INTRODUCTION

" A Likely Story" is the third collection of articles long ago published in the Marmora Herald.

The Reader is informed that this work is an exact re-print, and that obvious errors in spelling as well as grammar have been literally followed.

That the reporters themselves would have reworked some parts of their stories, probably expanded others, and corrected spelling mistakes is evident, but we believe these stories stand on their own merit, offering a rare glimpse of early life and times in Marmora and area. The stories remind us of days long ago and many of these stories appear in The Herald even today, polished up and with the benefit of spell checker and printing press replaced by computers and modern methods. Decades pass but the accidents still occur and crimes still take place. Day-to-day life in the village is much the same as our forefathers experienced. Possibly someone will sit down and let future generations experience life in the 90's, just as you will, as you read through these pages.

Reading " A Likely Story " through the reporters' eyes, with their free-flowing form, their sense of community, their compassion and caring reminds us of a gentler time.

May 1, 1998

Gerald Belanger

Cathie Jones

To neglect Easter Duty.

To be late for Mass or any Church services.

To stock hurriedly and noisily up the aisle.

To ignore the Holy Water font at the entrance.

To make the sign of the Cross as if fanning off flies.

To give a little bobbing courtesy instead of the proper genuflection before entering one's pew.

To deliberately turn around, stare up at the choir, or at those entering the Church.

To go to sleep, or to read the prayer book during the sermon. This is unpardonable.

To be in an ecstatic condition of devotion when the contribution box approaches.

To go to High Mass simply to listen to the music, as one would go to the opera.

For persons to forget the Church is the House of God. To forget that in the House of God our dress should be respectable and plain, modest and becoming.

For persons to forget that the gallery is usually for the choir only.

For a person occupying the end seat to scowl forbiddingly at those who seek to enter the pew.

For a person to go to a private pew without an invitation. To make a rush for the door before the priest has descended the altar to begin the concluding prayers.

To go to Church at the last moment and leave it the first. To kneel only on one knee or to emulate the position of the bear when saying one's prayers.

To whisper, cough, or cause distraction to those around. For lay persons to enter or pass through the Sanctuary or enclosure.

For persons to think themselves entitled to special favors or places in the Church of God.

For members of the congregation to find fault with the sermon, criticise the clergyman and retail gossip on their way home from Church, as is done in China, and other parts of the Orient.

WARNING VOICES

1893

Foul play is suspected as the cause of the disappearence of Thos. Newell, who has been employed with Messrs. Lynch & Ryan, lumbermen of Gilchrist's Bay, on Stoney Lake. Newell is said to have never been heard of since. The shooting is said to be the result of Newell frequenting a house in that vicinity and the husband objected with a gun.

March 26, 1908

It is alleged that Deloro Works have been systematically robbed for some time. Three arrests have already been made and a considerable quantity of refined silver and silver ore have been found. The Crown is taking active measures to protect the property of the Company.

February 10, 1910

EXPRESSED \$44.000.

On Wednesday of last week The Deloro Mining & Reduction Co. expressed \$44,000 silver in 70 lb bars on Central Ontario Railways. This is just an average weekly shipment. The arsenic by-product is also very favorable.

September 19, 1910

FOREIGNER ARRESTED

A foreigner, who went by the names of Hill and also Lappe, came up before Judge Deroche on Wednesday of last week for stealing a quantity of silver from Deloro Mining & Reduction Company. He was sentenced to the Provincial Reformatory for two years less a day.

February 3, 1916

At an early hour Wednesday morning of last week the local police placed under arrest two men named Charles Pask and Charles Brown. The warrant under which they were arrested charges "that they, at Deloro, in the months of January and February did unlawfully steal, take and carry away a quantity of silver and silver ore from the milling and reduction property of the Deloro Mining & Reduction Company Limited, the property of the said Company." They pleaded guilty and were remanded until the 15th for sentence.

After Brown and Pask had been arrested their trunks were searched and a considerable quantity of refined silver and silver ore was found. They are both Englishmen and had been working at Deloro for some time. It was their intention to leave this country and in fact had purchased their tickets for Liverpool and were to sail on the Empress of Britain on the 11th inst. Brown is a married man with a family in England and Pask is unmarried.

They came up for sentence and were given a severe talking to, given a suspended sentence of one year in jail and ordered to pay a fine of \$20. each and \$12.50 costs and enter a bond for their good behavior for one year.

February 17, 1910

QUITE A SENSATION

Marmora enjoyed quite a sensation on Friday last when it was learned that during the night someone had left an infant at the house belonging to Mr. Kennedy Elliott, on Madoc Street now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Nayler. On going out to the woodshed in the morning, Mrs. Nayler was surprised to hear a baby crying and on investigation found an open telescope with a baby boy about two months old.

June 2, 1910

Bonter v. Pearce, McGrath v Pearce, Cain v Pearce, Cain e.al v Pearce- An appeal in each case by defendant from the judgement of Teetezl, J. of the 30th of July, 1910. These were actions by farmers against defendants, lumbermen for damming back the waters of Beaver Creek et al and flooding plaintiff's lands.At trial judgments were entered for plaintiffs referring actions to some person to be agreed on to ascertain amounts. Judgment: The defendant's appeals in all but the McGrath case should be dismissed with costs, the final clause of the third paragraph of the formal judgment to be amended by erasing all the words from "but this court is unable" to the end.

In the McGrath case the judgment cannot stand; in setting it aside we think we should direct that the case be reopened and the matter disposed of in the least expensive manner possible. If the parties agree the case may be tried by the referee who disposes of the other cases—if not it must go down for trial before a Judge, preferably Mr. Justice Teetzel, if he consent to try it. In either case the evidence already taken may stand subject to the right of either party to adduce the same and (or) other witnesses. The costs of the last trial of this appeal, and the new trial to be in the discretion of the trial tribunal.

Alex. A. McDonald, for Plantiffs, E. Gus. Porter, for Defendents.

March 16, 1911

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE II

His Lordship Mr. Justice Teetzel, of Toronto, held a sitting of the High Court of Justice at the Town Hall, here last week, to assess the damages in the cases of M. Cain vs. Pearce Co., also T. Cain vs. Pearce Co., also R. Bonter vs. Pearce Co. for flooding their lands by penning back the waters of Crowe river and Crowe Lake.

In these cases it was determined by the High Court that the defendents the Pearce Co. had been guilty of flooding the lands of the plaintiffs and at this session of the Court the Judge was to determine the extent of the damages.

When the defendents appealed from the original judgments in the above cases also in the McGrath vs. Pearce Co. case. The Court in order to allow the defendents to contest the plaintiffs' right to damages to lot 9 and lot 8, 3rd. con. Marmora, as the defendents claims an easement to flood lot 8, the Court ordered a new trial. This case also came up for trial.

McMillan vs. Pearce Co. - This case had been on the list for trial for the Fall 1909 assizes, adjourned to the Spring 1910, and owing to the long list at that Court was adjourned over to the Fall assizes 1910, and again adjourned over to the Spring assizes 1911 and further adjourned to be heard at the present sittings at the Village of Marmora, which was done.

His Lordship accompanied by the lawyers and engineers for the plaintiffs and defendents, visited the lands of the plaintiffs on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week, after which the Judge heard evidence on the part of the Litigants as to their various grievances and at the conclusion on Friday evening of last week, reserved judgment in all the cases, the lawyers in the meantime, to file with the Court written arrangements for their respective clients.

A.A. McDonald, Marmora, and H. E. Rose, K.C. of Toronto, appearing for the plaintiffs, and Messrs. Porter and Carnew for the defendents.

These are remarkable cases being the first time in the history of the Province wherein the High Court of Justice ever held a session for the hearing of cases outside of the County Town or in Toronto. No small honor for Marmora.

Col. Lazier, Registrar of the Court, also Sheriff Morrison, of Belleville, were present as officers of the Court, together with Mr. McKeown as Crier.

July 13, 1911

At the St. Patrick's Day celebration, Rev. Father Murtagh, of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Marmora, opened with an eloquent and stirring address; " He first apoligized for the absence of electric lights and the accomodation afforded, and the condition of the Town Hall" " In all times and in all lands the public spirit of villages, towns and cities, was to a great extent judged by their public buildings, hence we find in such places the town hall or city hall is after their churches, the most imposing building" " In Marmora the Town Hall resembled more a morgue, but he hoped some public spirited Man of body of men would soon take the matter in hand and destroy this eye sore, and erect something worthy of this village.

March 23, 1911

PATRIOTIC FUND

Application will be made at the present session of the Ontario Legislature for a Special Act to consolidate the Debenture and Floating Debts of the Village of Marmora and to create a Patriotic Fund. The cost of erecting the town hall exceeded the amount realized from the sale of debentures by about \$1,800. The fire protection system also cost over \$400., more than the sum realized from the sale of the debentures and the unusally large expenditure for charity and Board of Health last year brought the floating debt of the village to over \$2500.00. The interest on this amount alone would be over \$150.00 annually without reducing the debt.

March 15, 1917

On Monday evening a man named Brooks, who has been working at Deloro, was arrested in the village on a serious charge. He appeared before Police Magistrate Hubbell on Tuesday morning, when evidence was given to the effect that he had attempted an assault on Mrs. Wm. Wright. The affair took place near the south end of Forsythe street where Mrs. Wright was going for milk. The man came up behind her and putting his arms around her attempted to throw her into the bushes. He was unsuccessful in this but Mrs. Wright fell against the edge of the sidewalk and began screaming for help. Her assailant then attempted to choke her and also bit her face. Finding he could not overpower her and fearing that her cries would attract attention he left her and evidently started to leave town for Deloro, but he was soon captured by Constable Gillen. After hearing the evidence Magistrate Hubbell committed him to Belleville jail to await trial. It is to be hoped that he will be punished to the full extent of the law.

October 5, 1911

ONE YEAR IN CENTRAL

Thos. Brooks, who was committed to Belleville jail last week by Police Magistrate Hubbell, on a charge of assaulting Mrs. Wm. Wright, appeared before Judge Deroche yesterday for trial. He pleaded guilty so no evidence was taken. After giving him some timely advice Judge Deroche said as the man was evidently under the influence of liquor he would sentence him to one year in Central, without the lash. Brooks is a young married man about 28 years of age and was formerly employed as a hackman in Belleville.

October 12, 1911

On Saturday and Sunday three girls who have been residing in the village for some time, were taken into custody as vagrants, as a result of complaints laid by a number of citizens. They were given a hearing before Magistrates H.R Pearce, W. Bonter, B.C. Hubbell and Reeve Hubbell, the case occupying the greater part of Tuesday. The hearing was conducted behind locked doors the general public being excluded.

The stories of these girls revealed a depth of depravity scarcely believable in girls of their age. They also revealed a condition of immorality which came as a distinct shock to many citizens of the village. All three admitted having improper relations with a number of young men around the village and also implicated a number of married men. One girl claims to be under sixteen years of age.

As a result of their evidence warrants were issued for a number of men, some of whom practically admitted their guilt by suddenly leaving town even before the warrants were issued. The others appeared before the magistrates and were remanded until Wednesday of next week.

The girls were sentenced to five months and 15 days in Mercer Reformatory and were taken to that institution on Wednesday by O.R. Jones. One girl laid her downfall to a married woman in the village and as a result we understand this woman will be given an opportunity to leave the village.

It is to be hoped that this probe will result in a very great improvement in the village.

July 9, 1914

A HORSE IS A HORSE, OF COURSE, OF COURSE!

A live horse is, of course, a horse but is a horse still a horse after death? For most of us, this question may appear metaphysical but eighty years ago it was enough to cause an uproar in the booming mining town of Deloro.

In those days, hundreds of industrial workers refined cobalt bearing ore at Deloro producing thousands of ounces of silver and hundreds of pounds of arsenic a week. The arsenic was used for pesticides and, believe it or not, for body lotions and medicines.

The village was marvelously complete. With the exception of the general store, the village was owned by the Company which ran it. But the workers loved it and there wasn't that much you couldn't find right at home. The Deloro Social and Dramatic Society often put on cultural evenings featuring readings, violin solos and perhaps a few rounds of boxing.

In short, there wasn't much need to leave town, but when you did, it was generally by horse. New cars such as the Russell, which was advertised heavily in the local press, just couldn't get around on the muddy dirt roads like a horse could. When it came to dealing with horses, it was best to deal fairly, or suffer the consequences.

SLIGHTLY USED HORSE

Knowledge, they say, is opportunity and when it came to Mr. Jonas' horse, William Longmuir had two very special bits of knowledge about the wonderful white mare. First, Thomas Potts wanted to get that horse in the worst way, it seemed he would pay or trade almost anything for it. Secondly, and unknown to Potts, the horse had just died.

If this last gem of information could be kept from Mr. Potts for a little longer, Longmuir saw a very lucrative opportunity for a talented middleman, such of course, as himself.

1914 reprinted 1991 by Andre Philpot

Longmuir was able to purchase Mr. Jonas' dead horse for the very reasonable price of fifty cents, owing no doubt to its new physical state. Using the recently installed telephone service he set about finishing his plan. He called Mr. Potts with the good news that the horse was now his and available for sale.

In no time, he arranged to trade the horse for one of Potts and (in a display of negotiating nerve) he demanded as well the sum of \$2.00. Mr. Longmuir wisely insisted that the deal should be "sight unseen."

After a good deal of bickering, the deal was struck. Longmuir contrived to meet Potts on the way to his barn and picked up his end of the deal before Potts had a chance to realize that if the mare were ever to ride again, it would not be on this earth. One can only imagine Potts' surprise when on entering Longmuir's barn he saw that his much coveted mount was dead.

JUSTICE SERVED

In those days, justice came to the people. In the same hall where the Deloro Social and Dramatic Society met, Judge Burns held Sessions Court Mr. Thomas Potts pleaded the issue of justice. Surely even if you agreed to buy a horse sight unseen, it should be alive. Longmuir pleaded the words of the bargains made. The unfortunate animal, dead or alive, was nevertheless a horse. A horse was a horse and a deal was a deal.

As perhaps befits one who chose so legalistic an approach, Longmuir hired a lawyer. His Honour reserved his decision.

This case was not however to be the last that the court would hear of Jonas' horse. Mr. Jonas wondered why it died in the first place. Although the judge could have been forgiven for fearing the litigants were flogging a dead horse, Jonas proceeded with a suit against George Emigh. Emigh, it seems, had borrowed the horse for a ride to Cordova. Because Emigh had not cared for it properly, said Mr. Jonas, it died.

Now, then as now, only a judge can decide what the law is. Therefore, only a judge could decide whether a dead horse was a horse nonetheless. But this second case against Emigh involved a question of Fact—why had the mare died and was it Emigh's fault? Then as now, juries seemed the best way to determine facts. A jury was promptly formed of "reliable men" or so the news—papers said.

In our times we are used to juries who are impartial. If you have even read about the case, you may be excluded. Not so in 1914, at least not so in Deloro in 1914. This jury of "reliable men" included one whose reputation was described by the newspapers as being 100 degrees in the shade. The foreman was none other than that old dead horse trader himself, William Longmuir.

Longmuir returned from deliberations with his jury and walked to the centre of the court. He read as follows: "The jury finds the value of the horse to be forty dollars. And the jury after viewing all the evidence in the case believe the horse, the property of Mr. R. Hook Jonas, came to its death from pneumonia, contracted from a cold due to heavy drinking, being given the said horse by Geo. Emigh and the said Jury recommends that Mr. Jonas has lawful grounds for proceeding against Mr. Emigh for collection of the said sum of \$40. Said sum to be paid in court.

It now appeared that Mr. Longmuir had, as juror, penalized Emigh for killing by negligence the same horse, that he as litigant argued was still an appropriate item of barter. As may have been predictable, this ability to see things his own way did not impress the citizens of Deloro A great deal of argument buzzed through the court at this, and scraps were the thing of the day.

Although he seemed to have lost his case and to have had to return the horse he traded from Mr. Potts, Longmuir doesn't appear to have had let a little thing like Deloro Sessions Court stop him. A brief postscript in the Herald reads: Potts' horse is missing and Longmuir having said that he intended to take the horse as his property, is in danger of arrest for horse stealing.

Monday was the day of the R.C. picnic and cattle fair and there has been no more beautiful day in the whole year. That the public appreciated the ideal weather was shown by the great number that thronged the grounds during the afternoon, over 1000 being in attendance, a great many from out of town. There was a very large number present for both dinner and supper and the ladies of the church are receiving a great deal of praise for the splendid meals provided. The meat consisted of poultry and pork, white potatoes, Baked beans, bread, pies, cake, pickles and salads furnished a menu which would be hard to surpass. Ice cream, fruit, cool drinks, etc., were on sale at booths on the grounds and everything was disposed of early in the afternoon.

Two splendid games of baseball aroused considerable interest and excitement. The first game was between Tweed and Deloro and was won by the latter after a keen contest. The winners then played Marmora, the latter being assisted by a Peterboro battery. This game was also won by Deloro by a larger margin. Deloro now has a fast team, their pitcher being particularly good. They have won nearly all their games this season.

Thirty-five head of cattle, which had been donated by members of the church, were sold by auction, Mr. P. J. Scrimshaw being the auctioneer. They were sold in one lot the price being \$50.00 per head. Mr. Fanning, of Lindsay, was the purchaser. A special prize was given by Father Murtagh for the best steer and it was won by Mr. James McEvoy. A number of other cattle which were to have been sold strayed away and will be sold later, when they are recovered.

Tickets were sold on a number of articles, the winners being as follows: Watch, won by D. McInroy, Doll, won by James McGrath, by guessing its name, "Jane". As five guessed the correct name, lists were drawn and Jas. McGrath was the lucky winner. The names guessed were many and varied. Any one in doubt about naming the baby should secure this list. The camera was won by J. Dunlay and the umbrella by Mrs. Petroff. A dance was held in the town hall in the evening and it was filled to capacity. The music was fine and all had a very enjoyable time.

Dr. Thomson broke his wrist on Tuesday as a result of the engine backfiring when he went to crank his automobile.

September 24, 1914

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS

A successful clinic was held yesterday in the Town Hall for the benefit of the school children of Marmora and district. A total of 27 operation were performed for the removal of tonsils and adenoids and proved very satisfactory. The auditorium of the hall was fitted up with cots and the operations commenced in the morning. The stage was used for an operating room and Dr. Mackechnie was the operating surgeon, ably assisted by Drs. Thomson and Crawford. Miss Campbell, graduate nurse and miss Watt, of Deloro made efficient nurses and a number of practical nurses from from Marmora Women's Institute. Lunch was served at noon by the W.I. for parents and assistants. In the evening the doctors and nurses went to Deloro and operated on 6 children in the hospital there.

November 13, 1919

APPLICATION FOR A NEW TRIAL

Mr. Robert Warren made application for a new trial on the action which Marmora Village brought against him for the recovery of money paid for goods supplied defendant's family, owing to his failure to support them. At the trial judgment was given in favor of the Village for the full amount and interest. The application for a new trial has been refused by Judge Deroche.

November 19, 1919

COUNCIL HELP A NUMBER TO ECONOMIZE FIFTEEN ON FORBIDDEN LIST

As a result of the war governments and municipalities have had to resort to unusual methods to cope with conditions which have arisen. The increased cost of living and the growing number of employed has meant a very serious problem for many places. At the same time it has also been recognized that the liquor traffic is responsible for a greater menace to the peace and well being of any community than anything else. To cope with these conditions and particularly to help the parties directly concerned, Marmora Village Council decided to take action under section 118, sub section 1, of the Liquor License Act. Accordingly the Clerk, acting on instructions from Council, submitted a list of names to the Justices of the Peace. Wm. Bonter and H.R. Pearce requesting that the proper steps be taken to have them placed on the forbidden list. A number of names from the township were also submitted.

Summons were issued to the parties named and Court was held on March 4th. Previous to the sitting of the Court, a number personally went to the magistrates and expressed their willingn ness to be placed on the list as a means of helping them to overcome temptation. A number objected to being placed on the list and the objections of one or two men were accepted by the magistrates. In other cases it was considered in the interests of all concerned to have the names placed on the forbidden list. Following is the list as decided by the magistrates:

John Burns George Burns
Edward Terrion Dan Osborne
Isaac Wright George Stanley
Howard Hawley Hugh Crawford
Archie Bowen Norman Cooper
Walter Revoy Thomas McQuaigg
Douglas McQuaigg Thomas Winfield

In connection with these cases Magistrate Bonter said that no one should feel that it was any disgrace to be placed on the forbidden list. The law was designed to help men retain their manhood and was to protect those who were dependent on him. It was a disgrace for a man to become drunk and to injure his health and waste his means by indulging in liquor, but there was no disgrace in being protected or prevented from becoming drunken.

THIRD FIRE IN THREE YEARS

For the third time in less than three years the business section of Marmora has suffered from fire. That all the stores on the east side of Forsythe Street were not wiped out is something to be thankful for. The fire apparently started in the stables or sheds back of the old Central Hotel. From there it quickly spread to Mrs. Sullivan's stable where F. N. Marett & Co. kept their horses, rigs and hearse, along with three horses and a cow which were burned to death. Several rigs were destroyed but the hearse was saved. The fire quickly spread to Dan Shannon's stable and store house, W D. Donnelly's barber shop and pool room and B. C. Hubbell's new brick block also caught fire but with the assistance of Deloro Fire Dept. equipment the building was saved. The fire then swept south taking the livery stables, sheds, etc., owned by John Green, Connor & Gray tin shop, Chas. Clairmont's blackshop shop all being burned down. It is impossible to estimate the cost at this early date.

March 25, 1915

Another very serious fire occurred yester-day afternoon resulting in the destruction of Marmora's fine eight-room school. The alarm was sounded about 2 p.m. and a crowd quickly gathered, but nothing could be done to prevent the spread of the flames. It is not known how the fire started, but it was in the basement. There was no fire in the furnace at the time and when first discovered by one of the younger pupils a pile of edgings was in flames.

He ran up and notified Mr. Haid, Principal of the school, who after a hasty investigation sounded the fire gong. He then went to his room and told the pupils he guessed they would have a little fire drill and all marched out in perfect order, almost before they realized what was wrong. The other rooms were quickly vacated, but not without a good deal of excitement amongst the younger pupils. Most of them left their books and some their coats or hats.

The fire burned slowly in its early stages and it was aggravating to have to stand back and see it burn without any possibility of checking the blaze. Dense volumes of heavy black smoke poured from the windows and doors. Once the flames got into the main part of the building it spread rapidly and the floors, doors, window frames and every particle of woodwork was soon a mass of flames. Once the roof caught cinders were carried to the west and north and a lot of other places were threatened.

The Methodist church and the sheds and stables had their roofs started several times. St. Paul's church also had a narrow escape, and all the houses on both sides of the street were only saved by hard work. The white hall was also on fire in several places and the houses occupied by Mr. W.H. Hubbel and Mr. Jos. Brock also caught fire, but fortunately all were extinguished before any serious damage was done.

There was a pile of nearly fifty cords of wood lying close to the school, but this was thrown back several feet and as the word was green it was kept from burning. A telephone call was sent to Deloro and they rushed in about 200 feet of fire hose, but even that was not sufficient to reach the fire. The distance is also greater than the pump at the Pearce Company's mill will force the water to any advantage.

The value of the building together with the furniture and equipment would be about \$15,000 and there is \$7,500 insurance. It may be possible a considerable part of the brick may be used again which will reduce the loss to a considerable extent.

This is one of the losses that could have been prevented by adequate fire protection. The Council should certainly have the support of every citizen in the steps which are at present being taken to provide up-to-date and efficient protection.

Whatever plan is decided on will likely be put into effect at an early date.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

The Council and School Board held a joint meeting last evening and arranged accommodation for the various classes until summer vacation as follows-

Miss Campbell's class at the White Hall, Miss Vaughan's class on the first floor of the Masonic Hall. Miss Shea's class in Council Chamber of Town Hall. Miss Moran's and Mr. Haig's classes in the red building at the fair grounds.

April 22, 1915

A foreigner named Peter Times, who has been employed at Deloro, was arrested yesterday on a charge of being an alien and using obscene and abusive language on the premises of the Company. He was given a preliminary hearing before H. R. Pearce, J. P., and committed for trial at Belleville.

September 14, 1916