

ISLAND NEWS PAGE

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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Fabulous Hockeyists Carried Abbie Colors

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

FOSTER HEWITT said recently the Toronto Granites team that won the Olympic hockey title for Canada in 1924 were "one of the great teams of all time" and added "In the 1920s amateur hockey was possibly superior to the professional game."

And Vern DeGeer, veteran sport columnist of the Montreal Gazette, did some reminiscing recently and called the same Granites "the greatest collection of puck chasers outside pro ranks." It was generally agreed, DeGeer recalls, "that the Granites were formidable enough to parade in major professional company."

In case you're wondering what the Granites have to do with "Across the Island" the explanation is simple. The Charlottetown Abegweits played the Granites at Saint John in January, 1924, prior to their departure for Europe where they walloped the Czechs 30-0 and Switzerland 30-1 do not have all the scores—and took the Olympic title by whipping the Yanks 6-1 in the final.

The Granites were playing their 14th warmup game of their cross-Canada tour—they had won 12—when they met the local team. The Abbies had had a couple of skates on Victoria Pond and two practices in the arena—there was no artificial ice here then—and their game against the classy Olympians was their first of the year. The score was a most respectable 4-1 for the Granites, and after the game, star defenceman Dunc Munro told Sugar Gordon "you gave us one of the toughest battles we've had across the country." The Granites found it impossible to believe the Abbies were all hometown boys from a city of 10,000 to 12,000. Their team was the pick from a number of provinces.

Saint John Games Best In 20 Years

From a scrap book kept by Sugar over the years, I learned that the late John DeGroot called the Granites-Abegweit game the best played in that city for 20 years.

I talked this week with Fred Moore and Sugar Gordon, two of the stars of that illustrious team of other years. And right here let me thank Johnny "Snag" Squarebriggs for giving me the idea when I was eating at his restaurant a few days ago.

The colorful Abegweits of that era earned their reputation. They won 17 straight games in 1922 and were undefeated all the way through the Maritime Championship. But Sugar and Fred told me the 1923 team was the best team on which they ever played. Their record that year was 12 wins, one loss and one tie in 14 games played. For the forgettable two-year period, Fred Moore recalled, they had a record of one loss and one tie in 31 games.

The team that played the Granites in January, 1924 were minus two of their stars of the previous season. They were without veteran left winger, Percy Rodd, who did not make the trip and Lou Campbell who was knocked out of hockey by an injured limb. Ches Campbell was coach and Russell Chandler business manager.

The men who made the Saint John trip were Harry "Stonewall" Morgan and Spurgeon "Dutch" Diamond who played goal. Fred Moore and Fred Kelly were on defence, with Roy Prowse able to take a turn on defence or the wing. Up front they had John "Whacky" MacEachern at centre with John "Sugar" Gordon, "Click" Williams, Earl Prowse, Frank Cronin and Earl Dalton as forwards.

Chick Scored Abbies' Only Goal

CHICK WAS playing with a Boston club that year, made the trip to Saint John for the game and scored the only goal. He probably was in better shape than the rest of the club, as he had a number of games under his belt. It was their first win of the season.

The 1923 club had Harry Morgan in goal with Fred Moore, Fred Kelly and Ches Campbell on defence. Whacky MacEachern, Sugar Gordon, Percy Rodd, Earl Prowse, Jack Callaghan, Chick Williams and George Buntain were forwards.

In 1923 the Abegweit club paid Frank Brown of Moncton \$80 per week to coach the club—that was good money in those days—and he had Harry Morgan in goal, Fred Kelly, Fred Moore and Roy Prowse on defence; Whacky MacEachern, Sugar Gordon, Percy Rodd, Lou Campbell, Earl Prowse and Frank Cronin as forwards. This was the club the Moore-Gordon pair termed the best they had ever played with. It was a better club than the one that played the Granites, they agreed.

There were no protective pads worn in those days. Fred Moore recalls he was the first man here to wear a shoulder pad. He collided with Big Bill Hay, Sussex defence star and broke his shoulder. So he got the Hardy Brothers, harness makers here, to make him a set of protective pads.

"The club gave you a hockey stick, a sweater and stockings in those days. You supplied the rest yourself," Sugar told me.

Abegweits Were Highly Regarded

THE GREAT Abegweit clubs of those days were the toast of the town and of the province, with the exception of those who backed the Summerside Crystals who also were great. Some of the Abbies most bitter battles were against the Crystals, through those earlier Treenites.

Sugar recalls, for example that the Abbies had been in the semi-finals or finals of Maritime championship competition through 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, and 1925. The Crystals beat them in 1925. There was little in the way of organized Maritime hockey competition prior to 1921, he recalled, though there was great competition among several top Charlottetown clubs. But that's another story. I am not going to go into it now.

Abegweit team members each received \$20 gold pieces at the end of the 1923 season. Awards at the end of the 1923 season were gold watches.

\$4,000 Annually For Star

DUNC MUNRO, Sugar recalled, was guaranteed \$22,500 for turning professional with the Montreal Maroons in 1924 after he had completed the Olympic tour. But that was over a three-year period. The Maroons paid him \$4,000 each season in cash, and they guaranteed him \$3,500 in his business during the year. If his business did not net him that amount, the club would make it up. Professional hockey was not the big money game then that it is now.

Mr. Gordon picked four Islanders he knew whom he "would put up against anybody in Canada as all-around athletes." He was talking of men who were stars in football, hockey, baseball and basketball. They were Lou Campbell, Whacky MacEachern, Carl Milford and Frank MacCarey. Milford died some years ago. MacCarey was killed in the First Great War. MacEachern died last year. These men were "tremendous in all four sports." Of Lou Campbell, the only one now living, Sugar recalled "he was one of the greatest baseball pitchers of his time. He played all games well. He used his head," Sugar told me.

He didn't say so but I recall Sugar was an all-arounder too. He played hockey, basketball and football and he also rode a bicycle in competition, I recall.

Beef Fieldman Is Popular

GLEN COTTON, provincial beef fieldman, I find, negotiated the sale of the fine Hereford herd of Gordon Matheson of Hunter River to the Island Development Company's Shear Acres farm at Brackley Point or Covehead—part of the farm is in both districts, I am told.

Incidentally I have heard many warm compliments for Mr. Cotton from beef cattle breeders. And there is good reason. This man's appointment came as a result of repeated requests for a beef fieldman, and the department was fortunate indeed to come up with a man of his qualifications.

Glen Cotton has had the benefit of 18 years' experience as a cattle buyer for one of the large packing firms that buy cattle and other livestock here, and he's ready to pass on the benefits of his knowledge and experience to any gentleman who may desire advice.

This man can advise a farmer whether his steers are ready for market or whether they would benefit from a few weeks' additional feeding.

He can help in other ways. Anyone who wishes advice can have it by writing, telephoning or otherwise getting in touch with Mr. Cotton at the provincial department of agriculture office in Charlottetown.



SUMMERSIDE CADETS PRACTICE ON RCAF RANGE

This indoor rifle range at RCAF Station Summerside is a busy place Monday evenings as air cadets from local squadrons put into practice the instruction they receive on the care, handling, and use of small arms. Shown in this photo, trying to hit the bulls-eye, are (left to right) cadets Frank Gaudet, Mike Scully, Barry Blake, and Chris Thomas. All the boys are members of number 53 Squadron from Summerside. Small arms training is but a small part of the interesting and informative series of subjects taught regularly to the cadets in a program designed to assist boys to become good, intelligent, and well-rounded citizens. (RCAF Photo)

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

Statement Sparks Mental Study Of Organization's Activities

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR

Recently a gentleman suggested to us that from his examination of the Federation of Agriculture he concluded that it tended to represent agriculture rather than represent the farmer. This promoted some mental activity on our part in an attempt to decide whether this was really true and, if true, whether or not there was a just basis for criticism.

Generally we would probably have to admit that the Federation both nationally and provincially have tried to promote policies which would improve agriculture generally and in so doing benefit the farmers. True we would have to admit that there would be great difficulty in devising policy that would solve the problems or improve the situation of every last individual farmer. If the situation in agriculture is improved, can we assume that the rising tide lifts all ships both large and small?

However, as we look about, it has to be established that there are things which Federations can do which have a direct impact on the individual farmer. For instance the accident insurance service provided by the federation affects the farmer individually but only the farmers who take certain definite steps in this connection.

INFORMATION
No doubt many farmers, even many members are not well informed about the Federation of Agriculture. Continually we are under the necessity of advising people that the Federation isn't a branch of the Government and that its employees are not paid by the government.

Federation policy has been one of definite independence in a financial way so far as governments are concerned. It has never sought and hopes to avoid seeking money from the government in order to carry on its work.

POTATO PLEBISCITE
In the past potato plebiscites have developed considerable heat with strong positions being taken pro and con and quite spirited campaigns being carried on. We have the impression that with this particular plebiscite there isn't going to be a great amount of strong feeling. We doubt that any group is going to

come out strongly either for or against the present Board and its policies.

The Board is, of course, free to undertake any course of action which will tend to create a favourable public opinion for it. Whether or not it does this is, of course, its own decision.

We have had the reaction from a number of individuals that when a plebiscite is being held that the action should be used to get the reaction of potato growers to some matters other than a single question regarding the marketing plan. Unless some factor other than the latter is introduced we suspect that the campaign connected with the forthcoming plebiscite is not going to be very exciting.

BOARD MEETING

Next Tuesday the Board of Directors of the Federation will hold its first meeting since the annual meeting and under its new President, Mr. Rodd. Considered will be action on the different resolutions dealt with early in January, action if any in respect to the potato plebiscite, policy with respect to efforts now being made on farm education and a discussion centered on a more effective bringing out of the Federation to the grass roots level.

STUDIES
Recently we had the opportunity of looking over the first annual report of the Economic Council of Canada. The report goes quite extensively into agriculture and its problems and concludes with a statement to this effect: "The problems of

agriculture are more serious, more complex and more deep rooted than have been generally recognized. Much more needs to be known about these matters and suggests that much more intensive study is necessary if solutions are to be found."

It was this belief that inspired the Federation of Agriculture some five or six years ago to have a Socio-Economic Study undertaken in this province. This study received considerable adverse publicity before it ever appeared and very limited circulation afterwards. Now, however, studies are becoming fashionable and if they are used as the basis of policy, can be instrumental in solving some of the problems that afflict us.

GRASS ROOTS
When the Federation was re-organized in 1949 local cells were set up in practically every school district in the province. This was certainly an all out effort to make the Federation work at the grass roots.

However, limitations of time, staff and money made it practically impossible to service such a large number of groups. Now a new look needs to be taken at how communications can be improved between the individual farmer and the executive level. In the province there are 15 electrical districts with each one having three Directors on the Federation Board. Here would appear to rest a practical basis for action and education in the Federation.

The Leipzig Trade Fair celebrates its 800th anniversary in 1965.

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TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN



E. W. (Gene) Coady

I have nominated as a Water Commissioner in the forthcoming Civic Election.

I have lived and worked in Charlottetown for the past twenty-five years and I am now Charlottetown Sales Representative for S. E. Johnston Limited. I have property in both Ward 3 and Ward 5. I have always been interested in the management and conduct of the affairs of our Civic Government.

The Water Commission is a department of that Government which requires careful planning and direction. Our city has expanded rapidly in recent years and will continue to grow. The most essential services of water supply and sewerage disposal have presented and will continue to present many difficult problems to our Water Commission. I believe I am well qualified to play an active part in the future planning and direction of the affairs of this most important department.

In order that I may be given an opportunity to participate in our Civic Government I shall be grateful for your support on election day.

E. W. (Gene) Coady

Wellington Village Reports \$700 Surplus

WELLINGTON — A new village commission chairman was appointed at the annual ratepayers meeting here Tuesday night replacing Fidele C. Gallant.

The new chairman, Euclid Arsenault, will work along with the two other commissioners, Edmund L. Arsenault and Earl Enman.

The financial report for 1964 showed a profit of approximately \$700 for the year. Included in this figure was a profit of \$365 made in the village's centennial celebrations.

The tentative budgeting figure set for this year is \$3,400 and included in the budget is the proposed installation of street lights in the village along with the purchase of new fire equipment, providing the surrounding districts contribute to this effort.

The fire department answered seven calls during the year in the village and outlying districts.

A new member, Raymond Gallant, has been added to this committee. The water and sewage committee reported the system is in good operating condition and that three ratepayers are hooked up to the line. Dissatisfaction was expressed over the plowing service being given the village and surrounding areas and the commission will proceed immediately to have this service improved by next winter.

The commission also expressed its dissatisfaction over the progress of the Barlow dam project, promised the village last year. No work has been done yet on the project.

visior for the Island, will be in charge of the edifying program now being planned in connection with this assembly, the first to be held in the Charlottetown area since September 1963. Attendance is expected to be in the neighborhood of 175.

Athena Allied Youth Group Holds 1st Oratorical Contest

On Wednesday the Athena Allied Youth Club sponsored its first oratorical contest in the grade 12 classroom.

John MacIntosh, the AY president, introduced the five speakers who each gave a five-minute speech on some topic related to AY.

Speeches were delivered by Rosslyn Shaw, North Bedouque; Norma Yeo, Central Lot 16; Bill Essery, St. Eleanor's; Diane Laughlin, Sherbrooke; and Kim Birch, Northbrook.

The three judges, Mrs. Irene Easton, Phyllis Britten, and Harold Laird judged the speeches for content, delivery and audience acceptance.

Kim Birch, speaking on the harmful results on society caused by the consumption of alcoholic beverages, was declared the winner. Norma Yeo won second place for her speech on the AY program.

Prizes were presented to the winners by the chairman, John MacIntosh.

Mr. Simmons, the Athena AY sponsor announced the names of the contestants for next week's junior oratorical contest — Janet Shaw, Maureen Croken, Nancy Simmons, Marilyn Peters, and Judy Harper.

P.E.I. Jehovah's Witnesses Plan 3-Day Session

Jehovah's Witnesses of Prince Edward Island have made arrangements to hold a three-day convention at the Women's Institute Hall, Parkdale, first weekend in March.

Sponsored by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, their legal agent, these semi-annual assemblies assist witnesses to get abreast with the latest methods in disseminating the Bible's progressive message. Willard Smith, circuit super-

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