

ISLAND STORIES BY BRENDA CHENELL

At one time, Entry Island had a lobster factory. It was located at the point, and was built in the early 1930's by Mr. Frank Leslie.

Approximately thirty to forty people worked there, when in operation. In those days, the workers were paid the whopping sum of \$1.00 per day.

It used to be that seven or eight men would boil the lobster outside of the factory, and inside the women would wash the cooked meat of the shellish. Lobster was also canned then at the factory.

The French people from the islands of Amherst and Grindstone as well, worked at the time. They camped on Entry while they were there working during the summer months.

At that time, it was Mr. Joe Nadeau who managed the factory.

Henry Welsh would haul the lobster shells away by horse and cart. He would then spread the shells over the fields. It was a very good means of fertilizing the ground.

Frank Leslie also operated a store during those years on Entry Island. it was located just beside the factory.

It was Mr. Richard McLean who took care of the store for Mr. Leslie. As well, Clara (McLean) Patton also worked at this store as a clerk.

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In the early 1920's, it was always a big event when the herring would strike. The men from Entry Island would set a couple of herring nets each during the month of April to see if they were coming. When the herring hit, the men would start for Amherst to bring the herring home in boatlands.

The fishermen landed their herring by the fish house or wherever it was calmest. They would then haul the fish to the bait houses by horse and cart. In those years, the fishermen used salted bait to bait their lobster traps. And always, they would prepare a barrel of salted herring for themselves, to eat that following winter.

In those days, most people tried to get their grounds plowed up for potatoes and oats before the lobster fishing season started. And then, other people waited until the first of June. Sometimes snow would still be on the ground, but the potatoe seeds were planted anyway. They always seemed to grow. It just took a little longer for the sprouts to come up.

The vegetable gardens didn't grow too good, but Herman Josey always had a good garden.

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On Sunday, August 7, Father Nutter, the Anglican Rector of the Magdalen Island Mission accompanied a Memorial Cross to Entry Island.

Benny Dickson, the captain of "The Outlaw", carried the cross, and was followed by the Coast Guard and 12 fishing boats from Entry Island.

The 23 ft. high cross was constructed by Leo Leblanc of Big Cape. At eye level on the cross is a glass protector, in which a plaque was placed bearing all the names of those lost at sea on Entry Island.

The cross was erected at the highest point in All Saint's churchyard, facing the sea, enabling the cross to be seen for many miles. Father Nutter, and his assistant Charles Taker, held an open air Holy Eucharist Service. Approximately 125 people attended the afternoon event.

A stained-glass window was also installed in the front of the church.

The Memorial Fund used to pay for these memorials was raised because of the loss, at sea on Nov. 21, of four young people from Entry Island, and a woman from Joliette, Quebec. Many donations were received from both on and off the Island.

ISLAND STORIES

When Bahan Chenell was a young man, the lobster season usually started around the 10th of May. The season ended on the 20th of July.

Bahan fished with Curtis Quinn in 1932 and was paid \$125 for the season. He was the highest paid helper on the shore. The rest of the men received \$60 - \$80 or the season.

Before that, he fished with his brother, Leonard, on shares. At that time, the price for lobster was 3 or 4 cents per pound. They fished 400 traps, although they could have fished more if they had wanted to.

After the Second World War, Bahan, once again, fished. This time with his son, Spencer as a helper. When he received his Old Age Pension he retired.

The 10th of May was a school holiday, as well. The children spent the day at the shore with their mothers. Everyone helped to drag the traps down the beach to the boats. It took most of the day for the fishermen to set the traps, so everyone had a lunch kettle filled with sandwiches and pastries. The cold tea tasted good after all the hard work.

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Jessie MacNeil, young woman from Quebec, who in year of 1940, came to and was the nurse on Entry Island.

She was a small and fragile person. She became tired very easily and had a chronic cough.

She boarded at the home of Richard McLean and it was there that she died in the spring of 1941.

The people of Entry Island built her a casket out of wood and painted it black. They lined it as best they could with white cotton.

Kenneth McLean took her body back to Quebec, where she had come. Jessie's mother was very grateful to the people of Entry Island who had been so thoughtful. She was also grateful to Kenneth for returning her daughter's body home, instead of having buried her on Entry Island. Jessie's mother bought another casket for her daughter's body.

Nurse MacNeil had said that, when the time came, she wanted to die on duty, doing her work for others.

BRENDA CHENELL

ISLAND STORIES BY ADA WELSH

Charles Welsh was the son of Rueben Welsh and Sarah Dickson of Entry Island, Magdalen Islands. He was born in 1916, and married Ada Turnbull, daughter of Thomas Turnbull and Minnie Keating of Grosse Ile, in 1945. Charles died on December 20th, 1980.

Charles joined the Royal Rifles of Canada in 1941 and was discharged in 1943. He came home and fished lobster and also ran the mail by boat to Amherst Island during the summer months. In winter, he went sometimes by boat to "the Hook". There were days they would pull the boat, or a small flat, over the shore ice for many miles to put them in the water.

Some winters an ice-bridge would make between Amherst and Entry Island. They would make a road on the ice, sometimes cutting the icebergs down to level the road. This made it easier to run the mail.

Some winters when the weather did not permit to run the mail in this manner, Charles would have a Mr. MacWain from Charlottetown, come over in his airplane and take the mail over and bring the incoming mail back. He ran the mail from 1950 until 1971.

Charles was also Church Warden for many years.

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