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Historical pageant produced at Pubnico on the occasion of its tercentenary celebrations. It consists of eleven tableaux with a short explanation in English preceeding each, and a running commentary in French. The tableaux is done in pantomime. Music is used throughout, and is from recordings. Those taking part were all Pubniconians, and the story they presented was their own history.

Written by Aline d'Entremont and Clemente ~~d'Entremont~~  
d'Entremont of Pubnico.

Narrator: Maurice LeBlanc, c.j.m.

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TRICENTENAIRE DE PUBNICO

Alternative title:

PUBNICO CELEBRATES ITS TERCENTENARY

by

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## TRICENTENAIRE DE PUBNICO

In 1651 Charles de La Tour, governor of Acadia, sailed from France bringing with him to Nova Scotia a few families to colonize what is now known as the Pubnicos. Chief among these colonists was Sieur Phillipe d'Entremont with his wife and little daughter Marie. They brought all their household goods with them, including their cattle. Two years later the whole area on the south-western shore from Cape Negro to Yarmouth was made a barony and Phillipe d'Entremont, major general and commander of the king's troops in Acadia, was created Baron of Pombcoup. The name Pubnico seems to have been given later by the English. The original Pogomkook in an Indian word meaning "land from which trees have been cleared for farming." Still later, Phillipe was made a king's counsel and moved to Port Royal where he lived to within a few months of one hundred years. Before leaving, he transferred the barony to his son Jacques.

History tells little of the life of Pubnicó in the following years. We know that their numbers increased, and we surmise that life must have been difficult with continuous warfare between the French and English. When the expulsion of the Acadians took place in Grand Pré, the Pubnicos were spared, but in 1756 they too were sent into exile and their houses and lands burned to the ground. Fortunately for them they had cast their bread upon the waters, and it came back to them in a most unexpected way.

A few years before the expulsion the American schooner Hannah had been wrecked in Tusket Bay. Jacques d'Entremont went to the rescue and brought Captain Soudhan and his crew to Pubnico where they were treated kindly. After the deportation the Pubniconians were sitting on the Boston wharf one day sadly awaiting the ship that was to take them further south when Captain Soudhan came along and recognized them. Wishing to return Jacques' kindness he took him to the governor's house where he was presented with a gold watch and cane. The watch has since been lost, but the cane is a proud possession of Pubnico's museum and was used this year in the tercentenary pageant. The governor ordered food and clothing for the Acadians, and they were allowed to remain in the New England states where they were employed as fishermen, carpenters, and one, Benoni d'Entremont as a student and clerk. Jacques died in exile. As soon as peace was declared Benoni led the little band back, but he had to walk over two hundred miles from Pubnico to Halifax for permission to repossess their lands. The barony no longer existed, but the d'Entremonts had returned and brought with them families by the names of Duon (Now d'Eon), Amirault, and Belliveau. Nearly all of the 2,000 inhabitants of to-day are descended from these eight families.

When the two raids on Pubnico were completed and the Acadians taken away, Madeleine d'Entremont, a girl of eighteen, was somehow left behind. The Indians found her and cared for her until five years later when Captain

Joseph Granger sailed in to Pubnico <sup>Harbour</sup> and found her. The captain's son was so taken with Madeleine that after they arrived in France he married her, and later succeeded in finding her family who had returned to France after their exile.

Another romance of that time resulted from Natalie Belliveau becoming separated from her family when the Acadians of Port Royal were being taken to the ships which were to carry them away. With Basile Boudreau and his sister, she walked the hundred miles to Pubnico where Lange Amirault promptly fell in love with her. In the deportation of 1756 they were separated, but Lange searched until he found her. They were married and finally returned and settled on the east side of the harbour. Most of the Amiraults are descended from the twelve children of this union.

Now in 1951 we find the people of Pubnico a happy, hard-working, thrifty folk with their lives centred about the home, the church, and their main source of revenue, the fishing industry. There is probably not a single family without d'Entremont blood in their veins, so it is as one that they have celebrated this year their tercentenary and, entirely on their own initiative, designed <sup>and erected</sup> their monument in memory of their common ancestor Phillipe. The success of their festivities has surprised no one as much as themselves and they still find it hard to believe that so many visiting <sup>cars</sup> were attracted to their quiet shores.

One of the biggest surprises came from the crowded halls that witnessed the playing of their historical pageant. After all, Pubnico is a rural community, and most of the players <sup>had</sup> never <sup>seen</sup> a pageant of this kind before. Moreover, about one hundred of their men were away on the fishing grounds so that the parts normally played by them had to be taken by school children. It was not of course a finished urban production, but it gave in eleven tableaux the story you have just read, with a running commentary in French and a short explanation in English before each scene. Players were dressed in the costume of the period and acted but did not speak. A number of dances lightened the sad story of their early days, dances modest and restrained in keeping with the history of pious folk. Here again the family spirit was manifest. There were no programs telling who took the various parts, and that was typical throughout the week. Even Lucien d'Entremont who would be the seventh baron if the title still existed, was <sup>conspicuous</sup> seen only when he unveiled the monument. In a family all are equal and Pubnico's greatest pride is its congenial family life. It was also significant that in the pageant's final scene when to-day's treasures were displayed that first among these came relics from their museum.

Pubnico houses all face one road that runs for about fifteen miles along the two sides of the harbour. Houses on the east side are on the main highway, while the west side runs off on its own towards the open sea. This side is more thickly populated. There is Upper West

Pubnico, Middle West Pubnico, West Pubnico, and Lower West Pubnico. A similar division exists on the east side, while between the east and west sides lies another village called Pubnico Head because of its position at the head of the bay. There were a few decorations on the east side, but the main celebration took place at West Pubnico where spruce covered arches decorated with shields and flags gave an air of festivity which was further enhanced by rows of colored flags above the newly paved road, and smaller flags on the lawns all along the way.

The monument was made of cement and beach stones and was largely done by voluntary labour. Before its unveiling the people gathered for pontifical high mass and a procession which included the archbishop, some sixty priests, and ten Knights of Columbus in full regalia. Few dignitaries besides the clergy had been invited, but Pubnico was prepared to extend a welcome to any who cared to come. Premier Angus L. MacDonald spoke at the unveiling ceremonies which were carried out with dignity. The monument has four sides, one containing a plaque in memory of Phillips d'Entremont, and another a plaque in memory of native sons lost in two world wars. Practically everybody is bilingual, and Allan d'Entremont, the chairman, spoke as fluently in English as in French.

At the banquet held in Yarmouth a medal was presented by M. le comte de Caix of Paris to Disere d'Eon for keeping their language alive through a little French newspaper, Le Petit Courrier, published weekly. Although taken by surprise, Mr. d'Eon had no difficulty in expressing a courteous and gracious acceptance. Baseball games, a dolls'

carriage parade, bazaars and fireworks were also on the program which lasted a full week. In their surprise at interest from outside in their celebrations, the Pubnicoians do not realize the respect they have won for themselves in their home life and in their co-operation with their English-speaking neighbors. As an example of this, the parade of decorated floats brought entries from as far ~~as~~ Yarmouth, nearly thirty miles away.

Now with a new record of achievement Pubnico settles down again to normal life, the oldest village continuously inhabited by Acadians, the only break in the continuity being the ten years of exile between 1756 and 1766.