

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., May 8, 1964

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Old Voyage Recalled 'Round Horn' In 1849

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Provincial - Farm Editor

A GROUP of Island men sailed the brig Fanny around the 'Horn' to the California gold rush area in 1849. One of them was Edward Bright Love who ran Love's tannery where the City building and Police Station now stand, and that gives me my main story for this week.

The Fanny, incidentally, was sold to them for 4,000 pounds, P.E.I. currency, by James Peake who was the greatgrandfather of G.G.K. (Bus) Peake and Arthur Peake, and the grandfather of the late Col. Arthur Peake whose widow, Mrs. Peake, tells me the Fanny was named for James Peake's daughter of that name who married Commodore Charles Leigh, Royal Navy, a man who built what is now the Stamper residence when he returned here with his wife on his retirement.

I got part of this story from Mrs. John MacLeod, North River Road who sent me a clipping from a Calgary paper on the Fanny trip, and I also talked with Herb Love, East Royalty and with Anna and Gertrude Love, Parkdale, all of them grandchildren of E.B. Love.

THE CALGARY clipping came as a result of a chance meeting in that city between Dr. J. Walker Love, a greatgrandson of E.B., and a Dr. MacGougan (initials unavailable) whose greatgrandfather, Malcolm Duncan MacGougan, was also on the Fanny. Dr. Love's father, J. E. Love, went to Calgary in 1905 and established a large business in hides and feeds, had the diary kept by his grandfather which he took West some years ago, and his son, Dr. Love, evidently was quoting from it for the Calgary story. I'll give you some items, most of which were unknown to the Love people I talked to here.

A company of 40 was formed, each man putting up 100 pounds to purchase the Fanny, which Mr. Peake said was "his luckiest and best-averaged sailing vessel, juniper-built, copper fastened and with two sets of sails."

Extensive preparations, the old diary said, included two large houses, "framed to take with us", tin for tinsmiths, iron and coal for the blacksmiths, tools for the tradesmen and 5,000 feet of pine boards. Food included a great quantity of "very stale, tasteless bread, plenty of inferior beef, pork, potatoes, butter, rice, tea, sugar, coffee, raisins, meal, lime juice, and two bottles of "so-called brandy."

There was an instrument for pulling teeth - there was no freezing of gums in those days - spears, harpoons, and hooks to catch dolphin and sharks.

They sailed on November 12. It was Sunday when they caught a shark a week or so later - the trip would take several months - and next day a violent storm made the more God-fearing wonder if it was punishment for fishing on Sunday.

Bahai Rotten With Yellow Fever

AT BAHAI, off Brazil, the Islanders went ashore looking for fruit and found the area so rotten with Yellow Fever they were tossing their dead into 20-foot pits and covering them with lime. Ships in the harbor were immobilized because so many crewmen had died.

The company arrangement was ended when they reached California and they sold the Fanny, an error because they then had no place to live, and 700 boats in the harbor were floating homes in the choked center of people who were caught by the gold mania. Worse still, when the Islanders told their "carpenter" to put up the houses they brought with them, he got another sort of gold fever and charged them \$12 a day for his work, which must have been good pay at that time. Cholera raged there, the old story states, and of the entire party only eight returned to the Island.

One of them was Ed B. Love who returned to his tannery business and another, the Love people told me this week, was John Henry Gates, grandfather of Fred Gates who lives in West Royalty. Readers may know of others but these are the only names I have at the moment.

THE LOVE tannery was moved to St. Avard's in 1866 and stood in the general area where Archer and MacDonald's furniture store is now located. For those who knew where Harold Clay established his home, it was located practically on top of the old tannery site. It was only a few days ago that a shack that used to be used for receiving the hides was moved from the property, Herb Love told me. There were three acres in all.

Tanning Was Slow Process

MR. LOVE started to work there as a boy and recalls that it took 11-12 months to get the finished leather from the time the hides were received. Then, he said, we'd ship them to the Amherst Boot and Shoe plant at Amherst and wait four months more for our money. Hemlock bark used in the tanning process was brought from Buctouche in schooner loads.

Mr. Wright is living in the old George Wright home which must be more than 150 years old, though he's not sure. The building, incidentally, is in modern home condition.

Puppy Is Greatest Salesman

NEIGHBOUR HAROLD MacKie observed to me several years ago that a little puppy is the world's greatest salesman, when he turns on the appeal for care, attention and affection. I thought of Harold's observation a few days ago when his grand niece, Maxine Henry, who is another neighbour, brought three beautiful Samoyed puppies to our home and they looked at first glance like three beautiful balls of fluffy white fur, each with two tiny black holes in the front of the head for eyes.

They are the first puppies from Bifty and Saska, and Maxine is excited about them as she is starting a kennel. The Samoyeds are northern dogs, and they were used first as sled dogs, so far as I can learn. The Samoyed people came from northern Russia.

Using this story about Maxine's kennel gives me an excuse to use one of the few non-Island items I have ever considered for this column. Mrs. Matheson and I were travelling in Maine one day with Mrs. Abney Peck - the former Florence MacPhail from the Kinlock Road near our present home, was a girlhood friend - when she said "and on your left is the Chinook kennel owned by Perry Green". The name rang a bell with me immediately for I had read a story in the Saturday Evening Post several years previously, about Perry and his dogs. Florence's uncle was the late Sir Andrew MacPhail, a native of Orwell.

So we stopped at the kennels, were introduced and enjoyed a most interesting chat with Perry and his wife, Honey.

THE CHINOOKS look as though they had Husky, or some other sled dog in them. They weigh 100 to 110 pounds. Their breeding has been a closely guarded secret down through the years. And the breed is owned and controlled, even monopolized by Perry Green and his wife. At least they were some four years ago, the last time I heard. I do not know whether both are alive now or not, for Perry was ill last I heard.

The Greens sold males but never sold a female unless she was spayed, so nobody else could breed the Chinook. What interested me in particular was the method Perry used to sell his dogs. Nobody could order a dog, the buyer had to come and be approved by Perry, and that meant being approved by his dogs. If the dogs didn't like you that was that.

Neighbours Are Also Particular

INCIDENTALLY MAXINE is also particular where her dogs go. The main idea is to get them a home where people will treat them kindly. Mrs. Sheldon Matheson at Tea Hill (no relation) told me the same thing a few years ago. Her Labrador Retrievers are available only to people who really like dogs.\

Hospital authorities at Damariscotta near Waldoboro, broke a long-standing rule which bars dogs from the building, when they allowed a Chinook into Perry's room - he was a patient a few years ago - so he could watch the animal's reaction to a prospective buyer.

Perry would select the dog he thought best suited the purchaser, who took what he got - the lowest asking price was \$350 - or else went home without a pup. If the dog did not react properly, the customer just went home.