

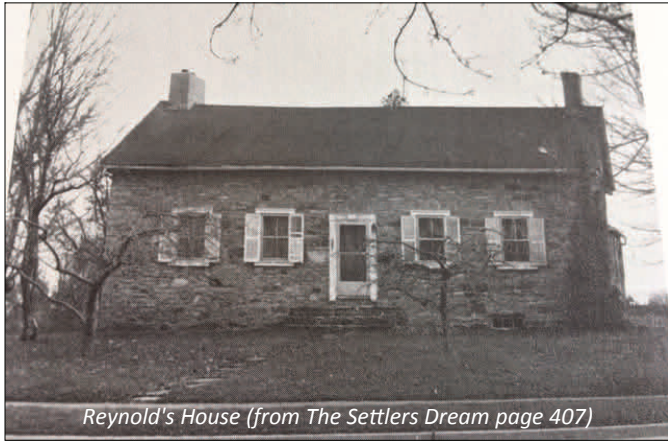
The *South Marysburgh* Mirror

March 2019

Published for Residents, Businesses and Visitors since 1985

This Old House

By William G. (Bill) Cowan UE



Reynold's House (from *The Settlers Dream* page 407)

I was interested to read in several documents that the Reynold's House in Wellington is the oldest in the County. I am not really sure that this is true as others, like the late Archie Lamont and myself, consider the Shannon House on Waupoos Island the oldest or at least in the running to be considered. The oldest house would have to be built before 1783 and the arrival of the Loyalists. To be fair, *The Settlers Dream* reveals the truth that in fact, no one can prove exactly when The Reynold's house was built. From the details of the stonework, it just might be a structure erected in the late 1700's. That Mr. Reynolds was a fur trader is highly likely and the stone building was more for the protection of the fur inventory than for a dwelling. It most likely served both purposes.

The Shannon House on Waupoos Island didn't appear in *The Settlers Dream* as it is doubtful anyone involved ever crossed over to have a look. The house pictured here, was constructed from field stones, and it was originally used to store furs purchased from the Indians on the island, and from those close by, until 1835 when the Missassaga's left the island, moving to the Rice Lake area.

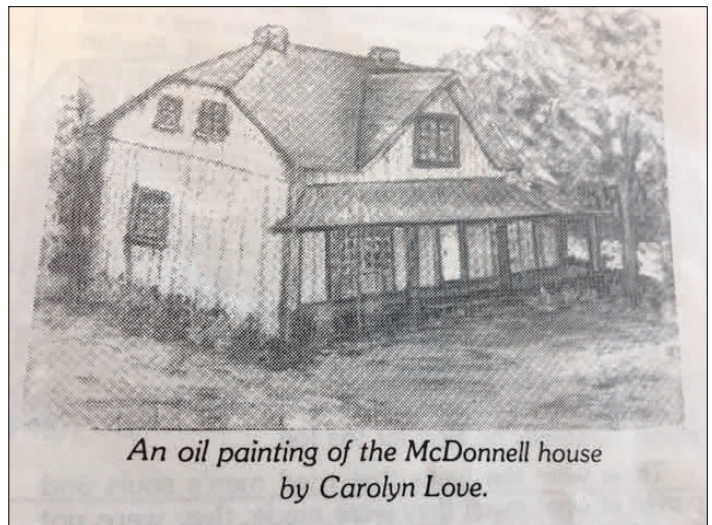
The Shannon house gets its name from Alexander Shannon, who came to the island in cc1818 and moved his family into this vacated stone building. The Shannons went on to farm the land and to make improvements, turning this field stone dwelling into a fine home. My friend, the late George Bellwood, born on the island in 1922, and his friend Jerry Helferty, worked as young lads on the Shannon farm in the early 1930s, living in the house because their homes were at the other end of the island and dairy cattle needed to be milked and the chores done at an early hour. George told me that the

foundation of a log house was situated near by and he was told it was the original home of the Monteneys, the builder of the stone house in the late 1700s. Joseph Monteneys, a fur trader, bought and sold furs from the natives on the island. There was no land registration system in place then so exact dates are unknown. In fact, when Marysburgh was surveyed by Collins from Kingston in 1782/83 they never got over to Waupoos Island. It was not until 1860 that a surveyor named Benson laid out the lots on the island taking into account the many homesteaders that had arrived on the island to build houses and set up farms. In the earliest records to be found in the County Archives in Wellington, the transfer of these properties is recorded. Names including, George Wright(W half of 2), Alex Shannon(E half of 2), Patrick Kearney(lot 3&4) , William Wattam (Lots5,6,7),Henry Grooms(lot8) David McCauley(lot9), John Westcott(Lot 10). These were considered Crown Grants. However, fine people as they were, they were in fact "Squatters" moving in and taking over "Indian Land".

For many years the Indians came to the island and collected rents on their way to Kingston to receive payment from Indian Agent Lyons. An early settler named Pringle organized this event. The initial rent was \$18.00 per annum increasing to \$120.00 over time.

The First Nations people believed that no one owned the land. They found it amusing when the white man built fences around his property. In Kingston they were paid as a result of an earlier treaty. Each man received two blankets, cloth for one coat, one pair of trousers, two shirts, a gun, ammunition, kettles and other small items. Unfortunately, there was alcohol involved and this resulted in a sorry site in Kingston, giving the Indians a bad name. They traded their gifts for alcohol and many left empty handed.

(Continued on next page)



An oil painting of the McDonnell house by Carolyn Love.

George Underhill

By Steve Ferguson

Although he had been suffering from ill health for some time, we were all sad to hear of the passing of George Underhill on February 18th. His contributions to *The South Marysburgh Mirror* over the years were at times any of topical, humourous, cynical or just plain outrageous but they came from an observant and curious mind.

I have been reading through George's submissions to *The Mirror* since I took over the publishing duties from Des in October 2011; they're all available in the back issues of *The Mirror* located in the 'Archive' section at *The Mirror's* website.

George was particular about the words he wrote each month, and careful not to offend. I imagine he may have, on occasion, consulted with Diane, his wife of 56 years, about whether he "should or shouldn't" or "could or couldn't" write about this subject or that (particularly if it involved a person!), but more likely he just sat at the computer keyboard and let his thoughts make their way into the copy that always arrived well ahead of deadline and required little to no copy edits.

Like so many in the South Marysburgh area, George gave generously of his time to many local causes including the Milford Fair Board, South Bay United Church, the Accessibility Advisory Committee and Quinte Conservation, to name just a few. His many hobbies and pursuits, particularly bird watching, hunting and fishing were the basis of the content in many of his columns, and provided insight into his character and personality.

You are missed, George. Thank you for your humour and insights, given generously for so many years.



In case you were wondering.... Here's the high-tech broadcast booth at a Wellington Dukes game

('This Old House')



The Shannon House with (l to r) George Bellwood, Doug Bellwood, Earle Taylor, Howard Bellwood, Bill Cowan, Dave MacKenzie (Photo by The Reverend Canon Bob Hales)

A story that is often told about the Reynolds house is that Lady Simcoe visited there. She and Lord Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, were on their way to Niagara from Kingston when she fell ill. The story goes on to say that she stayed in Wellington at the Reynolds house for several weeks and was picked up when the ship returned to Kingston. Lady Simcoe kept a daily diary recording anything of significance. A study of her diary does not include a visit to Wellington where she remained in ill health till her husband returned weeks later. Having read her diary several times I am sure that event would have been recorded. The only visit I could find to our fair County was March 11, 1794.

"Wed 11th: We set out at eleven and drove 14 miles to Trumpour's point so named for a man of that name who lived there. He was formerly in the 16th Dragoons, and lives by selling horses; his wife gave me some good Dutch cakes, as I could not wait to eat the chickens that she was roasting in a kettle without water. We passed a village of Mohawk Indians at Mohawk Bay apposite the Appanee River. From Trumpours we went to McDonnell's and slept there."

Note: Mrs Simcoe visited the home of Paul Trumpour, a U.E. Loyalist. A direct descendant, Mark Trumpour lives in Milford here in the County. Mrs. Simcoe slept over at Archibald McDonnell's who led a group of Loyalists to Marysburgh in 1783. He built the first house in Marysburgh at what is now called Prinyer's Cove. Bishop McDonnell, his cousin, the Roman Catholic Bishop from Kingston often stayed there. The Napanee river now called, was spelled Appanee after an Indian name

Regardless of "who had the oldest house" we have a rich history here in the County and particularly here in Marysburgh.

ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Saturday, April 27 | Spring Yard & Rummage Sale |
| Monday, May 20 | Annual Black Creek Canoe Trip |
| Wednesday, August 7 | Corn and Pork Roast |
| Sunday, September 22 | Blessing of the Animals |
| Saturday, October 5 | Fall Yard & Rummage Sale |
| Saturday, November 23 | Christmas Event |

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Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 a.m.

St. Philip's Anglican Church
44 St. Philip Street, Milford

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The South Marysburgh Recreation Board The Marysburgh Mimmers The Milford Fair Board

Meetings, Events, Announcements

Wii Bowling

Milford Town Hall
Thursdays to April 17
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

We need more players for a FUN afternoon

Recreation Board Meeting

Milford Town Hall
Thursday, March 21 at 7:30

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20
More details next month

2nd Annual Soap Box Derby

Saturday, July 12

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The *South Marysburgh* Mirror

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Life In The Past

Nelson Hicks' Journals
March 1929

Transcribed by Sarah Moran Collier

Fri. 1 - We have had quite a cold time We finished doing our road work

Sat. 2 - Royden went over to Picton Girls came home with him

Sun. 10 - No Church Mr. Hurton on the sick list .

Mon. 11 - Took some grain over to grind. Lloyd down trying to sell. Harry Rose

Tue. 12 - Royden and I went out and got a load of cedar Snow about all gone

Wed. 13 - Warm to day Royden and I split wood.

Thur. 14 - Rained most all day roads are getting muddy.

Fri. 15 - Quite a nice day After milking Whit Royden Sam and Annie Farrington went out to Emmets Woods found the roads in a very bad Rained with Thunder and Lighting at night Lloyd down Sold Harry Rose a Durant 60.

Sat. 16 - Royden went over to Picton after Floral. Kathleen stayed over.

Sun. 17 - Lloyd Luise Katheren came down started out to Mrs. Hudgin with the car got stuck in the mud out by Ed Farrington and was four hours getting out. So came back here. Royden Mirt Floral went around to Church and they had trouble with the Star and got Quinten Mingher to fetch them home

Mon. 18 - Royden and I split wood Mirt wash After noon drew up some gravel

Tue. 19 - Collin Hudgins Herb Cooper came up and help saw up m wood Lloyd down he has got Harry Rose Chevrolet Sedan Wants to sell her

Wed. 20 - Mirt and I went over to Picton Very nice day Royden split wood

Thur. 21 - Rained most of the day Ice is all out of the Bay

Fri. 22 - We work at the wood and drew up some gravle We are having very nice weather

Sat. 23 - Royden went over to Picton after Floral + Kathleen Paul Minaker came home with them. Vistors at night Albert Welbanks and Famiy Stephen Dulmage + wife Ray Morance Head + wife

Sun. 24 - Wind is from the North East and some colder But very nice weather

Thur. 28 - Mirt and I went Back to Lloyds Wrex and Garnet came home with us Kathleen and Floral came home from Picton they are going to show. Good Friday

Fri. 29 - I trimed trees Floral went over to Picton at night

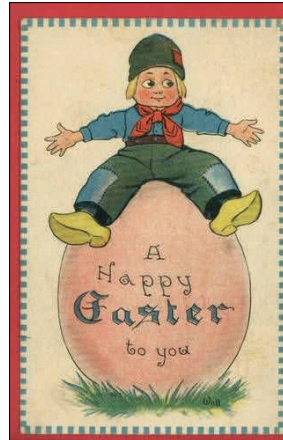
Sat. 30 - Kathleen and Floral drove the Durant over to Picton

Sun. 31 - Easter Sunday Lloyd and Luise down they went out to Mr. Hudgins and came back here for supper

Sarah's Research Notes

Insight, Information & Anecdotes About Nelson Hicks' Journal Entries

Despite the state of spring roads, the social spirit of Easter is alive and well: family and friends visiting, shows in town and people over for supper. In the 1920's the famous Laura Secord Butter Cream Egg was invented. Enjoy these images from the time.



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*Personal Notices, Announcements
& Random Notes*

Thank You

A warm thank you to the members of the community who helped out with Potato Fest:

Mendy Berkson who, on short notice, designed and painted the Potato Fest road signs; Dan Murphy and his booming voice for calling the Bingo on Friday night; Judy Zeleny for supplying the canteen. Carol Branscombe and Sandra Emlaw looked after the potato stamping crafts on Saturday; Cathy and Steve Empringham were on hand to run the children's games; Jen Ackerman made up five dozen of her famous potato doughnuts.

Thanks to The Recreation Board members for all their hard work:

Karen Gyde bought the Bingo prizes; Leon McConnell for setting up and cleaning up the Hall as well as checking winning Bingo cards; Sandie Blackford for her research into potatoes, selling Bingo cards and cooking the lunch along with Janna McCarthy who also looked after the radio and newspaper promotions; Jesse Parker was out in the parking lot deep frying the French fries; Catherine Reilly did the shopping for potatoes and chips, and organized the potato head crafts. I just played on my computer making posters and place mats.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came out and supported our event and the community.

Bruce Dowdell,

Chair, South Marysburgh Recreation Board

Maple In ALL The County

When you read this, South Marysburgh's last remaining maple syrup producer, Wilbur Miller, is likely hard at work in his sugar bush gathering and boiling sap that will become this year's batch of syrup. There won't be a pancake breakfast or tours or musicians playing at the Miller property on County Road 16 during Maple In The County on March 30th and 31st, but don't let that stop you from supporting our local vendor. Contact details elsewhere in this issue.

The REAL Telltale Sign of Spring

It's not Maple In The County, or Robins, or Easter Egg Hunts. Nor is it the ice disappearing from the lake or overflowing creeks and rivers as the snow melts away. The real sign of spring in South Marysburgh is the first meeting of the Milford Fair Board in April. The dedicated, passionate folks that work so hard to put on this annual event will convene monthly at Milford Town hall until November. Watch The Mirror for details about this year's fair and how you can participate.

Milford Library Branch Check It Out

By Aaron Nash

At month's end (when the March-Breakers are back in school), join us for a gala event on March 31, 6:00 PM, at the Drake Devonshire (24 Wharf Street, Wellington, ON). We're launching 'Renew,' an online auction of curated contemporary and historic art, in support of the Library's 'Time to Renew' Expansion Fundraising Campaign. At the launch party you'll be able to preview the auction website (renewart.ca), see a selection of available works, enjoy a glass of wine and canapés. For tickets to the event, go to timetorenew.ca. The online auction itself starts April 1 at midnight and closes April 30 at noon, giving you a month to place your best blind bids on your favourite pieces. Do you need help with online bidding? No problem! Come see me at the Milford Branch or any of our tech staff at the Picton Branch.

South Bay U.C.W. and Milford Friendship Circle Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thursday, April 4th – The Milford Friendship Circle will meet at the home of Mary Creasy at 1:30 p.m.



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Ontario's Growing Health Care Dilemma

By Doug McGregor

We all know it. Ontario has a health care problem. It's over crowded, expensive and the overall results in terms of quality / outcomes aren't what they should be.

Our healthcare system works well in many instances and most of us have good stories. Just ask me about my (benign) brain tumor surgery several years ago. I was delighted with the results as are most people who receive new knees etc. But all too often we have bad stories and simply sustaining our system, let alone improving it, is becoming increasingly difficult.

Some of this is unique to Ontario but much is in common with multiple countries in the Western World (e.g. Japan and the U.K.) due to similar challenges with aging populations etc.

Clearly there are some very obvious symptoms e.g. hospital patients in hallways waiting for beds, long wait times especially for some specialists, and for most ER's. Too many people don't have a family doctor and many who do, have trouble seeing them. The less obvious but even more serious problems are the un-sustainability of the growing cost and the burnout amongst clinicians.

Think affordability isn't a problem? Look at the provincial budget. Health care was 43% of the provincial budget in 2016. In 2018, total health expenditure in Canada is expected to reach \$253.5 billion, or a staggering \$ 6,839 per person. Is it any wonder roads and schools are perpetually underfunded? However even investments that are needed in healthcare can't be made because of lack of money. We're years behind other countries in terms of tools like electronic health care records that would do a great deal to cut down errors and improve the efficiency of the system.

However money is just a symptom. We don't have enough resources in the right areas to keep up with the demand. It's a no brainer to realize that people who don't get access to care when they need it get sicker. Sicker people wind up in ERs and hospital beds, and that's where the costs of care sky rocket.

Like many I don't have all the answers but some things are obvious to me.

1) We can do more for ourselves to keep ourselves healthier. Flu shots, immunization, moderate diet, exercise and quitting smoking are all things to do that do help significantly. The Quinte region is worse than many areas in this regard. So yes, you too can help!

2) We need to turn the system on its head and get primary care to be much more effective. Too many people wind up going into hospital BECAUSE they didn't get access to primary care. There are a handful of conditions like COPD that consume a tremendous amount of resource when they flair up and it doesn't always have to

be that way. Good proactive primary care in many instances can better manage the disease and keep patients out of expensive ICU's. Of course, and most importantly, this also improves the health of the patient. There are initiatives underway to do this but they need to be accelerated. HINT: Reorganizing the LHIN's will not help this!

3) National Pharmacare. Too many people find themselves in a situation where they can't afford the medication they need. Hopefully things are improving as the former Ontario Minister of Health, Dr. Eric Hoskins, has been working on a pharmacare program with the federal government since he left provincial politics. Note, we are the ONLY western nation with a medicare program that does not cover prescriptions. A national strategy should not only improve the health of the population but reverse the rapidly accelerating cost of prescription medications and deal with the security of supply issues we see too often (e.g. Remember the epipen scare of the past summer?).

I could go on and on (and even might in a second essay).

Lastly, and this brings me to the whole point of why I wrote this essay. The provincial government's dabbling with the idea of privatization of health care scares the hell out of me. A two tier health care system will only leave an already under served portion of the population behind, while addressing none of the structural ills discussed. Do we want better healthcare for everyone or just the Bridal Path people?

I've lived and worked in four countries and seen the health care system in all of them. Canada has a lot to be proud of with its health care system, especially its universality, but it needs to change if we are going to prevent its problems from crippling it.

Doug McGregor is a nearing the completion of his 1st decade in South Marysburgh. He is a retired engineer, a proud and long time member of the Milford Fair Board and served on the local hospital board for a number of years. He shares a home on South Bay with his wife, two dogs and three cats and an unknown number of mice.



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Druella Acantha Malvina's Column

Gem for the month: A poor listener seldom hears a good sermon.

Actual headlines taken from newspapers:

- ◆ Local Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
- ◆ Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
- ◆ Plane Too Close to Ground, Crash Probe Told
- ◆ Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge
- ◆ New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
- ◆ Survivor of Siamese Twins Joins Parents

A group of expectant fathers sat nervously in the waiting room. A nurse beckoned to one of them and said, "Congratulations! You have a son."

Another man dropped his magazine, jumped up and said, "Hey! What's the idea? I got here two hours before he did."

Forgive your enemies but never forget their names - John F. Kennedy

In the men's room at work, the boss had placed an inspirational sign directly above the sink. It had a single word on it: "Think!"

The next day, when he went to the men's room, he looked at the sign and right below, immediately above the soap dispenser someone had carefully lettered another sign which read, "Thoap!"

Before going to Europe on business, a man drove his Rolls-Royce to a downtown New York City bank and asked for a loan of \$5,000. The loan officer, taken aback, requested collateral.

"Well then, here are the keys to my Rolls-Royce," the man said. The loan officer promptly had the car driven to the bank's underground parking garage for safe keeping and gave him \$5,000.

Two weeks later, the man entered the bank and asked to settle his bill and get his car back.

"That will be \$5,000 in principle and \$15.40 interest."

The man paid it and started to walk away. "Wait!" the loan officer said. "While you were gone, I found out you are a multi-millionaire. Why in the world would you need to borrow \$5,000?"

The man smiled. "Where else could I safely leave my Rolls-Royce for two weeks and pay only \$15.40?"

A man walked by a table in a hotel and noticed three men and a dog playing cards. The dog was playing with extraordinary performance. "That is a very smart dog," remarked the man.

"Not so smart," said one of the players. "Every time he gets a good hand he wags his tail."

Although Bob has had a few beers over his limit he's still full of energy. So he decides to go ice fishing. He grabs his gear and heads for the nearest frozen lake.

After setting up his stool, he gets out the auger and starts to make a hole in the ice. Suddenly a voice comes down from up above. "There are no fish under that ice."

Bob's startled for a moment, but figures it's just the beer talking, so he keeps going. Again, the voice booms from above, "I said, there are no fish under that ice."


This time he's getting a little concerned, so he looks up and shouts, "Is that you, Lord?"

The voice replies, "No, you idiot, it's the arena manager."

Exit Lines:

1. *Hypocrite: One who writes a book praising atheism and then prays that it will sell.*
2. *About the only thing you can do on a shoestring these days is trip on it.*

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COUNCIL CORNER

By John Hirsch, Councillor Ward 9, South Marysburgh

Another busy month with municipal work.

The weather has been brutal and a number of Council and committee meetings were cancelled, rescheduled etc. due to the various storms that have come our way.

I have to congratulate our Operations crews, however, for keeping up as best they can and making the roads passable (at least most of the time!).

Appointments

Council has almost completed the process of making Councillor and citizen appointments to various committees and boards. I now sit on:

- Quinte Conservation Board
- Prince Edward Heritage Advisory Committee
- Audit Committee
- Tree policy ad hoc committee
- South Marysburgh Recreation Board

In addition, a good number of South Marysburgh residents have stepped up to participate in the life of the County.

- Agriculture Advisory Committee – Marg Kerr and Angela Miller
- Quinte Conservation – Les Stanfield
- PEC Affordable Housing Corporation – Peter Landry, Elis Ziegler
- Prince Edward Heritage Advisory Committee – Liz Driver

South Marysburgh Recreation Board:

- Sandy Blackford
- Bruce Dowdell
- Stephen Empringham
- Kathy Empringham
- Janna McCarthy
- Leon McConnell
- Catherine Reilly
- Brian Sword
- Elis Ziegler

Major issues before Council

1. Picton Town Hall

By the time you read this, Council will have made a decision. I must say the outpouring of interest in what happens to the old town hall has been impressive. I and other Councillors have received hundreds of messages and phone calls, running at least 95% in favour of the Hall for All proposal which keeps the hall in County hands for community use. There is little support for the Hymus proposal and no comments whatsoever in favour of a public private partnership. I will support the Hall for All as long as we don't incur a tax implication.

2. Farm Tax ratio

This question will also have been decided by the time you read this. Committee of the Whole recommended a small move in the direction of equalizing the tax burden between farmland and residential. A reduction in the farm tax ratio to 23.19% is now recommended by staff to achieve neutral increases for this taxation year. A number of you have improved my education on this issue and I now support doing something, long-term, to determine what should be the fair proportion of taxes paid by farmland versus other uses.

Less Weighty Matters

I was pleased to help represent Council and the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Women's Institute which was held at Ameliasburgh. What a great organization contributing to so many things in the County.

I also participated in the launch of Maple in the County, a great annual event which attracts around 15,000 visitors to the County each year.

I can be reached by phone, text and email

www.jhirsch.com

jhirsch@pecounty.on.ca

613-846-0046

And don't forget, for immediate service the County help line is available:

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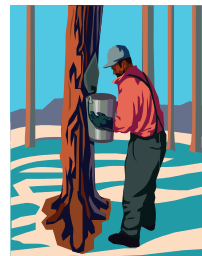
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