THE JARVIS RECORD

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GEO. L. MILLER
Editor and Proprietor

ABAGAIL BECKER HEROINE OF 1854

The Scene—The treacherous shoal of Long Point, long known as the graveyard of Lake Erie. The Time—A cruel November night in the year 1854. The circumstances—A terrific gale lashing Erie's waters into a blinding fury; a small schooner manned by eight sailors, being driven nearer and nearer, swiftly and surely, to destruction on the Long Point reef; and a lone woman, mother of several small children, occupying a small trapper's cabin close by the shore where gigantic waves were breaking with ruthless force.

The denouement: The heroic woman, bravely plunging into the waves and rescuing the entire crew as they, one by one, leaped into the icy waters and struggled towards shore; the building of a huge bonfire where the half-frozen, semi-conscious men were resuscitated; then taken to the cabin where shelter and food soon restored them.

The aftermath: A reward of five hundred dollars from the merchants of the city of Buffalo, N.Y.; the presentation to the heroine of a handsomely-inscribed gold medal by the New York Life Saving Association; and a personal letter of congratulation from Queen Victoria.

Such was the drama which enrolled the name of Abigail Becker in imperishable letters in the hall of Canada's immortals, and gave her the title of the Canadian Grace Darling, the British heroine of a similar epic. Seventy-eight years have elapsed since Abigail Becker performed that valorous feat and she has been gone for about a quarter of a century, but the memory lives and was renewed not long ago when her second husband, Henry Rohrer, passed away in his 93rd year.

Her Early Life.

Abigail Becker was the daughter of a U. E. Loyalist, one, Elijah Jackson, a Dutchman, who came from New York State and settled in the County of Frontenac, Ontario during the exodus of British patriots after the American Revolutionary War. He married a French-Canadian Marie Grozaine. They set up the sacred hearthstone of home in the Township of Portland in that county and there is was that on the 14th day of March, 1831, this daughter was born to them who was to emulate the gallant heroism of Florence Nightingale, Laura Secord and those other valiant women whose memory the world reveres. The child was given the good scriptural name of Abigail and worthily did she bear it through a life of more than three score years and ten. When she was eleven years of age she removed to Townsend Township in the County of Norfolk with her parents, and within this county continued until death.

Abigail Jackson married Jeremiah Becker, a resident of the southern part of the county and a trapper by occupation. At that time she was only a slender girl of seventeen years, but she was inured to hardship that day. She scanned the horizon with anxious longing and foreboding fear.

Towards evening the distant murmur of a coming storm could be heard and before night it had deepened into a roaring hurricane. The bay between the Point and the mainland became a turmoil of seething waters. Abigail retired to rest but not to sleep. The hoarse voice of the gale and her anxiety for those who might be exposed to the fierce tempest made the night one long agony. At last she could stand the strain no longer and hastily dressing, ventured out.

With the coming of dawn she could discern through the gloom a ship about a third of a mile out with the waves breaking over her. Presently she fell. Immediately freezing as they fell. Immediately she built a huge bonfire of driftwood on the beach to give courage to the half-frozen sailors. Then she waded out as far as posible in the surf which was breaking in mountains of foam over the wreck. Beckoning to the men she tried to make them understand that she knew the way and could guide them to safety. She was prepared to attempt their rescue despite the fact that she herself could not swim. Finally the captain pulled off his coat and shoes and plunged into the water. The waves carried him down the beach some distance and he was fast becoming exhausted when Abigail Becker waded out to him and dragged him to safety. One by one the sailors followed their captain. Several of them were unconscious by the time they were helped to shore. But food and warmth soon restored their ebbing strength.

The storm raged for four days and food became very scarce before Trapper Becker could return with supplies from Port Rowan. But the unfortunate crew were well taken care of by Abigail Becker, to whom they were so deeply grateful. It is worthy of note that she did not consider that she had done anything wonderful. Some years afterwards she gave an interview which reveals her innate modesty. She told her story simply and briefly.

Her Own Story.

"Yes, the day was bitterly cold when I rescued the sailors. In the early hours of the morning I heard the cracking of torn sails in the wind. Hastening to the shore, I soon sighted the vessel and the men in the rigging. I waded out into the breakers and signalled them to jump in and swim and I would help them. One at a time, they did so and I clutched each half-frozen man and dragged him through the terrible breakers to shore. I helped them to the fire on the beach and then to our cabin. To one I gave my shawl, and to another my shoes to protect his partly-frozen feet. Bare-footed I toiled on, my clothes frozen like iron upon me. Throughout the day the rescue work continued until by nightfall seven of them were safely ashore. But the other poor fellow, the cook, could not swim and had to remain another long night in the rigging. By the next morning the sea had subsided and there he was, lashed to the rigging to prevent the waves from washing him away. With the aid of a raft we succeeded in rescuing him. He was so fearfully frozen that he had to stay several weeks with us before he was able to go home.

"I only did my duty as any other would have done it. I did not desire that my name should be honored this way in the world. I insisted that Captain Hackett should not tell of it. He afterwards told me that he had to, and so it got out."

The Gold Medal.

The solid gold medal presented to her by the "Life Saving Benevolent Association of the New York," and now in possession of the Norfolk Historical Society, carries the following inscription: Presented in May, 1857 to Abigail Becker of Long Point, Lake Erie, Canada West, for extraordinary resolution, humanity and courage in rescuing from impending death the crew of the schooner Conductor, lost November 1854." On the reverse side a vessel is shown in the breakers on the shore, a house in the distance and on the shore a fire burning and men around it.

Abigail Becker prized very highly the autograph letter which she received from Queen Victoria, inviting her to the jubilee in England. Unfortunately it was destroyed in the Port Rowan customs house fire some years afterward. The Long Point heroine was offered five dollars a day and expenses by a show company to tour the world, but she refused. "I have always been poor," she is reported to have said. "But never wanted for anything; always have had plenty to eat and wear, and indeed I valued my good name too highly to go away on a tour of that kind."

Saved Twelve Lives in All.

During her lifetime Abigail Becker saved the lives of four other persons besides the Conductor crew. On one occasion during her stay at the Point an iron-laden vessel was wrecked near the lower lighthouse. The crew of six escaped to shore only to find that the keeper had gone for the winter to the mainland. In a starved condition they broke into the keeper's house and found some frozen potatoes which they eagerly devoured. They set out in search of aid and finally reached the Becker cabin, but two of their number had fallen by the wayside about one mile and a half distant. Abigail Becker at once went after them and succeeded in helping them to the cabin. She saved their lives. On another occasion she saved a child from drowning in a well and again, a man who had fallen in the water at Nanticoke and could not swim.

It seemed an ironic twist of fate that Abigail Becker could save the lives of others but her own family she could not save. Both her husband and one son fell victims to the treachery of Lake Erie. The boy was drowned in Port Rowan bay and his body was never recovered. Jeremiah Becker met his fate in another terrific gale in January 1864. He was alone at his trapping cabin at the time. The rising waters forced him to leave the cabin and he had apparently tried to make his way to another cabin three miles distant. He perished within half a mile of the place. His frozen body was not found for three months.

Her Farm and Her Family.

With the aid of $500 presented to her by Buffalo merchants, Abigail Becker purchased a fifty-acre farm in North Walsingham where she lived for the remainder of her years during which her attention was fully occupied by the dual task of taking care of the farm and raising a family of nineteen children. At the time of her husband's death there were five boys and three girls in the family, in addition to the six stepchildren. Five years later she married Henry Rohrer. Three daughters were born to them, bringing the total to seventeen, and there were two small adopted children as well. Her family was Abigail's greatest pride, greater than even her heroic rescue at Long Point. She was proud of the seventeen children she had raised to manhood and womanhood. Ten of these were boys who had never tasted liquor or tobacco. The surviving members of the family at the time this narrative is written are:

A True Heroine.

Abigail Becker continued to live on the farm until her death on the 21st of March, 1905, in her 74th year. In the evening of her long life a reception was given for her in the town of Simcoe when hundreds of citizens from far and near came to pay her homage. She is described by those who knew her as tall and comely, well-knit and physically developed, a woman of the lakes and woods, and thoroughly imbued with the dauntless spirit that makes for heroines. One who had visited her some time before her death gives us the following description: "We stood face to face with one whose shoulders are yet unbent and dark hair only lightly threaded with silver, whose face reflects the purity of soul possessed by the truly great and whose name has been spoken or with reverent gratitude by all who knew her."

The bravery of Abigail Becker is chronicled in a ballad from the pen of Amanda T. Jones. published in the Ontario high school reader of a generation ago. Two of its most stirring verses read:

For what to do but plunge and swim
Out on the sinking billow cast,
She toiled, she dived, she groped for him—
She found and clutched him fast.

She climbed the reef, she brought him up,
She laid him gasping on the sand,
Built high the fire and filled the cup—
Stood by and waved her hand!

Preserving Her Memory.

Today Abigail Becker lies buried in Oakwood cemetery, Simcoe, the remains having been moved from their original resting place in the village cemetery at Langton. The plot is surmounted by a suitably-inscribed tombstone. Some years ago a fund was subscribed by the citizens of Norfolk County with the purpose in view of erecting a public monument in her honor. Ultimately, however, this money was devoted to the worthy purpose of furnishing a ward in the Norfolk General Hospital, which was named for her.

It has always been a matter of keen regret that no recognition of the heroine of Long Point was ever made by the Canadian Government. Her only reward at the time of her epic deed came from United States organizations. The Norfolk Historical Society is now proposing that the Dominion Sites and Monuments Board should erect a cairn on the west end of Long Point to commemorate the valorous feat performed there on a cold November night just three-quarters of a century ago. It might fittingly adorn the new Ontario Government Park recently created there, which now connects with the mainland by a good highway.

Precious Mementoes.

Many treasured mementoes of the heroine are now in custody of the Norfolk Historical Society, having been generously donated by Miss Eleanor Rorher, daughter of Abigail Becker. They include an excellent portrait of her mother, the old family rocking chair, the family Bible, and the gold medal awarded to the heroine. This medal was carried through the Great War by Miss Rohrer, who as a true daughter of Abigail Becker, gave noble service as a nurse on the battlefields of France.

Miss Rohrer is also deeding the old home in Walsingham to the Historical Society who in co-operation with local Chapters of the I.O.D.E. hope to restore it to its original condition and preserve it as one of Canada's historic shrines. Hundreds of tourists visit the place each summer and it is believed that with its restoration it will become a spot of hallowed memory.

A Noble Character.

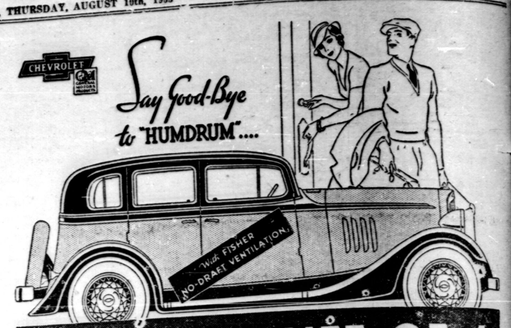
Abigail Becker was one of the truest types of Canadian womanhood, a woman of outstanding Christian character and noble fortitude. Her generous benefactions endeared her to the entire community and thoughout her lifetime she kept "open house" for a host of friends, young and old, who delighted in hearing her recount the thrilling stories of the early days.

About a quarter of a century has gone since she passed away, but her memory lives on, the memory not only of her heroic exploit at Long Point, but of one who battled long and successfully with the tribulations of pioneer life, who surmounted all difficulties, and brought to splendid manhood and womanhood a family of seventeen boys and girls.

Keep your face to the sunshine and the shadows will fall behind you.

McGill Convocation

Representative leaders of Canadian religious, educational and business life take part in the traditionally impressive ceremonies connected with the Convocation of McGill University. Of particular interest was the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws conferred upon His Eminence Cardinal Villeneuve. In the picture are shown from left to right, front row, in gowns. Right Rev. John C. Parthing, D.D., Anglican Bishop of Montreal; His Eminence Cardinal Villeneuve, Archbishop of Quebec; A. J. Brown, K.C. Second row in mortar boards: Chancellor E. W. Beatty, K.C., LL.D. of McGill University, and President, Canadian Pacific Railway; Sir Arthur Currie, Principal of McGill University, and on his left in gown, Mr. John W. Ross. Rear row: W. A. Black, Hon. Vincent Massey and W. M. Birks. In the doorway is Mr. Huntley R. Drummond.



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HORSE-RACING SHOWN TO BE VERY ANCIENT SPORT

Horse-racing was the sport of kings at least 5,000 years ago. Recently there have been discovered in Mesopotamia some Tittite inscriptions dating from more than 1,000 years B.C., which contain complete instructions for training of candidates for big races. Professor Hronzy of the University of Prague has interpreted the inscriptions, and it is astonishing to find how methodical were the trainers of those far-off days.

The animals were first got into condition by a diet which aimed at removing all surplus flesh, and baths are also recommended in the inscription. Speed and stamina were developed first by trotting and then by gallops over longer distances. Training as a rule occupied about six months. Other discoveries show that horse-racing as a sport can be taken back to at least 3,000 B.C.

THE RICH MAN'S DAUGHTER

Here is the history of many a rich man's daughter: She was born without a welcome, fed on a bottle, cared for by a nurse, reared in a nursery, sent away to school, dressed like a doll. She has a debut, to which eligible young men are invited she is shown off like a horse at a horse show and the parents are ready to receive bids for her sale. She marries, raises children, tries to raise them as she was raised, but her husband goes "broke," and she awakes to the necessity of being a mother such as her mother should have been.

One cannot ramble casually through the park of the Canadian National Exhibition and get an adequate impression of the greatness and diversity of the "Show Window of the Nations." There is something in every building to engage the rapt attention of the visitor.

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HEALTH

by Dr. Thomas W. Bell

A HEALTH SERVICE OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN CANADA

FRATULENCE

Flatulence, or gas in the stomach, is a fairly common complaint and one which causes considerable concern and some discomfort to those whom it afflicts.

Normally, a certain amount of air is swallowed in the act of eating. The most common cause of gas in the stomach is the habit which some people have of swallowing comparative large amounts of air, whether alone or with their food. Others deliberately gulp down air to secure relief from abdominal distress.

The distress which results from the collection of gas during or after a meal is commonly due to swallowed air and failure to pass this air along into the intestines, as normally occurs. Rarely is gas in the stomach due to fermentation of the food, as this would occur only if the exit from the stomach to the bowel were blocked.

Flatulence may be a symptom of a diseased condition of the stomach or some adjacent part, such as the gall bladder. The flatulence itself may cause discomfort and a pain in the region of the heart, with a sensation of tightness and distress.

The correction of this condition depends upon the removal of the cau se. When it is a symptom of some abnormal condition, treatment is directed to the cure of that condition. If it is due to air swallowing, then that habit needs to be corrected.

In this latter case, food should be eaten slowly and chewed thoroughly. Eating quickly gulping food or wash it down with fluids likely means the swallowing of a good deal of air. The sufferer would do well, perhaps, to reduce somewhat the quantity of food taken.

There is nothing alarming in the flatulence itself. The significance of the condition depends altogether upon what is causing the trouble. It is always advisable to know what is the cause, so that proper treatment may be applied. Proper treatment is certainly not indiscriminate dosing with baking soda or drugs.

Here is another of the many examples of the importance to health and comfort of selecting proper foods and then eating them in a proper way. Many of our ills arise out of carelessness with regard to our foods.

Questions concerning Health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 184 College Street, Toronto, will be answered personally by letter.

HAGERSVILLE JUNIORS ELIMINATED

Cayuga Takes Two Straight

Hagersville's hopes of a Junior Championship were rudely blasted by determined Cayuga invasion on Saturday. The visitors have a well balanced, fighting outfit which refused to crack under the heavy strain Especially powerful in the keystone positions of pitcher, short stop and second base, they capitalized on Ha-

He who lives after nature shall never be poor, after opinion, shall never be rich. — Seneca.

gersville errors to score a 7—5 win. Failure to hit with men on the paths and numerous costly errors were the causes of Hagersville's downfall.

The game was closely contested at all times and Cayuga only pulled away by means of a 3 run rally in the 8th innings. Cayuga was leading 4—3 going into the 6th innings. Hits by DeMille and Herod and Clause's sacrifice fly gave Hagersville two counters. But in the 8th Cayuga scored 3 on a hit and 3 errors.

For Hagersville Gusty DeMille and L. Holmes each had 2 hits. The reliable Gusty playing second base appeared the best prospect on the team. For Cayuga Baird pitched splendid ball. He has speed, curve, and cleverness. His outstanding quality is his refusal to blow up in the pinches. Barry at first and Gill at short also played well. In the latter Cayuga has one of the outstanding juniors in the district. Playing the most difficult position on the field like a veteran he contributed largely to his teams success.

	R	H	E
Hagersville	1 0 0 1 1 2 0 0 0	5	9
Cayuga	1 0 2 1 0 0 0 0 3	7	6

Batteries—Clause and Clark, Baird and Thompson.

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"The Jarvis Record"

SELKIRK

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hamilton and family, of Buffalo, visited at Grover C. Foss' for the holiday

Vern and Frank Fry, of Detroit, Mich., were here attending the Hoover Reunion on Monday.

Mr. Arthur Neff, Toronto, was a recent visitor here.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Gracie and daughter, Detroit, are visitors in the community.

Alma Hoover, has been visiting her sister in Detroit.

Mrs. E. B. Hodgkins, Smithville, is visiting with Mrs. M. F. Duby.

Mrs. (Dr.) Slocombe has been ill for the past two weeks but is on the mend now.

H. B. Stainton, of Calgary, Alta, arrived to join his family who came east a couple of months ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Sternaman Larsing, Mich., were here for the Hoover Reunion.

Jackson Hoover and relatives, St. Williams were visitors here.

BORN—On Saturday, August 5th, to Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Fess, a daughter. Congratulations.

VARENCY

Mrs. Boyington of Oshawa, spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Marr.

Mr. and Mrs. Clair Miller, of Aylmer, spent Sunday at the home of his father, Mr. Emerson Miller.

Mr. Russell Parkinson and Miss June Healy, of Detroit, Mich., spent the week-end with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Doc. Parkinson.

Mrs. Andrew Miller, of London, is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Miller this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Sutherland and daughter, of Paris, and Mr. Geo. Mowat, of Detroit, were Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. Magnus Banks.

Mrs. Davis of St. Thomas, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Marr.

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Dunnett, of Mimico, called on Mr. and Mrs. Banks on Monday.

Mrs. Harris of St. Thomas, is spending this week with Mrs. Lundy

"MY PAL, THE KING"

Comedy - Drama

(Universal)

Another sweet box office surprise from Universal, chock full of new and different entertainment elements that should mean busy times for the box office cashier. Richard Schayer's story takes Tom Mix to the capital city of a mythical little European kingdom called Olvania. A happy idea, one that gives Mix the opportunity to retain all his western glamour and color, but transfers the settings to new and unusual places and makes possible a story and picture that not only promises a sensation with the youngsters, but more than that, has plenty of downright good entertainment for the grown-ups as well.

The entire story centers around a boy king, little 10 or 11-year-old Mickey Rooney, who is going to be the envy of every boy in our town once they get a glimpse of him in "My Pal, the King." Like all small boys, even a king wants to see a wild west show when it comes to town. The manner in which the little king gives his counsellors the slip, and unrecognized by the other urchins, manages to be picked up by Tom to ride in the parade, will stir the youngsters to wildest enthusiasm and give the adults many a laugh.

The wild west show that is put on with the king and his aunt as special guests is a riot of thrills and excitement. Plenty of riding, ropping broco busting, Indian fighting, the proverbial stage coach robbery. Then when the little kid and his party are treated to a ride in the stage coach, a run-away and a nerve-tingling rescue by Tom follow.

Villainy has its place as the false premier seizes the reins of government and puts the little king on the spot. Heroics with a punch as Tom and his cowboys and Indians rescue him. Then a touch of pathos as Tom and the circus move on to the next town and the little king is left wishing that he could change his kingdom for the career of a cowboy There is but little romantic interest—no love making to dull the enthusiasm of the youngsters. Good clean, wholesome entertainment without a vestige of anything that could stir objections from anyone. Primarily it is a kid's picture, but if you can realize all the diverse entertainment that is contained in it, you certainly can whip up interest among the adults.

Between the difference of its story construction, the personality and pull of Tom Mix at the box office, he and the angle of the youthful appeal of Mickey Rooney (and that's a name that the kids will not easily forget) with the guarantee of entertainment

FISHERVILLE

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sitter, of Tonnawanda, N.Y., spent over the holiday visiting friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fess of Kitchener, are visiting friends and relatives here.

The district Walther League convention was held here on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hodgson, spent Sunday with Mrs. Hodgson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Fess.

Mr. and Mrs. Tudhope, have returned home after camping at the Lake for a few weeks.

Mr. E. G. Mahlenbacher spent a few days in Niagara Falls last week

Master Charlie Otterman is improving and expects to be home the latter part of the week.

Mr. Willie Marshall, of the Royal Bank, spent over the holiday with his parents near Smithville.

Miss Dora Nablo, of Flint, Mich., is spending a few weeks with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nablo.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kimmet and Mr. Earl Kimmet, of Hamilton, spent over the holiday with Mr. Kimmet's mother and brother, here.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Reichheld, of Kitchener, spent Sunday with Mr. Reichheld's parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Reichheld.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sheaffer and family, of Tonnawanda, N.Y., spent the holiday with Mrs. Shaeffer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Rohrbach.

A large number of Walther Leagers, headed by the Fisherville Citizens Band, attended Divine Service in the Lutheran Church on Sunday evening.

Saturday night's programme this week promises to be a big event. Mr. Ernest Arnold is arranging for a big night of sports including a tug-of-war between Walpole and Rainham.

WATER REGATTA

A water regatta and swimming meet is being arranged by the Lions Club of Caledonia for Saturday, August 19. The event will be held on the Grand River at this point, over what is said by experts to be a peculiarly fine natural location. Several famous Canadian rowing clubs have already signified their intentions of being represented. So far as is known, this will be the first time that racing shells have been lowered into the Grand River.

A full line of long and short distance swimming events is being planned and a number of entries have already been received by the committee in charge. A feature of the day will be a bathing beauty contest the winner of which will be crowned Miss Caledonia 1933.

The regatta which is for the purpose of assisting in work among crippled children throughout the district is being assisted by Lions Clubs from neighbouring cities and towns. Major Thompson, a prominent Lion and Canadian Club member is general chairman of the event.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY EARNINGS

The gross revenues of the all-inclusive Canadian National Railways system for the week ending July 21st 1933, were $3,091,591 as compared with $3,049,568 for the corresponding period of 1932, an increase of $42,023.

PROSPERITY OR BOOM!

Nearly everybody tells us that times are looking up, though a few non-enthusiastics tell us that they are waiting for a little more tinkling in the money till before coming to a definite conclusion. Still, like the hungry darky who longed for even the photograph of a chicken, we're glad to hear the talk about prosperity. There is no doubt but that we talked ourselves into the depression. We got to thinking that the material advantages we were enjoying were too good to last. We got what we talked about. As we thought we received. That at least is part of the truth. Now we're thinking it is time for a change for the better and business is in a large number of quarters is said to be looking up. We are glad to hear this new line of talk. If th turning of the tide is to prove a boon or prosperity depends largely upon ourselves. The will to prosperity is a national asset.

One hundred beautiful mannequins wear the newest creations of fashion com in the Fashion Show at the Canadian National Exhibition. The show is held very afternoon and even ing. Naturally it is the Mecca of the ladies.

villainy and a lot of human interest, you have more than enough to lure the interest of all types of fans.

This picture will be shown at the Regah Theatre, Hagersville on Friday and Saturday, August 11th and