

MUSEUM NEWS

Dear Readers,

October was a busy month and the museum was no exception. All month long we had lots happening to offer our visitors.

Every Tuesday was Little Toot Tuesday (ending October 30) where you and your Little Toot could enjoy story time, a craft and a puppet show.

Also happening through to the end of the month is an exhibit in memoriam of the S.S Caribou Disaster. The S.S Caribou went down late night/early morning of October 14/15, 1942 when it was torpedoed by a German U-Boat. The museum was honoured to host a display telling the story of the brave men and women who experienced the tragedy of that night.

Sincerely,
RCM Staff

Newfoundland Travel in 1949: Part 10: Hopedale

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The following bulletin is part of a mini-series based on a scrapbook from 1949. The scrapbook recounts a trip taken by three adventurous women from Boston who travel across Newfoundland and then up the coast of Labrador. I hope that you enjoy the read and will continue to follow along with us.

“The best part of the whole trip to date” Connie wrote in the notes they kept of their trip. Mable agreed that seeing Hopedale was one of the highlights.



S.S KYLE AT HOPEDALE

Pulling into the harbor of the town the whistle blew to alert the residents that the *S.S Kyle* had arrived. A large party of aboriginals from Hopedale, “boat loads” Mable wrote, came to the ship as it dropped anchor. The girls were told that this is a common occurrence but they enjoyed the festive air on the boat as the visitors came aboard. Mable was taken with the variety of fashions worn by the new comers she wrote that they had everything, “from a red silk dress to mukluks.” Connie, Pat and Mable had fun during the on board celebrations. They took photos and bought a pair of seal skin slippers then “hopped into a boat for the shore.”

They visited the village where there was a Moravian Mission, Hudson Bay Company store and a “Mountie Station.” Connie, Pat and Mable walked along touring the area. Mable said that the streets were more like broad



paths that had boardwalk in some places. Mable talked about Hopedale describing the vegetation that far north as scarce and mostly made up of moss “and a coarse grass.” But the girls were told of a park that had trees and flowers. Following them on their explorations was a pack of about five puppies. Mable wrote that there were dogs everywhere but they were told to ignore them. Pat found it hard to disregard the trailing animals. Mable also portrayed the people as very friendly and they were invited into several homes.

The homes were small. Pat, Mable and Connie had the opportunity to visit three of the residences in the town. The houses were neat and clean on the inside and often had a “shed catch-all” near them. Mable described the dwellings that they visited; one had a hammock inside that was shared by the grandmother, grandfather, two children, and a baby, while another had a kitchen and a bedroom and the last had a room with multiple beds and a baby sleeping inside. The girls were quite taken with the living arrangements in the community. Mable noted several times how clean the dwellings were.

Later in the day the girls saw a woman with a seal skin bag that they took a liking too. Following the lady back to her home the girls bought the bag and a pair of slippers. Mable noted that they had bought another pair of slippers in one of the other homes they visited.



HOPEDALED DOGS

LABRADORITE

Labradorite is kind of feldspar found near Nain, Labrador. It was first discovered in 1770. It was originally thought to have mystic properties because of the beautiful shine of colours it possesses.

Labradorescence is the name given to the iridescent colours that appear when light is shone on the stone. Depending on the angle of the light and the internal make up of the stones the colours can range from blue to gold.



The Rangers

Created July 1935 by the Commission of Government the Rangers were sent to outport and remote areas of Newfoundland and Labrador to serve as the community's link to the government. The duties of the Ranger Force were many – everything from Custom officers, law enforcement, investigation, fire fighting, and truant officers to issuing small game and fishing licenses and arranging medical care. To enlist in the Rangers men were required to have a grade XI certificate, be 21 – 28 years of age, single, physically fit, be at least 5'9 and weigh no more than 185 pounds. The Rangers thrived as respected government appointees until the force was disbanded July 31st 1950.

William Joseph Mullaly was the Ranger that Mable, Connie and Pat met on their trip. He was originally from Northern Bay, NL but spent his years as a Ranger in Hopedale. He really enjoyed his appointment there and got along well with the people. According to his sister, Marie, he was often given handmade items as thank you gifts for the work he did. He was very isolated in Hopedale as no one spoke English and the only time he really had someone to talk too was when he was visited by missionaries or doctors regardless of this when the time came he was reluctant to leave his position in the community. When the Rangers were dissolved Ranger Mullaly went on to become an R.C.M.P officer.

To learn more about the Rangers visit: home.ca.inter.net/~elinorr/

It would seem the girls had a fondness for slippers. After that they went to the Hudson Bay Company Store. Pat had made a friend on the boat who was going to work in the store and he let them in. They didn't buy much but took their time browsing the store. They found mukluks for sale as well some nice deer skin slippers. The receipt that is glued into the scrapbook shows that they bought (another) pair of seal skin slippers and a grass basket. After their shopping excursion the trio returned to the *S.S Kyle*.

Mable had collected a piece of pink granite while she explored Hopedale. She said that the stone was everywhere but as she waited to get on the *Kyle* her thoughts drifted to another stone. Wondering where she could get some Labradorite she asked a young Ranger where she could find some. Ranger Mullaly took a piece of Labradorite from his pocket and gave it to her, "Beautiful blue sheen from it" she wrote.

Mable, Connie and Pat returned to the *S.S. Kyle* for the afternoon. Just before supper they hopped on another boat to return to shore but more on that later!



Lelli Labradorite!

30% off of Lelli designs through to the end of the month!

Come explore the delights of Labradorite ranging in colours from deep blues to fire oranges.

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FOR THE KIDS!

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a jump away!

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with a Thomas Halloween Car!

