

DIARY NOTES

April 21, 1933 The barking plant at Rapid Falls mill destroyed by (incendiary) fire.

July 11, 1934 Entire remainder of Rapid Falls mill burned at night.

May 4, 1937 Cowies Falls Mill destroyed by fire.

Feb. 17, 1933 Only 100 or so wild geese in Port Joli. A mysterious disease has killed the eel grass, their own food, during the past two years. Those shot are poor and scraggy, not worth eating.

Feb. 20, 1933 Frank J.D. Barnjum died in Paris.

Feb. 21, 1933 Young Theodore Clements ~~shook~~ shot a burglar, one of the McConellⁿ gang, in the Clements store at Port Medway. Some detail of the burglaries and terrorism of this family "during the past three years!" (I did not mention in my diary that I carried a concealed revolver, and so did my escort Brent Smith, on journeys with cash for ship payrolls from the bank in Liverpool. The revolvers and armpit holsters were provided by the Mersey Paper Company. I have in my scrap book a "Weapon Permit" dated Sep. 12, 1932, signed by Sheriff D.C. Mulhall, authorizing me to carry "one gun or revolver" for the purpose of "Carrying money from Bank to Mersey Mill". This was occasioned by a wave of ~~robberies~~ robberies in our area, beginning about the year 1930, and conducted obviously by experts. On one occasion, during a nocturnal break-in at the small Brooklyn post office, one of the burglars fired a shot at the postmaster. The police were completely baffled until the above shooting of a burglar in the Clements store. The arrest of the wounded man led to arrest of the oldest McConnell brother, who was sentenced to a term in Dorchester penitentiary. It was believed by the police here that the older McConnell, a man in the late 20's or early 30's, had learned the art of stealing cars and using them in burglaries over a wide area, somewhere in the States. It was believed also that he ~~had been~~ WAS wanted by U.S. police when he fled back to Nova Scotia.) See also March 27, 1933.

March 4, 1933 Financial panic in the U.S. All banks closed. President Franklin Roosevelt inaugurated at Washington.

May 13, 1933 Working on the Cobb memorial. See also May 15, 23, and June 30.

July 15, 1933 Tennis match at Liverpool between Hugh MacLennan and Peter Aitken.

August 13, 1933 The yacht "Awenishe" hits the ~~Kaulbach~~ Kaulbach Head shoal.

August 31, 1933 Conversations with Indians at Broad River.

Sep. 20, 1933 Col. Jones entertains the Legion with a barbecue at White Point, where a whole ox carcass was roasted on the beach.

Sep. 25, 1933 I pay off the European crew of the "Liverpool Rover".

Oct. 29, 1933 Brent Smith and Burke Douglas lost at Eagle Lake.

Nov. 9, 1933 Peter Aitken's farewell party.

Nov. 17, 1933 I loan \$500 to Dannie Mackay.

Dec. 13, 1933 I direct an amateur play at Brooklyn.

Oct. 10, 1933 - I bought a 1930 Ford coupe, with canvas top, from Nelson Crowder, the Colonel's secretary. Mileage on it, 17,600. Price \$240. My first car.

- Dec.15,1933 Death of Tom Hayhurst.
- Dec.20,1933 Paying off the loggers at Caledonia.Current prices, wages etc.
- Jan.3,1934 Old Miss Mullins and her deathbed conversation with me. (Also Mar.18/34)
- Jan.22,1934 Temp.25 below zero in Liverpool, 30 below at the Power Developments. ~~XXXX~~
Last night Liverpool harbour froze across from the Mersey Paper docks to "The Wharf Rocks", but ice was thin, and easily shattered next day by the fishing boats.
- Jan.25,1934 I meet Grace Dean Macleod Rogers, author of "Tales from the land of
"Evangeline."
- Feb.10,1934 The most severe winter in 60 years.
- March 10,1934 I finished my short story "The Pay-Off At Duncan's" (see Dec.20/33)
- April 9,1934 A cook at one of the Rossignol camps drowned while illegally trapping
beaver.
- April23,1934 I finish the manuscript of "The Markland Sagas". Colonel Jones' name included as co-author, although he says "The kudos is yours".
- May 2,1934 Since 1928 Mersey Paper Company has paid the Royal Bank of Canada \$ 1,065,000 as interest on loans and discount on notes.
- May 20,1934 A visit to Oak Island and the current treasure hunters.
- June 17,1934 I visit my old station at Camperdown.
- June 29,1934 I lease for one year the house on Park Street built by Irving Corkum, as Edith expects a baby late in the Fall.
- July11,1934 Last night the old pulp mill at Rapid Falls burned to the ground.
- Aug.7,1934 Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald of Britain leaves after a hold^(A)day tour of Nova Scotia. Our Premier greeted him in Gaelic, and he ~~couldn't~~ "get it."
- Aug.8,1934 American millionaire Thomas Howell catches a 792 pound tuna, which he will have stuffed and mounted to present to the town of Liverpool.
- Sep.1,1934 "The Pay-Off At Duncan's" appears in this month's Blackwood Magazine.
- Oct.26,1934 "The Markland Sagas" arrives from the printers.
- Nov.22,1934 Birth of my son Tom.
- Feb.13,1935 The skipper of the "Fiscus" tells the inside story of the Baralong case.
- May 4-8, 1935 Organizing a huge bonfire and fireworks at Fort Point.
- June 8,1935 Geogre Beck shows Roy Gordon and me an ^(A) ancient Indian midden at Port Joli.

- June 9, 1935 A visit to the Kedgemakooge Club, and Indian petroglyphs.
- June 16, 1935 Calling on Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gerrard at "Poolachree", Mill Village.
- July 14, 1935 A day's outing at Port Joli, digging in the Indian middens.
- July 28, Aug. 3, Aug. 17, Aug. 25, " " "
- Aug. 12, 1935 I address the Kiwanis Club, Halifax, on "Nova Scotia and The Norsemen", and meet Premier Angus L. Macdonald for the first time.
- August 18, 1935 I rescue Marie Freeman from drowning at Port l'Hebert.
- Nov. 23, 1935 I have been paying \$35 a month rent on the Park Street house. Today I notified owner Irving Corkum that I was prepared to take up the option to purchase which was included in the lease. The price \$4,000
- Dec. 11, 1935 I complete arrangements for buying the house. (see also Dec. 17/35)
- Jan. 11, 1936 Old Will Smith shows me the traces of a rifle range at Wildcat Rock, used by the local militia during the Fenian Raid period.
- Jan. 22, 1936 Mersey Paper Company inserts a "War Risk" clause in bills of lading for the "Liverpool Rover", which is taking paper to Cuba.
- Jan. 28, 1936 Listening to the radio broadcast of King George's funeral.
- March 14, 1936 An American magazine called Golden ~~Magazine~~ ^{Book,}, which reprints what its editors consider "the best short stories", have included my story "Winter's Tale" (from Blackwood's) and I find myself in such company as Ernest Hemingway, George A. Birmingham, and Morley Callaghan.
- March 28, 1936 Baby Tommy is teething, and keeps us awake. "After a bad night, the day in the office is a long agony, and I find myself making stupid mistakes, which is bad business for a cashier. Sometimes I think I must give up writing, or working for Mersey Paper Company, or go mad."
- April 18, 1936 A Saturday. I start work with pick, shovel, and crowbar, clearing loam from around the boulders in my back yard, and wheeling it to make a front lawn.
- May 24, 1936 Finished a week's vacation from the office, all spent working on my ~~house grounds~~ house grounds. (See also June 11 and June 27)
- August 6, 1936 Daughter Frances born.
- May 5, 1937 Mersey Paper Co. buys the Macleod Pulp & Paper Co. lands.
- May 6, 1937 I plant 52 shrubs.
- July 11, 1937 A visit to Kinney's ruined lodge at Catarine's River.
- August 12, 1937 A call from poet Kenneth Leslie.
- August 24, 1937 A visit from archaeologist W.J. Wintemberg, who examines our Indian collections and identifies some positively as ~~red~~ artifacts of the so-called "Red Paint People"

I traded in my little Ford coupe, & bought a 1936 Chevrolet which had been re-processed by the car dealer after running 4700 miles. My net cash outlay was \$750.

Nov. 28, 1936

- August 30, 1937 I make up my mind to leave Mersey Paper next spring.
- Sep. 13, 1937 Death of negro "Cephas". His canteen at Happy Landing.
- Sep. 24, 1937 I find an iron tomahawk at Fifth Lake Run.
- Sep. 26, 1937 Hurricane damage at Fort Park.
- Nov. 2, 1937 Famous baseball player "Babe" ^Ruth in Liverpool for deer hunting.
- Nov. 12, 1937 Letter from Blackwood quoting enquiry from Lord Tweedsmuir.
- Dec. 4, 1937 A visit to the Borgel family, Broad Cove, and descriptions and sketches of wooden churn, kraut-knife, the making of flax, etc.
- Jan. 18, 1938 I have been auditor of Trinity Church accounts for 2 or 3 years.
- Feb. 17, 1938 I address Parent-Teacher Association at Milton on "The Significance of History Today".
- March 12, 1938 Letter from Tweedsmuir.
- March 21, 1938 On their request, I give my "Significance of History" address to the Liverpool Kiwanis Club.
- April 1, 1938 I am coaching Sam Campbell to take over my job at Mersey Paper.
- April 2, 1938 Haley & Wright start to build my workroom annex.
- April 30, 1938 My last day at Mersey Paper.
- June 2, 1938 Mersey gives me a testimonial dinner at Mersey Lodge, and a silver tray.
- June 14, 1938 My first jury duty.
- June 18, 1938 My chat with Judge Archibald (who first told me about the case of "Sadie Davenport")
- June 20, 1938 I start my first novel, "The Unfailing ^{Seed} Seed".
- Aug. 28, 1938 A group family picnic at Port Joli, where the men dig in ancient Indian middens. Brent Smith brings along his former boss in Cuba, George Walker, and a pretty young actress named "Gail Darling".
- Sep. 14, 1938 Legion dinner at the Ich Dien hotel Lunenburg, and the behaviour of the Nazi cook and wife who run it.
- Oct. 15, 1938 This year for the first time in many years, the N.S. Government has forbidden the killing of moose until future notice.
- Nov. 17, 1938 The main shore highway from Halifax to Yarmouth is now paved with asphalt along its whole length except the hilly stretch between Gold River and Hubbards. (see also June 13, 1939)
- Dec. 23, 1938 Motored to Halifax for Christmas. This winter, for the first time, the Highways Board has undertaken to keep main highways ploughed and open.

Jan. 19, 1939 Still working on my first novel. George Blackwood suggests a book of my short stories.

March 2, 1939 I am studying Perkins diary and other material for the "Oldport" series of colonial tales.

March 27, 1939 Blackwood rejects my novel.

June 13-15, 1939 I take my family to Halifax to see the King and Queen.

June 22, 1939 Visiting the White home in Shelburne.

July 5, 1939 The trial of farmer Early, of North Brookfield, for suspected murders by poison and fire over a period of several years.

Sep. 6, 1939 I determine to enlist for war service.

Sep. 9, 1939 We have a weekend at Eagle Lake camp, "for the last time together".