THE Calvert SPORTS COLUMN

by Elmer Ferguson

● This may not be a seasonable time to discuss ski-ing, that sport which has grown in popularity in these Dominions by the proverbial leaps and bounds. But it might be as good a time as any to discuss a Canadian ski-er destined for even more fame than he has already acquired, who started his career on the long blades when he was only eight years old.

We're always intrigued by those stories of athletes who have devoted their lives to perfecting technique in their favorite sport, and a young man named Ernie McCulloch, native of the little Quebec city of Three Rivers, undoubtedly comes in that category. Here, we believe, is one of the really great Canadian athletes of our time, and even though warm suns are shining on the grass and the trees are in leaf, we feel we should devote a column to singing his praises.

McCulloch climaxed a brilliant career last winter when he captured the ski-ing "Grand Slam," never accomplished before by Canadian, American or European for that matter.

His phenomenal feat began when he captured the National Giant Slalom at Alta, Utah, followed with a smashing victory in the Aspen North American championships. He went on from there to capture top honors in the National Downhill championships at White Fish, Montana, and his final triumph was in the Harriman Cup at Sun Valley.

When you consider he was competing against the very best in North America, and a field that included a sprinkling of former European champions, you get a quick vision of his greatness.

When McCulloch began his ski-ing career at the ripe age of eight years, he started practice jumping on a hill behind his home, and by the end of his first season, was jumping 40 feet.

By the time he was 13, he had already captured schoolboy jumping meets in Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City and Ottawa. The long, lean youngster already had made a name for himself in the Three Rivers Ski Club with a record jump of 114 feet.

At this stage of the game, McCulloch began slalom and downhill work. At 15 he entered the downhill race in the Quebec City championships and finished second.

There's no such thing as ski-ing cautiously with Ernie. It's go-go from start to finish. His record of 56 seconds down the precipitous slopes of Mount Baldy in Sun Valley, is still a challenge for other stars. One young racer who completed the gruelling grind in a little over a minute remarked: "I don't see how anybody could possibly have gone faster than I did today without breaking his neck." Ernie didn't break his neck but was a full four seconds better than the aspirant to his title.

In 1949 Ernie rode to International glory on specially-designed, self-constructed skiis. He beat the entire French team, consisting of Henri Creiller, George Panisset and Coutet.

McCulloch won the Harriman cup again this year and if he wins again, becomes the only skier in history to take the award three times.

All this being so, we thought we'd write a column about a great Canadian athlete who has been overlooked.

Your comments and suggestions for this column will be welcomed by Elmer Ferguson, c/o Calvert House, 431 Yonge St., Toronto.

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AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO

Unveiled Girls learn embroidery in a Moroccan school. But most Moroccan girls stay home, never learn to read or write.

Some Tales About Jimmy Durante . . . .

At an age when most men are Jimmy Durante is still a bundle of dynamic energy.

Four things place him apart from nose, a gravelly voice dat moiders de English language, a unique strut, and innate good humour. At the top of his profession, Jimmy is still an unaffected guy with simple wants, and he knows more than anyone the meaning of "coming up the hard way."

He earns a fabulous salary, but a good deal of it goes to charity. He's never yet denied a loan or gift to anyone, and once he confided to a friend: "I only wish I was a financial typhoon like Rockin fellow."

Shrinkin Violence

His extraordinary capacity to mangle English is part-natural, part-developed. Nowadays he destroys pronunciation automatically. Son of an Italian barber, he was born in the slums of New York, and never had a real education.

Audiences get a big laugh out of his nose, but he confesses that as a kid it used to worry him. "I was shrinking violence. Every time I went down the street, I'd hear: 'Lookit the big-nosed kid!' And when anybody'd look my way, I'd just sneak off. All through life, even when I am making a fortune on account of my big beak, at no time was I ever happy about it."

In his 'teens he worked seven days a week, from eight at night, till six in the morning, as a cafe pianist. In 1910 he was workin in a New York dive that was so tough, "if you took your hat off you were a sissy." Then he moved to another joint, where he played from eight o'clock "until I was subconscious."

During the First World War he teamed up with a dancer-baritone called Eddie Jackson, and led a small dance band in various clubs. One day a girl who was later to be his wife, walked into the club and asked for an audition. He accompanied her on the piano, but she was a soprano. Jimmy didn't like sopranos and said so. "Whoever told you you could play the piano?" the girl said spiritedly. Jimmy retorted: "Them is the conditions that pervail."

Frequent Brawls

When prohibition came into force, night clubs sprang up everywhere, serving the liquor behind locked doors. Because he was talked into it, Jimmy started his own club. There he met a soft-shoe dancer named Lou Clayton, and shortly afterwards America took to its heart a new team of entertainers billed as Clayton, Jackson and Durante.

The team prospered—and so did the club. It was a decade of loose money and racketeers. "To prevent gunplay on the premises," records Gene Fowler in "Schnozzola," his biography of Durante, "Clayton made it a rule that all marksmen had to turn in their side arms on entering the room."

But there were frequent brawls, and peace-loving Jimmy would disappear to all-night cafes, waiting till things had quieted down.

Several times in his money making career Jimmy was threatened by gangsters, but Lou Clayton knew the underworld and saw that the comedian was well protected. During Prohibition gangsters weren't the only people after Jimmy. The police arrested him for selling liquor, but sentence was suspended with the warning that if ever he was caught serving another drink, he would have to go to jail. Jimmy never erred again.

Clayton, Jackson and Durante split up when Jimmy was offered a personal contract in Hollywood nearly twenty years ago. Clayton became his manager and Jimmy began his film career. But he made a series of bad pictures which did nothing to enhance his career, so he decided to return to the stage for a while.

"What Elephant?"

In 1935 he opened in a Broadway show which was a smash hit. Jimmy recalls that before the first night was particularly worried about one line that he had to deliver. On stage with an enormous live elephant that he was supposed to be stealing, a sheriff walked on and shouted: "What are you doing with that elephant?" Jimmy looked round in bewilderment and replied: "What elephant?"

At first this line didn't seem very funny to him, and he wanted to cut it, but it proved to be one of the biggest laughs of the evening.

Talking of elephants, he was once embarrassed by an unintentional laugh when he heard two fellows train passengers disussing Africa. "I've seen some fantastic things in Africa," one man remarked, "including an elephants' graveyard. The great beasts sometimes travel as much as two thousand miles to die there."

The astounded Durante thought about this information for a while, then he tapped the speaker on the knee. "It's the trip," he suggested, "that kills them."

By 1943 Jimmy was so short of money that he went back to night-club engagements. That year his wife died and he lost all confidence in himself. It was a long time before Clayton could pursuade him to go back to work.

"But when the band plays," said Jimmy later, "you forget even your griefs for a moment. You forget everything until you come off. Then when you come off, you flop down."

His night-club act was a big success. Hollywood beckoned again, and a new generation discovered the little man with the rasping voice. "I borrowed dat note from Caruso; he was glad to get rid of it."

Back to Work

Then he was signed up for a radio series. His poularity has been so great in recent years among actors and audiences alike that when he went into hospital for a serious operation, top ranking entainers like Bob Hope, Red Skelton, and the late Al. Jolson took over his radio show without any fee until he was fit again.

He was booked to appear at the Palladium two years ago, but his old friend and partner Lou Clayton, died and the engagement was postponed. Clayton's death upset him almost as much as his wife's, but Jimmy went back to work and felt his way gingerly into American television studios. Loyal to his friends, he is also loyal to his old jokes, but the youngsters hadn't heard them before, and in the last few months his success as an entertainer has been unsurpassed.

This is the kind of experience he has been relating on his TV programmes:

"I'm lyin' on the park bench takin' my siesta—as is my wont—when along comes a bunch of flies and settles on my nose.

"I lets 'em loiter — live and let live is my motter.

"Den a bee comes along—lights on my nose and stings me. 'Dat does it,' I says. 'Dere's always gotta be a smart aleck in every crowd. Now, just for that — EVERYBODY OFF!'"

Or how about this one?

How Right!

"I sings for the Sultan of Pascha, and he says to me: 'Jimmy, to show my appreciation, I'm gonna give you 500 wives.' I turns him down flat. He says to me: 'Jimmy, why do you refuse this modest compensation?' I says to him: 'Your Highness, who wants to find a thousand stockings hangin' in da bathroom every morning?'"

Almos, everyone loves to hear Jimmy Durante's stories. But when he was a teen age piano player knocking out dance tunes in dingy New York cafes, he always thought he'd be nothing more than a second-rate musician.

He teamed up for a short while with a singing waiter called Eddie Cantor, who once said to him: "You'll never get anywhere as an ordinary pianist, Jimmy. You've got to have personality. Why don't you talk to the customers—make remarks — while you're at the piano?"

Shy young Jimmy Durante replied seriously: "I couldn't do that, Eddie, I'd be afraid people would laugh at me."

How right he was!

That's Navigatin'!

Dr. Kroeber of Columbia University says bees have a kind of sign language so they can tell one another where the best sources of pollen are to be found.

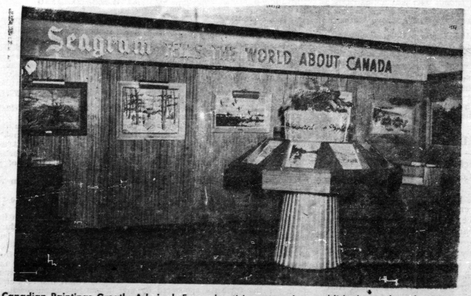
By moving in a circle or a figure eight, for example, the bee can inform others in the hive how far it is to a particularly luscious flower bed. By inclining its body from the vertical by the proper number of degrees, the bee can inform coworkers the direction from the sun in which to fly to reach the desired spot.

Dr. Kroeber's work is indeed remarkable. What puzzles us, however, is how a moth, at large in a six-room house without a navigator's map, never fails to find, in a corner of a forgotten drawer, the only pair of wool sox which has not been put away for the summer in moth balls. There's a mystery worthy of Dr. Kroeber's talents.—Denver Post.

THRIFT GIFT

An actress came off the stage after a successful first night, and was surprised when the manager handed her a bunch of flowers and a packet of marigold seeds.

"The flowers are from a gentlemen in the stalls, and the seeds from a Scotsman in the gallery," was his explanation.



Canadian Paintings Greatly Admired—Few advertising campaigns published anywhere have ever received more favorable comment than the "Seagram Tells The World About Canada" campaign. At the recent Canadian International Trade Fair in Toronto the original paintings on which the advertisements were based were a feature of the Seagram display—part of which is picture here—and were admired by many thousands of visitors from all parts of the world.

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The first report to the British Government on the £120,000,000 atomic enterprise at Harwell, England, lists papers on nuclear physics by the staff but omits any reference to Fuchs or Pontecorvo. The only implication that Fuchs was ever at Harwell (Britain's Oak Ridge) is a blank space in the list of departmental heads which appears opposite the heading "Theoretical Physics," the department of which Fuchs was the director and which is still without a new one.

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ISSUE 25 — 1952

Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

Q. How can I give a buffet supper?

A. Anytime between five and eight P.M. Hot dishes, salads, rolls, appetizers, dessert and beverages are served. The dishes, napkins and silverware are placed on the table with the food, and the guests help themselves. This is a good way to entertain a large gathering without maid service.

Q. What kind of entertainments are appropriate for announcing a wedding engagement?

A. Engagements are announced by parents or older relatives of the bride-to-be, and this may be done at formal or informal dinners or luncheons, dances, card or cocktail parties.

Q. Is it considered improper to use the knife in cutting the lettuce in a salad?

A. There is no ban at all against cutting the salad with a knife.

Q. To settle an argument, will you tell me the correct way in which to eat peas? Is it ever proper to eat them with a spoon?

A. It is customary always to eat vegetables with the fork. This applies to peas, too.

Q. If a couple know that their engagement is to be broken off, should a public announcement be made?

A. Yes; but the announcement should include "that no date has been set for the wedding."

Q. Is it proper to name the second male child, son "junior" his father, or is this title always supposed to be conferred on the oldest son?

A. The "junior" in a family need not be the first son.

Q. My husband and I have been invited to a double wedding ceremony. The one couple are very good friends, but the other we know only slightly. Are we obligated to give wedding gifts to both couples?

A. A gift to your good friends is the only requirement. Of course, a little gift to the other bride would not be improper, but it isn't expected.

Q. Is the prefix "Mr." ever omitted from a man's card?

A. It is omitted from a man's business card, but never from the card which he uses socially.

Q. Is it proper to serve your coffee or tea with the dessert?

A. Not the entire cup. The spoon may be used for tasting only, never for drinking. After stirring your beverage and tasting, lay the spoon in the saucer and let it remain there.

ANSWERS TO INTELLIGENCE TEST

1—Bowling. 2—Spain. 3—Britain. 4—700 yards. 5—Milton. 6—Aaron Burr. 7—(A) United States; (B) —Rome; (C) Turkey; (D) Britain.

Colorful Paper Plates Ease Duties of Summer Hostess

BY EDNA MILES

TO entertain with the least effort and the greatest results is the aim of almost every woman during the hot summer months. She wants her guests to have a good time. But she doesn't want to spend long, hot hours in the kitchen before they arrive nor does she want to return to the kitchen for another session when they've gone.

One of the simplest and most pleasant forms of partygiving is the buffet using paper-plate service. It leaves the hostess free to enjoy her own party, to talk to her guests and to eat without feeling harried.

As the buffet moves out-of-doors for warm weather, the hostess may utilize almost any open space, from a small terrace in a city apartment to a back porch or a lawn.

Color, in a buffet, can be gained through the striking pastel shades of the paper plates—jonquil yellow, avocado green, paradise pink and blue—or in patterns on white grounds. The hostess can use a dark cloth for contrast or she can let the wood of the table top set off the plates.

Table decorations need not be elaborate to be attention-getting. Flowers in an unusual arrangement, an interesting candelabra, a functional relish ferris wheel—any of these will turn the trick.

When the buffet is over, neither guests nor hostess need feel obliged to ruin the balance of the evening by doing dishes. The paper plates and matching paper napkins can be thrown out, thus getting rid of most of the clean-up work.

Gay paper plates add to the friendly atmosphere of the outdoor buffet. Hostess relaxes, free from visions of stacks of dishes. Note relish "ferris wheel" at left.

THE FARM FRONT by John Russell

In the latest issue of that very interesting American Magazine "The Farm Journal," there's an article by L. C. Boggs which I'm going to pass along to you poultry raisers. These roosting "islands," as he calls them, sound like a really good idea—one that I'm sure many of us could adopt to our advantage.

A hen scratching around on the floor looks industrious—says Mr. Boggs—and most of us have thought "that's good—she must be making money."

But some of the poultrymen in the state of Washington now have a different idea. They are trying roosting "islands" that run down the centre of their houses, with feed and water fountains mounted on the roosts. Their hens spend most of the time on the "islands," not on the floor. The advantages are:

You can keep more birds in a house;
Your litter stays dryer;
You get more clean eggs;
Your birds are more comfortable;
And best of all, you save work.

A typical roosting island is 12 feet wide, with a 10-foot alley on each side. It's built up 2 feet off the floor.

You put the feed hoppers on the outside edges of the island, for easy, no-stoop filling from a feed cart. The water trough runs down the middle.

The sides are closed down to the floor, of course, so the birds can't get under the rack. All the water the birds shake off their wattles, or bill out of the trough goes under the rack, where there's no litter to get wet.

So do most of the droppings, because the birds spend nearly two-thirds of their time on the islands. That means fewer droppings in the litter, which stays dryer and cleaner and lasts longer.

Harry Lechner of Redmond, Wash., says his roosting island lets him keep more birds. He figures that he needs only 2 square feet of floor space per Leghorn hen. He need to have 3 square feet for Leghorns and 4 square feet for heavy breeds.

How about this labor-saving angle?

I watched Everett Peterson of Langley, Wash., drive into his laying house with his tractor and field cultivator, and stir the litter in a pen 30' x 100'. It took him just 10 minutes to make two rounds around the island, and the job was done. He didn't have to move a feeder, or dodge a waterer.

What happened to the 1,500 hens in the house? They just ran ahead of the tractor, or jumped up on the island. Peterson does the chore once a week, and the birds are used to him.

Another poultryman using an island says that it takes him just 10 minutes a day to feed mash out of a wheel-barrow to 1,200 birds. It takes him another ten minutes a day to scatter grain in the litter and pick up floor eggs.

Automatic feeders will work with this system, too. Those who use them mount the hopper and motor on one corner of the island, to leave the alley clear all the way around for cleaning.

The dryer, cleaner litter is the thing that produces more clean eggs. What's more, you've got more room for nests, because you've got the whole back wall free for nests, now that the roosts have been moved away from the wall.

Mighty Mouthpiece — With the aid of tiny new electronic parts called "transitors," this newly-developed megaphone enlarges the human voice without external connections. Powered by small batteries the "transitors" do the work of vacuum tubes, eliminating the use of bulky high-voltage batteries and the need for an external power supply.

There's another saving, too. Reed Hanton at the Western Washington Experiment Station says that it takes only three-fifths as much time to keep built-up litter in good condition in island houses as it does in ordinary houses.

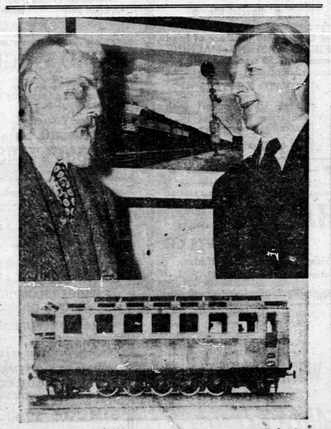
A number of folks using islands tell me that their birds are less flighty, because they've got a place to go when you come in to feed, or to gather eggs. They're more comfortable, too, especially in hot weather, because there's more air space overhead right above the island than any other place in the house.

There seems to be advantages than disadvantages in the system. A lot of folks with 1,000 birds or more are switching to it. All of them I've talked to like it.

BEER-PROOF PIANO

A beer-proof piano has been on display at the British Industries Fair. The piano is built of solid oak. There are no sharp edges to bruise sonses who fall against it. Beer mugs and cigarettes slide off sloping lids. Keys are covered with a fireproof plastic that cannot be picked off. Neither money nor food can be thrown into the works. The string assembly is so fastened in place that it cannot be removed to be played on as a harp in some Bacchic outpouring of song.

"Care must be exercised in making the holes for seed planting. It naturally follows that the gardener can, by indulging in a mad orgy of hole-making, practically wipe out his garden." —Frank Sullivan.



C.P.R. VICE PRESIDENT MEETS DIESEL PIONEER: A college thesis was responsible for a long delayed meeting in Montreal recently between the Russian scientist who designed and built the world's first diesel-electric locomotive (shown above) and the vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The story began when N. R. Crump (right), now vice-president of the C.P.R., was studying for his Bachelor of Science degree at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., and was renewed in 1936 while Mr. Crump was locomotive foreman at Moose Jaw, Sask., and was working on his thesis for his Mechanical Engineer's degree. His subject, "Internal Combustion Engines in the Railroad Field," was one that required a study of facts that were almost unobtainable at that time. Mr. Crump turned to the reports of Dr. George Vladimir Lomonosoff (left), a Russian mechanical engineer who had designed a diesel locomotive as early as 1909, and had one in operation in 1923, to get the information he needed. The 76-year-old Dr. Lomonosoff, whose son is a resident engineer with the Montreal Locomotive Works, has been living so quietly in Montreal for the past two years, that it was only recently that Mr. Crump learned of his presence in the city and arranged an interview. Modern C.P.R. diesel locomotive built by the Montreal Locomotive Works is shown in the picture behind Dr. Lomonosoff and Mr. Crump.

Does a Curve Curve?

A new and awesome electronic calculator says a common baseball, of the shape baseballs are supposed to be, weighing what official baseballs are supposed to weigh, propelled at the speed and with the spin any good pitcher can put on it, actually curves.

All of which may appear as merely superscientific laboring of the obvious to several millions who have (a) sat behind the plate anywhere from the Polo Grounds to Sportsmans Park or (b) fanned the air with a willow themselves.

But some—surprisingly few—will recall the stroboscopic pictures in Life magazine 11 years ago which showed that Carl Hubbell's and Cy Blanton's best twisters didn't curve at all—just dropped. There they were: A string of white circles right down a straight chalk line. No optical illusion here. A camera can't lie—or can it?

Anyhow, if two marvels of technology are going to stand up and call each other liars, why not seize the baseball by the seams and see if it won't curve around something solid?

The answer is, it's already been done—long ago. Sporting News (baseball's entertainment and knowledge) says star pitcher Fred Goldsmith did it eight times in 1870. He and a catcher stood on the same side of a line of three stakes. The ball left the pitcher's hand to the left of the first stake, traveled to the right of the second and smacked into the catcher's hands (no mitts then) at the left of the third. Bill Posedel and Lenny Levy did it again in 1950.

Who's right? Well—anyone who has twisted himself into a pretzel as he swung at a big "round house" and missed for the third strike knows that if that curve was an optical illusion then his bat had an invisible hole in it.—From The Christian Science Monitor.

The GREEN THUMB

by Gordon Smith

Save Labor

Cultivators, spudders, spades, rakes, and practically everything we use to dig, cut or prune are much more easily operated if they have long handles. Even the little single-pronged cultivator is handier with a three-to-five-foot handle. Thus equipped it will save a lot of stooping.

Another point in this labor-saving business. The average person is inclined to plant rows far too close together. Of course one can grow beets, carrots, beans, etc., in rows only 12 inches apart if space is very limited, but it will be much easier for cultivation if these are two feet or more apart, and with a garden cultivator they should be at least 30 inches or better still, three feet.

Be Prepared

A very necessary piece of equipment for most gardeners is a small sprayer or duster and the materials to load it. Nothing is more discouraging than to get flowers, vegetables or shrubbery flourishing and then to discover some fine morning that bugs or disease have started to attack them. If one nonsmoker-attacks promptly, however, there is little difficulty about control.

For every pest, fortunately, there is some chemical or other treatment to keep it in check. Usually a spray or dust is used. For insects that eat holes in foliage the usual remedy is a poison of some kind, such as arsenate of lead, DDT, copper sulphate, nicotine, etc. For the pests that suck out the juices a burning spray or dust incorporating sulphur is recommended, or sometimes special soap and water or some of the tobacco solutions. Use sprays when the foliage is dry. With the dust, best results are obtained on a day without wind and just after a rain or before a dew. With all chemicals one is well advised to study and follow directions carefully and make sure that the proper material is used for the particular pest concerned.

Pinch 'Em

Most beginners are too gentle or tender. They hate to do some very necessary surgery. Take the handling of what the trade calls bedding plants. These are well-started annuals in both the flower and vegetable line which are grown from seed, sown indoors or in hot-beds, or are bought from the seedmen or florists, usually about a dozen to the box or flat. The beginner is inclined to set these out without any pinching back, or without even removing buds or flowers. If just before or after planting one pinches off quite a lot of the growth, and especially all flowers or buds, one will get much sturdier growth and in the end more flowers or fruit.

Water peonies frequently and thoroughly to fill out the buds. Don't worry about the ants running around on the buds for they do no harm. Legend has it that the ants nibble at the bud covering, enabling them to open more easily and perfectly.

TEST YOUR INTELLIGENCE

Score 10 points for each correct answer in the first six questions:

1. "Spare" is a term used in:
   —golf —baseball —badminton —bowling
2. The Balearic Islands are off the coast of:
   —Spain —Korea —Ethiopia —Maryland
3. Joan of Arc led the French army against the:
   —Polish —British —Germans —Algerians
4. The greatest distance a modern archer could shoot with a bow and arrow would be about—:
   —100 yards —300 yards —500 yards —700 yards
5. The epic poem, Paradise Lost, was written by:
   —Byron —Shelley —Goldsmith —Milton
6. Alexander Hamilton fought a duel with:
   —Thomas Jefferson —Aaron Burr —Tom Paine
   —Patrick Henry.
7. Listed below are four wars and opposite them the victors, or one of the victors. Match them scoring 10 points for each correct answer.
   (A) War of 1812 —Britain
   (B) Punic Wars —Turkey
   (C) Crimean —United States
   (D) Boer War —Rome

Total your points. A score of 0-20 is poor; 30-60, average; 70-80, superior; 90-100, very superior.

JITTER

By Arthur Pointer