THE DIGBY COURIER

CIGAT come to the

100th Birthday

The hundredth anniversary of the Digby Weekly Cower has brought to mind some fond memories at cytained in the following historical chapter of the other. But first, I wish to congratulate the current shows a finer of the Courier, Mrs. J.M. (Edith) Wallis, for a job wall done over the years and still being well done. According to any record. I have at hand, the Digby Courier, in one hundred years of publication, was controlled under the same family management of Wallis Print Limited. The late J.J. Wallis became didner of The Courier, the second time, in 1929, and at the same time of Courier the second time, in 1929, and at the same time of Courier the second time, in 1929, and at the same time of Courier the second time, in 1929, and at the same time of Credits spanes. which he had been running in and which became With between 1929 and 1931

I well remember the last year the last year I well remember the last year when I well and and father all was or early 1923, the late J.M. Courier. Sometime in 1925 or early 1923, the late J.M. Courier. Sometime in 1925 or early 1923, the late J.M. Wallis (Mac), son of "J.J." engaged me to work Wallis (Mac), son of "J.J." engaged me to work was always day after school hours. Saturdays, and for some every day after seh months after fin. in the building. So of the present in the building. J. Wallis then Digby town hall on First Avenue. J.J. Wallis then Digby town hall on First Avenue. J.J. Wallis then worked occasionally at the print shop but mostly, worked occasionally at the print shop but mostly worked occasionally at the print shop but mostly across the street at the Courier office which was then across the street at the Courier office which was then

across the street at the Course of the Royal located on land Contact of the Royal Royal Royal Contact of the Royal Royal of State of the Royal Royal of the Royal

We worked ten-hour days, six days a week.

J.L. and "Mac" sometimes worked overtime. I worked only the regular hours being paid a weekly wage which was comporatively good for those times and my lack of experience. I received four or five dollars a week for working after school hours to six o clock and on Saturday all day, and nine dollars a week for full weeks after finishing school. A two or three follar a week raise was offered to me in the fall of 1925 for me to stay on at printing, but, I had made up my mind to enter a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, starting salary of \$500. The bank salary ingred out about the same per hour as for the printing job. Nevertheless, the congenial atmosphere of the printing plant those days, and, experience however short, were belpful and appreciated by me We worked ten-hour days, six days a week me printing plant those days, and, experience however short, were belyful and appreciated by me

bowever short, were belpful and appreciated by me
"J.J" was very jovial in his occasional trip to the
loo Print and did considerable kidding all in good fun.
Mac" was a witty person who mixed in a good
natured sarcasm now and then for one reason or
another Eva most always had good answers to all
the kidding she was called upon to take, and,
generally held her own in a quiet sort of way, always
lany setting type. We four all got along very well
meled. However. I do remember that some days
ful agent long and seary because of the monotony of
longer repetitious jobs. e repetitious jobs

In spite of the great demand for printing those ast boom days of the twenties, business generally being brisk, it looked to me that people had to work long and hard to make any decent profit. There was NOVA SCOTIA

Tourism, Culture and Heritage

1877-1978

construction

(noe of the jobs I had to do, being the passor and printers devil on the staff, was a 1.1 8 channes sow and their One day not long after I wand my sob at the printing plant. I decided to them to floor that apparently hadn't been cleaned to some con-

"I.J" came along and said. "how are parmaking out Vince". I assured him that I thought I was beginning to see the floor. "I.J." I aughed very beartily, he thought the remark pretty good and emable. Sometimes the gasoline engine a piece of machinery would reliase to work and that "Moc" the fix-it man had patiently worked for a origin long the fix-it man had patiently worked for a origin long the fix-it man had patiently worked for a origin longth of time to get it going again, without sents. "Mac" would then stand back and class quie streamounly, then he would immediately start working. See "he would say," all it needed was a bit of chaing. On other occasions when some sadget refused.

then he would immediately start worms. "See" he would say, "all it needed was a bit of classing. On other occasions when some galget refused duty for me and, seemed to be broken "Mac would say," "use a little oil" and sure enough sitten that is all it took. How often since, have I bought of the value of that remark and the actual need of "oil" in many life situations, applied at the right time right place and, in the right way.

Other things that sort of stick in my mensory and other things that sort of stick in my mensory and "Mac" of four teenage boys who in the spring season of 1929 got together just before dark one evening and decided to initiate the newly built outdoor Paes lided awimming pool which had just been filled with a after. Cothes were taken off near the road just east of the pool nobody else seemed to be around except he four boys, no thought or time for bathing suits up to the pool they went. They stood on the edge of the pool and looked at the chilly water, one soon jumped in, the rest quickly followed and across the pool hey awam. "Mac" listened to the story and hardly had anothing, but the next "Digby Courier" had a good shory on the episode. The heading of the story went samething like, "Four Boy Scouts" officially Opeo Pines Hotel Swimming Pool "Who were the four Many years later they are known as the late Dr. Earl H. Anderson, veteran of two wars (second world and Korean), was awarded the Victoria Cross, Sidney L.

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Hotel Swimming Pool" Who were the four Many
Years later they are known as the late Dr. Earl H.
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Anderson, veteran of two wars (second world and
Korean), was awarded the Victoria Cross, Sidney L.
Smith, now prominent druggist for many years in
Digby: Clayton D. Snow, Digby wholesale jobster
king merchant: and myself.

As a young teenager I used to like doing some
writing about different events interesting to myself,
and mostly for myself. One day "Mac" said to me
"how about writing your version of the story told
about "The Marconing of Jerome" I faid heard and
about "The Marconing of Jerome" I faid heard and
read at least two somewhat different stories about the
man who was found marconed on a beach at some
point on the French Shore of St. Mun's Bay, Digby
County, When found this man's tongue had been cut,
out and his legs quite freshly amputated, were
surgically well dressed and bound. He was
presumably left by some vessel before dawn one
morning, all for some mysterious reason.

"Jerome" appeared to have been a man of some
considerable wealth. However the only thing the man
could or would ever say after being hund and cared
for by some family in the French shore
who he was or why he was left the world lerone
and, different ideas have been released bout
who he was or why he was left the world in year
and, different ideas have been released out the
years concerning this man. However, and the reserved
different about this man. The mystery and
different about this man. The mystery and

"Mac" was, I felt no urge to wrate different about this man. The a have been very well explored in people, and, he was a sort of a

Funding for this

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provided by:



Digby 172 Years Ago

January 28, 1867, the owing account has been sed concerning Digby in

"Among a number of sid newspapers kindly send to us by friends is a copy of the Saint John Gazette of May, 1902, says the Telegrouph and among other advertisements contained in the advertisements to larged in the case before us is one discribing the train and township of Digby, and offering for sale certain lots in the township of Digby extends from the Gut of An-aged in machinest to the coextends from the Gut of An-capella senturard to the ex-tensity of the province of Nova Scotia, and contains about 130,000 actes." The town plot is thus described.

The Trees Plot is streated at the east of the township just within the entrance to An-rapellis liasts, and beenly miles from Annapellis Town, and ex-mittee across tax-d from the lessel of St. Mary's day. This laid out from the water's edge, partie on level of that name. It was settled by Loyalists from New York in 1783, the most of whom went early to farms, or, moving to older countries, left the whole

free trade with the U.S.A., especially with the New England States. The question was then debated by some Digby High School students one of which was a J.J.'s' daughter. Florence (now Mes. Melvin O. Tibert, Freeport, Digby Co.) Some days after the debate a man from some part of Nova Scotia came to the printing shop looking for Florence, one of the successful debaters; I had the impression that his man was interested politically but, maybe I was wrong.

Well. I felt that I had learned considerable from my short experience at "The Wallis Job Print" I was learning to do beginner jobs, receiving some learning to do beginner jobs, receiving some learning eabout things like embossing, stapling, perforating, counting, cutting and trimming paper slock, mixing inks for certain desired colors, and so forth, but, the only experience I had at setting type was just enough to make a "pi", the printers name for a confused mess.

a confused meas

There was a taste of trying to sell job printing outside the plant. Work was a little stack one early outside the plant. Work was a little stack one early fall day and se "Mac" said to me, "how about trying fall day and se "Mac" said to me, "how about trying fall day and se 'how about trying fall day and se 'how about trying fall day and se 'how about trying fall tred it. I tred it. I trad a several calls Christmas cards." I tred it. I trad a one particular around town, spect most of the time at one particular bonne (not).

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Credits

This project was made possible with assistance from the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage through its Strategic Development Initiative. This initiative supports projects aimed at enhancing the self-sufficiency of the heritage sector throughout the province.

The Municipality of the District of Digby is the lead organization to spearhead this project. The Digital Courier is part of the municipal initiative to preserve the past and develop the future; Council is honoured to be part of the preservation of these significant historical documents.





1800's

- (1810) the first elections were held in the County.
- (1837) the County of Annapolis was divided to include the County of Digby.
- Old Post Road and rural school system improved.
- Weymouth Trading Post established.
- Ship Building is a major industry in the area.
- (1879) the District of Digby was incorporated.
- (1891) the railway (the missing link) between Annapolis and Digby was completed.
- Joshua Slocum sails around the world alone.
- Temperance Movement.
- Summer Tourism Industry develops.
- I.M. Singer invents the sewing machine.
- Canadian Confederation (1867)
- Klondike Gold Rush
- The Supreme Court of Canada is established
- Florence Nightingale takes London nurses to the battlefields of the Crimean War

1900's

- Poor Farm in operation
- Isaiah Wilson's Geography and History of the County of Digby Published.
- Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier visits Digby.
- Marconi transmits wireless message across the Atlantic
- Queen Victoria dies
- The Boxer Rebellion breaks out in China.
- The Boer War in Southern Africa ends

1910's

- (1912) last race of the Brattain Cup in the Annapolis Basin.
- · First motorized vehicle in the area.
- Communities collect cloths and money for the war effort.
- Spanish Flue kills many in the area.
- First Calgary Stampede
- Women in Canada get the vote
- Halifax explosion
- WW1
- The Titanic Disaster
- Norwegian Roald Amundsen becomes the first to reach the South Pole.

1920's

- Motorized vehicles becoming more common.
- Last wooden ship built in Bear River.
- Electric lights installed in villages.
- Motorized vehicles becoming more common
- Canadian Schooner "Bluenose" wins the International Fisherman's Trophy
- Agatha Christie launches her career as a mystery writer.
- George Carnarvon and Howard Carter unearth King Tutankhamen's tomb

1930's

- Economic Depression.
- Rural electric lines being installed.
- Electric lights installed in villages.
- Highway paving projects underway.
- First crossing of the Princess Helene Ferry.
- Rum running along the coast.
- Rum running in its heyday
- Dionne quints born in Ontario
- Movie "King Kong" released starring Canadian Fay Wray
- WW II begins

1940's

- Digby home to WWII submarine base.
- CFB Cornwallis largest training base in the Commonwealth.
- Scallop Industry expands.
- Hog farming expands.
- Population decline in rural communities.
- Newfoundland enters confederation
- UN Formed
- U.S. planes drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Orson Welles' film Citizen Kane, premieres

1950's

- Bus service along the Digby Neck.
- Population in villages continue to decline. NORAD formed with USA
- National Ballet of Canada founded
- Bear River Power Plant built
- Korean War
- Smoking linked to lung cancer
- Sputnik launched
- Castro takes over power in Cuba
- Elizabeth II coronation Queen of England

1960's

- Sissiboo Power Plant built.
- Kejimkujik Park established.
- Conners Brothers Fish Cannery Plant closes in Freeport.
- Fish Meal Plant opens in Mink Cove.
- Weymouth Industries closure.
- Bear River Village Fire.
- Canada celebrates 100th birthday
- Pierre Trudeau sworn in as Prime Minister
- Bay of Pigs invasion
- Thalidomide deformities revealed
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- John F. Kennedy assassinated
- Demonstrations against Vietnam War

1970's

- Evangeline Mall built.
- New CN Ferry Terminal built.
- Ground Hog Day Storm.
- Municipal Airport opens.
- Hwy 101 completed to Digby.
- First Computer used.
- Jones Bottling Plant burns in Weymouth
- War Measures Act invoked
- Pierre Laporte murdered
- Canada-Soviet Summit Series in hockey begins
- Quebec language legislation (Bill 101) passes
- Munich massacre at the Olympics
- Rock stars Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin die.
- At Kent State University in Ohio, protesting students are killed by National Guardsmen

Links

Nova Scotia Museum
Nova Scotia Archives
Canada Archives
Admiral Digby Museum
Islands Historical Society

General Links

Digby County Genweb
The Acadian Odyssey
Digby Neck in Stories

The Elder Transcripts: History You Can't Get from a Book

Isaiah W. Wilson: The Digby County Historian

Maud Lewis

La Nouvelle France "Electric City"

Rootsweb.com Genealogy

Family Search

Municipality of the District of Digby

Western Counties Regional Library

Contact

- <u>heritage@municipality.digby.ns.ca</u>
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Disclaimer

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One Quarter Missing