

NHL'S CRAFTIEST — Mill Schmidt, 35-year-old Boston Bruin centre, is rated the craftiest veteran in the National Hockey League. He received a one-vote margin over Elmer Lach of Mon-

Exit Tony Blount

by Sydney Parkman
CHAPTER VI
Continued

Among the wider areas of woodland, matters were easier, but even here he had to take every possible precaution, and though he was able to walk upright and in the shade, he was constantly pausing to look round him and listen for any sound that might indicate the presence of a patrol.

All was deadly still, however. The hot windless air brought no sound of any kind, and he went forward again, each time with the sensation of having been relieved for the moment.

It must have taken him a good two hours before he came upon the first indication of moisture underfoot that told him he was approaching the coastal swamps, and he greeted the discovery with a heartfelt sigh of relief. However difficult it was going to be among the mangroves, it could not be worse than the area he had already covered, and at least he would be able to relax something of his vigilance. He realised now that he would have been wiser to make for them in the first place, as his informant had advised; but the hope of making quicker progress had decided him against it — to his cost.

As the ground became more soft and marshy, the nature of the vegetation changed completely. Casuarina, acacia and wild rubber trees gave place to the first gnarled columns of old mangroves, and the rank fern-growth dwindled down and finally ceased altogether. Reeds, tussocks of coarse grass, and thick pads of moss grew in the spongy soil, and presently green scummy pools began to appear everywhere.

He made his best speed across this intermediate and coverless tract, where he could have been seen with fatal ease, and plunged in among the increasingly dense growth of mangroves. With each step the ground became more marshy, and presently he was wading inches deep in soft mud, covered with a carpet of grey-green moss.

The going became increasingly difficult as the mud deepened, but now he was well in among the many columned trees, he felt that he could move without circumspection, and for the first time he ceased to look apprehensively about him and made the best of his way towards the coast.

He was now in perpetual shade, for the crowded tree tops formed a dense unbroken canopy for miles, but owing to the entire absence of undergrowth, there was no difficulty in picking a way among the trunks. Only the ground grew more and more difficult under foot, and presently he was faced with the necessity of wading through narrow salt water creeks which wound in all directions.

Burdened with the heavy keg, it was no easy matter to keep his footing when negotiating these channels, for the banks were frequently steep and always slippery with ooze, and on one occasion he was compelled to wade back along one of these waterways for some considerable distance before he could find a place where he could scramble out of it.

It was well after mid-day when he caught his first glimpse of the sea and he lowered his burden into the mud at his feet and stared at it between the intervening tree trunks with longing eyes.

It lay blue and sparkling in the sunshine, with the little foam-caps flicking its surface. A fresh south-easterly breeze was blowing outside, and even where he stood among the slime and ooze of an amphibian world, it brought a tang of healthy air. The stagnant water of the winding channel he was just about to cross was faintly stirring in sluggish response to impulses transmitted from its seaward end, and as he leaned wearily against a moss-grown trunk he felt a certain lightening of spirit and hope that the worst of the ordeal was over.

It was a premature hope and wholly without foundation, however, for in many ways the worst was still to come.

Now that he was within sight of the sea, he turned northward

and began to follow the coastline; and there the real difficulty began, for he found that the creeks and channels formed an intricate network among the mangroves which kept him floundering in and out of the water the entire time. Frequently they were only separated by three or four yards of relatively dry land, and during the entire course of that hideous journey he never once found himself able to traverse fifty yards without encountering one of them.

Time and again he missed his footing through sheer weariness and came down heavily, and though the soft mud prevented him from injuring himself, he became so plastered with it as to be almost unrecognisable.

It was useless to think of edging further inland to avoid the worst of these obstacles, for only by keeping the coast in sight could he be sure that he was heading in the right direction. In the bewildering maze of creeks and mangroves, it would have been fatally easy to wander round in circles without knowing it, and in this eternal shadow it was impossible to take bearings by the sun even if he knew the time within an hour or so.

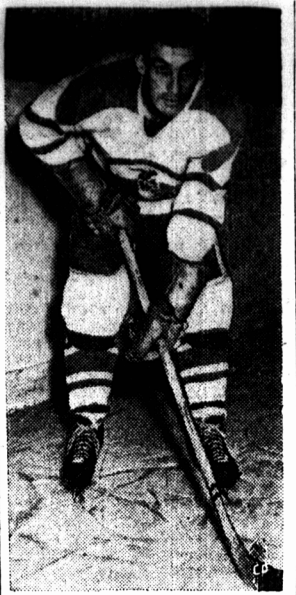
It was equally impossible to gauge distance, and though the dying man had stated that the boat lay five or six kilometres north of the spot where he had struck the coast, it was unlikely that he had any real conception of the distance he had covered. It could only be estimated in terms of time taken — and he had had no means of determining that.

Markets At A Glance

(By The Canadian Press)
Toronto — Industrials decline.
Montreal — Industrials slip.
New York — Peace talk drops market.

Canadian Dollar

MONTREAL, (CP) — The U.S. dollar Monday closed at a dis-



SCORES 300 GOALS — George (Sonny) Agar, 33, has reached the small, select group of players who have scored 300 goals in professional hockey. The centre for Calgary Stampede of the Western Hockey League broke into the money ranks in 1939 and has played all his hockey in minor leagues. He won the scoring championship in the Coast Hockey League last season and the 1947-48 title while with Houston of the old United States League. Maurice Richard of the National Hockey League and Wingy Johnston of the Tacoma Rockets of the WHL are the others in the 300-goal circle among still active players. (CP Photo)

count of 1 1/2 per cent in terms of Canadian funds, off 1/32. It took 93 1/2 cents Canadian to buy \$1 American. Pound sterling \$2.76 1/4, down 1/4.

J.A. Clark Rink Won S'ide Curling Club Championship

The Tip Top Tailor trophy, emblematic of the club championship, was decided on Friday night at the Summerside Curling Rink when the rink skipped by J. Arthur Clark defeated the rink skipped by Austin Brooks by a score of 8 to 7. The games were closely contested all the way as in the semi-finals. Austin Brooks defeated Elmer Offer 11-10 after being tied on the seventh end, and Jack Clark defeated Ralph Bishop 8-7, an extra end being played to decide the winner.

The foursome of the winning rink were, J. Arthur Clark, skip, J. E. Morrison, James MacGregor, and E. M. Smith, lead, while the runners up were Austin Brooks, skip, Albert Silliphant, Brent Clark, and Fred L. Arsenault, lead.

The first "mates" competition of the Summerside Ladies Curling Club was won by Eileen Gordon, skip, Fran Henthorn, mate, Ruth Horne, second, with a spare lead. The second was won by Dot Ellis, skip, Dot Clark, mate, Helen Marks second, and Olive Brennan, lead. The winner of the spoon competition was Betty Linkletter, skip; Sally Basler, mate; Doris Morrison, second; and Emma Holman, lead. The runners up were, Marion Smallman, skip; Rita Silliphant, mate; Elizabeth MacDonald, second; and Dot Clark, lead. — S.

Thorpe's Medals Still In Hands Of 2nd Place Winners

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Eggs: Free cases, extra large 57; large 56; medium 55; small 53; B 48-50; C 45. Receipts: 152 cases.

Butter: Storage 62 1/4; wholesale 62 1/4; current receipts Que 62; first grade creamery prints job price 62-63. Receipts, nil.

Cheese: Ontario white 30; colored 30 1/2; f.o.b. factory; Quebec white 30, colored 30 1/2; f.o.b. Montreal; wholesale Ontario white 31 1/4; colored 31 1/4; wholesale Quebec white 30 1/2; Quebec 31. Receipts, nil.

No. 1 potatoes, small wholesale lots N.B., 75s 1.63-1.75; N.B., 50s 1.10-1.15; N.B., 10s 26-28; P.E.I., 75s 1.80-1.90; Maine, 50s 1.10-1.20; Florida red, 50s 2.75.

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