

Remember When...

Locals from Dildo Lassoed 1200 lb. Turtle

by: Bill Higdon



L-R: The Lassoing Turtle Trio
Lloyd Reid, Alf Smith, Stan Smith

One day, about thirty nine years ago, **Lloyd Reid**, along with **Alf and Stan Smith** were out in Stan's boat, heading up Dildo arm when they spotted a strange phenomena in the water. At the time they were steaming by the area in Broadcove near Wilfred Gosse's when one of the men eyed what was believed to be a turtle. Before long, they had it "Lassoed".

When they got back to the wharf with their unusual catch many excited and curious people flocked to see it. Later, the turtle was put into the back of Albert Smith's pick up truck and brought to Dunville. There, they charged twenty five cents for a person to view this spectacle.

The turtle weighed about twelve hundred pounds. From head to tail it measured about eight feet and was five feet wide. This was a very rare catch for these local Trinity Bay waters, because giant turtles live in much warmer water. The turtle was stored in the quick freeze at the Co-op fish plant in South Dildo, it remained there three years before it was dispensed with at the local dump.

At eleven years old, Alf Smith was the youngest of the three; his brother, Stan, was eighteen and Lloyd Reid, who was twenty-two, was the oldest of the trio. It was not totally uncommon for those guys to attract attention for unusual adventures but this one is obviously one for the record.