal of natural beauty. The Lawsons have added considerably to its attractive appeal.

P.E.I. Folksongs' Books

"LARRY GORMAN, the man who made the Songs" is a title of a book that came to my desk a few days ago, and it carries many of the folk songs written by Larry Gorman who was known, apparently, all over the Maritimes and also in the Maine lumberwoods. It's from the Ryerson Press Toronto and is the work of Edward D. Ives.

The homely songs of Mr. Gorman are known to many Islanders, also some of the many tales told about him. I like one on page 83 of the Book. It comes from Maine:—

"They said that Larry Gorman was hurt so bad he couldn't live . . .

I don't know whether it was the next winter or two or three years later . . .

I went down the street one day and I met Larry Gorman right on the bridge in Ellsworth (That's where he had been said to have been fatally injured) and you don't know what a feeling came over me. I had thought he was dead.

If I hadn't been so scared of water I guess I'd have jumped right into the river."

BUT HERE'S a different version of an accident to Gorman on the railroad. Larry was the only man injured in a train wreck, and "he was pulled from the wreck in great distress. for weeks he hobbled about, until a cash settlement was arranged with the railway. After that Larry Gorman improved with amazing rapility."

There are many interesting yarns about the man. But even more interesting are some of the folk song reactions to things he had seen and heard in his travels, and some of them are based on P.E.I.

AND SPEAKING of folksongs reminds me that a booklet "Twenty-one Folksongs from Prince Edward Island" comes to my desk via the Northeast Folklore Society" and again the editor is Edward D. Ives, who collected the songs during brief visits to the Island in 1957, 1958 and 1963.

The settings are in Western Prince for the most part. Mumlnegash, Victoria West and Burton are some of the localities mentioned.

BEDEQUE

Mr and Mrs. Wendell Myers, Carleton, spent the weekend in Sheet Harbor, N.S. as guests of Mr. Myer's aunt, Mrs. Ralph B. MacCaull and Rev. MacCaull.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Murray have returned from a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Davis Murray, Halifax.

Mrs. Edwin MacFarlane has returned home from the Prince County Hospital where she spent several days undergoing treatment.

Mrs Douglas MacFarlane, Fernwood, recently entered into full Canadian Citizenship. She was a former resident of the United States.

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

Importance Of Agriculture Has Declined Since 1867

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR

Wednesday was a day commemorating our 97th birthday of nationhood. In the space of human history 97 years is not a long time. The Romans were in Britain for nearly 450 years and that story is covered in most histories in a few pages.

The period under consideration has seen Canada change from a pioneer nation concerned almost solely with farming, trapping and lumbering to one with quite a wide variety of industry and now just appearing to generate some real economic strength.

Relatively agriculture is of much less importance than was the case in 1867. True it is a much larger industry and makes a much greater contribution to the total economy but fewer and fewer people are gaining their livelihood directly from it.

It is not easy to imagine what the next 97 years will produce in the way of change but it is likely that increased urbanization and much increased population will provide a basis for a much more highly organized agriculture with increased investment and requiring a more businesslike approach.

The day of the subsistence farm appears to be about over. Fewer people will be satisfied to spend their days obtaining the bare necessities of life when there are employment opportunities and ones for improved living standards.

Canada is a young nation and in point of population it isn't a large one but it is a young giant just beginning to get organized and great things appear to be in store for it and its people.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

While many matters of importance must have been considered in Wolfville at the annual meeting of the FWIC perhaps the one of particular note for this province is that an Island lady became president of what is probably Canada's most important woman's organization. To hold this office is a very great compliment to the person involved but it is, in addition, a compliment to the organization in this province and indeed to all our rural women. The recognition for National President of a former President in this province is good indication of the quality of leadership which Island women have had available.

A second matter of prime interest was the strong stand taken at the convention on the necessity for increased effort in all provinces in providing farm and rural education.

A resolution calling for special attention under vocational training for agriculture was passed and each provincial organization asked to pursue this matter with the proper authorities. In this connection the women can count on every support from the Federation of Agriculture which up to the present time appears to be the lone voice crying in the wilderness.

WEATHER AND CROPPING

We have now completed the first half of 1964 and weatherwise it has generally been neither easy or pleasant. Of course, the first four months can never be expected to be tropical in nature, but even May and June have almost qualified as winter months.

True the days have been longer, but cool temperature, high winds and frequent rain have made the last 60 days anything but a paradise. While it is difficult and probably foolish to make predictions on the weather it should logically be expected that the next six months will probably have less winter and that July and August at least should be free from frost.

The longest day of the year has now passed and we are once again verging towards the winter and Christmas. In a sense this continued rotation from season to season year after year seems to occur with almost tiresome regularity. Long days, short nights, short days, long nights but there is an answer to that if living on the equator can be considered acceptable.

CROP REPORT

The first crop of the year if we don't consider pasture is now about ready for harvesting either in the form of silage or as hay. Cool weather is holding back maturity of both clovers and grasses but the foundation is there for a bumper crop. Grain, which thrives on cool weather, has generally a very promising appearance and will likely end up in a satisfactory crop. A good start seems to mean a great deal with grain.

Potatoes are now beginning to appear in the rows but it is too soon to express opinions on this crop. For those who make a policy of waiting for the weather to settle before haying gets underway, we would point out that early cut hay even if rained on is much superior to that cut much later and cured under better conditions.

FREIGHT ASSISTANCE

For the year ending July 31, 1962 under the Freight Assistance Policy for Western grain some 22,633 tons came into the province. Of the total over 9,000 tons were mill feeds, over 7,000 tons were barley, almost 4,000 tons wheat, slightly over 1,000 tons of oats and under 1,000 tons of screenings.

The amount paid in freight assistance was $316,207.00. The total for all Canada was slightly over 15 million with Quebec getting almost half of the total amount. The importance of this policy to Nova Scotia is borne out by the $1,800,000 paid in assistance, actually just slightly over a million dollars less than the Ontario figure. Of all provinces P.E.I. seems to be the most nearly self-sufficient.

ROADSIDE APPEARANCE

One area of endeavour which could make a tremendous improvement in the appearance of the province and its farms would be that of roadside improvement. We have noted where a number of communities have had an active campaign and the results are certainly dramatic. Good fences with painted posts and good gateways certainly set a farm off.

Ford

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Winners of Last Year's Top Honor

Victory last year by Baltic Lot 18 Women's Institute is being recognized through a handsome permanent plaque, to be retained, in addition to a cash award and recognition on the large Annual Public Service Trophy. Members of the winning group shown here, left to right, are: Mrs. James Bearisto, Mrs. Bruce Riley, Mrs. Bruce Crozier and Mrs. William Burns.

Good News for Good Cooks

This is a message to some of the best friends good eating ever had—to contributors to former Annual Cook Book Editions of The Guardian and The Evening Patriot.

Many of you have told us you were given too short notice of the contest in connection with entries for this year's edition—that not enough time was allowed to gather together the recipes you consider most suitable for publication.

Well, we still want those recipes. They make too important a contribution to the reputation of P.E.I. as the "good-eating province" to be missed.

So the deadline is being extended until July 11th.

Top Honor To Be Paid

At stake, and still waiting to be won, is one of the provinces top honors—recognition on the handsome Public Service Trophy awarded each year to the women's group, usually a Women's Institute, which sends in the most recipes. Accompanying this is a cash prize of $20. A permanent plaque, to be retained, also will be presented.

There are further prizes of $10 in each case for the individual sending in the most recipes; for the best seafood recipe; and for the best recipe from a teen-ager.

It's like winning a place in the "Hall of Fame" to capture any of these awards, for pictures of winners are featured in the Annual Cook Book Edition, which is the most popular single publication of each year in thousands of Island homes and elsewhere in Canada.

Open Doors to Hall of Fame

Most Island women, of course, are familiar with the rules of this contest—scarcely need any reminders. Anyway, they're simple. The doors are wide-open to this "Hall of Fame".

Any recipe, in any classification, is eligible so long as it is being used successfully in the home of the person submitting it. Each recipe should be signed by the individual supplying it. When recipes come from a group, each recipe also should bear the name of the organization.

And please write on only one side of each sheet of paper used.

Here Are Three Bonuses and Extra Fun

Just to speed things up and add to the fun, three bonuses of $10 each are now offered in addition to the other awards. They will be paid to the first person or organization from each of the three counties—Prince, Queens and Kings—sending in a group of 40 or more recipes to reach The Guardian-Patriot following appearance of this notice.

Address Cook Book Editor, The Guardian-Patriot

All Entries Must Be Received By 6 P.M., July 11.