

## Other Places



Pouch Cove.

Some of the first settlers in Newfoundland (ship jumpers from the fishing fleet) stayed naturally on the Avalon Peninsula, land shaped like a ragged *H* and attached to the mainland by an extension of the crossbar.

St. John's is on the eastern or seaward side of the *H*, near the top of the right-hand vertical stroke. The peninsula is indented in the proper places by Conception Bay, Trinity Bay, St. Mary's Bay and Placentia Bay.

**ARGENTIA** on Placentia Bay is well remembered by tens of thousands of American Navy and Air Force men who served there in World War II. The U.S. Navy still has people stationed there.

**PLACENTIA**, a small, pleasant place near Argentia, is pretty much surrounded by water. It was the French capital of Newfoundland in the 17th century but the name is a corruption of the Basque name, *Plaisance*. The Basques came first, probably, very early in the 16th century and were followed by the French, who came as fishermen and remained for awhile as soldiers. They fortified Placentia in 1662, but the English took over without firing a shot by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

**CARBONEAR**, in Conception Bay, includes Irish Town, Crocker's Cove and South Side. It is mentioned in old records from 1550, and a pirate captured a French vessel there in 1614. In 1627 it had twenty-two dwellings. According to legend Sheila Na Geira fell in love with a privateer named Capt. Gilbert Pike in 1600, and they married and had the first white child born in Newfoundland. Their graves remain in a small garden.

**BONAVISTA**, John Cabot's landfall, is on the mainland, northwest of the Avalon Peninsula at the top of a peninsula of its own, on Bonavista Bay. It has a population of 5,000 and is the largest fishing village on the east coast. It is a particularly pleasant place with many attractions for the visitor. You can buy snow crab directly from the fishermen or cooked from a plant at Valley Field. It has blueberries galore—a million pounds are harvested annually. A ferry makes the round trip from Valley Field to the island of Greenspond. Deadman's Bay Beach has excellent cold-water swimming in summer.

**CORNER BROOK** is on the other side of the island, the west coast, up Humber Arm from the Bay of Islands. It is, by contrast with almost everything else in Newfoundland, startlingly new. The giant Bowater Newfoundland Ltd. pulp and paper factory (which is now up for sale) was founded here in 1923 and Corner Brook grew out of the village of Fisher's Mill. The city has a good choice of hotels and motels and restaurants and an eighteen-hole golf course. It also has good skiing at Marble Mountain and one of the longest ski seasons in Canada. It is a good jumping off point for Gros Morne National Park some fifty miles to the north.

These villages offer only a sampling. Newfoundland's endless bays, coves, arms and bights are lined with small fishing outports, and almost all of them are now accessible by road. The island's principal road runs northeast from the ferry landing at Port-aux-Basques on the south-