

Greetings To Farmer, Readers, Meeting Scheduled For January

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR, letter on Thursday this would As the schedule provides for appear to be the appropriate appearance of this news-item to extend greetings and

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Man's Stories Heard Are Unexplainable

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Preston-Park Editor

I talked with just about everyone on the second floor of the P.E.I. hospital while I was there—I did a lot of visiting after the first few days, as I wasn't really sick anymore—and it was inevitable that I should run into at least one unusual tale.

Mrs. Dorothy Porter, Charlottetown, told me that she was sitting in her living room one night—it was about the first of the month—when the floor lamp beside her started to rock and shake. She was frightened at the time, she explained, then she saw her grandson had attached a string to it, and was playing tricks on her.

When she checked with the boy later, though, she found there had been no string there. It was doing the rocking and shaking all by itself. It sounds like a forerunner story and I asked Mrs. Porter if anyone belonging to her died shortly afterward. Nothing happened, she said, but she did like a heart attack two days afterwards, she recalled. And that could be what the forerunner was all about.

Spike In Grave Held Him Down

IT WAS E. S. (Ted) Chandler of Charlottetown who told me about the bunch of Prince of Wales College boys who were boarding in the Longshore Avenue area some years ago. Several of them challenged or dared one of the group to go to the old cemetery nearby and drive a spike into the ground over a certain grave. When they had done this, they would be forgiven, but proceeded in the direction of the grave, while the others waited outside.

After a long time—at least it seemed long to the anxious chaps waiting for their pal to return—they decided that they had better investigate, and learn what had happened to the chap who was driving the spike. When they found him he was lying on the grave in a dead faint. And here's what happened.

The boys threw the spike into the ground, they found that something was holding him down as he tried to rise and leave the spot. If you remember that he was in an old cemetery at midnight, the time legends say, the spirit of all who were buried will understand the shock he received. When they investigated they found that he had driven the spike through the ground down—the boys were in night attire—and that's why he felt something was holding him to the surface of the grave when he tried to rise.

Crippled Tailor Beat Him Home

JOHN MACLEOD, South Granville, told me an interesting tale of the long ago that also concerns a graveyard. Tailors went from house to house in the old days and they fashioned men's suits and other clothing from the homespun cloth that the women were in the old times.

This particular tailor was crippled. He hadn't walked for many years. Indeed he had to be carried from one place to another. One night a group of neighbors were visiting his home for that period, and the talk got around to cemeteries and their spooky, ghastly effect at the midnight hour. The tailor was laughing at their fears and suggesting there was nothing more ghostly or scary about a cemetery at midnight, than there was in broad daylight.

Finally the men challenged him to go to the cemetery at midnight. He had the excuse that he couldn't go because he couldn't walk. But one of the men who was big and powerful said "I'll carry you there" and that's exactly what happened.

THEY CARRIED him well fenced as many cemeteries were, and a couple of them were stealing sheep from a nearby pasture field corner and putting them in the old cemetery until they had them all rounded up. Then they would divide them evenly and take them away, the old story relates.

When the man carrying the tailor reached the cemetery fence he lifted him over it and said "here you go" as he lowered him to the ground on the other side. Thinking it was his companion, they brought another sheep, the man on the inside of the fence said "it's in it!" It startled the man on the inside of the fence, and he threw the sheep to the ground and put for home—it was about one half mile away—as fast as his legs would carry him.

But here's the best part of the old yarn. When the man reached his house the tailor, who hadn't walked for years, was home ahead of him. He had suddenly regained his ability to run. Indeed he must have ran mighty fast, for the man who had been carrying him was moving fairly rapidly himself.

Syringe Fills Cartridge Pens

THIS STORY concerns my daughter Betty Carol, and her pal, Irene MacLeod with whom she shares a room in a home at Kingston. They are students at Queen University. Irene is a daughter of John MacLeod who told me the story of the tailor.

The girls are taking an advanced chemistry course and they have an unusually large amount of writing to do, with term papers, essays and the like. Both girls were using cartridge fountain pens and Betty Carol was complaining one night that a cartridge—it costs about 10 cents—lasted only one day, and sometimes less, when they were doing an unusually large amount of writing.

Looking at the tiny hole in the end of the cartridge through which the ink was released in the pen, Betty Carol suggested it would be just fine if there was some way of refilling the cartridge with ink, through that hole.

Irene, a junior officer in the Navy, went to a parade next night and what do you know? She came back with a hypodermic syringe which the girls used to refill the cartridges. That way they could do down on the coast, observe the two Scotch lassies, and Betty Carol had no need for another cartridge. The syringe she procured in Kingston is made of glass, and a little bit of the ink sticks to it, so some is wasted. Since she came home she has procured some more of the same system. But she says to you, she tells me, so she will save that much more as they refill their cartridge pens when they return.

Boy Sees Vision At Foot Of Bed

GARFIELD ROBERTS, High Bank told me an unusual story about a brother who saw a girl at the foot of his bed one night, a vision he was still a child in his early teens. The girl came around the end of the bed, passed up alongside of him and passed noticeably through a window near the head of his bed.

I still most impress the fact that young Roberts' I cannot recall his first name as I write this—went to Boston when he was a young man, where he met the girl in the most commonplace way he for a time. They were never married, though. The girl died while she was still a young lady, and Mr. Roberts died a bachelor. Whether that had anything to do with his earlier associations with the girl he had seen in his room years previously, is something that Garfield was unable to tell me.

One Letter Came From Austria

ONE OF the many people across the province who wrote to me while I was in hospital recently, asked did you get as many cards and letters as did Mrs. John Spencer? She's the lady who was so horribly beaten by two characters.

I said at the time I first wrote about her that she had received 350 messages. Since then she has been getting perhaps 12 cards or letters per day, so the number continues to grow. It would be difficult to estimate what it is now.

The letters come from all over the island and some from outside the province. One came from as far as Austria. It was from a lady who was born in Charlottetown.

Mrs. Spencer is fighting her battle for recovery with the same courage she has shown throughout her lifetime. She walks in the corridor with the aid of a walker, or crutches, but she still is very sane, and apparently there is a long way to go yet.

Special Greetings At Christmas

I KNOW that for many of you Christmas cannot be merry, because of sadness that has come to your homes. But my earnest wish for all of you is that this Christmas season will be as happy as it is possible. The circumstances that have made so many people I have met on my trips "across the island", also my friends and the people with whom I have the pleasure of working.

To all of you my very best wishes of this time, and the rest of you will pardon me, but I feel especially warm greetings to my friends in the hospital—also to those in hospital everywhere. It's a good place to go when one is sick, but it does seem that I have missed Christmas.

At week the Federation directors in this province will meet together to make plans for their own provincial annual meeting. Similarly the directors of the Dairyman's Association will be meeting next week to plan for a representation in Regina and setting a date tentatively for their own annual meeting later in the winter.

DAIRY POWER PLAY

Retrospective to October and for the balance of the winter the province of Quebec is undertaking to subsidize milk production in that province (excluding fluid milk producers) to the extent of 10 cents per pound butterfat. This means roughly 35 cents per hundred on milk and is a step towards what appears to be a very good prospect next summer for manufacturing milk being in the \$1.50 range. This move by Quebec has some rather interesting aspects from the standpoint of existing pressure not only on the Federal Government but also indirectly on Ontario as well. We can forecast the Federal Government being expected to pick up the tab at the beginning of the new dairy year on May 1.

ARDA POLICY

At the Outlook Conference in November the major part of the CFA brief was devoted to presenting views on the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Program in view of the fact that the Federal and provincial governments are currently negotiating new five-year agreements under the ARDA legislation.

The ARDA program is designed to speed up the process of resource adjustment and to assist rural people to obtain a higher standard of living. The Federal Government has agreed to invest in the ARDA program more than \$200 million over the next five years, two basic requirements must be met. First, more effective ways must be developed to get the program to individual farmers. In each province, there must be in place a series of policies developed that are designed to assist in the construction of a more definite, constructive program in relation to the need.

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In addition, to being a progressive farmer, Vicary possesses a strong sense of responsibility towards his community, serving as an elder of his church, as a school trustee, and as a director of local fair board. He is 35 years of age, married with four children.

January is now the month of meetings for a great number of farm organizations. This year both the Dairy Farmers of Canada and the Federation of Agriculture are meeting in Regina. The Dairy Farmers opens on Jan. 19 and a week later the CFA meeting gets underway.

On Jan. 21 the Eastern branch of the CFA known as the Eastern Conference meets in Toronto on the twenty-first. To get back to more local activities the Maritime Federation of Agriculture meets in Moncton on Jan. 8 and the P.E.I. Committee of the CFA in Ottawa on the fourth.

Canadian Moscow Embassy Plans Traditional Christmas

MOSCOW (CP)—Members of the Canadian embassy staff here will celebrate Christmas in the time-honored manner. The festive occasion will be marked by turkey dinners—turkeys flown in from Western Europe—in residences decorated by lighted Christmas trees. Those having dinner at home have invited other members of the staff as their guests. All the Canadians have thus been provided for.

Some staff members will be away from Moscow on leave. At least four will spend the holiday season in Western Europe while two girls have gone to Canada for their vacations. Ambassador Robert Fort and his wife plan to spend Christmas quietly at home in the embassy residence, going to the performance of the Bolshoi Ballet in the evening.

HAD CHILDREN'S PARTY
Before Christmas, the Forde entertained embassy personnel at a Christmas party and also had a party for children of embassy personnel.

A number of embassy personnel plan to attend Christmas Eve church services. Roman Catholic and Protestant services are scheduled at different West End churches.

Christmas is not observed by the atheistic Soviet state. However, U.S. AID'S E. GERMANY

BOON (AP) — The United States has approved the use of American know-how to build a synthetic fiber plant in East Germany. Karl Guenther Von Haase, West German government spokesman, said that if the United States is not giving the Communist East German government any credits and that if no government guarantee could be regarded as a private transaction.

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even been an arm of Santa Claus — called Father Frost—who dresses in a red suit and brings presents to good Soviet children.

The Russian Orthodox church celebrates Christmas in early January.

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GEORGETOWN (AP)—Prime Minister Forde has completed the formation of his cabinet. The five ministers are Peter Daiguar, finance; Randolph Cheska, local government; and Mohammed Kassim, works and hydraulics—all United Force members; and Robert Jordan, lands, forests and mines; and Devoor Maraj, minister without portfolio with special responsibility for foreign affairs.

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18 The Guardian, Charlottetown, Thurs., Dec. 24, 1964.

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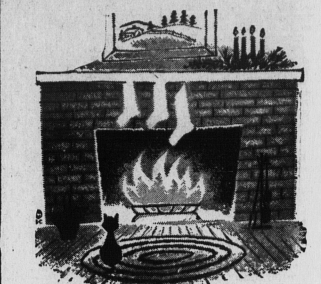
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Good Wishes For Christmas

'Tis the season when we pause to say "Thanks" to you, our friends, for our pleasant association during this past year. Merry Christmas!

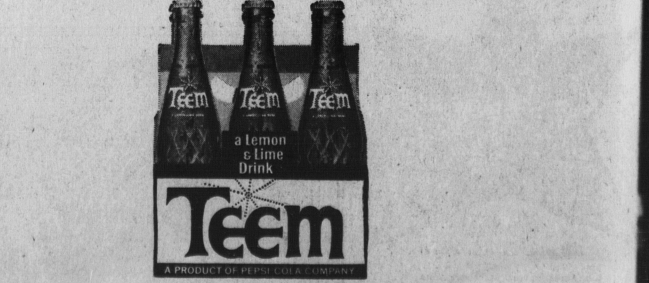
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