

Page 25 - A Talk with Donald Johnny Murdock: The Blind Man's Seventh Son

ISSUE: <u>Issue 68</u>

Published by Ronald Caplan on 1995/6/1

and came home. I went into the office, and I told Joe Doyle. "My call is here for me." "Yes," he said, so he got the registered letter, and he passed it to me. I just took it, never opened it, walked across to Dr. MacNeil's, and passed it to him. He opened it, the papers were there, he examined me and said, "You're fit. there's nothing wrong with you." He filled in the forms, passed me the letter back, and I dropped it in the mail. Two days later my ticket came, with orders to report to New Glas? gow. So I went to New Glasgow for two months. Before the two months were over, I still had the old (registered letter) en? velope in my pocket. One day I took it out and looked at it. and here written on it was Donald MacDonnell! It wasn't me at all! Laughter. I was stuck, now I'm in and I can't get out. Laughter. 1 guess the po? lice were all over the place after Donald MacDonnell, thinking he didn't report. It was a crime. So Donald (MacDonnell) was. working in Halifax, and decided to come home to see what was going on. Laughter. (He had) a lot of explaining to do. I later transferred to the Air Force, went to Al- dershot after that, and I stayed with the Air Force until the end of the war. I went M Cape Breton Island You're always welcome to come and enjoy die warm hospitality of Cape Breton Bed and Breakfasts - an island experience that goes hand in hand with our unique and splendid scenery. If you appreciate the personal touch and all the comforrs o{a hcime, then check into a Cape Brctx m B&B on your iskuul vacation. 1-800-565-9464 it)r information overseas in March 1943, where I got mar? ried, had two children, and we arrived back home in 1946. After the war, we lived on the Rocky Ridge Road at my home, and at my uncle's. In 1951 we moved into this house, Donald Fin? lay Beaton's old place. I farmed for five or six years, until I went into carpentry, starting in Halifax. I liked carpentry work. I used to do a little bit when I was a kid. I used to make axe handles, and all that stuff, when I was ten or twelve years old. They didn't look very nice, but I liked making them anyway. I liked the trades, so after awhile I went to Halifax, and I got some young fellows to look after the cows for the late fall and winter. When I landed there I didn't have a ham? mer, or an axe, or a saw. When I went looking for work, they asked me, "Where're your tools?" So I told them they were at the railway station. "Bring them in the morning and go to work," I was told. So Murdock Sandy Sam (who was already working in Halifax) who would be my first cousin, and myself, ran all around Halifax, pick? ing up a tool here, a tool there, because everything was scarce after the war. You couldn't buy a thing after the war, in hardware or almost anything. By morning we had enough ready to go to work. We took (BCanning ahead can offer-peace of mind. We encourage you to consider funeral prearrangement and invite you to call or send for our free prearrangement guide. T. W. Curry Parkview Chapel Leo J. Curry, Bill Curry Funeral Directors Phone 539-3002 755 George Street, Sydney, Nova Scotia Four generations of service EXPLORE SYDNEY'S PAST... ST. PATRICK'S MUSEUM • 87 ESPLANADE • OPEN: Mid-June to Labour Day 9:30-5:30 Daily CAPE BRETON CENTRE FOR HERITAGE & SCIENCE • 225 GEORGE STREET* (OPEN YEAR ROUND) Summer: IUlid-June to Labour Day 10-4 Mon-Sat Operated by the Old Sydney Society For



information call (902) 539-1572 JOST HOUSE • 54 CHARLOTTE STREET • Summer: 10-4 Mon-Sat For information call (902) 539-0355 COSSIT HOUSE • 75 CHARLOTTE STREET • OPEN: June 1 to October 15 9:30 - 5:30 Mon-Sat 1:00 - 5:30 Sunday A branch museum of the Nova Scotia Museum Complex