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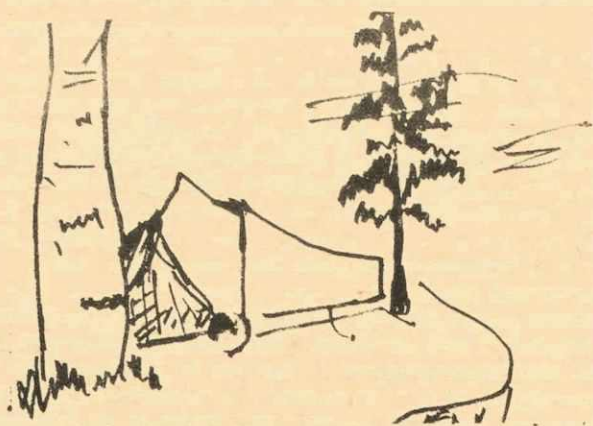
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by Kevin Moore

**"Like a night in the forest,
Like a mountain in spring-time,
Like a walk in the rain,
Like a sleepy blue ocean,"**
John Denver

Terra Nova National Park

Those who read an article recently in this column on National Parks, knew that this was coming. Why Terra Nova and not some closer park like Kedge? Well, simply, I spent four consecutive months at T.N.N.P. Sitting in my head is more general knowledge and personal experiences for this park than any other in the system.

Terra Nova is located in the northeastern section of insular Newfoundland, approximately 140 miles from Bishop's Falls ("there's nothing like putting things into perspective."-MR), 48 miles from the International Airport at Gander and approximately 160 miles from the provincial capital of St. John's.

The park is 153 square miles, with boundaries running on two sides through regrowth boreal forest of black spruce and fir while the remainder follows the coastline and includes many offshore islands.

The coastline is deeply indented with numerous inlets, the largest being Clode and Newman Sounds, both sunken fjords. It appears to be the only National Park in Canada where there is extensive contact of the northern boreal forest with the sea.

The general topography is rolling, flattened hills typical of a glaciated area. The highest point in the park is

709 feet above sealevel and is in the middle of Gross Bog, the most extensive area of raised bog in the park.

Ochre Hill is the second highest point, on which is set an exhibit center of the surrounding area. Finally on the other side of the park lies Blue Hill, the third highest point with a clear view of Newman Sound and the narrows. It's also the best spot in the park for viewing full moons when nights are clear enough to do so.

The general plant life is typical of Newfoundland. Common bog plants such as the provincial plant flower, the pitcher plant *Sarracenia purpurea*, bake apples or cloud berries *Rubus Chamaemorus*, bog cottons *Epirophorum* sps., and various sedges *Carex* sps., give variety to the wetlands, while the woods abound with snowberry *Gaultheria hispida*, the Newfoundland equivalent to our teaberry *G. procumbens* which doesn't seem to be very common even though Roland and Smith (1969) say it occurs there. Partidgeberry *Vaccinium Vitis-Idaea*, crackerberry *Cornus canadensis* and poison berry *Clintonia borealis* are all very common even though the common names are specific to Newfoundlanders while mainlanders might know them by the more widespread names of Foxberry, bunchberry and snakeberry.

The shore. To some it is a place of rugged coastline, for others a place for a quite walk and driftwood but to most it is a mass of plants and animals living together under the harshest conditions on earth. But the shores of Terra Nova are covered with life except in the sounds and arms that have developed an estuarine stratification of fresh and salt water. The fresh water, being less dense "floats" on the salt water resulting in little life on the immediate shoreline. The absence of such common animals such as starfish, sea urchins and many bivalves is

due to this water change. But if one skin or scuba dives even thirty feet offshore in 15-20 feet of water, all of these animals are found in great abundance along with flounders, scallops, razor clams and tunicates to name but a few.

The shore and the woods are full of birds and mammals. Common birds such as the Grey Jay, Hairy Woodpecker, Greater Black-backed, the Goldenlegs as well as an unusually large number of ospreys, and bald eagles and of course the elusive willow ptarmigan.

Of all the mammals in the park, the introduced moose is the symbol chosen for the park stamp. This choice is easily explained if one drives the roads at twilight. I was in the park less than three hours my first day when I saw my first moose. And with such a large number of moose, you have the occurrence of large deposits of moose scat (droppings) everywhere you go in the park. The average moose population for the park is estimated to be around 80 while a peak year numbered 150 (1/sq. mi.) Moose browse is common throughout the park and extensive in some areas.

The large population of moose result in a large number of road kills on the highway. Although only occasionally fatal for the human occupants it is more important and unfortunately lethal for the moose. Over one quarter of the population is killed off this way in a year.

The park has to accommodate the visitor, two campgrounds; the main one at Newman Sound and another at Alexander Bay. Although the former has more facilities, the latter is by far more aesthetically pleasing as far as campgrounds can be. Alexander Bay Campground also allows you a better chance of seeing a bear than does Newman Sound.

Of course, and more desirable, wilderness camping permits and fire permits can be obtained free of charge so that one can go off to the backcountry away from people.

Most of Terra Nova is crisscrossed with bogs and while this makes for interest-

Outdoors

ing hiking, it also adds a great degree of difficulty to the enjoyment. For this reason, one may enjoy the trail presently under construction around the peninsula that contains Lions Den. It will take approximately a week to walk but understandably worth the effort.

Several small day-long hiking trails are available. The closest to Newman Sound campground is the Big Brook Hiking Trail, which follows along the brook till it reaches the tidal flats at Newman Sound where one can walk across at low tide or simply sit in the little coves and relax. This trail can be followed on as to where it joins the Blue Hill Hiking Trail going up the Salton's Brook to the top of Blue Hill where one can climb the fire tower and talk to Captain Pike, awhile. Along the trail, one can drink from Lex's Stream, or Rosen Creek while a slight detour will take you to Sandpiper Cove with its small sandpit where if it's the right time of the year, one will find baby sandpipers running through the matted juniper. The last three geographical names are provided courtesy of Rosen/Moore Geographical Nomenclature Corporation due to the fact that they are unnamed on standard maps or by park officials.

On the other side of the park by Alexander Bay lies the Louil Hills Trail. The only large area of granite in the park which allows for jutting hills and steep cliff faces. The results of a past fire has left much of it barren of trees although shrub growth, particularly *Kalmia* has grown up while some areas are bare rock covered only by thin crustose lichens.

A new trail in the same area, tentatively named the Rosen Memorial Trail has been flagged out to the top of Malady Head and its magnificent cliff face. In closing, additional information is available by writing Terra Nova National Park, Glovertown, Newfoundland. I went back in November, and will go again in December so all you can do is try and talk you all into visiting. You wouldn't believe.

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