



They also serve...

Manitoba CALLING

**RADIO BRANCH
CKY - CKX
MANITOBA TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

VII NO. 5

MAY 1943

Winnipeg Churches



St. Luke's Anglican Church
Winnipeg



Address all communications to Public Relations Department,
Vol. VII. No. 5. Radio Branch, May, 1943.
Single Copy Manitoba Telephone System, 12 Issues, 60c.
5c Winnipeg. Post Free.

C. W. A. C.

The smart-appearing C.W.A.C. on our cover is one of thousands of Canadian women who have answered the call of their country at war. For the first time in history women have been called upon to serve beside their menfolk as soldiers of the Canadian Army.

From coast to coast Canadian women are stepping forward to serve, and the Canadian Women's Army Corps is doing a job that has already won them recognized standing as an important and integral part of the Canadian Army.

"Fighting



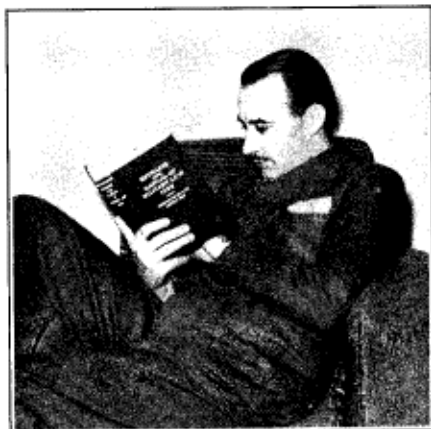
Navy"



Produced under the supervision of the Department of Naval Information, "Fighting Navy", a continued story presented each Thursday evening, takes a young Canadian through all the phases of life in Canada's Navy. Every episode of "Fighting Navy" is founded on actual records from the Navy's files, with production under the supervision of Lieut.-Commander Wm. Strange. To give the cast the "feel" of the programme, a tour of a recently completed warship was arranged, under the guidance of the Royal Canadian Navy. In (1) Pauline Rennie (above) and Peggy Loader are pictured on their way to the bridge. Peggy is reported to have a Hollywood contract waiting for her when her college career is over. (2) The cast of "Fighting Navy" comes ashore. Sub-Lt. Austin Willis, who assists in the production, is at the left. (3) Bob Morrisson of the CBC and formerly at CKY, announcer on "Fighting Navy", shakes hands with a future comrade. Yes, he's "in the Navy now", and awaits his final call. (4) Lloyd Bochner, who plays the part of Ordinary Seaman Jack Marlowe, with singing star Pauline Rennie, who is his sweetheart in "Fighting Navy".

Sponsored by The British American Oil Company, "Fighting Navy" is heard every Thursday at 8:30 p.m. (CBC — CKY—CKX).

CKY Personnel



Wilf. Davidson

Prior to his departure on April 14 to enter the Armed Services, Wilf Davidson spent his between-programme moments in some secluded corner, perusing a volume of Military Law.

In addition to his duties as CKY Chief Announcer, Wilf has, for the past year, been chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Greater Winnipeg Co-ordinating Council for War and Welfare Services. In this capacity he had charge of some twenty troupes providing entertainment for the Armed Forces in Military District No. 10 and No. 2 Command, R.C.A.F.

Wilf joined the staff of CKY in 1935, and during the years since has become a familiar name and voice across the Dominion through his announcing assignments on CKY and CBC programmes originating in Winnipeg.

With Wilf go our best wishes for success, and a speedy return to our midst.

★ ★ ★

Letters received within the last few days bring us news of four CKY—CKX men now with the Armed Forces.

Tom Benson and Maurice Burchell, attending officers' training school on the east coast, are fit and well, and enjoying their new experiences.

Tom Lewis, formerly a CKY operator,

writes from his initial posting in Quebec. His letter contained an amusing account of his first reactions to "life in the R.C.A.F."

Gordon Ballantyne, operator at CKY prior to joining the R.C.A.F., writes from a west coast post, and reports "all's well".

★ ★ ★

The newest addition to our announcing staff is Earl Cameron, pictured below studying a map of Winnipeg, who came to CKY early in April, and is now heard regularly on various programmes.

Born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Earl chose radio as his career when he entered the world of business. Prior to joining CKY, he served for several years with a station in Western Canada, during which he gained much valuable experience. Though Winnipeg is a new field of endeavor for Earl, he is not a "stranger", — as his bride of three months received her nurse's training in this city; and a brother, Dan Cameron, is a producer on the CBC staff at Winnipeg.

We welcome Earl to our "family of announcers", knowing his will be a popular voice in the radio-homes within CKY's listening area.



Earl Cameron

Attention! . .



(1) Close harmony in the making for Army Show listeners as a quartette of three men and a maid rehearse a song.



(2) Army uniforms are temporarily discarded for brief costumes as top-notch talent from the C.W.A.C.'s rehearse a routine for the Army Show's entertainment troupe.

(3) The Army Show Chorus, one of the features of the Show, is pictured here during a broadcast prior to leaving on their cross-Canada tour.



(4) Army life goes on uninterrupted despite the parts the members play in the Army Show... Here a group of C.W.A.C.'s pause during an afternoon rehearsal to look at pictures taken the same morning when they were inspected by Brigadier James Mess.

(5) The string section of the 32-piece Army Show orchestra, now on tour of army camps across the Dominion. The orchestra is under the direction of Captain Geoffrey Waddington.

(6) Lieutenant Patricia Connelley, C.W.A.C. Public Relations Officer, confers with Major George, while Captain Wm. Wren, Administrative Officer for the Show, looks on.

(7) Major Victor George, general manager of the Army Show, discusses a musical number with comedians Sergeant Frank Shuster (left) and Sergeant Johnny Wayne (right).



It's "The Army Show" !!

"Attention listeners, it's the Army Show!" . . . That now familiar phrase launches the Sunday evening broadcasts of the Army Show, which, until it went on tour, originated from Toronto.

Now, many of the listeners who have heard the Army Show on the air will have an opportunity to see these uniformed entertainers in person. Working as an interlocking unit, the personnel of both the stage and radio shows are now on tour across the Dominion, appearing at army camps and before civilian audiences.

The cast of the Army Show is enlisted from the ranks of the Canadian Army and the Canadian Women's Army Corps, and many former professional and amateur artists make up its personnel. Army life goes on uninterrupted, however, despite the parts the members of the cast take in this feature production. Regular military training and parades and inspection are all part of the day's work, and a familiar sight backstage is a C.W.A.C. using spare moments between rehearsals to keep her "khakis" in trim.

The Army Show is scheduled to arrive in Winnipeg on Thursday, May 20, for a ten-day tour of Military District No. 10, during which shows will be presented at army camps throughout the district, and two Sunday broadcasts will originate from CKY to the CBC National Network. Following their stay here, the Army Show will proceed to Regina for a tour of Military District No. 12. Full particulars of troop and civilian concerts will be announced shortly, and in the meantime, listeners are invited to tune-in the regular Sunday evening broadcasts of the Army Show at 8.00 o'clock (CBC—CKY—CKX).





Our Cover

We are indebted to the Canadian SKF Company for their kind permission to reprint this month's C.W.A.C. cover subject. This is one of a series originated by the Canadian SKF Company in tribute to Canada's Armed Forces.

1,000th BROADCAST

Friday, April 2, marked the 1,000th edition of the BBC Radio News Reel, broadcast from the BBC's Studios, in London, England.

To regular listeners the News Reel has provided a composite, day-to-day picture of the war as it affects the lives of troops and civilians during periods of uncertainty, blitz and privation.

Great credit is due the men and women who have made possible these daily glimpses of Britain at war.



BERT PEARL VISITS WINNIPEG

Bert Pearl, popular m.c. of "The Happy Gang", paid a short visit to Winnipeg on Monday, April 26, in connection with the opening of Canada's Fourth Victory Loan.

While in Winnipeg Bert made personal appearances at several Victory Loan rallies, before flying back to Toronto for the Tuesday broadcast of "The Happy Gang".



DIGGING FOR VICTORY

Besides professional farmers in England you see everywhere the strange sight of University professors and elderly ladies trundling barrows with pitchfork and spade to and from their allotments, of which there are nearly two million. They have obeyed the command to dig for victory, and the result is that about four million families now grow their own vegetables and are self-supporting in potatoes and certain green vegetables.

I Hear . . .

That the City of Winnipeg was incorporated on November 8, 1873, consisting of four wards with three aldermen each.

That the first railway service to Winnipeg from St. Paul, Minnesota, was established in the year 1878.

That H.R.H. the Duke of Cornwall and York, later King George V, visited Winnipeg in 1901.

That in 1912 H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada, made an official visit to Winnipeg.

That on February 28, 1917, His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, Governor-General of Canada, came to Winnipeg on an official visit.

That H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, now Duke of Windsor, was received in Winnipeg on an official visit on September 9-10, 1919.

That the official opening of the new Parliament Buildings of Manitoba took place on July 15, 1920, in commemoration of Manitoba's entry in Confederation in 1870.

That His Excellency Lord Byng, Governor-General of Canada, made his official visit to Winnipeg on June 22, 1922.

That on October 13, 1923, Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George, Britain's war premier, was tendered a civic welcome to Winnipeg.

That on September 18, 1931, the first boatload of prairie grain to traverse Hudson Bay for England left Churchill, Manitoba, by the S.S. Farnworth with 277,000 bushels of wheat.

That October 9, 1937, marked the sixtieth Anniversary of the arrival in Winnipeg of C.P.R. Engine No. 1, the "Countess of Dufferin".



**BACK THE ATTACK—
BUY VICTORY BONDS**



Rare Bird Visitors to Manitoba

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER was first recorded in Manitoba by H. Mossop in St. Vital on October 21, 1929; since when, a number of radio fans have reported the bird at various points. Its normal range is the western provinces and states. This hardy woodpecker seems to be a combination of crow, woodpecker and fly-catcher, having a crow-like appearance and flight, woodpecker perching habit, and flycatcher trick of darting after flying insects.

AUTOMOBILE visitors, for a reason we need not mention, will be scarce in Manitoba for the next year or so, and for the same reason, many Manitobans will be staying closer to home than usual. If they care to look, they will discover a surprising wealth of nature-wonders around their own neighborhood, as our Province has been liberally endowed with beautiful flowers, gorgeous insects and interesting birds and mammals.

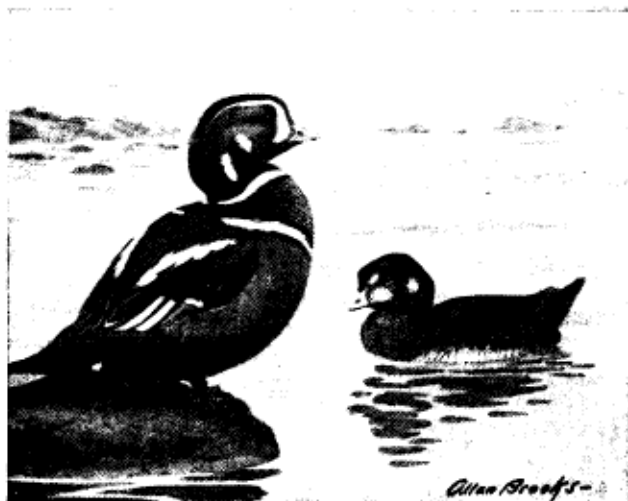
Happily, gasoline rationing does not affect the greatest travellers of all—the birds, so we may expect our customary influx of rarities from far and near, which, in the case of Manitoba, generally means from south and west. Pop Bird, instead of chirping to his fledgling: "Go west, young man", evidently says: "Go east, young feller", for eastwards is the favorite march of many species.

Several of these rarities can be designated "CKY Birds", as they were first reported in Manitoba by radio-listeners to Professor V. W. Jackson in connection with his popular nature-study talks. The first gorgeous blue Lazuli Bunting reported, for instance, was seen by Mrs. J. S. Nicholson of Belmont, on May 19, 1931, and announced by Professor Jackson over CKY the following week. Again, the first Western Tanager recorded in Manitoba was picked up dead on May 22, 1933, by Miss Mae Carritt, a school teacher of Castle Point and another radio nature-listener, who sent the bird to CKY. The specimen is now in the University Museum.

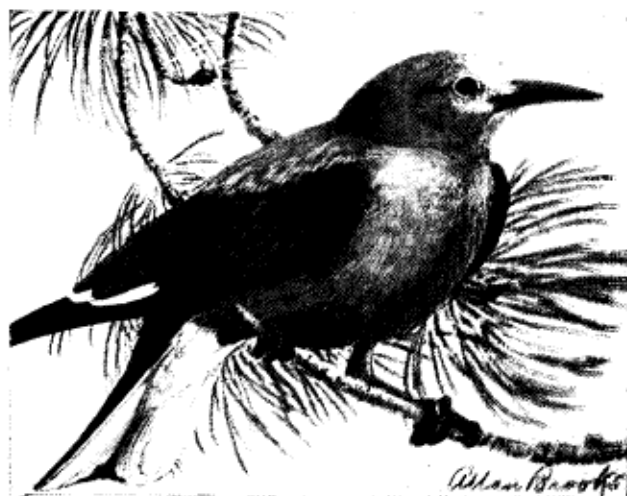
Why do birds wander afield? Birds that are rare in Manitoba are generally common in the heart of their breeding range. In this area, there is constant pressure for food and nesting sites and young birds are forced to seek new territory if competition becomes too strong. Thus a species' range is gradually expanded until it reaches limits beyond which it cannot exist through lack of food or climatic conditions. In the course of years, many southern and western species have succeeded in making Manitoba their home, but the vast coniferous forest between us and the east prevents eastern birds moving west; they must pass through the United States. The Starling's spread is a notable example of this latter range-expansion.

Many rare Manitoban species are strays blown here by storms while on migration. These make no effort to become acclimatized and will never become a permanent part of our fauna. Again, some species are notorious wanderers after the nesting season, the herons particularly, so that even the semi-tropical Egret and Snowy Egret may be amongst a birdman's finds. It is on such occasions that he celebrates a red-letter day, enjoying a thrill that only a confirmed bird enthusiast can understand.

COLOUR PLATES BY COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA, OTTAWA



The fantastically marked plumage of the male **HARLEQUIN DUCK** accounts for both its popular and scientific names, the former referring to the buffoon-lover of Columbine in the famous stage comedy, and the latter, *Histrionicus histrionicus*, being derived from the Latin *histrion*, meaning a stage-player. Breeding chiefly in Labrador and Newfoundland in the east, and in Alaska and British Columbia in the west, the "Lords and Ladies" are not found on the intervening Arctic seas, so only occur as rare stragglers in Manitoba. Three were shot at Erinview by Frank Ward in 1898, and another on Lake Manitoba about 1908 by Charlie Holden, Winnipeg.



CLARK'S NUTCRACKER, named after William Clark, the American explorer, is the dominant bird of the western mountains and valleys. From time to time, single adventurers leave these fastnesses to see the eastern world and occasionally a small trek takes place, as in 1930 and 1931, when half a dozen or so were spotted in Manitoba, some by CKY listeners. They are jay-like in habit and although their characteristic call is a loud, harsh "charr, charr," their song is quite musical. Like our Canada Jay, they are camp habitues, omnivorous in their feeding habits and breed very early, even late February, being apparently immune to cold.



This big-billed visitor is the **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK**, a relative of our common Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The male is easily identified but the female so closely resembles her cousin, the Rose-breasted, that they cannot be distinguished in the field by inexperienced observers. The male is a noted singer, the song being described as jovial and hearty, with brilliant, rolling trills. Being a fruit-eater as well as an insect-eater, the bird sometimes gets a bad mark from cherry growers. Common from B.C. to Mexico, the odd few stray into Manitoba. The first was recorded by the Criddle brothers at Aweme, Treesbank, on May 30, 1919.

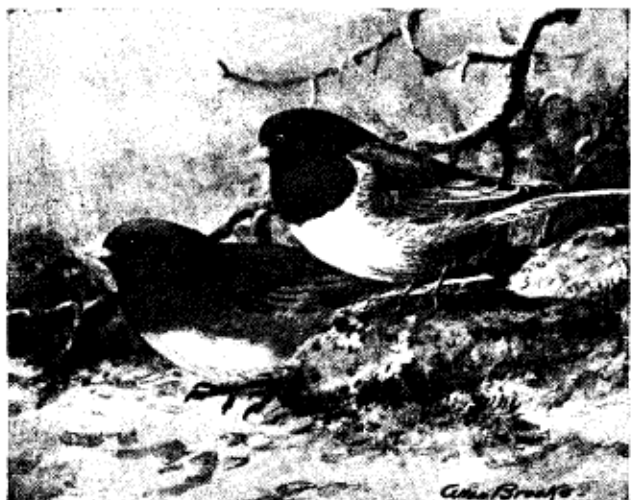
The American Golden-eye (male with greenish head and round white spot) is common in Manitoba, but **BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE** (male with purplish head and crescentic white spot) is a rarity. The females cannot be separated in the field. There is no known Manitoba-collected specimen but Horace Hatton of the Western Taxidermists states that he mounted several for Manitobans between the years 1900 and 1925. These ducks are common in the mountains of British Columbia and western Alberta, and also in Labrador, but, like the Harlequin, they are absent in the north and so do not commonly pass through the interior.



The beautiful **WESTERN TANAGER** is a bird of the deep forests of the western mountains, where in summer the males sing from the tops of trees 300 feet high. In late summer, the families descend to the warmer valleys, where they remain for the winter. This is an example of vertical migration, most migrations being horizontal, from north to south, or vice-versa. The plainly dressed female, if seen alone, is difficult to distinguish from a female Baltimore Oriole. As already mentioned, the first Manitoba specimen was recorded in 1933; there have been several reported since, some close to Winnipeg.



The Slate-colored Junco passes through southern Manitoba in millions each spring and fall, and with them are occasional **RED-BACKED JUNCOS**, rare visitors from the west. The Red-backed are divided into three races, the Oregon Junco (on right) which has the deepest rusty back; Shufeldt's Junco, which has paler colors; and the Montana Junco, which is still paler and approaches the Slate-colored Junco (on left) in color. These all interbreed so it is difficult to distinguish them as races, but there is no mistaking a Red-backed Junco with a coal black head and breast sharply cut off from the white underparts, and with rusty back and flanks.



The resplendent **LAZULI BUNTING**, described as "a veritable living jewel that flashes in the sun", is another westerner that makes occasional sallies into the prairies. The first recorded for Manitoba, in 1931, was a CKY Bird, as already noted. Mrs. Nicholson saw also a male in the spring of 1928 but failed to report it. Since then, several have been found, including one in Fort Garry in May, 1935, by John Pollock and Wm. Havelock, working separately, which was later seen by a number of Winnipeg naturalists. This tropically-colored jewel, which should have been called after the turquoise rather than the lapis lazuli, sings a rambling warble somewhat like that of a Goldfinch, but not so energetically. It is found in low bush along water-ways or on half-shaded hillsides, where it nests in clumps of weeds.



BULLOCK'S ORIOLE has been reported from time to time but never satisfactorily identified until Miss G. Irene Todd of Brandon carefully described a pair that visited her garden on May 24 and 26, 1940, and again on August 15, the same year. On the latter occasion, the pair was accompanied by two youngsters, so it is probable that they nested in the province. Miss Todd was familiar with the birds in southern British Columbia, where it is a common species. It must be carefully distinguished from highly colored specimens of the Baltimore Oriole, our common oriole, which is distinguished by its all-black head and neck. The nest is an elaborately woven bag of grasses, suspended from a branch at a moderate height. The eggs are white, curiously and intricately scrawled with fine, wiggly lines.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE is well-named as it is a bird of the high mountain solitudes. Plain in color, it is likely to be easily overlooked except by the keen ornithologist. It was first placed on the Manitoba list by the late C. G. Harrold, the noted museum collector, who collected one at Stonewall on October 20, 1923. Another was found in the Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg, on October 8 and 10, 1932, by A. M. and J. Mackie. The bird belongs to the thrush family in spite of its flycatcher-like bill.



Our Overseas Page

The following graphic account of England in wartime is from a letter to a CBC associate in Winnipeg, and is reprinted from the CBC Prairie Regional Programme Schedule. The writer is John Kannawin, former Prairie Region Representative of the CBC, now heading the Corporation's Overseas Unit in London. The letter is dated February 21:

"Many millions of these English people are and have been going through a hell which no Canadian will ever be able to understand, and they are doing it silently, bravely, and in the simple line of bounden duty. Yes, they're a grand lot. Given peace and plenty, they must be superb. It is almost impossible to write about them and feel that you have done it sincerely. You check your material with them to make sure of your facts, and they give you a piteous glance, and observe:

"Must you say those silly things about us? We didn't ask for this—it just happened to us."

"What can you do with a people like that? What a colossal blanked fool Hitler must be!

"A few weeks ago I went through my first raid. In my boarding-house, where there are two kiddies aged eleven and eight, the guns sounded very near. All through the blitz they had slept in a little cloakroom beneath the front stairs. With the approach of planes and the increasing fury of the barrage, their mother thought they should come down to their little shelter, and instructed them to do so. The eleven-year-old miss descended with a considerable display of annoyance—"Mummy, do you suppose all this nonsense is going to start again?"

"I take my hat off to them—young and old. A venerable character who sells newspapers in one section of London came up raving mad one day. It wasn't because he had lost the shack he calls home. But Jerry had put a bomb splinter through his modest sheaf of news-

papers and ruined the lot—and they are so hard to get because of the paper shortage!

"Yes, it's a different London, but it's a glorious London, too. St. Paul's stands miraculously magnificent amid a welter of ruins. Not even Christopher Wren could have contemplated that. The bombing has done more to glorify St. Paul's than has any other single thing in history.



Canadian Radio Commentator H. Rooney Pelletier looks on while a V.A.D. Sister treats a young shelterer in a London underground station. The photograph was taken during an actuality programme showing various aspects of life in Britain.

"I've spent a lot of time with the Canadians in their various camps, and have seen many of those same men who used to ride with me on Academy Road cars up to Fort Osborne Barracks. . . . You'd never recognize them now. Straight, keen, hard and purposeful they look. There are the men who held pen, and book, and plough-handle at home. With Bren gun, aircraft, and tank, they'll see us through the dark days impending. They're a grand lot, this so-called frustrated army who have been called back from more operations than we may ever know. But theirs may be the final operation—theirs the honor of administering the coup de grace. . . . We'll carry on here in our little sixth Region—the Overseas Region—until the dirty business is all over, and we can get back to life and living."

Around CKX, Brandon



Pictured above are three members of the CKX, Brandon, announcing staff. At the left: Wally Grigg was out "taking the sun" on the CKX Studio steps when the cameraman took this picture. Centre: Announcer Bob Churcher, who doubles as Sunday transmitter operator, posed for this snap at the entrance to the CKX Transmitter Building. Right: When Dwayne Johns finishes his day's work as one of CKX's announcers, he relaxes at home and—yes, you've guessed it—listens to the radio!

BACK THE ATTACK — BUY VICTORY BONDS

NAVY - ARMY - AIR FORCE

All three services share in the co-operation extended by CKX, Brandon, to organizations engaged in the all-important task of winning the war. With the formation of a Brandon branch of the Navy League of Canada, CKX helped stimulate interest and recruiting in the Navy Cadet Corps, which has now been brought up to strength. Army broadcasts are presented regularly from Army centres at Fort Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Camp Shilo. "The Air Force Entertains", a series recently concluded, brought CKX listeners a weekly revue of talent from Airmen stationed in and around Brandon.

Ever since the beginning of the war, CKX has gone "all-out" in bringing "talent from the Services" to its listeners.

12

RECOMMENDED LISTENING ON CKX

- 9:00 a.m. Mon. to Sat.—
Music for Miladi
- 6:00 p.m. Mon. to Fri.—
Victory Loan Programme
- 9:30 a.m. Sun.—
Strength for the Day
- 7:30 p.m. Mon.—
Dollars for Scholars
- 8:00 a.m. Thurs.—
Eveready Time
- 4:15 p.m. Fri.—
Badge of Honour
- 6:30 p.m. Fri.—
A4 Artillery Band

Manitoba Schools' Orchestra

The Manitoba Schools' Orchestra was formed in the season of 1923-24 through the inspiration of the late Mr. P. G. Padwick. Its first broadcast took place in November, 1927, and the custom of a series of broadcast programmes prior to and including the Easter Concert has been an annual event since 1931. As many as four hundred players from Winnipeg and Manitoba Schools have taken part in the Easter Concert, and it has always proved an inspirational, as well as a musical treat for all interested in music. Mr. Ronald Gibson was appointed director of the Orchestra following the passing of Mr. Padwick, and under his able leadership the children of urban and rural Manitoba continued to find an outlet for musical expression through the Schools' Orchestra. Upon his entry in the R.C.A.F. the baton passed on to Mr. Filmer E. Hubble, whose long experience in musical circles in the Province makes him well qualified to guide the destinies of these young musicians.

Miss Elsa Handel, personnel director, deserves high praise for her valuable assistance to the orchestra at all times. It is no easy task, especially in these busy war days, to assemble and organize a group such as is represented in the Manitoba Schools' Orchestra, and great credit is due those who make the venture possible.

This year, following a series of five Saturday morning broadcasts, the Manitoba Schools Orchestra performed in its annual concert on Thursday, April 29. A portion of the concert was recorded, and broadcast over CKY the following Saturday, May 1.

The candid snapshots at the right were taken during a Saturday morning broadcast from Gordon Bell School. In one picture Miss Elsa Handel, personnel director, conductor, Mr. Hubble, and Wilf Davidson are gathered at the microphone. Other pictures show various sections of the Orchestra in action.





THIRD OFFICER NANCY PYPER

AN ORCHID FROM OVERSEAS



The men 'who go down to the sea in ships' were paid tribute at an unique service held in the village church at Cherry Valley, near Picton, Ontario. Held annually in the island county of Prince Edward, sailors, fishermen, their families and friends from miles around gather to bid Godspeed to those leaving for the season on the lakes, to remember those who have entered the Last Port, to offer prayers for the safety of those who sail the seas.

Originally, the service was dedicated to those who sailed during schooner days but with the war it has taken on a wider significance. Amidst a setting of flags, model ships, net-draped altar, illuminated binnacle, a model lighthouse with flashing beacon and other nautical emblems, the vast crowd joins in hymns of the sea, listens to tales extolling the men who follow the waters, join in prayers for their safety. Each year the service opens with a flag raising ceremony and closes with the hymn "God Be With You Till We Meet Again", a simple hymn but full of poignant meaning as it comes as a prayer from the hearts of hundreds.

Third Officer Nancy Pyper, WRCNS,

"The writer thought you would be interested to know that in a recent letter from overseas, my husband was telling me how much he enjoys the "Manitoba Calling" which arrives regularly every month. So far, he hasn't missed an issue, which is pretty wonderful in war days.

As he isn't a Manitoban and was unfamiliar with CKY or your programmes, I think it is all the more tribute to your magazine that he and the other boys are so interested in it and find it enjoyable, and as he says, like a breath of fresh-air from home.

I'm not quite sure when the subscription runs out, but rather than run the risk of having him miss a copy I am enclosing herewith sixty cents, and would ask you to kindly carry on the good work . . . "

Editor's note: We were particularly pleased to receive this letter, telling us that "Manitoba Calling" brings pleasure to our fighting men overseas. The regular arrival of the magazine overseas has been reported in many letters received. One in particular had enclosed a front from the mailing envelope, bearing no less than six addresses. The writer remarked: ". . . to show how this little book got around, and how faithfully it follows an ambling soldier. . . ."

whose home is in Toronto, but who is well known throughout the West where she was previously active in dramatic circles, and who recently concluded a speaking tour on behalf of the women's branch of the Royal Canadian Navy, was guest speaker. Taking as her topic "Canada's Women March!", Third Officer Pyper paid tribute to the women "who are doing a magnificent job" in munition plants, in the R.C.A.F. (W.D.), in the C.W.A.C. and the W.R.C.N.S.

The value of training received by women in the services was stressed by Third Officer Pyper, who stated that the Canadian WRCNS hoped to emulate the WRENS, their British sisters.

There Were Elephants in Manitoba

By L. T. S. NORRIS-ELYE, B.A., (Cantab)
Director, The Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg.

Not only were there elephants in Canada in very recent times (geologically speaking), but there were at least two or three different kinds. In some districts they were so numerous before the last glacial period, probably twenty thousand years ago, that their bones and ivory tusks are found in large numbers. It seems certain that they lived through the last glacial period, as remains have been found in post-glacial deposits, though we do not know with accuracy when the last of them died out.

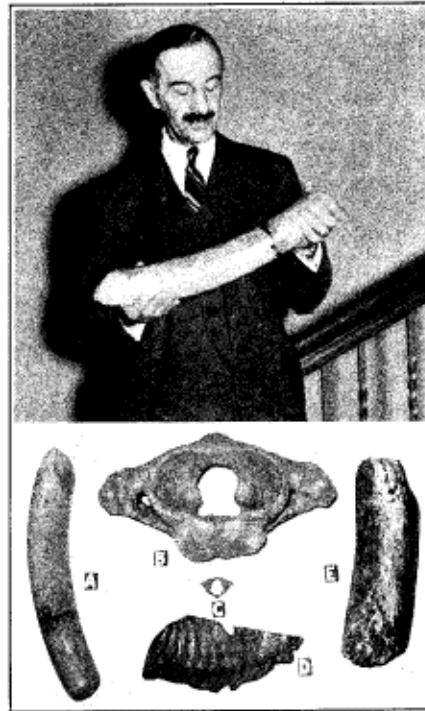
Their remains have been found from Ontario to Vancouver Island and in Alaska in sufficient numbers to interfere with gold-digging operations in the frozen gravels.

The two most abundant species were the mammoth (*Elephas primigenius*) and the mastodon (*Mastodon americanus*). There have been numerous records of the mammoth from the Canadian prairies but, so far as is known, there are no certain records from our prairies of the mastodon, most of which have been found in the East.

Until 1930 Mr. C. M. Sternberg had no records of either mastodon or mammoth from Manitoba, though he had four records of mammoths from Saskatchewan. It was, therefore, a matter of considerable interest when, on June 15, 1939, Mr. S. Prettie of Lockport brought to the writer for identification an object he found in the gravel pit four miles east-north-east of Transcona. It turned out to be a part of an elephant's tusk, probably that of a mammoth. As it was found in a glacial deposit there is no absolute certainty that the animal died in Manitoba, but this is highly probable; the remains may have been moved a great distance by glacial action from the original point of burial. However, it forms a Manitoba record and appears to be the first. This tusk is in the Museum, in case No. 32, Section A. In the Museum, too, are several other remains of mammoths taken from Fort

Qu'Appelle and Lebret, just over the border in Saskatchewan, collected by Messrs. Stokes, Rand, Helyar, McCabe and Farriker. Also on exhibit are several mammoths' teeth.

Since the discovery of the tusk near Transcona, a thicker but shorter piece



Upper picture: Mr. Norris-Elye is shown holding the thin tusk of a mammoth (also at A in the lower picture) found east of Transcona. At B in the lower picture is the atlas bone of a mammoth, found at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. The atlas bone of a human is shown (C) for comparison. At D is a mammoth tooth from the Arctic (locality not known). At E is a thicker tusk of a mammoth, found north of Benito, Manitoba.

of tusk (probably of a mammoth) was discovered by A. Mackenzie near Benito and donated by him to the University of Manitoba; the University has loaned the specimen to the Museum where it may be seen.

What was the mammoth like? Structurally, it was so like the modern Indian elephant that Lydekker considers it to be the same species. The Indian elephant averages about nine feet at the shoulders, though a few have reached about ten feet in height. The tusks of the mammoth had more of an upward curve, and a spiral curvature with the tips often over-lapping in old age. It also had, in Northern latitudes, a thick coat of brownish, woolly fur, among which were numbers of longer black, bristly hairs—doubtless nature's way of meeting the cold of Northern climes. Modern elephants, confined to warmer climates, have no wool and only a few bristly hairs, though the young are quite hairy.

Many mammoth remains have been brought up from the bottom of the North Sea, and have been found in Norway, France, Germany, Italy and Russia. In Russia several carcasses have



The Beresovka mammoth in the position in which it was found on excavation. (Partial reconstruction.)

From "Siberian Man and Mammoth"

been found preserved in frozen soils, some complete with flesh and wool. One, discovered at the mouth of the Lena in 1799, had the eyes preserved. Another, found at Yakutsk in about 1850, had the mane extending from head to tail and

fragments of twigs between its teeth. When Adams, the naturalist, visited the spot to preserve the specimen of 1799, the dogs of the Yakuts had eaten most of the flesh. The remains, however, were taken to St. Petersburg where they were mounted in the position in which the animal was found.

The number of remains found in Siberia and Russia may be gauged from the fact that during 1872 and 1873, two thousand, seven hundred and seventy tusks were imported into England, apart from what went to other countries.

In the caves of France and Spain are excellent drawings of mammoths by the palaeolithic (old stone age) men, and these show clearly the long, woolly coat. Copies of some of these drawings are in the Museum library.

The mastodon was similar to the mammoth in most respects, but the teeth are entirely different. On the crowns are many nipple-shaped protuberances (the word mastodon means nipple-tooth), whereas the mammoth has level crowns with several low, transverse ridges like all modern elephants. A small part of a mastodon's tooth may be seen in the Museum in case No. 20, Section A.

Why these animals died out is not known for certain; it is strongly suspected by some that a very sudden climatic change overcame them, in view of the preservation of the flesh for some thousands of years on the frozen tundra. Others throw much doubt upon this theory because most of the evidence points to changes in climate having been exceedingly slow. This point has not yet been satisfactorily settled.



LIGHTER MOMENTS OF THE WAR

The following story is told in London at the expense of the War Office:

Two American boys walking along Whitehall—the street where the chief government offices are situated—hailed a passing Tommy and said: "Say, which side is the War Office on?"

"Blimey," said the Tommy, "Ours, I hope!"



Victoria Day - May 24th

Victoria Day commemorates the birthday of Victoria, Queen of England, born May 24, 1819, at Kensington Palace, London.

She became queen on June 20, 1837 and was crowned in Westminster Abbey on June 28, 1838. During the sixty-three years of her reign Victoria brought to the throne many fine and noble characteristics, endearing her to the hearts of her subjects; and the period was one of incredible progress and expansion in industry, science and culture.

Her golden jubilee in 1887, followed ten years later by her diamond jubilee, revealed "the Empire on which the sun never sets".

When death claimed Victoria, sovereign and protector, on January 22, 1901, the Empire deeply mourned the loss of one who had fulfilled the exacting duties of the throne with simple, natural but incomparable skill.



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