

Alberton area offers many attractions for the visitor

By ALICE GREEN
 Prince Edward Island's floral emblem has lent its name to the more scenic of two highways which lead to western Prince Edward Island and passes Lady's Slipper Drive skirts the County. For many miles the through scenes of pastoral beauty where deep green foliage and fresh new growth in the fields are in sharp contrast with the rich red soil that is characteristic of Canada's Garden Province.
 Jacques Cartier is believed to be the first white visitor to set foot on Island soil when he landed at Kildare, in the extreme west of the province, while on his way to Quebec in 1534. He described it as "The fairest land 'tis possible to see," and Islanders at home and abroad agree with this explorer's appraisal. To the islander abroad and to his descendants "The Island" is always "home." Prince Edward Island is not only a place it is a way of life. Its atmosphere is restful and relaxing; its people are hospitable and kind.
 As a part of last year's Centennial celebration a reenactment of the landing of Cartier was carried out near Alberton with members of the Royal Canadian Navy and native Miemac Indians whose ancestors actually greeted Cartier participating in the dramatic performance. Nearby, on the outside shore, is a beautiful little park which bears the French explorer's name and last year there was erected in Alberton the Jacques Cartier Memorial Arena.
 In West Prince one is seldom beyond sight of water. Accommodation for visitors is available in tourist homes, in cottages, by rivers or outside shore, or at the Westerner Motel in Alberton.
 The buoyant salt water of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and of inland rivers is warm and ideal for swimming and on the sandy beaches there is privacy and comfort for sunbathing. Deep sea fishing is an attraction for many, while others prefer to angle for trout in one of the streams which abound in the area.
ONCE BUSY PORT
 In the early days of its history Alberton was a busy port with many schooners sailing in and out of its harbour carrying cargoes of farm produce, fish and lumber. It was also a shipbuilding centre and this industry has been revived at Alberton South where two boat shops turn out an excellent type of fishing boat as well as pleasure craft. Alberton South is an interesting fishing community a mile from the centre of town.
 Lansest Museum is a new centre of interest in Alberton this year. It was begun this spring by Mrs. W.R. Oulton who has devoted much time and energy to assembling household furnishings of an age that is rapidly disappearing and arranging them in an unadorned barn at her home. It is hoped that this is only the modest beginning of something that will grow and develop within the next few years. In addition to the museum, and accommodation for guests, Mrs. Oulton has a small handicraft gift shop.
 In the Alberton area there is increasing interest in handicrafts. For many years this part of the province has been noted for beautiful hooked rugs and various types of needlecraft. New interests include weaving, silk screening, copper enamelling and pottery.
 "Maple Tree Craft," one of the province's finest small industries, has its home in Alberton. What Herbert Leavitt began as a hobby has expanded and become known across Canada and beyond to a small workshop beside his home Mr. Leavitt and his assistant, Ken Quigley, turn out plates, bowls, book ends, plaques, pipe stands and other articles made of choice Maritime wood finished with a hard lacquer which protects and enhances the beauty of maple and birch used in crating them.
 Across the street another resident of the town, Mrs. William O'Brien (Evalyn), assembles, jewellery in her Handicraft Studio Workshop. In the beginning Evalyn used only imported gem stones but now she also uses Island stones which are gathered locally, then cut, tumbled and polished right on the premises. Assembled to a variety of fittings, they are very popular as souvenir or gift items.
 Alberton is the home of what was once a flourishing industry—silver fox farming. At the western approach to the town is a monument commemorating the founders of a business which for a few years brought fabulous prosperity to the area.
FAMOUS HORSEMAN
 Alberton is the home of Joe O'Brien whose name is well known in harness racing circles. It was on his father's racetrack here that the most celebrated member of a family of horsemen began his career.
 And Alberton is the home of two early martyrs of the Canadian Church—George Nicol Gordon who gave his life for the cause of Christ on the distant island of Erromanga in the New Hebrides, and James Douglas Gordon who went to take his brother's place and also suffered a martyr's death. A cairn two miles from Alberton marks the place where their home once stood and in Alberton United Church is a tablet to their memory and a small collection of mementoes which will be on display within a short time.
 Twice a year province-wide attention is directed to Alberton and large numbers of people assemble there to participate in two annual events.
 Aquatic Sports Day comes on the last Wednesday in July. Ten years ago this event began as a long distance swim organized by Earl Atkinson without sponsor or prizes, and with a very small gathering of people whose interest had been mildly aroused. Today it is considered a program unique in the Maritime Provinces.
 It is sponsored by the Alberton and West Prince Board of Trade and trophies and prizes are awarded for the three mile swim and for boat racing as well as for a variety of short swims. Red Cross teams of skilled swimmers give demonstrations of water safety and life-saving, and variety is introduced into the program each year by special features.

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