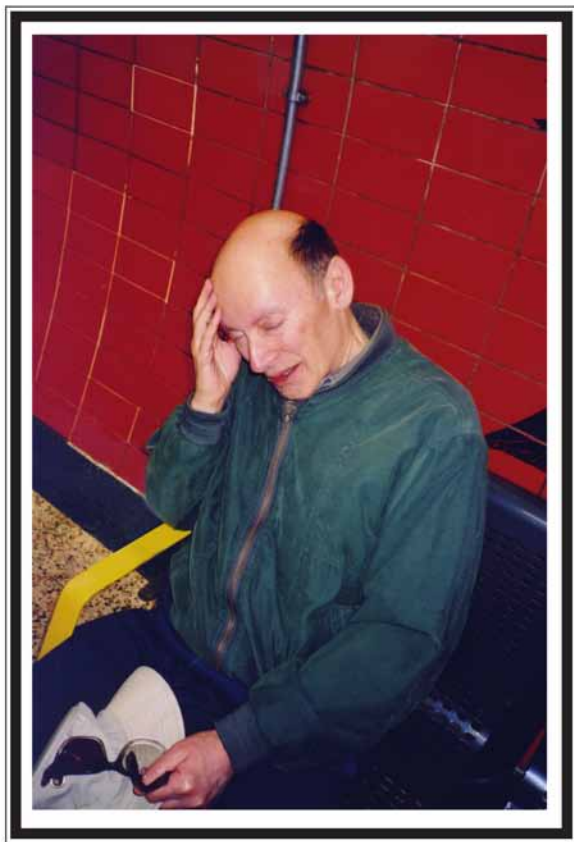


MA VIE VA S'ACHEVER.'



Allen Bell

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Allen Bell

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flask
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Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
V9A 3V6

Bell, Allen
Canada / Allen Bell.

Poems.
ISBN 978-0-9736853-6-7

Printed and bound in Canada

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A PHOTOGRAPH

At the Nellie McClung library
In Victoria
A photograph fell out of my son's Star Trek book
An archetypal Kodak moment
A man and woman
The man looking down
His arm around her waist
The woman apparently oblivious
Displaying herself
Dressed for different weather
Seeing the staring camera
Then later at the Rijks
In Amsterdam
I saw the same photograph
The same bent head
The great golden arm encircling a woman's waist
Her staring out
And the adjacent self-portrait
The light shining on his painted turban
The all-encompassing quizzical expression

WHITEHORSE

During the press launch
For the new BMW F650GS
My fellow journalists and I were ensconced at a dude ranch
Near Tucson, Arizona
BMW, of course, footing the bill
And providing the largesse
But after checking into my tastefully appointed room
I was more than a little nonplussed
When I discovered to my incredulity and even horror
That there was a black hole so to speak
An overwhelming void
I.e., the sacrosanct television set was not extant
Nothing to while away the evening hours
But fortunately one of the journalists lent me a book
Che Guevara's Motorcycle Diaries
(Whitehorse Press, \$22.95)
That's right
The Latin American revolutionary
Fidel Castro's friend
Owned a motorcycle [1950 - 1951]
A Norton 500 single called Il Poderosa
("The powerful one")
And in companionship with one of his buddies
Rode same on a booze-soaked trip through South America

Guevara and his besotted pal
Fell off Il Poderosa on a regular basis
Which makes for entertaining reading
Because though most of us think that Che Guevara was the ultimate leftist type
A humourless wild-eyed fanatic
Bent on destroying everyone who made more money than him
The fact is

He came from a very wealthy family
And he also put himself through medical school
And throughout the book he refers to matei
A strong alcoholic beverage that appears to be the Latin American equivalent of Labatt Blue
So he was probably a party guy as well

My favourite episode
Involves Guevara waking up in the middle of the night with diarrhea
And as there is no time re the bathroom
He does his business out the window
And discovers
In the cold light of dawn
That he has soiled his host's apricot crop
Which was drying on the roof below
Interestingly, during the entire trip, Guevara does not stay at a single fancy hotel
But relies entirely on the compassion and hospitality of complete strangers

Like his goofy revolution so to speak
Il Poderosa broke down fairly regularly
And eventually had to be abandoned
Because Guevara loaded everything on Il Poderosa but the kitchen sink
So the bike cracked its engine case every hundred miles or so
And because of all the weight on its back end
Was often unmanageable

In any event
Given the aforementioned television situation
I.e., the paucity of same
I suppose I should be grateful that Guevara wrote about his adventures
Before the Bolivian army finally dealt with him
Would that the Americans had done likewise with his friend and fellow-crackpot revolutionary
Fidel Castro

Because even though he does rave and rant
And foam at the mouth to some extent
About land distribution
The oppressed masses
Capitalism
He doesn't overdo it
And except for these lapses
Which only occur towards the end
The book really passes the time
And actually
Is a good read
But more importantly
I got in touch with Whitehorse
And they sent me one heck of a catalogue
Chock full of accessories
Including neckties
And mapping software for GPS systems
And goggles
And waterproof luggage
And chocolate motorcycles and biker teddy bears
And, of course, tools
Of which my favourite is the Boa-Constrictor
A clamping tool for turning fork tubes
And/or removing recalcitrant oil filters
And the catalogue is chock-a-block with books
— Every conceivable aspect of two-wheeled adventure —
Including legendary legless Harley rider Dave Barr's *Riding The Edge* and *Riding The Ice*
And Ted Simon's *Jupiter's Travels*
And marathon rider Ron Ayre's books about long-distance riding
And Robert E. Fulton's *One Man Caravan*
Which was written in 1937
And details his around-the-globe tour

On a Douglas twin
And Rider magazine contributor Clement Salvatori's various touring books
And numerous tomes about keeping your bike in tune
And repair manuals
And specialty books on rebuilding Indians and other out of production models
And cartoon character Ogr's adventures
And Biker Billy's biker cookbook
And the New York Guggenheim Museum's The Art Of The Motorcycle
And even a book called Motorcycle Sex
And a book by Clarissa Wright and Jennifer Paterson
The two fat ladies of Triumph sidecar and cooking fame
One of whom, the chain-smoking Jennifer, died recently
And, needless to say, an impressive selection of videos:
The Wild One, Easy Rider, Barb Wire, On Any Sunday, Mask, etc
As well as the laughingly bad bikesploitation flicks of the 60's and 70's
(Which deliver memorable guffaws):
Angels From Hell, Dragstrip Riot, Chrome And Hot Leather, Run Angel Run, etc
Full of loopy beatnicks and pathological one-percenters
And biker chick flicks like Hell's Belles
And my personal favourite Chopper Chicks In Zombie Town:
'You women are sluts; try and act like it!'
Arguably the best line in a movie
Biker or otherwise
So for more information
Call Whitehorse toll free
1-800-5311133

GRANDFATHER WAS A NICE PIOUS PERSON

Grandfather was a nice pious person
He was satisfied with his lot
He always thanked God in his prayers
Grandma was of a different nature
She made up her mind
She persuaded
She said sell
There is no future
Move to the city
Elisavetgrad
A large industrial city
More opportunities than the little village
They lived before

Grandfather besides business liked Cantors
And being a religious person
Every Friday and Saturday he went to the synagogue
A large Jewish population
So a few synagogues
So he spent his time in different synagogues
Listening to Cantors
Sometimes he would come home from the synagogue later than 2 o'clock
Grandma did not like
But Grandpa liked to hear different Cantors
And so they were happy
And always got along

By the way
Grandpa was in the Leather Business here too
Only on a larger scale

When my Grandparents moved
From Smilo to Elisavetgrad
Her brother also moved
So after settling in the city
Her brother
His name was Warshawski
Looked for a job
Later I will talk about Uncle Warshawski

Now I will tell about
The life of my Parents
Besides a good Son-in-Law
He was an outstanding Husband
There was nothing too good for her
Dad used to bring her the best clothes
From Warsaw
And Lodz
At that time
Poland was the centre
Of good clothes
Mother never knew hardships
Dad glorified Mother
Grandma told my Mother
Your husband Viktor is a big spender
He spends mostly on you
Also a kind man
Also an intelligent man
And well liked
In our city

Dad's Clientele consisted
Of well to do people
Among his customers
Officers business people farmers etc
Dad sure had a nice established Ladies Wear
Customers had confidence in him

From school I used to come
To Dad's Business
I used to have a good time
I liked ice cream candies pastry
Dad's clerks used to treat me

At night
When the business was closed
I never walked home with Dad
He would hire a Horse & Buggy

I realize now I spent Money
My Dad always gave me Money to save
But I had a weakness for Pigeons
And I spent Money
Those days to have Pigeons
Was only for well to do
But my Dad always wanted that I should have Pigeons
And I always had a nice dog

When I look at it now for desires
I am wondering how I was so free
To spend Money
At the time when poverty was so hard for people
I did not experience hardships
I always had Pigeons and a dog
And also a pony

In our city there were only 4 Jewish families
That their children had Ponies
And I was one
What a Dear father I had
God Bless his Memory
I never forget this
What a kind man, considerate man, and Gentleman

As a young boy
Dad worked in Ladies Wear
In Odessa
In that store
Only the Wealthy were buying
And to work in that store
Was a great Honour
But Dad made the Grade

After working in Odessa for 3 years
Dad decided to move
To Elisavetgrad
He decided he would start his own Business

Dad knew the city
He knew the potential
He had no doubt
An opportunity would arrive

Please note
Dad was still a single man
He was sitting one evening with friends in a Restaurant
Just kibbitzing
2 seats down from where Dad was sitting with his friends
Was an Officer
With a Lady Friend
Having a Drink

And this Lady says to her Boyfriend Officer
She enjoys listening to Dad discussing
And who wouldn't
And they get very friendly
I remember the name of the officer was Zaguta
And he rented to Dad a store in the best Part of the City

Dad's relatives did not believe
That this wealthy officer
Should rent a fancy Store
To Dad
But he did

In the meantime Dad was courting my Mother
And he was outstanding
He treated Mother royally
Grandma used to say that Dad was a great spender
He always buys something for Mother
Dad admired Mother
There was something to admire in Mother
In her younger days she was a beauty
Later on
As time went on
Mother was More beautiful

Time was going
Dad's business was good
I did not take a great interest in Business
Because I was too young
But I liked to go to Dad's Store
Because I liked ice cream

Outside of that
Besides the School
I had to have my Jewish Lesson
For which a Special Jewish teacher used to come to the House
To teach me
But even now I laugh
Because there always was a Stray Pigeon
Landed among my own
And it was important that I should have the Pigeon promenade
With my own
And gradually have the Pigeon
In the Cage
Poor Rabbi had to wait until I caught the Pigeon
He yelled
But it was of no Avail
It did not matter to me that the lesson was 2 Rubles
And the Pigeon only 50 kopecks

Pigeons were very popular
It just shows how time changes attitudes
There was a time for Pigeons, a Pony, and other forms of entertainment
And so life was going
I was getting older
And had to go to School
And from there go to a Higher School

Life was good under the Czar
For the Higher Class of Jews
One of these was Uncle Warshawski
I will say more about Uncle Warshawski
Beside being a good looking person
He was an outstanding Salesman
And the owner Mr. Dashewsky
Had so much confidence in him that he became the General Manager
And that was a big Business
Well to do people bought there
Among his Customers were sons of Wealthy Parents
And the fellows always needed Money
So Uncle used to lend them Money
And these fellows had to sign a Promissory Note
And they could not default because to go to Royal College the Parents Paid
Like a clock
For instance for a Loan of 300^{oo} Rubles
They would sign for 500^{oo}
What did they care
The Parents had to pay
He was getting wealthier and wealthier
People used to tell Grandmother that her brother was a Millionaire
He owned Blocks, real estate, and he was always getting richer
But he was not extravagant
A very Conservative person
With a lot of Investments
My Grandmother used to say given the circumstances I could have been
A Warshawski

As I mentioned Life was not bad
But then the Czar and his corrupt Govt lost the war to Germany
And different winds started to Blow
Russia was on the side of England + France
And they fought against the German Kaiser and Austria
Russia was ill-prepared
And was no Match for Germany
Russia had a lot of Manpower
But had poor ammunition
To withstand the onslaught
The Monarchy was Corrupt and Rotten
The Aristocracy said Russia would not lose the War
The Front Casualties ran into 100 of Thousands
The Army was defeated
Germany succeeded in forcing Russia to sue for Peace
It got so bad
That the officers lost control
And the Army instead of fighting the Germans
Was deserting the Front
And was anxious to go home
The King Nicholas had to abdicate the throne + the power
And so the “Duma”
Which means Parliament
Chose a Democrat
His name was “Kerensky”
With the majority of the Duma voting to carry on the war
Till the victorious finish
This was suicidal
Because the Russian army had no equipment
The Russian army capitulated
The Army or whatever was left of the Army
Was moving home

Abandoning the Front
Moving toward Petrograd
The Capital of Czarist Russia
Parties were springing up
And of course each one was trying to sway the soldiers towards their ideas
At that time the leading Revolutionary was Lenin
And since the Germans wanted to detach Russia
So they could attack the Allies
The Germans offered to make Peace
And recognize Lenin
Who considered to fight the war
On the side of the Allies
Was useless
And since the Germans offered a separate Peace
It was decided to make a separate Peace
With the Germans
Because Kerensky's slogan to carry on the war
With the Allies
"On to Victory"
Was meaningless
And an empty gesture
In this war
Russia Bled to death
So the Russian Army came home
Cold hungry defeated

Naturally the war created a lot of friction
Also a lot of demands
Such as confiscate the Land
And distribute it equally
Nationalize the Industry
Make the country Democratic

It was not easy
Because Russia had a Wealthy Class
People who were used to power
To give it up was a Calamity
For the Wealthy Class
That they could not tolerate
There were also a lot of political parties
But among the Russian parties only 2 were beginning to appear
On the horizon
With any significance
“Menshevics + Bolshevics”
These two parties had interesting leaders
To name a few:
Lenin Trotsky Zinoviev Stalin
And a few others
Of lesser importance
Lenin was a good organizer
Trotsky a good speaker
And minister of Defence
He could speak for hours
In front of a Mob
And have an effect on the masses
But it was not easy to be a famous leader
Among the leaders there was not unanimity
There was also a reactionary element
That did not want to lose power
Especially the Wealthy class to the masses
Russia is a vast country
And the reactionary element
That still believed they could put the Czar Back
On his throne
And keep their wealth

Had remnants of the Russian Army
Some of the Generals
That figured that by forming Armies
They could gain their lost power
Organized
And were putting obstacles
In the path of the masses
This is what the wealthy ruling class wanted
The Generals which were a threat to the Soviet Government
With the assistance of course of England + France
Were: General Kolchak
 Attacking towards Petrograd
 General Devikin
 Attacking towards the city of Kharkov
And many other bandits
Which called themselves Generals
And with so many large wars and little wars
It was not so pleasant to live
Especially when you remember how
Life was not bad
Not very long ago

The Fight for Power
Among different Factions
Was gradually destroying making a living
Later it was no living at all
Private business was Past
There was nothing to buy
And no money
I remember Dad
Being thrown out of his business
By Bolsheviks

I said Dad what are they doing
I remember I cried
I am sorry I remember Grandfather
When he died from hunger
A nice religious man
Had his own Property
Had four or five houses for Rent
I also remember Grandmother that died from hunger
Because you could not buy food
I remember not because I was old
But because I had a good kop
What sustained us from total famine
Was our Dad
Dad walked to Moscow
Bought a little piece Goods
Brought back on his back to Elisavetgrad
Exchanged with a farmer for flour
Besides I have to mention something about myself
I always liked to save something
Money was not Secondary to me
Though I was young
During the famine people were dying in the streets
For lack of food
For 100 lbs of flour
Farmers got the best furniture
What could a person do
When there was nothing to eat
Nobody cared for anything
Except to save oneself from famine
I had Russian Gold (saved)
And for a 10 Ruble Gold
We had enough flour

And many other things
To sustain us
For wood to keep us warm
I tore off planks
And pieces of Lumber
From the Old Building
In our yard
Which was abandoned by the people that died
And so we survived
We did not starve
Because of my Dad and my foresight
The family did not die from starvation

For 2 or 3 years
The famine lasted
And wiped out millions
And to a person like me
That was used to a good Life
This was hell
But there was no alternative
Until gradually the Govt established Soup Kitchens
And I ate in one for quite a while
And then things began to show more improvement very slow
The improvement consisted that a person could buy a pound of bread
Instead of depending on Soup Kitchens
Then the Govt gradually began to encourage private business
Which was called N.E.P. in its abbreviated form
The word Nep meant New Economic Policy
Although Dad was back in Business
In order to make a living
There were shortages
And Business had no taste

And was an ordeal

We also had a very hard forty days
Because the divisional railroad Point was "Znamenka"
And from this divisional Point
The railroads were branching out
Towards the cities of Charcov, Kremenchug, Poltara etc
And the road from Znamenka
Was also our city Elisavetgrad
Which the Germans tried to capture on the road to Odessa
Because our city was a very important strategic city on the way to Odessa
And for forty days the city was attacked
And they could not break the defenses
Because other Russian Armies attacked Znamenka
So as to relieve the pressure on our City
So the German Armies were defeated
And the Soviet Govt started to help its own population
And though there wasn't any prosperity
At least your life was saved
And also Dad tried hard
But it was not easy when most of the City was destroyed
And we also had to move out from the House we owned
And instead of owners we had to rent a House to live in

Mother always talked about her only sister
In Canada
And the way life was
They decided to emigrate
To Canada
Dad had to go to Odessa
Which was the Central Point of the Province
And had to go to Odessa 4 times

Because everytime something else had to be signed
And I will still maintain
As long as I live
That except for Dad's ability and energy
I can safely say
That nothing would have been left of us
And we would have perished with the rest of the relatives
And the other millions

So gradually we sold what we had left
And actually we left with very little
As the government of that day confiscated a lot of things
But we were finally on the way to Canada
And our first stop from our City was Riga
A nice port and a beautiful city
Also a city that was noted mostly for Men being exceptionally Good Looking
(But Mother said no one could compare with me)
And for some unforeseen reason
We had to stay in Riga for 20 days
But it was a nice city
And Dad used to bring customers from the immigrants
To some clothing stores
And was making Commission
By recommending sales

After Riga we went to London – England
On a small boat
And on our way we went by way of Germany
And stayed there for about 4 or 5 hours
On the boat
I remember we landed in London
And the day was damp and gloomy

We Landed at the London Pier
In the morning
And by about 12 o'clock noon
We were taken to the Railway Station
In London
On our way to Liverpool
And everything looked fascinating on the way
But it was an ordeal
And we were in a strange country
And tired

London to Liverpool is 320 miles by train
And believe me those small trains really travel
Those days 80 miles an hour was fast enough
Even now
And much faster than anything I had known

We stayed in Liverpool 4 days
We could see the Ocean Liner at a distance
But the water was not deep enough
So it was two miles from the Pier
And we were taken on a small boat towards the Ocean Liner
That was leaving for Halifax in about three hours

Our Ship – Regina looked majestic
And as it was leaving Liverpool
The Silhouettes of the City were gradually disappearing
And now we were on our way
To Canada

The trip on this Big Boat
I did not enjoy
I was seasick
All those five days till we landed in Halifax
When we came finally to Halifax
My sickness disappeared

In Quebec there was snow
Where we were supposed to land
So we landed in Halifax
We didn't care
What difference did this make to us

We took three days to get finally to Winnipeg
In comparison with the British Trains this was a slow train
But we were glad to get to Winnipeg
And see our relatives
For the first time

At the station to meet us was Aunty
And nobody else
Anyways the Green Ones arrived
And went to Aunty's house
And there was Ira and Elsie Caminetsky and Jack
And we talked some Jewish
But mostly Russian
And spent the first day
In Winnipeg

We spent in Winnipeg 3 days
And on the fourth day
We were ready to go to Buchanan
Our destination

We arrived in Buchanan
On the following morning
At 10 o'clock
A cold frosty morning
And we did not have to go far
To the House
Mr Ernie Ross
The Station Agent
Greeted us at the Station
He said "Good Morning"
And I replied "Good Evening"
As my vocabulary consisted of Morning and Evening

Those winters were cold
Buchanan was not Elisavetgrad
As to its size
There was one Jewish family
You might safely say that the district was divided in two
On one side were Doukhobor farmers
Very good farmers and prosperous by those standards
And the other side were mostly Ukrainian farmers
That hardly eked out a living
Perhaps you could not blame
As the land they had was sandy and not productive
Anyways we were learning the customs and ways of Canada
Which did not excite Mom + Dad
From the standpoint of friends

Because Russian cities like Elisavetgrad and Odessa
Were not to be compared from our Standpoint
To Canada's Buchanan
We had to make up our mind
And we had to adapt ourselves to everything that was foreign to us
But gradually we were getting used to our surroundings
And not reminding ourselves of the Past

Brother and I were going to school
And after school I was helping Uncle in the store
While my Brother was getting lessons in Violin
From the teacher that used to come from Dauphin once a week
And soon showed a lot of talent in Violin
And surpassed his teacher
And as time progressed had pupils of his own
And was giving lessons even outside Buchanan
In towns like Margo
And was a very talented boy
And would we have lived in a City instead of a Village
My younger Brother would have been a Famous Person
But such was not the case
And we could not expect a great deal
So we had to be satisfied

There was an understanding
That when we emigrated
To Canada
And came finally
To Buchanan
After a couple of years Dad was to take over
"Uncle's General Store"
And start to work for ourselves

And him retire and move to Winnipeg
But Uncle was delaying us taking over his business
Because somehow he was not anxious
And there was another 2 years
Mind you, bear in Mind
The business was not given as a gift
But we Paid for it
Maybe more than we should have paid
Anyways we had to start on our own

Our Dad was much more of a Businessman than Uncle
Our Dad was more knowledgeable
And in his younger days
In Russia
He was in contact with a much more intellectual class of people
But we were in Canada
And had to adapt ourselves
And learn the customs of the country
And make the Best of it
As the expression is
“We had to make a Living”

We finally were on our own
Dad was a very kind man
And gradually got customers
And everybody liked Dad
He was very popular
Especially with Doukhabors
His customers liked that he talked with them Russian and Ukranian
And they just loved Dad
And so we gradually acquired the Language
And began to take more interest in business

And as everything was new
We gradually began to lose the past
And think more of the future

To forget your past
Takes a long time
Especially of the place you were born and grew
And also the comparison that from a large city
You landed in a small village
And that was the hardest I believe
But there was no retreat
And also you had to consider all the hardships and disappointments we encountered
With Famine and sicknesses and wars and what have you
Food was hard to get
Money was valueless
Governments were changing
So the only way to be able to get food
We had to trade off furniture, clothes, etc for food
My own nature
Even to this day
Was to save to the best of my ability
And what saved us from Famine was Gold
Gold was really in demand on the Black Market
I exchanged for food
And gradually the Famine was over
But a lot of people died
The strongest with means survived
I talk a lot about Russia
Because until the Famine life was good for me
I had no hardships
But that was a thing of the past

We started business on our own
And gradually forgot the past
We had to make a living
Expenses were small
And so was the Profit
But you managed to the best of your ability
Sunday store being closed was a holiday
So I would buy a package of Turret Cigarettes
For 5 cents
And walk along the Railway Track
For a few miles
And the day would pass
And it was just fine "considering"

The town of Buchanan had too many merchants for its size
And I wanted to go in Business for myself
I was planning
I had saved up \$500
Which was a lot of money
Those days
And I bought the store in the town of Clair – Saskatchewan
For \$7000⁰⁰
And the payments were \$100
Per month

Business was bad
The country was in a recession
Farmers were unable to pay
With grain selling at 15c a bushel
Eggs at 5c a dozen
Butter at five cents a pound
You would not expect much business
At that time farmers were driving Bennett's Wagons
And were making Bennett's Coffee from Barley
But notwithstanding the tough times
Life was getting on
And Friday and Saturday were nice days in Clair
With Dances and other forms of entertainment
And so I was in Clair for four years
And sold the business
And went back to Buchanan

We stayed two more years in Buchanan
Before we sold out
And moved to Edmonton
A nice city
And friendly people
And we began to like very much

Although Edmonton was a nice city
Times were tough
And people just barely made ends meet
And sometimes not
And each person finds it not easy to carry on business in a transition period
And of course we were along with the rest
Because the country had no money so they said
And the Economy suffered
With no or little work and a lot of unemployment
You would not expect to be prosperous in business
When a pound of butter was 5 cents
Eggs 5 cents a dozen
And you could not sell even at that ridiculous price
And just to give an Example that a farmer would have
In 75 bushels of No2-Wheat
Perhaps hauling it 15 miles to an Elevator
And all he got was 7.50 cents plus another 3.75 Bennett premium
Why Bennett
Because he was the Prime Minister of Canada
At that unfortunate time
And it was pathetic
Since there was no money
And Farmers were making Coffee from Barley
And it was called Bennett's Coffee
Because you had to blame someone
And it was Bennett's fault
Even if the depression was world wide
But Canadian people found a scapegoat
In Bennett
And it was not difficult to foresee
That Bennett's government would fall in the next election
And the funniest part was

That as soon as war was declared
Money began to appear
In large quantities
And people began to forget
Their hardships

The war was raging for over 4 years
And the sufferings of people and nations in the holocaust
Was hard to describe
But in the war of Liberations
Russia was the biggest loser
Of over 20 Million people
And other nations lost millions of people
But not so much as Russia

During the war the Govt was watching
That prices should stay more or less within its limits
But gradually after the war Inflation started to advance
And it was easier to do business
And make an easier dollar

Personally I would say that after the war ended
Some people were making a lot of money
Anyways everybody was making a dollar

I remind myself of the tough times
We were in the Wholesale Jobbing Business
And I used to travel
And try to sell Merchandise to Merchants in the small towns
By the way Gasoline was only 15 cents a gallon
I will give an example how hard times were:
From Edmonton to Athabasca was 100 miles
And of course along that mileage were a lot of small towns
And the buying power was so poor
And of course farmers were getting nothing for their produce
So how would merchants be able to buy Merchandise
So I would sell a few dollars to the odd merchant
And one would be able to give \$2.00 on account
3 to 5 dollars on account
And so on
During the hard days work
I would stop for the night
In Athabasca
At a nice Hotel
And always stayed there when I was on that line
Because after the hardships on the road
The roads were not paved
It was good to come to a stop
And go to the Bar to have a few beers at 5 cents a glass
And wash the dust off your throat
And forget for a while your Business

Times were good
We called it Prosperity
Though in reality it was inflation
What is the difference
You had more Paper
A lot of people made Money
A lot of people made Money and spent it
A lot of people made Money and lost it
A lot of people made Money and saved it
I belong to the last category
Dad and I never did huge business
But we did to the Best of our ability
We persevered
Dad – Bless his Memory – was a contented person
Never envied other people
Never aggravated himself
Never cared if somebody had a Billion
He always knew the net Results in human Life
“Dear Dad”
To this day I miss him

Edmonton was a nice city
And the people were friendly
Especially the country people
And I really enjoyed my travelling in the country
And though roads were tough
As long as you were able to make Sales road hardships were forgotten

If I had known then what I know now
Perhaps I would have been richer
But when a person gets older
He realizes that as long as you have enough for all your needs
And still have a nice reserve
A person must be satisfied
It is an illusion
Personally I am not using up my Money
And probably other people are the same
I was married
And had 2 sons
And it was different when you are married
A person had to work harder
And times were still tough
I don't know what is in me that I am not a Speculator
On a large scale
It's funny that on smaller Investments
I did good
But the other fault I have is to draw Money from my Savings Accts
Each person has faults
And of course I am not excluded
And considering my faults
I am very comfortable
And I did not lose my Money
Which is better to have less than none at all

The business I was
In Winnipeg
Was not profitable
Due to the fact that times were hard
Work was scarce
And I was lucky I did not go broke

But this was mostly due to the fact that I was careful in business
And watched my steps
Anyways I survived

Now that I'm old my mind wanders back
I'm enjoying life now because I have no responsibilities
But I think of everything and wonder about life
What was the point
If it was worth it
Maybe it wasn't worth it
But I like to remember my Dad
And my pigeons and pony when I was young
And sometimes I remember about Grandfather
He was such a nice pious person

A MOON

Again the clandestine meeting
The familiar place
The long conversation
Your cigar and rum
I told him not to go I said
You'll be lucky if you're only murdered I said
You're committing suicide
Don't go I said
What else is there to do he said
I come across that photograph sometimes
The proud, smiling soldiers
The casual wounds
The wounds that never heal
You always talk about him you said
It helps me not to remember you said
In any event, the gist is this
Your speculations have helped us
You've sent us millions and millions of dollars
The currency of the country that's destroying us
And your advice was worth more
It's always the same I said
It always amounts to the same thing
The monster is militarily omnipotent
The monster has no scruples re violence
Always give in
Every cosmetic gesture
But keep the substantive aspects of the revolution intact
That blockade you said
I'm not sanguine
It's always been a rearguard action I said
All you can do is temporize
And all you can do is desist you said

You're known
If you continue
You'll be targeted
I don't want the burden of your blood
I'm a wounded soldier I said
Arrayed against ignorant armies
Wounded and bleeding and suffering and dying
And hoping the death
Is a single doom
And not a moiety
Of the world
You're a romantic you said
We're both romantics
As such we're part of a species doomed to extinction
Better buffaloes than Babbitts
We sat grown quiet as the day grew dark
We saw the last embers of daylight die
And in the trembling blue-green of the sky
A moon
Worn as if a shell
Washed by time's waters as they rose and fell
I thought of you
And thought of you again
The you I've carried with me all the years
Through changes and through time
Students in Winnipeg
The University of Manitoba
Don't go Sunny I said
What else is there to do she said

ARCADES

'Dans une situation sans issue, je n'ai d'autre choix que d'en finir.
C'est dans un petit village dans les Pyrénées où personne
ne me connaît

ARIEL SHARON AKA DR. STRANGELOVE

Hyperactive atrocity
But nevertheless
After Sabra and Shatila
Inadvertent paralysis
But Now
Mein Führer! I can walk!!

BACH

A man of prodigious corporeal energy
And vast cerebral prowess
J. S. Bach walked 300 kilometres
To hear Buxtehude
Play the organ