

Written by Ky Phoenix (Margaret Smith's father) about his, Vera's and Connie Thornton's trip to Canada

Prestwick – Toronto

July 2nd – 23rd 1966

Left Prestwick on time lovely to see the lights & coast line even street lights, now flying above the clouds can see them passing by, now flying at 8000 ft. – 280 mls per hour, weather in Toronto 80 degrees head winds 60 knots for 2 hrs approaching the coast of Labrador head winds 60 knots for 2 hrs 3.25 260 mls per hr 1,000 ft up, just seen the icebergs & sun rise, just seen a ship like a toy, arrived Goose bay Labrador Newfoundland 4:30 CT, left for Toronto 5:15 CT. Its now 8:50 CT, we have enjoyed another good meal. Plane will be 2 hrs late for strong winds & air pockets. The feeling of excitement all around. Landed July 3rd at 10 o'clock, quite a thrill to see the people waiting & recognising relatives, went through the customs OK. Annie was waiting at the barrier in green dress, we thought she was in pink. Drove straight home it was so hot 94 degrees. Uncle Sam so anxious to know whether we had landed had been ringing all morning & we were here for 12 o'clock C.T. Rested in the cellar all afternoon had supper 5:30 & went to Uncle Sam's farm at Brantford. He was so pleased to see us & he took us to see Flo in the hospital. She wanted to know how everyone was & she looks well & hoping to be home soon. Billy drove us home into Hamilton to see the Town & Stores so tired and went to bed early & slept in the cellar it was so hot.

July 4th. Had lunch with Annie in the Steel works canteen. Billy (picked) us up after work 2:30 & we sat on the lawn until teatime. Annie did the garden & later we went to Stoney Creek, had ice cream still hot but a little better, went down the Lake Ontario & back home.

July 5 Billy finished work for the week and is taking us to the Falls today. Left at 12:10 after an early lunch, through all the Fruit Farms all along the wayside, stopped at Welland canal as a ship was going through the Rainbow Bridge, passed quite a few factories landed at Niagara Falls. Wonderful sights the Canadian Falls being in the shape of a horse shoe. Wandered around a bit & sat out of the sun at times. Then Billy took us through the park to the Great Gorge Whirlpool Rapids, you go down the Elevation 200 ft out, through museum where the original people went over the rapid. One Captain Webb who swam the English Channel died in the Rapids & Captain Noel Robinson took the Maid of the Mist through these Rapids, it also was a path at the side followed by Natives Indians 400 yrs ago. We went further into the Park to Queenston Heights and General Brock's Monument which was erected to commemorate his name as one of the most remarkable Military figures in North American History. Back to Hamilton the quick way down the Q.E.W. Annie had a lovely supper ready for us & after we sat on the lawn outside & wrote a few cards & ate Chocolates. Annie took us up the Mountain & we could see the lights of the town Hamilton being at the foot. The Sky Line bridge running over the Lake Ontario & could see all the big buildings lit up (a wonderful view), came home went to bed early 12 o'clock after a wonderful day.

July 6th Up bright & early 5:30, had a bath & wrote cards home, after breakfast walked to post them, it was 80 degrees as we sat on the lawn before lunch. Billy looked after us well making cool drinks etc to take out with us. We went to Oakville Coronation Park, by Lake Ontario, there was two guns in the park, plenty of picnic benches & a barbeque. Billy says when they cook it goes on for days, after a very enjoyable afternoon we were home by 4:30, it was too hot outside we sat in the lounge reading. Annie came home & we had a lovely supper and then a thunderstorm it didn't last long but cooled everywhere, later we took some dry cleaning 14 minutes cleaning. Annie took my own & Connie's costumes which we traveled in & Billy's trousers & sweaters, they looked very nice & clean & Annie put them all on hangers & left them in the car while we went to see Sound & Light at Dundurn Castle the first exterior production of its kind in Canada we really enjoyed it, was home & to bed for 11:45. Slept on the studio couch in the cellar it is lovely & cool.

July 7th. Billy took us to Gage Park, children are well catered for here later we prepared for going away to the cottage in the morning.

July 8 Made an early start for Lion's Head at 8:30, 145 miles up on Lake Erie (Huron). Lots of places have Scottish names, we went through Dundas, Aberfoyle, Galt, Doon, Rothesay, Ayr, English names too – Milton, Avon, Stratford etc. Very nice country, our first stop was Riverside Park. Guelph has the first house built by John Galt in 1824 also the old Town Hall bell. The Floral clock was just beautiful July 8th was done in flowers. Our next stop was Owen Sound for lunch & a look around the stores there. Off again through lots of small places to Wiarton. This is called "The Gateway of the North", the actual gates are there on each side of the road. Got to Uncle Sam's "Sunset View" 5 o'clock. Its ideal, lovely situated on boat house on the lake. Anne cooked supper & Vera & I are enjoying the lovely evening sun. Later we went to Lookabout lodge, looked around & down to the bridge, then indoors to play cards. Tonight I saw the most beautiful sunset I have ever seen.

Saturday 9th. Up early & now enjoying the sun against Uncle Sam's boat house in Georgian Bay on Lake Huron. Annie took us into Lion's Head in Uncle Sam's car, it's automatic & easy to drive. Looked around, had coffee and home again for lunch, out on the beach this afternoon & after supper we went into Stokes bay. Had a tour round, went for coffee & pumpkin pie, visited friends of Uncle Sam's, back for cards, Yaka, but it's good fun.

Sunday Up early quite a breeze on the water, sun very hot, went walking and layed around, went visiting again & back to play cards. Uncle Sam seem to enjoy the four of us.

Monday 11th. Went to Tobermory Bay, had a trip round the Flower Pot isles. The drive up was through lovely forest country, plenty of deer there. We are now back in Lion's Head 4:30 giving Old Nellie (Annie's car) a rest. While Annie shops, weather still in the 90's. All motels here seem to cater well for people, each place has its own swimming pool. Back again to Old Woman River, the cottage and supper, later we went to the bay, Annie went swimming. Vera & I were paddling, back again, went for a stroll around, played cards, we are getting better at it. Still lovely sunsets.

Tuesday 12th. Still lovely, we are having a peaceful morning on the veranda. Went to the indian reserve this afternoon, one house had a totem Pole, not seen very much these days. Then we passed the United

Church, Cape Crocke, Church hall. Nowash Indian Band War Memorial of the Chippewa Indians killed in the 1914 – 1918 war. Home again through lots of Bays & Purple Valley & lovely country. After supper we went to the bay again. Vera & I were in the water to our knees but Annie was swimming, later we went to the Look about Lodge & played Bingo. Home, a snack & another lovely sunset then off to bed again.

Wednesday 13th. Our stay at Lion's Head is getting short, Uncle Sam is away fishing on the lake this morning. We went to the bay swimming, the water is so blue and warm, later we all cleaned the car up a bit. The water is so blue and nicely warmed by the sun. Annie cooked fish Uncle Sam caught yesterday & wasn't it good, had a real lazy afternoon, lovely breeze blowing as I am sitting on the veranda watching Uncle Sam throwing his miny net in for the little fish for tomorrows fishing. Just going out to Lion's Head through Whip Pool (Whipporwill). Barrow Bay scenery here is so lovely, wild Flowers everywhere. We are now sitting at Ferndale before going to Old Woman River & Sunset View. Having an hour at cards before going to bed.

Thursday Early morning paddle before breakfast, later we packed & said our good byes to friends we had met & we are on the Bruce Peninsula where there are lots to see. I am writing a few places as we see them, we pasted the Sauble Falls into Sallow Lake to Owen Sound, lots of Drive, in places seem to be way out in the country, Southampton next. You can be driving along the highway & see a church on the wayside, soon we are on the saugeen Indian reserve, chippawa Hill, an Indian was painting a picture of his own house as we passed, what shacks some are. We saw a H.B. (Hudson's Bay) outpost. Over to the Silver River & place called blue water & its really blue. Lovely beach, lunch here in Southampton. Port Elg is next stop. Past the tobacco fields and kilns all around here there are plenty of camping sites. We are still driving by Lake Huron into Kincardine, sandy beach for miles through Kinkale. We are still driving along Lake Huron, to give you an idea how long this lake is we left Uncle Sam's at Lion's Head at 11 o'clock & now it's 5 o'clock, very good farming land around here & lovely country side. Goderich, the historic site of Tiger Dunlop. Goderich itself seems to be a very select place, every place has lovely avenues & trees. Next stop Stratford. All Church's are United in Canada but R.C. Stratford is a lovely place, we drove by the river past theatre etc festival on just now through Shakespeare. These places are laid out like the English namesake. Willow Park has swimming pool on the roadside. All Motels seem to have one too. Went to a drive in for a hot dog, you sit in the car & wait for your number to be called. Now we are driving through tobacco growing country. Burford is a town on the Grand River & back again to Annie's place.

Friday Had a lazy day on the lawn where its cool, we are still having lovely sunshine & high temperatures, after early supper, Annie took us down town to a shopping centre, first to the fruit market where everything is so fresh & clean. Home again & later Annie & I went down town for a Pizza dish (?) wasn't it good. We shall be home with all new ideas of food.

Saturday Up early – is still so warm but we are getting more used to it. After early lunch we went down town by the McMaster University and the park where there is a sunken garden. This must have been our lucky day – four Weddings were having their pictures taken among the flowers. Each Bride in white attendants were one in pink, green, blue & rose some of the guests to each group seem to be there too.

They dress cars up of paper rosettes & another two had hearts on. We drove out to Brantford later to Mohawk Park. Here there is a lovely place for children camping & boating. Stayed at the Jolly Baron for supper with Don & were shown through the Motel guest room, called to see Marion Annie's friend who lives on the Mountain & home again & saw the lights of Hamilton.

Sunday Still another lovely day, very hot here, after lunch we went to Vineland through Smithville, St. Ann's & other small places, still good farming land. We are having a picnic near the Welland river on the Niagara Peninsular conservation Balls Falls. Plenty of tables around & after having a good supper we explored a bit. All Parks seem to have something old. Here the(y) had an old log cabin, furnished to suit the period. Came a different way home. This area is grape growing & poultry farming. The end of a very restful day.

Monday 18th. We are going to Toronto today. Annie took us the Lakeside way which is the old road to Toronto, you travel by the lake all the way through lovely country into more resident places, our first stop was Oakville Park, lovely waterfall here & Plaque. I thought the reading was good "Pure water is the best of gifts that man can bring". Sheridans Park was lovely too. Now we saw quite a lot of bigger Places at the swimming pools on the wayside, the lifeguard was sitting up in his box. We passed Curtis Park, Monoca Park, Sir Casemans Park, on the way to Toronto Exhibition grounds to Bay St., where the Old City Hall is to the left & The New City Hall. In the square Annie took Pictures, after parking underground. Here we saw the Police on horseback leading the parade. Miss Toronto 1965 led the parade of about 20, with the students doing the rejects behind. After looking through part of the big stores (they are massive) we got back to the car & went the Garden Express Highway & visited friends who went out with Mother. Had Tea at the Royal Botanic Rock Gardens. This is a Tourist attraction both of flowers & pools well laid out overlooking the Bay called "Coots Paradise". Home & supper, getting ready for the Niagara Fall tomorrow.

Tuesday 19th. Today is humid to begin but should be better later. We started around 10 o'clock & first went to Prudhommes. This place is self contained everything to do for a holiday, swimming Pools, bowling Allays, Golf, well just everything needed for recreation. The Garden City Skyway is 2 ½ miles to the pay toll, we saw Rainbow bridge & Falls again. We saw the sight seeing buggy called "Surry with a fringe on top", got to the Skylon Tower 11:45, elevator is on the outside of tower & is a lovely sight going up or down, can see over both falls, American & Canadian. The dining room revolves and takes 1 hr. to turn bringing you back to same place at the end of lunch & you wouldn't know you had moved, it is 520 ft. high & largest revolving tower in the world. We went over the States for a drive & later to Goat Island for our coffee, here they have cars touring and saying what different things of interest you pass. Annie drove us past Oneida Tower, Devils Hole, Robert Moses Parkway & a few miles down river on the American side to Queenstown heights and the Queenstown Bridge over again to Canada. Followed the Niagara river back home through National Historic sights – Capture of Forte Niagara we saw the Forte there, McFarlane house & Buthew Burying ground. When we got to Welland the bridge was up to allow boat to pass, Manitoba went through. St. Catharine a very nice place, going along the highway nice & easy when Police patrol waved us down, we wondered what the trouble was, only a safety check & Annie was asked if she cared to take it. She said OK. The Policeman said there set up costs such a lot & so few people use them. Well Annie thought Old Nellie needed a rest & why not here. We drove to the

check up and waited our turn. They tried everything, lights, wipers, gears, horn, wheels well just everything possible. Old Nellie was the first to pass the Check that night, six cars were waiting on the road side for something, the chap said how does it feel to be driving a safe car. They put a sticker on for proof. Then we went to see an Open House. They really are lovely places, then went to "Innsville Hotel" and had a hamburger & glass of beer, home again after another good day.

Wednesday, July 20th. This morning Billy took us out in his boat on the Lake, now we have seen Canada from the Air, on land & water we are very lucky. After lunch, Annie took us to Confederation Park, it being a farm a few years ago on the Lake side. Still plenty of things for children here, everything on a farm in different enclosures. They have an old freighter & are doing it for a tourist attraction. Back again, I don't know where we find the energy in this heat.

Thursday Went down town this morning and after a rest we are going to see Jake Berrisford, Frank & his wife were there too also Jake's son. Later we went to see a friend of Annie's (Freda).

Friday After breakfast we went to the beach, its still hot weather, had a picnic lunch & sat about till about 4:30. Had an easy relaxing day. Went for a drive at night & later walked down the Main St. with Annie. Went into a beer parlour to see what it was like.

Saturday Up Early, thought it was late, Billy had gone to work while we slept. Had a walk to the main St., but it was too hot & we all seemed getting restless now our stay is coming to a close. We were so sorry to be leaving Annie & Billy. We started for Toronto at 3:30. Billy drove us & we got to Malton Airport approx. 4:30. What a place to park a car, we were on the fifth floor, booked in at 5:30, our flight was called. The moment I always dread came, when we had to leave Annie, so I tried to think of you all waiting for me to return home. We saw Annie as long as we could there was a lot of folks saying goodbye to their relations. We took off at 6:10 & started to fly 6:20. Had dinner at 7:30. The Captain has just announced we are flying over New Brunswick & will land in Gander at 10:40 for a stay of one hr. It is very dark when we landed here 11:10. Now we have been told our flight 331 has been delayed for one hr we are still in Gander at 2:30 C.T. We are ready to leave after 4 hrs. delay, better safe than sorry. Soon going again as dawn was breaking & everyone had juice & tried to sleep. We were served breakfast at 7:30 C. Time, 12:30 local time, its now 2:45 we are due to land 3:45, we have had a very pleasant trip home & didn't seem too long flying in over Arran & the Holy Loch, Alec Craig in the distant, landed at Prestwick 4:10, left Airport 5:10, back to Rosberry Place for 6:45.

"The end of a Wonderful Holiday"