

DRILLERS MAY LEAVE

February 13--It is rumoured that the Royalite Oil Company drillers may leave here shortly for Turner Valley, Alberta, to return again to the Islands some time this summer after further geological survey work has been carried out.

If and when the oil men go, they will leave their entire rigging, including transport, with one of the crew to act as caretaker.

Additional geological surveys will be carried out before any further drilling takes place. The currently drilled hole has disclosed very little information. It has neither encouraged nor discouraged. At a depth of 3152 feet, the formation is still quartzite and the coring done showed that there is very little chance of oil being found in that area. Any further drilling will likely be done in the northern section of the Islands.

THE WEATHER

Finally, it's thawing. I never thought that I would be so interested in drips before, but after all, the sound of drip, drip, drip, is good.

The snow is still over a foot deep. Pipes are still frozen, and there is still much ice in the Inlet. The road to Port Clements is passable, thanks to Fred Ward and his snowplow.

At any rate, we seem to be faring better than Masset, which has reported 2½ feet of snow.

GOSSIP COLUMN

Art Barber was heard to remark after returning from an unexpected but undeniably pleasant overnight trip to Tlell, "It's great to be out on the loose once in a while." Perhaps Art originated that old "so dear to our hearts" expression, A.W.O.L. Anyway "Art-Went-On-The-Loose" fits perfectly.

I wonder who the girl is who doesn't like rough men?

What man, after arriving at a party, refused to leave the taxi, insisting that he was home in bed?

It's interesting to note the trouble certain people take in order to make a graceful entrance. Recently at a dance, a chap entered gracefully enough, I thought--not he. Down the steps he went, took an invigorating swig from a coke bottle, reappeared in the doorway, and fell flat on his face.

LOCAL CHATTER

The Masset Dramatic Club is bringing down a four act play some time in March. The cast includes Phil and Nora Burton, the Findlays, and twelve other players. Because of the current housing shortage, the people of Charlotte will be asked to accommodate them.

A rollicking dance was held in the Charlotte Community Hall on January 27th with the Harmony Boys playing. Among the more spirited dancers were Midge Helliwell, Sybil deBucy, Charlie Hartiell, Haydn Turner, Joe Gallent, Eleanor Bernard, Georgia Neubauer and Roy Cast.

We wish to report a crime! Recently we heard that a Charlotte girl has ~~taken~~ had a full bottle of Scotch for the last seven years!

The next monthly meeting of the Women's Auxiliary will be held at the home of Mrs. Bert Roberts on February 23rd. The main business will be the election of officers.

The Forest Service held a show on February 1st at Charlotte and one on February 2nd at Skidegate. Among the reels shown were colour films of logging on the Charlottes and a trip through Tweedsmuir Park in the interior of B.C.

A manse for the Reverend Mr. Wingfield was started at Skidegate on January 30th. Viv Williams kindly gave the use of his bulldozer for the excavation of the basement. It is understood that the house is to be a prefabricated one.

Wedding bells may soon be ringing in the Geigerich household, according to a passing Canada Goose. The bird also told us that Enard and Veard Court (the chaps who brought their boat by train from Prince Edward Island) are living with John Geigerich at Cape Ball, while Wilhalem Geigerich is living in his "half way house" near Tlell.

Recently we missed our charming ticket taker and community leader, Velma Fairbairn. Naturally, we made enquiries, and found she has left for a six weeks holiday in Vancouver and Jasper Park.

Bessie Nelson (nee Carmichael) is expecting an addition to the family some time in September.

Greta Slagboom reports that her entire family have now recovered from a series of annoying and lingering colds. Her two little blonde girls, we note, are growing more charming every day.

Mrs. Sybil deBucy reports that probably a young doctor, now interning, and two graduate nurses at present working in New Westminster, will be coming to the Charlotte hospital some time in July.

Mike and Grace have been heard from in Norway, and are expected back to Charlotte in the early spring.

The fortnightly bridge session was held on January 31st at the home of Mrs. Bert Roberts. The evening's winner was Constable Jack Fletcher.

We hear Mrs. Ward has now a new coon-proof chicken house. We understand once a coon gets inside, it simply can't get out.

There is a small sign on Charlie Valley's house. It reads: "Bull Dog for Sale."

Bob Vinblad is an unlucky man. Recently we gazed in awe at his hot water tank, frozen and split end to end. (He may grow bachelor buttons in it come spring.) Not discouraged, with a smile on his face and pushing a section of the tank to one side, Bob said, "Really life isn't too bad. Just look at this bread dough--good, huh?" It was, too. Beautifully risen, just the right size and shape, and frozen as hard as granite. Yes, Bob is an unlucky man.

Here in Charlotte, financially we are in a bad way. It appears even the bootleggers haven't sufficient money to purchase their wares.

Early on the morning of Sunday, February 5th, misfortune struck A. Duffy and George Sohanovitch. A low tide, sticky mud, ice and snow, then a rising tide, resulted in their two boats becoming submerged. Later when they struck a match to see just how much of the cabins were above water, oil and gas on the water caught fire, causing a spectacular blaze. Very little fire damage was done as a result. The next day, Sohanovitch raised his boat, but Duffy's was too firmly imbedded in the mud at that time.

Trading is in vogue here in Charlotte. Everyone is swapping something--shirts, radios, guns, cameras, chickens, wood, and even

bits of coloured glass.

Paddy Dwyer reports that his red-headed son, Mickey, has almost everything under his bed; even rifles, machine guns and mines. In fact, Paddy says he wouldn't be surprised if he saw the Atom Bomb there next week. (F.B.I. please note.)

Two horses, Sug and Gel, were pulling a sleigh loaded with firewood down the hill back of Maggie's restaurant the other day. The sleigh kept continually bumping their heels, so at last one horse turned to the other and said, "Oh, son of a bits, what's wrong with that sleigh?" The other horse said, "H'it's in a hurry, it can feel in H'its runners that h'its load will soon be so mad it will be burnt up."

Mr. and Mrs. George Holley have opened a bake shop in Charlotte. It is situated a little west of Maggie's Cafe.

It is rumoured that W.J. Davies is opening a snack bar. However, this is no rumour. The regular price at Davies for 49 lbs. of flour is \$3.69, and for a case of Pacific Milk \$7.39.

Hospital rates have now been set, starting January 1, 1950, by BCHIS. They are as follows: Rates per day--Adult and Child, \$9.50. Newborn, \$4.00.

Now is the time to make sure Hospital Insurance Premiums are in good standing by being in possession of a 1950 Hospital Insurance Certificate. This will also contribute toward keeping the Hospital in operation.

Recently a combination birthday party took place at the Kendall residence. Up until 12 P.M., Mr. Kendall held sway. From 12 P.M. on, Henry Helin swayed. A fragrant punch was served along with a delicious buffet turkey supper.

Among those present were: Ralph Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jones, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, Art Barber and Eleanor Bernard, Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, Mr. and Mrs. F. Russ, Mr. and Mrs. E. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Kirby.

The highlights of the evening were the odd present Mr. Kendall received and the talented violin playing of Matt Williams.

Men! Here's something not to do. You know that old saying "I feel like a new man"? Well, some time when you are feeling low and your true love hands you a Scotch, drink it, of course, but don't say, "Ah, I feel like a new woman!"

LOST -- A gold hand engraved bracelet--probably lost at the last dance in Charlotte on February 3rd. Reward.

Mrs. Stevens left on the last boat, January 28th, for Vancouver.

Mrs. Sybil deBucy has now taken over from Mrs. Mallory the agency for the ATLAS ASSURANCE COMPANY. Mrs. deBucy handles all classes of insurance other than life insurance.

The "Trail Rangers", a group of boys under Reverend Wingfield, are putting on a bean supper in the old manse on February 17th.

Owners of oil stoves that are a public nuisance in that they shower the country with soot, should have some consideration for their neighbours. You know, either fix the stove or help with the necessary cleaning up.

SPORT NEWS

This winter, among other things, has been hard on the goose and swan populations. It is reported that the geese especially are suffering. Mr. Bob Beitush has taken one hungry honker in and is feeding him. Other geese can be seen trying to keep out of sight in order to avoid exerting valuable energy in flying.

The annual snooker tournament was held in Brown's pool hall on January 24th and 25th. The winners for the year are as follows: 1st prize--James Young; 2nd prize--Billy Stevens; 3rd prize--John Wilson; 4th prize--Ken Anderson.

GOOD ALDER WOOD FOR SALE!

A cord delivered to your door anywhere in Charlotte or to the Village. \$12.00. Contact Ben Kelly, Charlotte.

Now is the time to stock up on breakfast foods. Here are some money saving buys at W.J. Davies:

Kellogg Corn Flakes, family size -- 2 for 44¢
Quick Quaker Oats, large size -- 2 for 67¢

Soups are good these cold days. Try Campbell's tomato for 2 for 29¢ or Vegetable (Campbell or Heinz) at 2 for 29¢.

The Gas Boat "Grit" is for sale. She is 28' long and is powered with a 6 H.P. Vivian engine. Would make a good utility boat. Reg Hamlyn, Queen Charlotte City, can be contacted for further particulars.

We have heard of many novel ways of making brew--doubling or trebling the sugar, adding raisins or rice, using twice the malt, and so on; but none beats, for sheer flavour-giving qualities, these two methods:

One individual, after sampling the health-giving properties, became fascinated and gazing in wonder at the working brew, gently passed out. Some hours later he woke and screamed, "I'm drowning!" only to find he had been soaking his arms, up to his shoulders, in the brew. His Stanfields were shrivelled and shrunk, but the beer was working furiously.

The other chap had his barrel below his bunk. Sleepily he got up one night, stiffly lowered his legs over the edge of the bunk and yawned. Slowly a surprised look came over his face. His toes were twitching involuntarily. He tentatively worked them a bit, and then the realization came. Later he couldn't (he was suddenly on the wagon) help smiling when he saw with what relish the guzzlers drank it down.

Seen recently in Charlotte were Charlie Bellis, Dick Ward and Joe Fenton.

Roy Jacques has returned from a sojourn in Vancouver.

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT:

The time and the hour run through the roughest day.