

Travelling man: WELL-KNOWN FIGURE ON CAMPUS MAC HAS VARIED TALENTS

By APRIL-ANNE DOCKRILL

Old Mac, caretaker of the Forrest Building, is one of the most photographed people on the Dalhousie campus, because he bears the mace in the academic procession at every convocation.

John R. MacLeod, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and at an early age moved to Brechin, where he grew up.

In 1907 he left Scotland, bound for New York. "My landing in New York did not make the headlines and after the immigration details were completed at Ellis Island and I had been fully tagged with labels and identifying chalk marks, I finally reached my destination, Springfield, Mass."

Mac's life has been dominated by an unquenchable wanderlust, and out of a desire to see the United States, he joined the Barnum and Bailey Circus in 1910. "Through the medium of the "Greatest Show on Earth", I was able to cover practically the whole of the North American continent from coast to coast, four times.

KEPT DIARIES

During this period he kept a series of diaries, in which he wrote his impressions of the places he had been. He was always receptive to the spell which nature, and especially the sea holds for those who love to roam.

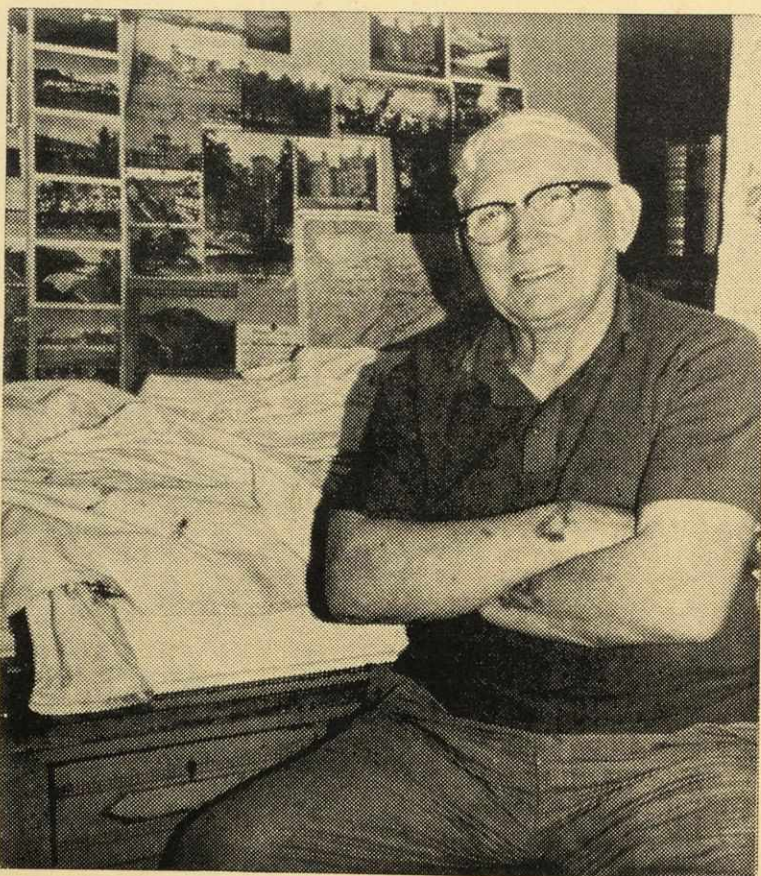
Mac's unceasing desire to travel, "to climb the highest mountain I could and see what I had read about and never seen," possessed him so completely that, he would travel the country in railway box-cars, enduring many hardships and discomforts to satisfy his desire to see and learn.

In 1914 he left the circus and went to New York. The outbreak of World War I created a demand for people to work on cargo ships for France. With this intention in mind, Mac came to Halifax, where because of delays and changes in plans, he was destined to stay. Soon marriage put an end to his wandering, and, very happily he settled down here.

AT DALHOUSIE NOW

He worked with the Dalhousie Construction Co. when the campus was being built up. At this time his interest in good books was displayed to such advantage that ever since he has had access to every book in the library.

For the past four decades, Mac has been caretaker of the Forrest Building. He has worked under four presidents, and has made many friends among the faculty and several generations of students. "Meeting and conversing



with people I enjoy to the full. I endeavour to contact all foreign students and learn a few sentences in their languages. What a wonderful medium of friendship this provides. Barriers break down and mutual understanding develops.

Asked about his taste in books, MacLeod. "Oh yes, I have been an avid reader ever since I can remember. It was very fortunate for us to have a Carnegie Library in Brechin, and I used it considerably. . . the sea stories were real appetisers and whetted an interest in wandering which has followed me throughout the years."

"My favorites, if there are such things, would be the Bible, biography, travel and essays. I am afraid my taste has not extended far into this modern age, but I always read our Nova Scotia writers when new publications come my way."

In his long life and varied experience, Mac has met and made friends with many well-known people. Once, he and a stranger meeting by chance and recognizing each other's Scottish accent, had a long, lively conversation in the "braid Scots"; the man was John Buchan, Lord Tweedsmuir.

Another famous man, John Read, former World Court Judge, referring to Mac's upbringing near the seat of the Earls of Dalhousie,

once said, "There is only one real Dalhousian, and that is MacLeod."

A POET TOO

Mac is a man of many talents. He has written extensively, both in verse and in prose. Many of his articles have been published in the Dalhousie Medical Journal.

One of the most photographed people on campus at convocation time, Mac has acted as the bearer of the University mace at the head of each convocation procession every year since the mace was introduced to the ceremony.

In June 1953, Mac played the part of Mr. Lundie the Schoolteacher in Brigadoon, in cooperation with many people prominent in the theatre, radio, and television.

Mac says he will always treasure this experience, for "there is a certain feeling -- a special unanimity of fellowship -- among those who produce a play together."

One of his speeches, the last in the play, remains in his memory as being especially significant.

Mr. Lundie has been asked how it felt going into Brigadoon; he answers: "I felt myself drifting as on a cloud and heard voices, strange voices- they seemed to be calling me. -- there are a lot of people out there who would like a Brigadoon."

Mac recalls that, as he spoke these words, "I looked out at the people and felt that, more than at any other moment, the audience was with me."



Cup Comments

By Ed Schwartzberg — CUP Editor

God and a Cornell University debating team teamed up to defeat a McGill team on the topic "God is on our side." The Cornell team held the affirmative.

The Cornell men, in defining the terms of the resolution showed there was a God and since He did things in the affirmative He was obviously on the side of Cornell." He stands with us," one of the Cornell men said. "He told us."

The opening negative speaker started with the statement that "British is for writing, American for speaking and Scotch for sermons -- so pass me the Scotch." He continued "And if Joan of Arc, Joseph Smith and J. C. -- late of Israel -- had God on their side -- well look what happened to them."

The second negative speaker launched into a discussion of the "oldest profession," which, says the McGill Daily "it was later learned was definitely not debating."

From there he proceeded to tell of the "edifice complex of the Jewish and Christian peoples," and "the Fuller Bust man."

During rebuttal negative speaker attempted to show irregularities in the parenthood of the opponents from Ithaca. "For," he said "when Odysseus returned to his Isle of Ithaca, he found his father was a slave and his mother a hog." "This," says the Daily, was false and the Cornell team disregarded the insinuation."

The Cornell team wound up with the slogan "A vote for the affirmative is a vote for God."

The Cornell men won the house vote unanimously, the Daily says.

ETHNIC FREEDOM

Canada is going to hell -- but so is the United States -- and the Doukhobor problem in British Columbia is an example, a specialist in race and the ethnic relations told a student sociology club at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Charles Frantz, head of the department of anthropology at Portland State College (Oregon) said there is a connection between the refusal by modern democracies to appreciate and allow ethnic freedom and the treatment of the Jews under Hitler.

Dr. Frantz, discussing the topic "Eros and Error: will the Doukhobors Survive?" said the Doukhobors are primarily a sectarian community, claiming to be a sovereign, sacred state.

They have pictured their relation to national governments as one of mutual recognition, Dr. Frantz said.

The Doukhobors originated in 17th Century Russia as one of the many protest movements within the Orthodox Church. Their culture incorporated in its beliefs two opposing principles: equalitarianism and authoritarianism.

On the local level control had equalitarian norms. All members were part of a brotherhood. Authority was shared and the individual was submerged in the group.

National rule was an authoritarian regime of hierarchies in government and state. This created the conflict of attempting brotherhood and universal equality within a state that was actually stratified.

In Canada, problems of conflict with the church have been removed, but the traditional antagonism with government remains.

Fires, nudity, threats of immigration and other protest demands have long been used as weapons against the government.

Isolation is necessary for the group to function ideally, Dr. Frantz said. "Civilization, however, keeps catching up on them," They have kept moving on, but now time has caught up with them.

CHARITABLE CANADIANS

A columnist with the University of Waterloo campus paper, The Coryphaeus, is proud to be a Canadian. From his column we have:

One thing about being in the Commonwealth, India can feel comfortable in that she has the might of Canada behind her -- way behind her. I wonder if there are enough airfields in India to handle all those DC-3's we sent. Those planes are so big and modern and fast, it surprises me that a poor country like ours can afford to let such a vast number go. I hope the government doesn't get carried away by the spirit of charity and send the Indians other modern tactical weapons like flintlocks, cavalry and things."

MEREDITH FAILING?

Faculty members at the University Of Mississippi have reported that James Meredith is failing four courses and university officials are reportedly concerned that if he fails out of the school, they will be charged with failing him to get rid of him.

Meredith himself admitted to reporters he is having academic problems.

Meredith quashed rumors that he was withdrawing from the school when he took a trip to Memphis, stating "The right to fail is as important as the right to succeed."

Why is Meredith having trouble? Observers here say he has no privacy at the school, is guarded day and night, spends hours each day attending to matters other than school work connected with the unusual manner in which he enrolled at "Ole Miss" and his studies, and sleep, are constantly interrupted by the sounds of firecrackers and other disturbances.

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"Make up a party and come along"

Singers perform
subterraneously

TORONTO (CUP) Three Ryerson seniors and one U of T student have taken to the Toronto subway "to cheer up the masses," with their folk songs.

"The Underground Four" was formed six weeks ago.

"We felt that people needed cheering up," one of the Four said. "Since we came together we've built up quite a following among subway patrons."

The group plays at one of the subway stations, and if asked to "move along" members merely jump on the trains and travel to the next station.

While Toronto Transit Commission officials aren't too keen on the idea of the group holding concerts in the stations, they have not yet thrown them out.

"I suppose if they become too tired of us we'll have to learn some jail songs," one of the group says.