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ANNUAL SERVICE AT SKIFF LAKE DRAWS MANY PILGRIMS

MORE THAN 1500 ATTEND
PILGRIMAGE TO HISTORIC
SHINE

(Saint John Telegraph-Journal)
Skiff Lake, York Co., Aug. 14—Today at a tiny shrine near here, "Reminiscent of St. Francis of Assisi in its poverty and loneliness," a dark-skinned, black-haired descendant of New Brunswick's aborigines controlled his useless legs and walked six steps.

Carried into the diminutive shrine by a stalwart brother and a friend, he kissed the relic of St. Francis, with which the parish priest, Rev. Charles McLaughlin, touched his legs and spine. A special prayer was murmured.

Levi Joseph, for it was he, was raised from his chair onto his feet, his arms grasped by the two companions. With a tremendous effort his left foot was slowly lifted, pushed forward, planted on the ancient floor. His right foot he forced after the left—one, two, three, four, five steps. The weak limbs began to twitch, the body commenced to waver, four strong arms held the exhausted Indian from falling.

Before the gaze of two score or more worshippers and the tense watchfulness of a beautiful young wife and a tiny black-eyed daughter, named Ramona, Levi Joseph, former speed skater, hockey player and baseball enthusiast, now of Houlton, Me., formerly of Woodstock, walked again for the first time, he said later, since last fall.

"Do you think it was because you came to the shrine that this has happened?" he was asked.

"Yes," he answered quietly. Joseph a little surprised at his achievement of his will having conquered his body, explained how he became a cripple.

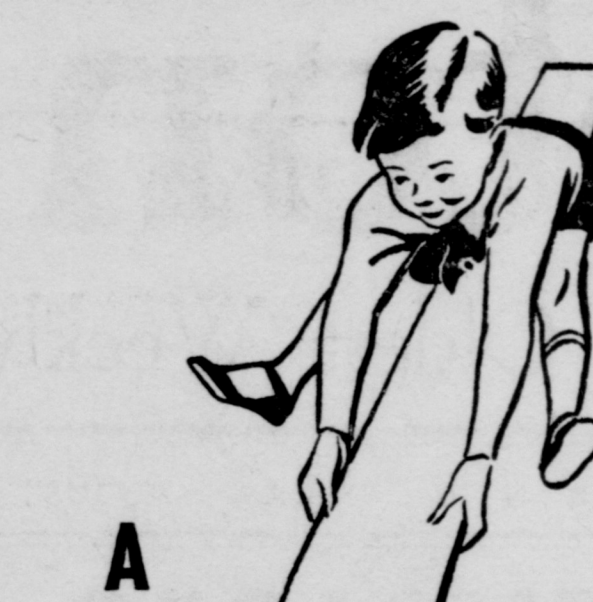
Two years ago he was hunting, he said. At the time he fell, injuring his spine, with the result that both legs, although not paralyzed, became useless.

At the annual pilgrimage here last year the Indian came for a cure. Apparently it did not help him immediately, he pointed out, but last fall he was able to walk with a cane. Since then until today, however, he has not walked a step, he says.

And so, on the site where his ancestors guided missionaries to lakes and rivers of the St. Croix country 300 years ago, a native Indian came to the altar of a once-abandoned church to regain partially his strength and to win for himself courage and incentive to fight on and become whole again. Thus another incident was added to those reported to have clung to this little shrine to make it vie in fame with Quebec's ancient holy places.

The weather was in a brilliant mood today, as upwards of 1,500 pilgrims gathered about the small edifice for two outdoor services, the pilgrimage in the morning and the benediction in the afternoon. By automobile, by truck and on foot came the devout pilgrims—New Brunswick, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Quebec and Vermont were represented in the variety of auto license plates.

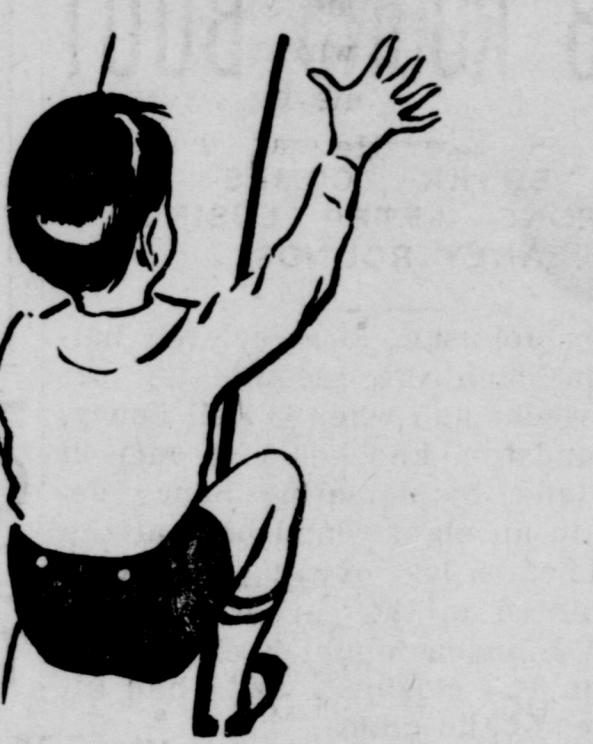
Tailored suits rub shoulders with overalls, model gowns with homespun, as all knelt in reverence before the tiny improvised altar, sheltered in a



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clump of slender birches. In the chapel itself, a small group of infirm rested on plain, hand-hewn, deal benches, facing the gently glowing candles and the relics of the saints. French, English, Indians—grandfathers and children, grownups and youths, mingled.

Flags, atop slim, unbarked poles, two yellow painted wooden crosses crowning the tiny grey frame building, to the rear a sprawling orchard of ancient apple trees, in front an oat field just turning to flecked gold, a ribbon road disappearing on the crest of a faraway hill, a nearby checkerboard of evergreens and pasture land, dark greens fading to hazy blues—a quietly beautiful rolling landscape.

At 10.30 a long procession of men walked in double file to the church, Father McLaughlin, of Debec, Carleton county, and Rev. Daniel Ehman, C. SS. R. Saint John, passing between the two lines. Rev. Raymond Pennaford, of the Franciscan Order, stationed at Maliceet, Victoria county, conducted the outdoor service, with Father Ehman officiating in the shrine. Richard and Ralph Donovan, twins, of Canterbury, York county, and Thomas Williams, Debec, were alternates. Elmer Day and Edmund Casey, St. Croix, and Mrs. H. W. Cowan, Canterbury, assisted with special music, in addition to a choir.

The night of depression is over. The daylight streak has come. Father McLaughlin remarked in an opening address. He referred to movements such as the Lausanne Conference and the Imperial Economic Conference to substantiate this view, and also referred to his prediction of last year that times would be better now.

"The multimillionaire and the peasant, the day laborer and the business man were all touched by the hand of God," Father Pennaford declared, adding that the return of better times would come only through light and guidance from above.

St. Francis and his example were referred to particularly in Father Ehman's sermon, following which the relics were venerated and the throng dispersed.

BEAR MAKES AWAY WITH FINE SHEEP

INVADERS PASTURE AND KILLS VICTIM WITHIN SIGHT OF HOUSE

Bears are reported numerous in this district, and in places are becoming a nuisance. One bruin, a large one judging by his tracks, invaded the pasture of Fred Hayward, near Tapley's Mills, on Sunday night and killed a sheep. The bear apparently took his time, although the pasture is within view of the house, and after dragging his victim for about sixty feet he devoured part of the carcass. Several men with rifles were out Monday morning trying to pick up the bear's tracks. Several weeks ago bears came into the raspberry patch on the same farm and uprooted some of the bushes. Two of the animals were shot in the same vicinity last year.

The sheep destroyed was a valuable ewe purchased by Mr. Hayward both for show purposes and for improving the strain of his flock. It was to have been shown at the Woodstock exhibition this month.

You hear arguments until you grow limp with weariness, but the fact that caused the controversy remains as staunch and sturdy as ever.

HAS CLOSE CALL

WALTER MCBRIDE NEAR DEATH IN CREEK

Walter McBride had a narrow escape Sunday afternoon while swimming in the Meduxnakeag at a spot just above Woodstock and known as the Deep Hole. The river was swollen by recent rains and the water was high and running very fast. Mr. McBride became caught in an eddy and tired out before he could get to shore. Wilfred Kirkpatrick and Lorne Noble saw his predicament and went to his assistance. They were successful in getting him into shallow water after a hard struggle with the water in which both the rescuers sank several times. All three were exhausted before they reached safety.

WAGES TO BE CUT

Fort Fairfield, Me., Aug. 15.—The picking-wage committee of the Aroostook Farm Bureau has recommended a cut of about 40 per cent for the wages of picking potatoes from those of last year. Last year common pay was six cents a barrel with board and eight cents a barrel without board. The committee this year recommends 3 1-2 cents a barrel with board and five cents a barrel without board. These suggestions were made on the basis of advice and suggestions from 176 different farmers in the county. The wage committee consists of the following well known potato men: Carroll D. Wilder, Washburn; D. W. Haines, G. W. Reed, C. A. Powers, Fort Fairfield; Jerry Smith, Caribou; Walter Hansen, Mars Hill; E. A. Noyes, Limestone; Frank W. Hussey, Presque Isle; Fred Logan, Houlton; Frank L. Hoyt, Easton; S. J. Hartley, Bridgewater; Colby Estabrook, Sherman; E. G. Hews, Ashland. It is estimated that there will be sufficient local harvest help till September 12. This report of the picking-wage committee was made at the field day exercises at Aroostook Farm, Presque Isle, where the crowd gathered consisted of about 2000 people.

Is it possible that the man with the least imagination is usually recompensed by the possession of the most courage? Between the two isn't courage the more desirable?

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