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Colorful, dangerous North Atlantic dealt with in book by Villiers

This is one of a series of reviews by local readers of books obtainable in the Prince Rupert Public Library. The books will be reviewed every week for the information of the reading public in an effort to stimulate interest in the Public Library, located in the Civic Centre.

"The Wild Ocean" by Allan Villiers
(McGraw Hill Book Co. Inc. New York)
Reviewed by Frederick Hertha

Allan Villiers is perhaps best known as the commander of the new "Mayflower." Last year he created world wide interest by re-enacting the original voyage of the Pilgrim fathers from England to Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The "Wild Ocean" is the North Atlantic. It is introduced as the most dangerous and roughest of oceans, yet the most colorful, most used, most fought over and historically the richest of all sea areas in the modern world. This then is the background for an absorbing account of men on discovery and trade expansion. The evolution of navigation from an art to a science and the progress of boat design from sail to superliner are skillfully blended in.

The success of this book lies in the background of its author. Allan Villier was born in Australia and went to sea at the age of 15. For several years he sailed square rigged ships in the Cape orn trade. His book "Falmouth for Orders" is a first-hand account of a voyage made in one of these ships between Australia and England while in the grain trade. During the 1930's he sailed over 60,000 miles around the world in the famous barque the "Joseph Conrad." For several years Captain Villiers sailed with the Arabians in their seaworthy Dhows; from the Red Sea to Madagascar. During the Second World War he saw service on aircraft carriers and other men of war.

This experience is all used to enrich the "Wild Ocean." In describing the voyage of the Vikings, Captain Villiers is able to realistically place himself in their stead. He gives a convincing account of how they used the prevailing polar winds and the Gulf Stream backwash to sail to Iceland and Greenland. Their boats are well described and it is interesting to note that these vessels with a 30 and 40-man crew, drew less than 30 inches of water.

While reading this book one wonders whether understanding and respect for the Atlantic will be lost when the sailing ship captains are an extinct breed. Final reference however by Allen Villiers to Captain Kurt Carlsen and his heroic attempt to save the "Flying Enterprise" dispells all such thought. The new breed of sea captain, guiding ships of growing complexity and expense, will never be allowed any greater feeling of mastery than were their forbearers.

MOVIE COLUMN

Biggest U-I production features unknown actor

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—John Gavin laughs when he tells how a publicist's 11-year-old son asked his father, "Do you really think Jack's picture can save the studio?"

But it's no laughing matter to some at Universal-International. The lot, which has been virtually shut down for months while awaiting a "reappraisal" of the movie market, has its biggest investment in history in Gavin's film.

It's the Erich Maria Remarque story of wartime Nazi Germany, "A Time to Love and a Time to Die." The studio sank $3,000,000 into the film and may add another million or two by the time it is released.

CHOSE UNKNOWN FOR ROLE

A generation ago another Universal-Remarque film, "All Quiet on the Western Front," made a star of Lew Ayres. The studio again chose an unknown in John Gavin.

"I've heard it said that I have a big responsibility in whether the picture is a success or not," he said, "but I think the responsibility rests just as much with the people who made the picture and those who decided to put me into it in the first place."

He admitted grudgingly that it is his face up there on the screen, though, and the actor always takes the rap — or the plaudits.

"I decided to try an acting career for one year only," said Gavin, a member of a wealthy Los Angeles Family. "Later I extended it to two years when it appeared I needed more time to decide whether I was suited for acting."

He did a few bits, then was slated to co-star with Hedy Lamarr in "Female Animal." But the famed Lamarr temper was acting up, and Gavin wouldn't put up with it. He told her to go jump in the lake.

But the studio didn't sour on Gavin. In fact, he snagged the lead in the most costly film in U-I history.

He has drawn fine notices for his work in the picture, but still isn't sure that acting is for him.

"I suppose this picture will help me decide," he said.

CHIPS OFF THE OLD CHAPLIN—Doing a take-off on pop, Eugene Chaplin outfits himself with the suitcase shoes, derby and cane that were the trademark of his father, Charlie Chaplin. The junior comic's sister, Josephine, almost manages to keep a straight face during the horseplay in Geneva, Switzerland.

CANADIAN'S PRIZE-WINNING LANDSCAPE—This landscape, entitled "The Cart," won the Founder's Prize of the Children's Royal Academy in London, for Allan Lea, 17-year-old Winnipeg high school student. He is the first Canadian in 67 years to win the award. More than 5,500 young artists from Commonwealth countries entered the exhibition. (CP from AP)

BLACKWOOD on BRIDGE

By EASLEY BLACKWOOD

One of the worst bridge sins is trapping your partner in the bidding. And one of the worst ways to trap your partner is to "cross his level" after his opening bid has been overcalled on your right.

By 'crossing his level" I mean making a bid of two in a suit which is higher in rank than partner's suit. If partner has opened a minimum hand and has planned simply to rebid his original suit at the two level, he is now forced to come in at the three range.

North dealer
North-South vulnerable

NORTH
Mr. Abel
♠ A 7 5
♥ 8 2
♦ A J 7
♣ K J 8 7 4

WEST
Mrs. Keen
♠ 10
♥ K 10 7 4
♦ Q 9 8 3
♣ 9 6 5 2

EAST
Mr. Champion
♠ K Q J 9 6 3
♥ 9 6
♦ 10 4
♣ A Q 10

SOUTH
Mr. Dale
♠ 8 4 2
♥ A Q J 5 3
♦ K 6 5 2
♣ 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This may be disastrous—unless, of course, he has a really fine hand. But in that case, he will rebid anyway—even though you pass on the first round.

Take today's hand, for example. Mr. Dale's pass after the spade overcall might appear somewhat sensational to many players. But it was a sound and correct call nevertheless, and was based on the following reasoning. If Mr. Abel had a minimum or near-minimum opening, he probably planned to rebid two clubs or one no trump over any response of one in a suit by Mr. Dale.

But the one spade overcall upset the "normal" course of the bidding. Mr. Dale could no longer make a bid of one in a suit. And if he bid his own suit, hearts, at the two level, Mr. Abel would have to rebid three clubs or two no trump.

Since he had opened the bidding first hand, Mr. Abel was obligated to keep the bidding open over any call from his partner except one no trump or two clubs. Suppose he elected to bid two no trump over a two-heart call from Mr. Dale. Since he HAD to bid something, Mr. Dale would not know whether that bid showed additional values or whether it was made in desperation.

Mr. Abel's level for a minimum rebid was two clubs and Mr. Dale refused to cross that level. He passed—and by doing so held his loss to a mere 30 points. Good defence held Mr. Champion to exactly seven tricks at his one spade contract.

Contracts of three no trump or four hearts of four clubs on the North-South cards would have been murdered.

To cross partner's level you need a good opening bid in your own hand, with a near-solid suit of your own or a reasonable fit in partner's suit.

SMALL START

Canada in 1663 had a white population of about 2,500 along the St. Lawrence near Quebec, Trois-Rivieres and Montreal.

Woodworkers ask pay hike

KELOWNA (CP)— The International Woodworkers of America will seek a 15 per cent wage increase in negotiations next month for a 1958 contract covering lmber workers in the B.C. interior, it was decided at a week-end conference here.

The union has said it will seek a 10-per-cent wage increase in the new contract for coastal-area workers.

District President Joseph Morris said following the union's interior wage and contract conference that the extra five per cent will be sought in the interior contract in efforts to narrow the difference between pay in the two areas of the province.

Present basic rate for interior loggers is $1.53, while those at the coast it is $1.72.

The new contract will come into effect Aug. 31. Negotiations are expected to start June 2. Among other benefits sought by the union are increased night shift differential, improvements in vacation clause, union shop and industry-wide medical plan in the southern interior.

Library carries six new books

Just arrived in the Public Library are the following books:
British Columbia in Pictures by Richard and Lynn Harrington (travel).
Russia Today by John Gunther (travel)
Giddy Moment by Ernestine Carey (fiction)
Ice Palace by Edna Ferber (fiction)
Behind the Cloud by Emilie Loring (fiction)
The New Doctor by Elizabeth Seifert (fiction)

Reds face trouble with third Sputnik

WARSAW (AP) — Russia has run into trouble trying to launch a third Sputnik, a leading Soviet scientists has hinted.

Addressing the Polish Astronautical Society Monday night, Prof. Jurij A. Podiedonosov said preparations for putting up a new Sputnik are nearing completion and that it probably will be launched "in the near future."

Humane Society plays mechanics

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The humane society was summoned Monday to take the bite out of an auto engine.

Dick Schraven, a service station attendant, raised the hood of a car and found a contented possum perched in the engine compartment.

Schraven called the humane society in after he was nipped while trying to dislodge the stowaway. The society took it away for release.

MOSTLY HUNTERS

The Cree Indians of the Great Slave Lake area originally were great hunters who despised fishing.

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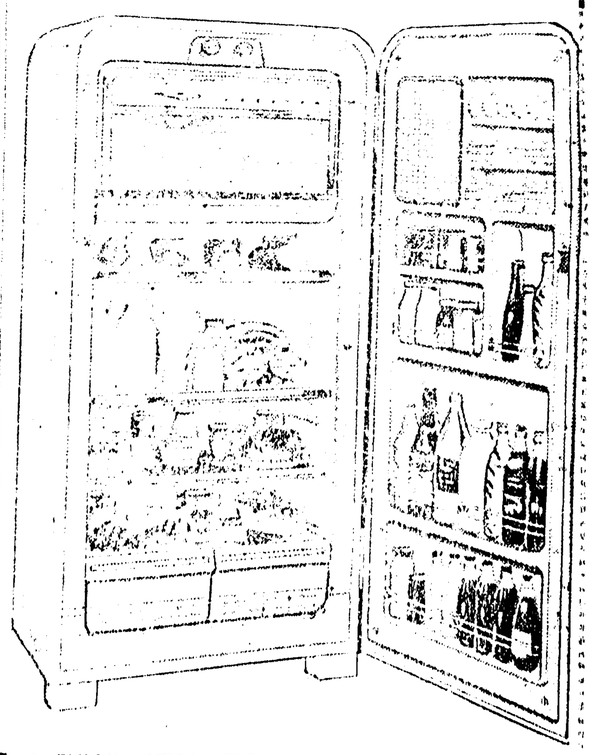
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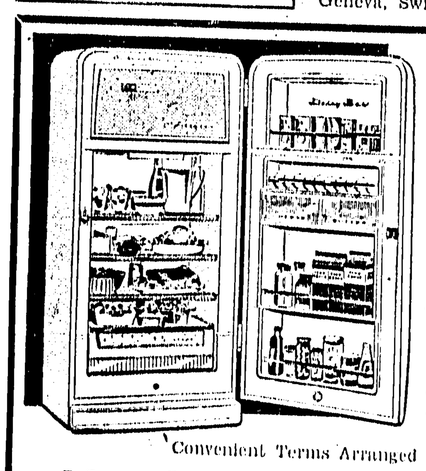
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