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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Men With Initiative Provide Real Kick

By NEIL A. MATHESON

AS READERS must have learned long since, I get a real kick out of seeing Islanders with initiative enough to build up new and profitable businesses or industries.

I talked several years ago about Carl Profitt, a courageous man who lives at Profitt's Corner – that's about five miles east of Tignish on the Western Road – and has triumphed over a crippling physical accident that would have left many men mired in despair.

The side of a building fell on Carl and left him without the use of his legs. His ailment went much farther than that but I'll pass it off here by saying the accident confined Mr. Profitt to a wheel chair.

He started a service station business – members of his family attend the pumps – then he started to manufacture colorful and attractive items from scallop shells.

The first attempts were showing a touch of amateurism here and there, but a recent visit to Carl's establishment left me delighted with the type, the quality and the variety of items that he has for this season's tourist visitors.

I lost the notes I made on the back of an envelope but I recall some of the many items he has. A beautiful wall electric clock is set into an attractively designed background of scallop shells. If you don't think these shells are attractive you have never seen them when Carl gets through cleaning them and bringing out their natural color.

There are baskets, small and large; there are attractive scallop shell arrangements that hang on the wall, with electric lights arranged behind them so they will bring out the beauty of the shells.

There are a dozen and more other ideas which Carl has fashioned and arranged to catch the eye. A ball point pen set with a scallop shell for the base is one of them.

The man has also designed a tourist home that's shaped exactly like a scallop shell. The guest rooms, and service rooms are around the perimeter of the building. The central space - it's also scallop-shaped by the way – is for dining. This man keeps me wondering what he'll have added to his collection next time I visit him.

Maple Tree Crafts

HERB LEAVITT'S Maple Tree Crafts at Alberton is so well known now he needs no introduction. But I never stop getting a thrill out of looking at the rough slices of Bird's Eye Maple logs which Herb and his craftsmen start with, and follow them through the process until they emerge as some of the most attractive pieces one could find in a day's travel.

Mr. Leavitt's located now in a fine new building which gives him the scope to display his finished products for the visitors, as well as the necessary room to store his raw material, and house the numerous bits of equipment that are used.

The Leavitt products are internationally known. In a later column I'd like to tell you the interesting story of how Herb Leavitt got the idea of becoming a wood craftsman.

Polished Stones Attractive

ALMOST ACROSS the street is Evelyn (Mrs. William O'Brien) where stones are polished and set into mountings that become most attractive jewelry items, and are sold to the many markets that have become available.

Stones from many parts of the world are used in this business. This interesting studio is open for visitors to see for themselves the designs and the mounting process.

As I've said the stones come from many countries of the world but I like the reference to the several Island stones that are used:

"The P.E.I. polished stones are truly a blend of the unique and picturesque qualities of Prince Edward Island. The white stone, a sparkle of the rising sun, and the muted brown-red ones a blend of the rich soil."

Considerably more than 12,000 pieces were sent out from this studio workshop last year, which indicates the success of this Island industry.

Lanrest Museum Visited

A SHORT DISTANCE away is Eileen (Mrs. William) Oulton's "Lanrest Museum". Mrs. Matheson and I spent several hours in this interesting museum back in the autumn of 1965. My intention had been to use the material during mid-summer of 1966. But Mrs. Matheson's severe illness last year caused me to forget Lanrest, I must admit with apology, and now I'm trying to recall a few of the many interesting ideas and old antiques Mrs. Oulton has worked into her show place.

The museum is set up in a series of period rooms, furnished as houses might be in the long ago. As I recall it the rooms include the front room, the living room, the kitchen and I believe a porch, though memory may be playing tricks on me there.

But memory doesn't play any tricks about the attractiveness of the display.

Mrs. Oulton's husband is the son of Robert Oulton, one of the pioneers of the fox industry here, and one can see Oulton's Island from the front door. To me at least that adds an interesting touch of history to Lanrest.

Oulton's Island is the spot where the first successful attempt was made to ranch and breed foxes in captivity. Charles Dalton – he was later Sir Charles Dalton and a one-time Lieutenant-Governor of this province – had previously attempted to breed foxes in farm buildings but with little success.

I must qualify these statements with the explanation that I have been told that was the case. The story, I believe, is generally accepted. One thing I do know, though, is that Eileen Oulton has an attractive display for visitors who come her way.

Cheap Watch Is Still Going

THIS ITEM is a bit different but it also comes from Alberton. Frank Weeks, Guardian bureau manager there, tells me Joseph A. Gaudet has a watch, a Westclox pocket Ben, which he bought at Myricks store in Tignish Shore for \$1.75 in 1936. It has given

continuous service without repairs, except for a new crystal – the old one was broken once when the watch fell on concrete.

After Mr. Gaudet had the watch for about 24 years, he showed it to a representative of the company, and the agent loaned him a new watch while he took the old one to the company for one month.

The new one stopped before the month was up. The old one is still keeping good time.

Charlottetown, Newfoundland

BYRON BURNS, Charlottetown jeweler showed me a postcard he received a few days ago with the picture from “Charlottetown, Newfoundland”.

I thought it was a mistake at first, but apparently there is a Charlottetown in Newfoundland for it is described as being close to Terra-Nova National Park.