

Newfoundland Travel in 1949: Part 2

Adventures in Nova Scotia



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The following bulletin is part of a mini-series based on a scrapbook from 1949. The scrapbook recounts a trip taken by three adventurous women from Boston who travel across Newfoundland and up the coast of Labrador. I hope that you enjoy the read and that you will continue to follow along with us.

We pick up our story again in Yarmouth where the ladies purchased train tickets to North Sydney and their adventure through Nova Scotia was underway. Stopping in Digby, Connie sent a telegram to St. John's letting the ticket office know when Mabel, Pat and she would reach North Sydney. They had been told that the St. John's ticket office would make their reservations for crossing the Cabot Strait.

Along the way, the trio met many interesting folks, including Bishop Moreash who got them all up in a tizzy when he told Connie that they would not be able to make their connections on time and that they would miss the boat. So in Windsor, the ladies, now worried about making it to North Sydney,



1: Royal Theatre Truro Photo from Colchester Historical Society Museum and Archives, Truro, Nova Scotia

toured the town. They ate at a local restaurant and stopped by the Royal Theatre to see a movie called "The Emperor's Waltz."

After the movie, they stopped to grab a soda at a local shop before returning to the train.

They had to wait a few minutes to get on, "as some inebriates [were] got thrown off the train!"

switched trains and were off again.

Arriving in Truro around 7pm, Mabel found out that they would be waiting 4 hours before departing. Since they had some time to spare, the girls



2: drawing representing "The Emperor's Waltz" where the love story between the people is mirrored by their pets.



3: Tickets from Truro to North Sydney

Connie, Pat and Mabel slept most of the way across Nova Scotia. They woke up briefly when the train was loaded on to the ferry to cross the Strait of Canso. The train, with the exception of the engine, was loaded onto a ferry and transported across. On the other side, the trip continued to North Sydney.

When they got off the train at 6am, the ladies were swamped by taxi drivers eager to help – but the drivers were so pushy that the trio continued to the station by themselves. At the station, the girls were told to go to the wharf and that word had not been received from the St. John's office about reservations for Connie, Pat and Mabel. So to the wharf they went to check in somewhere for the day since the ship did not leave until late that night. The New Belmont Hotel had been recommended by the Bishop and that is where our adventurers stayed.



Walking down to the wharf they found out that those offices also had not heard anything from St. John's about their trip. Connie put them straight about their plight and a telegraph was sent to the island. It turns out that a lot of people were trying to book passage for that evening and that it was almost impossible to get on the ship. Apparently, the passengers that were destined for the S.S Kyle in St. John's had crossed the night before!!

“It was a long and anxious day. Waiting – waiting – waiting.” Connie, Pat and Mabel spoke to a few other people that were in the same situation and she said that, “every time the phone rang everybody jumped.”

They lounged around the hotel for the day writing letters, talking, reading, and playing cards. Starting to get frazzled they eventually called TCA (Trans-Canada Airlines). The ladies were told they would have no luck but maybe they could take a plane tomorrow. Finally, towards mid afternoon, Connie marched down to the wharf.

Sometime later, Connie returned and announced, “Do you want to sail tonight?” They had started to dread the boat trip and thirty hour train ride but TCA had said they may not get out until tomorrow by plane and they had to make it to the S.S Kyle! So off they went. At 6pm they loaded up their gear and boarded the S.S Burgeo.

4: *Left bottom*: The New Belmont Hotel Photo from the 40s-50s compared to the scrapbook sketch



5: The S.S Burgeo in dock at North Sydney, NS

Next month the ladies cross the Cabot Straight and start their journey by train across Newfoundland to St. John's and the waiting S.S Kyle.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments or stories you would like to share please let us know by contacting me at:

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