



Oxford Rifles 1940s

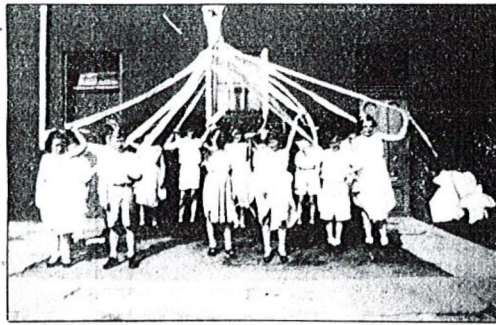


IDCI Cheerleaders

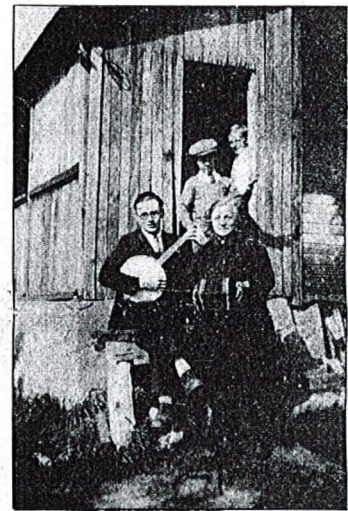
Glimpses of the past



Outside the St. Charles Hotel



May Day in Ingersoll



Musician Walter Appleby and family



Ingersoll's Old Town Hall



Dairy delivery wagon

Town extravagance attacked in 1910

Watching how municipal politicians spend local taxpayers' money has been a favorite past time of many citizens, not just in 1986, but in 1910 as well.

The following report was contained on the front page of the Ingersoll Daily Chronicle Friday September 30, 1910 and it outlines many of the concerns of the community of that day.

Following the publication of the story there were several letters to the editor to support the comments and the council of the day was pressed to justify its planned expenditures on the Charles Street bridge.

The following is the newspaper account in it's full text.

Headline "MUNICIPAL EXTRAVAGANCE" Many complaints heard in connection with civic administration of 1910 - Is it Not Time to Stop Extravagant Expenditure?"

A year ago an Ingersoll Alderman at the very beginning of his municipal career declared himself an economist. His advice to his colleagues in transacting the affairs of the Corporation was to exercise the same cautiousness and practice the same economy as far as possible, that they could in the management of private affairs. This was sound advice, and it is to be regretted that it did not have a more permanent effect. What is good business in private life, ought also to be good business in the management of public affairs. The object always should be to get the best for the money available. Every day in private life, one is seized with a

desire to purchase this or that article, but if there is a true conception of business and honesty, the questions will first be weighed. Is it absolutely necessary? Can I afford it? So should matters which come before the administrators of the people's affairs be weighed in exactly the same manner. It is the people's money that is being expended for the new bridges, lighting facilities and the hundred and one other things that come before the council and so long as the advancement of the community is not being retarded, there should be a disposition to spend money as economically as if the people were actually acting for themselves.

The high cost of living has necessitated a spirit of retrenchment in private life, and this being true there should be no extravagant use of money in the transaction of public affairs. The quarter or half mill that is now and then added to the tax rate is beginning to pinch. Many ratepayers made no efforts to conceal their surprise, yes, indignation when they received their tax slips this year. The tax rate, twenty six and seven-tenths mills on the dollar is high, when the high assessment is considered.

But what of the future? When will the end of the expenditures in connection with the power and lighting plant be reached? Has it been necessary to make such extensive improvements in the building of bridges. The Chronicle has been informed not only by one person who ought to know, but by several that the bridges built this year have been

too costly, that it would have been possible to have constructed structures which would have answered the purpose equally as well for a much smaller sum. Words of protest have also been heard relative to the proposed new bridge on Charles

Street East. It is understood that this structure will cost in the neighborhood of thirteen thousand dollars. Some ratepayers have been heard to state that an expenditure of four hundred dollars would furnish a permanent bridge that would meet

all requirements. The abutments of the old structure are said to be strong and good for many years and that about all would be necessary to make a permanent structure would be to lay a cement floor. Of course it looks well and sounds well to have the best but there are times when it really is an ordeal to pay for them. Many persons in private life have learned the sorrowful lesson which extravagance teaches and unless there is a change in the conduct of Municipal business the town of Ingersoll will learn the same lesson.

There are no gold mines and few "millionaires" in Ingersoll and the average citizen is ready to cry a halt to the expenditures that have marked the administration of 1910.

The statement has been made that one thousand dollars will be "thrown away" in the construction of the bridge on Charles Street East. When ratepayers realize that this expenditure means fifty cents on every thousand dollars of their assessment they will be in a position to appreciate the extravagances that is taking place.



The "drummers" (salesmen) came to town regularly in the early years of this century, selling their wares to local businessmen and spending the nights in one of the local hotels. Of course, it was less expensive to share a room with another drummer or two but this photograph, taken in an Ingersoll hotel about 1910, captures the inevitable sense of crowded quarters as the drummers prepare for the next day on the road.



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PUC one of first to purchase hydro

"Power for towns by end of month"

That's how the headline read in the Friday September 2, 1910 issue of the Ingersoll Daily Chronicle as it traced the steps taken to bring electricity to Ingersoll.

By that date hydro electric power lines had been completed as far west as London and St. Thomas and as far east as Toronto and "will be delivering power to a number of towns before the end of the month."

An article in the paper read, "The line between the Niagara Falls and Dundas was loaded with 120,000 volts, the highest voltage carried by any line in America and no flaws developed in the course of the test."

In the days before 1910 electricity was uncommon in most Ontario homes, including those in Ingersoll.

But when hydro power did come, Ingersoll was one of the first of the 14 Ontario communities to sign the original contract agreeing to the purchase of power.

Prior to 1906 electricity was available on a limited basis and used mainly to light street lamps and service a few customers and was generated by private business. But that year representatives from Ingersoll joined others in Waterloo to discuss public ownership of hydro power and through lobbying a hydro commission was set up by the provincial government.

In 1908 Ingersoll agreed to purchase 500 horsepower and joined such communities as Toronto and London as the first municipalities to agree to purchase power from the provincial commission.

The signing of the agreement was the first step towards what is now the Ingersoll Public Utility Commission.

Electric power arrived in Kitchener in 1910 and on May 24, 1911 the same power was extended to Ingersoll.

In 1910 the only municipal government available was town council so a special purpose body was formed to administer the distribution of

electric power to Ingersoll customers. Two people were elected to the commission while the mayor of the town was an automatic member.

At the time a private company was supplying power to the few customers who needed the service in the community and it was supplying direct current electricity. Before Ingersoll could supply customers with the municipal power, the town had to purchase the private firm.

Hydro is only one part of the PUC as it stands today. Along with electric power it also administers sewers and water distribution.

In the 1880s the water system was under the control of a private company which supplied water to Ingersoll and had developed springs in West Oxford. A pump house driven by steam was constructed along with a pipeline in the 1890s.

But with the discussion surrounding public ownership of the electric system followed discussion on public ownership of the water distribution system. In 1912 Ingersoll bought the water company and it was handed over to the PUC in 1913.

A sewer system had to wait until 1949 when about \$900,000 was spent on building the system which included a plant, pump house and 15 miles of piping.

When the PUC was being developed the town was one of the major communities in the area and many of the steps which were being taken to provide the town with services which are today being taken for granted, were being followed in other communities.



There were still a few kinks to iron out when the electric system came to town in 1910. While the town welcomed the arrival of "the electric," the overhead lines of the combined hydro and telephone system certainly changed the look of Thames Street.

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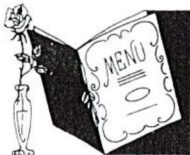
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Come Dine

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Ingersoll prepares for war

Story By
Mickey Leblanc

In the years before World War One, Ingersoll was going about its business, a bustling little community in the heart of southwestern Ontario.

In 1910 global war was not a hot topic of conversation and at that point in history, Canadians, including Ingersoll residents, were happily going about their business.

Many of the day to day things Ingersoll residents are concerned with in the 1980s were also topics of discussion in 1910, although on a slightly different scale.

In 1910 there was no talk of war. Newspapers of the day carried advertisements for a "beautiful new Maxwell 25, that holds the road at 50 miles per hour. The biggest automobile ever made for less than \$1,000. Has electric Gray and Davidson starter, electric lights, electric horn and in all, 17 new features."

Newspapers also carried stories on the arrival of electric power to towns in southern Ontario and a new socialistic proposal developed in Copenhagen which demanded the establishment of a system of universal and compulsory insurance against unemployment, the "cost to be borne by the owners of the means of production."

On April 18, 1912 newspapers across the world and in Ingersoll as well, carried reports of the sinking of the Titanic. Indepth reports on the sinking captured readers' attention with headlines shouting from front pages "The Steamer Titanic Sinks With Awful Loss of Life."

Two weeks later reports were carried of the last 306 victims of the disaster being brought ashore while 116 bodies were reported buried at sea.

Two years later Britain was engaged in war, Canada, including Ingersoll quickly rallied to defend the Empire. On August 5, 1914 France was invaded and Russia entered the escalating conflict. Companies of Canadian troops left for Halifax "amid scenes of enthusiasm."

In Ingersoll interest in the war was high.

One newspaper account of the early stages of war in Ingersoll says:

"European news having any bearing on the war situation was eagerly awaited by Ingersoll people on Sunday (Aug. 2, 1914). Everywhere interest ran high. Crowds greater than usual were on the streets and the impending war was almost the sole topic of conversation. War extras of city papers issued during the day were obtained by a few citizens and the more startling contents were rapidly spread.

"From the time of the announcement Saturday night that Germany had declared war against Russia public sentiment had been considerably inflamed, and this was heightened Sunday by the probability of definite news of actual fighting.

"The loyalty of Canadians to Britain was also demonstrated by the remarks that were overheard wherever a group of men was seen."

The newspaper account continued "Several reservists in Ingersoll have been notified to be in readiness to respond for service whenever called upon. There are quite a number of reservists here. It is also understood that foreigners who have been working here have also been called home because of the threatened war.

Two days after that report was carried to Ingersoll residents, another report, this time of Britain entering the war, was responded to locally with great loyalty to the Empire.

In part, one newspaper reported, "Although there was a full realization of its terrible meaning the announcement of its terrible meaning the announcement that Germany had declared war on Britain was followed by a striking patriotic demonstration. The heroic Canadian spirit was brought out like the flare of a match showing a rugged sentiment in defence of the Empire. The announcement that Britain had become involved was not unexpected, in fact the situation had reached such an acute stage and the temper of Germany had become so defiant that the public was prepared for almost any tidings that would indicate German hostility.

"From early morning until late at night thoughts of the impending war have been surging through the minds of Ingersoll people in common with those throughout the civilized world. The crisis was anticipated yesterday and with the hope of learning the latest developments many citizens were on the streets early in the evening.



Young men from Canada left their families to fight overseas in the Great War. Above, a young soldier wears the khaki uniform of the Canadian regiments.

Family portraits such as this one, left, were carried overseas by soldiers in World War I. This photo of Walter and Amy Appleby and their mother Ada, was taken in Ingersoll in 1916 and dedicated, "to daddy." Note the nautical dress of the children and the flags both wear over their breasts.

"Germany had declared war on Britain" was quickly transmitted from one to another and the news spread like wild fire. Out of the excitement leaped the loyal sentiment of the manhood of Ingersoll. Young men in their teens, middle aged men and men who have passed the median and a few who have gone over the hill and seem to be only tarrying pulled themselves erect and voiced a desire to fight for the Empire. Then there were patriotic songs "God save the King" and "Rule Britannia" as thoughts were turned to the British fleet and the King's



people entrained at 8:22 this morning."

The enthusiasm continued. "With martial music and lusty cheers ringing in their ears the gallant contingent recruited from the 24th Regiment of Grey's Horses went forth this morning prepared to do battle with a foreign foe. The demonstration in honor of their departure followed a rousing send-off given the contingent in the town hall Wednesday night.

"The brave sons of Oxford and Waterloo Counties who have rallied to the war drum's roll, looked the part of soldiers. As the CPR train carried them out of Ingersoll enroute to Valcartier, Que., from where they expect to sail for the front, there was the determination of warriors seized with the thought that right or might should triumph in the great struggle that has been waged on the Belgian plains, and that if they meet the German horde they will live up to all of the glorious British traditions."

And while the young men prepared for battle, those who stayed behind prepared to make their contribution to the war effort.

A mass meeting was held, attracting 700 to 800 people, in Woodstock "for the purpose of devising ways and means whereby the wives and those depending on any volunteers who have gone to the front may be looked after."

An Oxford County Patriotic Association was formed on Aug. 25, 1914. In the midst of headlines such as "Austrians Beaten Irreparable defeat administered by the Russians, Great Advance Goes On", an article titled "Meeting tonight" local residents attention.

On September 2, the Oxford County Patriotic Association reported having \$2,000.

Ingersoll held its own meeting in town council chambers and a local patriotic association was formed.

"The Ingersoll Patriotic Association was organized at the meeting held in the council chamber Tuesday night when various phases of the local situation brought about in consequence of the European war were discussed. The attendance was very representative, the council chamber being filled to overflowing. A loyal sentiment to the Empire and the brave men of Ingersoll who have responded to the call to arms was exhibited."

While the war played a large role in the lives of Ingersoll residents, life at home went on while the battles raged overseas.

Reports of the sinking of the Lusitania off the Irish coast, which eventually brought the United States into the conflict, were accompanied in newspaper reports with town affairs. The issue of making a choice of paving for Thames Street was being discussed while a Past Masters night was held by the King Hiram Lodge, A F and A M.

As the war continued, Ingersoll showed its support and continued to make contributions.

message "Capture or Destroy the Enemy"

"A huge bonfire was lighted at the corner of Thames and Charles streets, dozens of boxes gathered from the rear of stores constituting the fuel. This form of celebrating, however, did not meet with the approval of many and it was soundly condemned. An alarm of fire was sounded, the brigade responded and the blaze was soon extinguished. The crowds lingered, however, and it was nearly midnight before the excitement subsided and the streets were cleared."

As the war progressed local newspapers provided Ingersoll readers with daily accounts of the conflict and the enthusiasm in defence of the Empire spread.

The first recruits from Ingersoll were signed to the 24th Regiment Grey's Horses and two officers and 37 men were mobilized in Ingersoll on Aug. 17. Nine of the men were from Ingersoll and others were from surrounding areas including Tilsonburg, Woodstock and Ostrander.

By Aug. 20, 1914 the "brave sons of Oxford and Waterloo Counties were given a rousing send-off by Ingersoll

Elegant homes of yesteryear

The great Gatsby and Daisy roared about in their motorcars in the 'twenties.

Women flashed their ankles to the big-band and swing tunes of the war era. Thousands packed North American cinemas to weep for their favorite silent movie heroine, or later to watch Vivien Leigh save her precious Tara.

But the 19th century tradition of home entertainment was still the hands-down favorite of the average Ingersoll family during the war years, and before, during and after the wars, the home was really where the heart was.

Although the Saturday night dance was alive and well at the old town hall and the Ingersoll arena hall, on less auspicious occasions, Ingersoll folks would often gather together in small groups at the homes of friends to play cards or to listen to the radio -- if someone was fortunate enough to own one of these treasured items.

The radio broadcasted the latest in music as well as the news from overseas, but there were lots of people who would make their own music as well, gathering around the piano to sing such songs as Sweet Rosie O'Grady or When Irish Eyes Are Smiling.

There are long-time local residents who remember some of the magnificent house parties staged in grander homes in town.

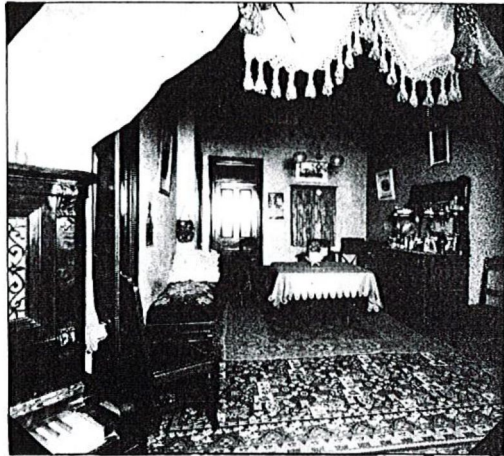
Before the turn of the century, there were splendid parties and ballroom-style dancing held at the Christopher House in Ingersoll, where young women and men would dance the evenings away to a musical repertoire which might even include a minuet or two.

The popularity of such gala dances and parties was revived in the celebratory years after the war had been won -- during the 'twenties. When the Cuthbertsons held a garden party at their home just after the return of the soldiers, the front of the house was draped in colorful bunting, and a large Union Jack was strung across the imposing front window of the home in tribute to the young Canadian men.

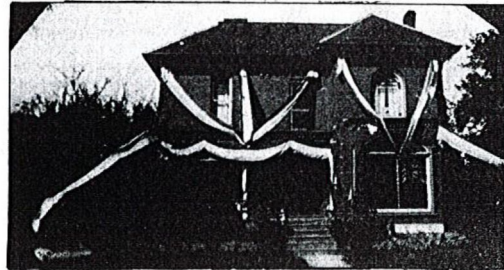
At another such celebration, after the boys had come home from the war, the Noxon family stretched what must have seemed like acres of yard good linens over a few floors of their spacious home.

The dancing linens, which were probably kept in attic storage when not in use, were stretched taut over the floor and seamed inconspicuously to provide an adequate width of cloth, which was secured at the edges along the walls.

Before the gala began, the linens were sprinkled with a compound designed to make the dancing surface slippery, and the young men and women of the community danced all night.



This photo of an Ingersoll home, taken before 1920, shows a lavishly appointed dining room. The gas fixture and heavy drapes pulled back over the doors were typical features of these years. Here a popular Oriental-style area carpet has been laid over colorful linoleum.



When the boys returned home after the First World War, house dances and garden parties were common in some of Ingersoll's grander homes. In this photo, taken in 1918, the Cuthbertson house is decked in colorful bunting and chairs stand outside for a gala party.



When "the electric" came to Ingersoll homes in 1913, this was the fashion in home decor. Lighting fixtures often combined gas and electric units in those days as there were still some misgivings about the reliability of electricity. This bedroom boasts many conveniences -- an electric reading light, a telephone and an ornate gas heater.

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Magic at the Maitland movie theatre

Story By
Kimmerley Hutchinson

Remember those old lyrics from the musical Guys and Dolls... What's playing at the Roxy?

Well, there was no Roxy in Ingersoll, but at the Maitland Theatre

local residents could weep and laugh with the screen stars from a distant fairyland known as Hollywood.

Locals paid a nickel to get into the Maitland back in the old silent movie

days, and one local resident recalls his visits to the theatre as early as 1916.

Small boys made heroes of such early cowboy stars as Tom Mix, who amazed theatre-goers with a spectacular stunt in which he flew an aeroplane into a building.

There was magic at the Maitland... Rudolph Valentino came to town larger than life, and The Ten Commandments was a favorite for years.

Silent movies weren't really silent...In Ingersoll, Mrs. Kathleen Bush played the piano at the front of

the theatre, improvising the music to suit whatever scene was appearing on the screen.

For comedy movies, she would play an amusing song called 'Slide-in Sid' -- a crazy two-step piece that sounded like a trombone.

When sound first became a part of the movie, the soundtrack and the video were separate, and the projectionist had to master a 'hand is quicker than the eye' routine: a small dot would appear briefly on the screen right at the beginning of the movie, and at that precise moment the soundtrack had to begin.

This was called synchronizing the sound, and Ingersoll projectionist Percy Carter was reputedly very adept at putting the tracks together so the viewer wasn't distracted from a dramatic plot by lips that didn't move in time with the sound.

What's playing at the Maitland? Located for years on King Street where Powells' TV and Appliances now conducts business, The Maitland was playing Zane Grey's The Heritage of the Desert and Warner Brothers drama The Marriage Circle one sultry August week in the summer of '24....

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Waiting for the parade

While guns were blazing overseas during both wars, the patriotic people of the Ingersoll area waited anxiously for word from their young men, and concentrated on doing their part for the war effort.

"We used to have parades all over," said Walter Appleby, a long-time Ingersoll citizen. "And we were the first town in the country to reach the \$3,000 mark on the Victory Loan Drive during the war (World War I)."

"I remember them making a declaration that from then on Ingersoll would be known as a city instead of a town," Appleby continued, "and that day the school children lined up and down the streets waving Union Jacks and the Canadian ensign...."

The prime minister and the local members of parliament collected in Ingersoll to congratulate the town on their great war effort, and to present town mayor Vern Buchanan with the certificate giving Ingersoll the honorary title of a city.

As a small boy, Mr. Appleby remembers peeking at all the local folks flocking to an extra-special dance at the town hall.

When the first world war had finally ended, a handful of Ingersoll citizens made a commitment to recognize the war veterans by purchasing a park to dedicate in their memory.

On that glamorous night in 1918, town to play for a dance to help raise the money necessary to buy

the park, now known as Memorial Park.

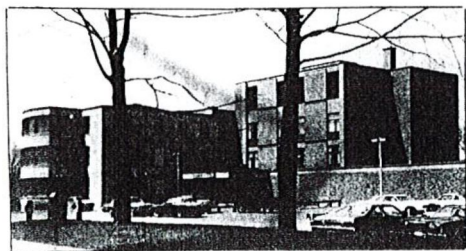
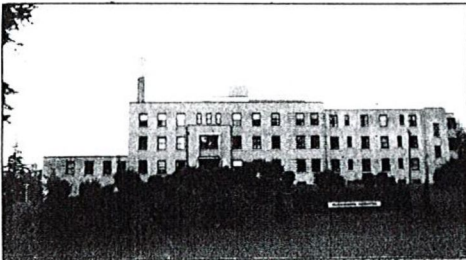
Mr. Appleby also has childhood memories of a high-spirited and patriotic Ingersoll which celebrated the end of the war in 1918 with a massive party in the centre of the town.

Local residents, many of whom had suffered the anguish of losing a young man in battle, burned effigies of Kaiser 'Bill' next to the railway tracks on Thames Street near the post office, which was then at the corner of Charles and Thames.

The tracks melted, the Kaiser burned, young children ran up and down the street with noisemakers bought at Woolworths, and the Great War was officially over for the little agricultural town.

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Hemlines go up and down over the years

Remember the 'New Look' in fashion after the war? If the town of Ingersoll could talk, what tales she could tell of the fashion costumes which have walked her streets!

One might expect that such an agricultural little town as Ingersoll would be largely disinterested in the whims of the international fashion scene, but the advertisements in the newspapers of the time, and the photographs of Ingersoll residents tell a different story.

While the Great War was brewing in Europe in 1910, women in Ingersoll were following, at least as avidly as possible, the trend-setting fashions of Paris and New York -- the premier cities of style.

For weeks before the big event, the Ingersoll Chronicle advertised an exclusive fashion event, and finally, in November of 1910, Professor Dorenwend of Toronto brought his exhibition of the very latest wigs to the New Daly House (now Marco's Landing) for Ingersoll women to inspect the latest Parisian and New York styles.

Corsets were slackening or being



Hair was short and waists were long in the fashion of the '20s. These Ingersoll women were dressed typical of those years, with their long, loose shape, plain necklines and flat shoes. As the hemlines went up, patterned and colored hose also became popular.

eliminated from women's wear altogether, and the advertising sketches in the Ingersoll Chronicle during the decade of the first world war depict women modelling the latest in fashionable tweed suits, and the rather slumping posture called the 'debutante slouch.'

In the exhilaration which followed the end of the Great War, hemlines rose and women bobbed and shingled their hair.

Edgar Dunlop, who has operated a barbershop with his father since 1924, remembers young Ingersoll women coming into the shop to have their hair barbered, as there was no such thing as a women's hair stylist in those years.

While hemlines rose to several inches above the ankle, corsets were unheard of, and waistslines fell to the hips. The very fashionable might wear several strings of beads with their 'twenties look.

Photographs of an Ingersoll fami-

ly show the young women standing about in the fashions of the day.

High fashion in the 1930's was a luxury which was lost on most women in Ingersoll, although there were always those who could afford one of the latest, very feminine dresses -- often with padded shoulders, and heavily influenced by the costumes of the glamorous stars of the silver screen.

With the arrival of the 1940's, and the outbreak of the Second World War, fashion, like everything else, was dictated by the war.

Materials were very scarce -- silk was being used for parachutes and nylon was used for women's stockings only briefly before being diverted to the war effort as well, according to Lloyd Alter, who stocked such luxuries in Jack's Department Store in those years.

Instead, women bought leg makeup at the local drugstore to color their skin while silk and nylon hose were unavailable.

Wool, cotton and leather were needed to outfit the young soldiers going overseas, so the only available

styles in new clothing used as little fabric as possible.

Styles were very straight and unadorned, people patched their shoes to save leather for the war denim trousers for women became popular as they went to work in the factories while the men were overseas.

It took some time before the clothing industry got back on its feet again after the war, too. Mr. Alter remembers that, when the boys in the service returned from overseas with nothing but the uniforms they had worn for those years, they were given requisition slips entitling them to a brand new suit.

Mr. Alter remembers well the 'New Look' of 1947-48, when hemlines flared again, and dresses were styled with peplums.

"Every 25 or 30 years, fashion makes a cycle," said Mr. Alter. The skirt lengths of the late forties are the fashion standard again.

Back in 1930-31, the double-breasted suit for men came into vogue, he noted, and it stayed until Continued on page 20

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Bob Jewett

Dusty miller a fixture of years gone by

Story By
Kimberley Hutchinson

In a few more years, the phrase 'the dusty miller' will be reserved for gardeners discussing a small whitened plant by that name. But the dusty miller was once an integral fixture in many local communities.

He earned his name justly. The grind and flour mills which helped the small communities of Oxford County develop and prosper were continually filled with a heavy fog of dust from the flour.

The dusty miller, usually accompanied by a supervising cat, peered about through the various cogs and wheels of the operation to ensure that the machinery was all turning at the proper speeds, the water was flowing at the most efficient rate, and the finest flour was being prepared for the customers.

Not much wonder so many mills fell prey to fire in the early years! The smallest spark could set off an explosion that would lift the roof of the sturdiest building.

Whatever the work load ahead of them, and however energetic the miller and his men, before the arrival of the electricity there was no milling after dark unless it was accomplished by moonlight.

Although most of the Ingersoll grind and flour mills had been burned down or shut down early in this century, there was a thriving family milling business in Thamesford -- down by the old mill stream.

The large white structure (now operating as a feed mill and garden centre) still rises above the water by the Thamesford dam where it was rebuilt in 1900 when the original



Back in the Thirties customers to the mill at the corner of Milton Street and Highway 19 in Thamesford could stop for a bite to eat at the gas bar and lunch store. Customers coming from Ingersoll couldn't miss the bold advertisements of the colorful shop.

frame structure was destroyed by fire.

The original mill was erected by John Finkle in 1845, and was eventually sold to Joseph Cawthrope, from whom a Thamesford farmer purchased it in 1917.

The Geo. Hogg and Sons Mill was a family endeavor throughout two wars and the Great Depression, with George's two sons, Gordon and Allan, and Gordon's two sons Merritt and Clayton -- who finally sold the family business in 1971.

Merritt and Clayton Hogg recall that in the early milling years and

throughout the 'twenties, the flour produced at the mill was shipped out in large barrels -- manufactured nearby -- in weights of 196 pounds of flour per barrel.

In the later years, jute and cotton bags were used, then finally the reinforced paper bags carried the flour to whatever distant point it was bound.

"You'd pile 196 pounds of flour into the jute bags, then pile them three high on the truck to take down to the railway station," recalled Merritt.

"They'd load them on the elevator and into the car on the train, and

they would go to some of the bakeries out east or wherever," he explained.

These regulated weights varied during the years of the Second World War, however, when bread flour was shipped over to Great Britain. For these shipments the flour had to weigh in at 140 pounds.

"I think it had something to do with the different units of measurement," Clayton recalls. "It was the same as 10 British stone."

Smaller half-barrel shipments became popular later, and the weights on the packing apparatus

had to be changed to trigger the shutoff at 98 pounds instead.

The fine finished flour was stored in huge bins, which tapered into a packing device at the bottom where the man known as the packer -- who did nothing else all day but keep up with the steady flow -- monitored each barrel or bag as it filled.

A counterweight was attached to the packing platform, and as the bag filled it weighed down the platform. When the bag reached the regulate weight, a shutoff valve would be triggered to stop the flow of flour a precisely the right moment.

The jute and cotton bags would be hand-stitched across the top in those days, and tied at the ends in the telltale 'ears' which marked the handwork of the packer.

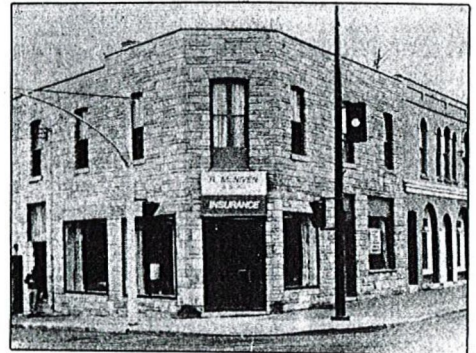
The bags that were shipped to such distant ports as Grenada, Trinidad and the Barbados were always the cotton variety rather than the jute, Clayton pointed out probably because the jute bags had problems with wastage.

"With the jute bags," Merritt explained, "you lost a little flour every time you handled the bag."

Although the cotton bags were not as durable, and the packer had to take care not to rip them when stitching, they lost much less flour because of the closer weave of the cloth.

The farmer would bring his wheat into the mill, where it was weighed and elevated up and into the holding bin. From there it would go down into the large rollers for the 'first breaks,' which separated some of the
Continued on page 11

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Thamesford mill was once a thriving business

Continued from page 10
the flour from the bran.

The product would go up through a huge table-like sifting machine, which shook violently, letting the flour run through several silk screens, and separating the bran, which went back down through several more 'breaks' in the rollers.

After each break, the flour was sifted away from the coarser by-products, and the end result was a good deal of flour, and enough middlings, shorts and bran to satisfy the demand for animal feed for local farmers.

While local farmers supplied most of the wheat during the Southern Ontario thrashing season in the years from the 'twenties through the war, in the off season the Hogg mill would purchase wheat grown in the western provinces.

The soft wheat grown locally made a superb quality pastry flour which was the main business of the Thamesford operation, and the hard wheat brought in by rail from Manitoba was better suited for bread flour.

Although the broker decided where much of the fine flour from the Hogg mill would eventually be sold -- and often the decision was not made until the flour had arrived in Montreal -- the Thamesford operation had many dedicated customers in the area as well.

Merritt Hogg well remembers delivering bags of flour to the Dominion stores in the area during the 'thirties when, as a young 12-year-old, he rode with his father in the

mill's very first delivery truck.

Before the days of the truck, however unreliable, all the transportation to and from the railroad had to be done with a team of horses pulling large grain bins of 100 bushel apiece.

The railroad was an integral part of the Thamesford milling business as well -- bringing in the boxcars of wheat from the west, and taking away sacks of the Hogg's famous Lady of the Snow bread flour or Victoria pastry flour.

The railway intrigued the young brothers during the 'thirties, when they often saw young men riding on top of the boxcars on their way across the country looking for employment.

"We'd sometimes find a car with some charred wood," Merritt recalled, "where the men had started a fire... just to keep warm, I guess."

"You'd see them looking out the door to see where they were sometimes," he continued. "They just jumped on with no idea of where they were headed."

The George Hogg and Sons business was officially designated as a 200 barrel mill -- an average size for mills at the time.

The mill produced 400 - 98 pound bags of flour every 24 hours, Clayton explained.

To accomplish this, the mill ran 24 hours a day, and Merritt remembers going down to the mill for the 5 p.m. until 7 a.m. shift.

There were four floors of machinery to monitor, and it was the job of the miller to make certain



A handful of the mill employees at Geo. Hogg and Sons grist and flour mill posed for this photo about 1925. Gordon Hogg and Wes Porteous, both millers, sit on the "carred" sacks of flour on the truck. In front, left to right, are Allan Hogg, general manager, Tina McMurray, bookkeeper, Jim McMillan, who ran the grist chopper, owner George P. Hogg and head miller George Hamilton.

every piece was running smoothly.

In the earlier days, a packer used to stay until midnight as well, although most of the packing during the depression and 'forties was done during the day.

With the readily available waterpower at their location next to the river, the mill ran entirely on water in the early years, and continued to make use of the fall of water and the two water wheels housed in the mill to supplement the hydro well after

its arrival to the village.

A 40 horsepower wheel drove the chopper for the farmers' grain, and a 60 horsepower wheel was used to start up the mill.

The mill paid for its hydro on a peak load system and paid for the highest amount of electricity used that month.

Because of the tremendous power needed to set all the machinery in motion, the waterpower was used to

keep the hydro down.

It wasn't often that the mill had to be started 'cold', or restarted after a 'choke' -- when a piece of machinery clogged or broke down and the mill had to come to a standstill.

There could be problems with the waterpower too, however, and Merritt and Clayton remember several occasions when the turbines very

Continued on page 22



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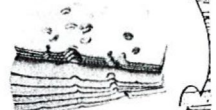
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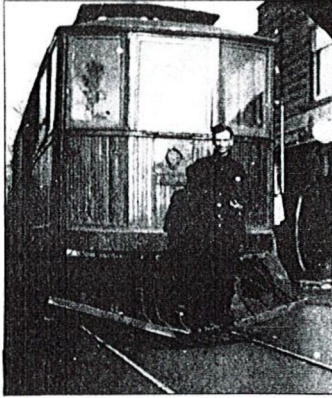
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31 Thames St. S.

Ingersoll

Streetcar named Estelle

The electric trolley known as Estelle brought Ingersoll into the 20th century when it made its inaugural run in 1900. Here the streetcar conductor stands on the front end as Estelle rests on Charles Street in front of the library.



For a glorious 25 years in Ingersoll history, the town had a streetcar named Estelle. The second car, added when business was exceptionally good during the summer months, had the somewhat less romantic tag The City of Woodstock.

Two aspiring entrepreneurs, Dr. Ritter Ickes and J. Armstrong, conceived the notion in 1897, and by 1900 Estelle was lapping the miles between Woodstock and Ingersoll, operating by electricity along the newly constructed streetcar lines.

The trolley operated by electricity conducted along the overhead wire, and was kept on line by the streetcar tracks constructed in the streets.

The brightly painted trolley car was named after the daughter of Dr. Ickes, and although it accommodated only 24 passengers, it was

an innovation in transportation for the residents of the three communities (Woodstock, Beachville and Ingersoll) that it served.

Among other well-advertised amenities, an ornery, fuming little pot-bellied stove occasionally warmed passengers in the bitter winter months.

The City of Woodstock was added to accommodate the extra passengers travelling in the summer months, and was an open car somewhat larger than the enclosed Estelle car.

By 1925, the electric trolleys were giving way to the new and improved motorcars and busses, and the pungent, pitching romanticism of Estelle became another closed chapter in Ingersoll history.

Flood results in disaster

The worst flood on record for the Ingersoll community is also the one that most long-time residents remember.

Back in the spring of 1937, Ingersoll residents weren't very surprised to see the waters of the Thames River rising, as this was a very regular occurrence in the spring months, by all accounts of those who knew the river in those years.

But in that particular year, the rain kept falling, the snow kept melting, and the temperatures kept dropping.

Ingersoll barber Edgar Dunlop recalls that it started to rain hard one weekend in late April.

"It started to rain on Saturday," he said. "It rained all day Saturday, all that night, all day Sunday, and it was still raining on Monday."

Although the rain stopped that day, the water levels continued to rise as the melting snow and high water levels upstream sent a rush of water down the Thames.

On Monday night, the main town bridge went out, and the rushing river spread out to completely cover the CPR railway tracks.

The switching bridge known as the Iron Duke went out later, and the rising water levels forced the gasoline storage tanks at the nearby service station out of the ground.

As the floodwaters roared through

to Beachville, they filled three quarries in their path.

When a passenger train attempted to cross a small bridge over the flooded river just east of town, it derailed and plunged into the waters.

In an attempt to reach the disaster site, Dr. MacDonald was forced to travel flooded roads in his automobile. With the water obscuring the surface of the road, he wasn't able to see that the road had been completely washed away in one section, and the rushing current overturned his car, making the courageous Ingersoll doctor the third casualty of the great flood.



This photo, taken at the time of the 1937 flood, shows the Thames Street trolley bridge — and some of the debris left on the banks of the river by the rushing water.



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August 22 & 23, 1986

We applaud the efforts of the many volunteers who have contributed to the success of the Heritage Fun Fest Days. We urge the citizens of our community to support this outstanding event.



And the band played on . . .

Do you remember the time when Ingersoll couples would swing to the big band sounds up at the Green Grotto in Woodstock, or rock the floors of the Old Town Hall right here at home to the old-time music of the Oxford Merry-makers?

Walter Appleby remembers the war years in Ingersoll... how folks made their own entertainment... and flocked to the dances held for local people with music by local bands.

As a professional musician from 1928 until 1955, Mr. Appleby has a unique perspective on the Ingersoll society of the time. He saw the town from the stage.

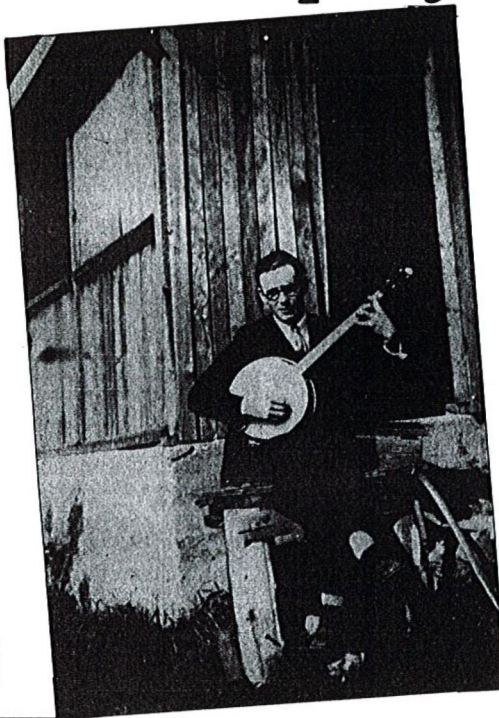
The dancing shoes of many local Ingersoll couples have polished and worn the floors of the Old Town Hall or, on special nights, The Green Grotto -- a fashionable Woodstock club on Dundas Street above what is now Ace Bowling alley.

When Mr. Appleby came to town in 1916, he brought with him a musical background derived from the influences of his mother and grandfather, both professional musicians.

Mr. Appleby played four-string banjo in a series of local bands which performed regularly for the dances held in the old town hall every Saturday night.

"It cost 35 cents a head to get into the dance back in the early days," Mr. Appleby recalled. "And there

The aspiring banjo player in 1928. Walter Appleby was employed as a professional musician in the Ingersoll area for almost 30 years and watched the town change and grow from the perspective of the stage.



would be 300 or 400 people dancing on those floors."

"Lots of times I wouldn't get home to bed until three or five o'clock in the morning," he laughed.

Of course, the pay was a little different for musicians at the time.

At a lively dance in the Thamesford IOOF Hall about 1928, Mr. Appleby's band passed the hat for total evening proceeds of 50 cents.

"During the war years," he said, "it used to be the real entertainment on Saturday nights."

There were other Ingersoll groups, led by such locals as Freddy Worker, who were skilled imitators of the big band sounds of Tommy Dorsey and Wayne King, and dancers could swing to the music of String of Pearls or the Champagne Waltz.

The Oxford Merry-makers and later the Thames Valley Ranch Boys played other favorites of the 30s and 40s, and while the fad was hot, Ingersoll folks would dance in line to the music of the Lambeth Walk, according to Mr. Appleby, "... just walking in time to the music, really, looking like a blinkin' bunch of caterpillars."

As a combination emcee and square dance caller, Art Nunn would keep things rolling at the dances, whisking a woman from her partner, and coaxing the spirited crowd into a large circle of dancers.

When the pace had quickened and the circle coordinated, he would shout 'alleman left,' there would be a massive change of partners, and the circle would begin to reel again.

The next dance might be a rollicking Duck and Dive, with a huge dance set which included everyone in the hall.

Mr. Appleby remembers one dancing couple who moved so beautifully together in the Waltz a Vienne that the others in the hall moved aside to watch them perform.

"In those days," Mr. Appleby said, "you didn't stand on opposite ends of the dance floor and make faces at each other, you put your arms around each other and danced."

The fact that many of the young men were overseas during the 40s made for great deal of hardship in daily life of the local communities, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the Saturday night dance crowds in Ingersoll.

"My sister used to come up from Tillsonburg...her husband was overseas...and she'd sometimes play the piano for us," Appleby recalled.

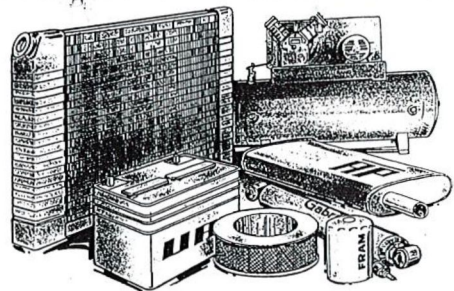
There was little money, fewer young men, and a constant worry about 'the boys in the service,' but there was lots of entertainment for those spirited and patriotic people remaining at home.

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World War II

United effort to help hometown boys

The world was at peace for a short time, or so it seemed, before Europe became the focal point for another major conflict.

The British Empire was again rallied to arms to battle World War Two and Canada joined other commonwealth countries in defending the crown. The rallying cry spread across Canada and Ingersoll was not beyond the enthusiasm displayed in the defence of the King.

In 1942 the war had already ravaged Europe and Canadian soldiers were defending Britain and democracy against the enemy invasion. In Ingersoll support for the war effort ran high and few town residents were left untouched by the impact of the battles.

Those who were not involved in the fighting were busy at home making their contributions in other ways. And there was no shortage of volunteers to gather support for the war effort.

Town council in 1940 provided pen and pencil sets to all Ingersoll men in active duty either overseas or in coastal patrols. By 1942, 121 sets had been sent to the men representing an expenditure of about \$665.

A salvage committee, formed from representatives of Ingersoll service clubs, gathered 66 tons of material worth \$900 in a four month period in 1942. The committee collected rubber, rags, paper, bottles, iron, steel, brass, aluminum, bones and fats.

At the John Morrow manufacturing plant, employees banded together to send cigarettes to Ingersoll men overseas. In a seven month span cigarettes to the value of \$870 were sent over which accounted for 260,000 cigarettes.

The Ingersoll Kiwanis Club by 1942 had sent \$521 worth of cigarettes to fighting men in various services. The club also entertained 40 members of the first contingent in the first year of the war and gave them money belts. Two hundred and twenty-five money belts were given and the Kiwanis contributed \$500 to the Ingersoll War Charities.

The club, by 1942, had sent 100 local newspapers to the soldiers.

The Ingersoll Lions donated \$510 that year to the Lions British Child Bomb Victims fund. The club donated \$100 to the Oxford Rifles and were involved in door-to-door canvassing for such events as the drive for Victory Bonds.

The Y's men was one of the youngest clubs involved in the war effort and sent magazines, books and papers to men in the varied camps. They collected clothing in an active drive and the clothing was turned over to the Salvation Army. The Y's men played a role in salvage work and canvassed for the war charities work.

Shortly after the war started the Ingersoll War Charities Inc. was organized and from November 1940 Continued on page 16



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Following bombing of Pearl Harbor

Riot against local Japanese

Story By
Mickey Leblanc

Ingersoll is a quiet little town by most standards and most would believe strong outbursts are unlikely, but that was not the case at least for a brief time in 1944, just as the Second World War was nearing an end.

A summer night in September 1944 started out quietly and the town of Ingersoll was preparing for a typical Sunday evening, but in the background, unseen to most of the community a large crowd, armed with weapons descended on a Japanese quarters in a local plant.

The Second World War and the battles overseas spawned strong feelings in most Canadian communities and Ingersoll was no exception according to reports in the area newspapers.

One newspaper report described a crowd of 200 to 300 people closed in on a Japanese quarters and police armed with batons dispersed the gathering.

At first glance, it would appear the crowd were anti-Japanese and reacting as a result of well publicized events of the Second World War, but further examination of the reports hints at the cause being "chiefly out of resentment concerning the Japanese and some local girls. It was jealously one police constable was quoted as saying.

Exactly what the events were which lead to the small riot are not clear in the reports but it was clear the mob was well organized.

One passage from a newspaper story says, "a surging throng, arm-

ed with sticks, clubs and missiles of various kinds, bent upon reaching the quarters occupied by a number of Japanese in the employ of William Stone Sons Ltd. at the firm's premises was turned back by police about 9:30 p.m. Sunday night before the demonstration reached a more riotous pitch.

Chief Constable Callander stated this morning that no charges were being contemplated at the moment.

There had been open talk of the demonstration during the week with the result that although it was sprung somewhat unexpectedly, the

police were prepared to cope with the situation immediately."

As it turned out, three men were convicted on unlawful assembly charges. One of the convicted men told court he had been overseas four and a half years that he had been in Hong Kong and at Dieppe and that he, "knew the treatment that had been accorded Canadian soldiers. When he returned to Ingersoll and learned there were "Japs" here, he said he did not think much of it and especially when there had been information that Ingersoll girls had been going out with them.

He said he had heard of plans to go

to the William Stone Sons premises where the "Japs" were employed and housed.

Another man charged said he had heard "the crowd went to the premises to 'clean up on the Japs' He said giving evidence, he had waited 15 minutes after the crowd started to disperse and when told to move on by police he did and claimed he was on the road when the officers went into the premises.

The report continued, "Gangs of youths were conspicuous for some time and a number of these were advised by the officers to leave the

district as soon as possible. One shot, it was learned, was fired in the air by Chief Constable Callander at one of the exciting periods and this was said to have served as an immediate urge for some of the mobsters to leave with greater speed than they had previously ex-

hibited. It was stated, but not confirmed, that in the mob were a number of young men from both Woodstock and Tillsonburg, with the majority however, presumably from Ingersoll."

Ingersoll quickly forgot the incident and life returned to normal.

United effort to help hometown boys overseas

Continued from page 15

to June 18, 1942 had contributed \$30,672 to the war effort.

Victory Loans were a big part of the fund raising drives in Canada, and Ingersoll responded quickly. In 1942 the general objective for the Ingersoll district was \$427,000, but that objective was surpassed and a special names list was set at \$225,000 which was also surpassed.

Various women's groups were busy in Ingersoll during the war years, knitting, sewing, providing

hospital supplies and refugee clothing. The Legion Auxiliary in one year sent parcels overseas amounting to a value of \$100. In 1942 the Auxiliary donated \$25 towards the purchase of an ambulance.

A Red Shield Auxiliary of the Salvation Army gave 180 pairs of socks, 53 sweaters, 18 scarves and 18 pairs of mitts.

The Ingersoll Red Cross was busy sending clothing to those in need during the war. Reports said the Red Cross in Ingersoll have sent to Inger-

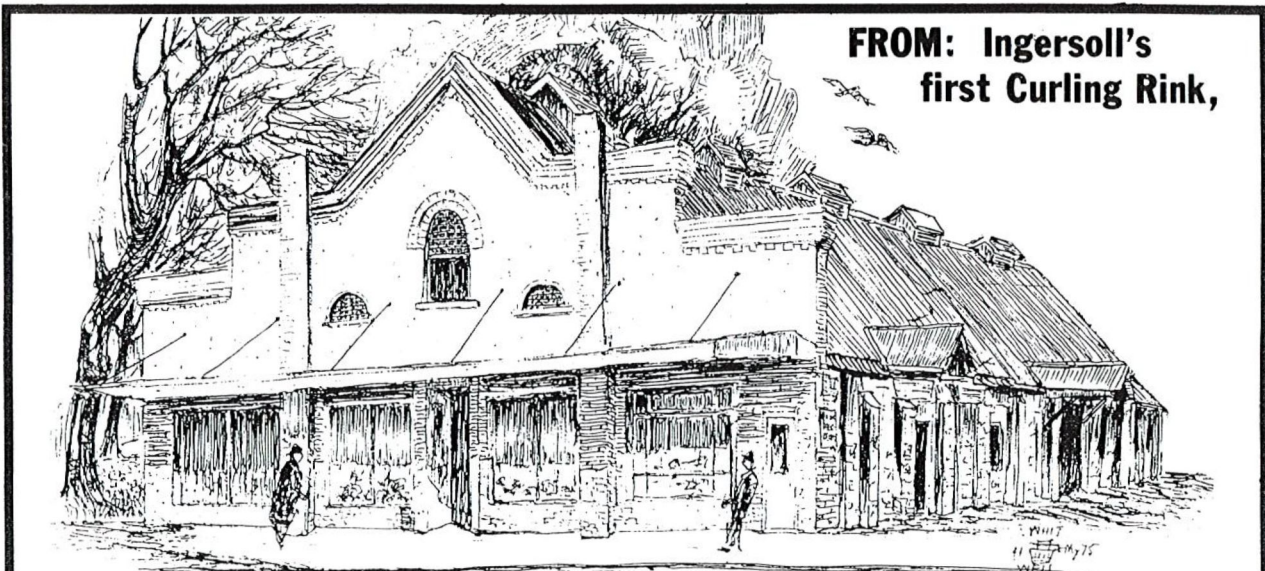
soll men in the Oxford Rifles 190 turtle neck sweaters, 290 pairs of socks, 430 pairs of seamen's stockings, 440 pairs of mitts or gloves, 55 scarves and 435 aero caps since the war started.

Two IODE chapters were heavily involved in Ingersoll's contribution to the war effort. Members made sizable donations towards the purchase of bombers and a wide program of sewing and knitting. The Norsworthy and Lady Duferin IODE chapters also wrote letters to

the soldiers to help cheer them up.

Churches played a sizable role in Ingersoll's efforts by sending parcels of food and clothing overseas. Fund raising events such as bake sales helped to provide the Red Cross with funds. Members were kept busy making quilts and afghan, hemming handkerchiefs and sweaters.

While Ingersoll men were helping to fight the war overseas, those left behind supported their efforts in countless ways.



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Front line action for our boys

At the time the war broke out in Europe for the second time this century, there were about 15 local young men who were regularly involved with the military drilling at the old armory building on Charles Street, close to where the new post office is now located.

But by the time the Ingersoll company of the Oxford Rifles were called to service, there were 150 men in the parades, and many other local men had signed to serve with other companies.

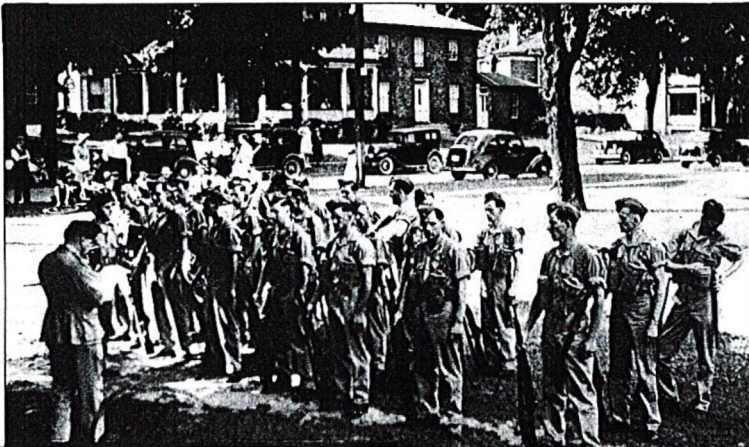
As one of the original members of the Ingersoll group, and as a cadet leader, J.C. Herbert was one of a handful of local men who were asked to go around and help to train various platoons of men in some of the surrounding communities: Tillsonburg, Plattsville, Thamesford, and Kintore.

In this community, as in many others across the country, the interest in the military grew rapidly to fill the need for soldiers to help in the war overseas.

"Before the Oxford Rifles had mobilized as such in May of 1942," Mr. Herbert explained, "we had already sent a company of infantry to the Elgin Rifles."

"There was a great deal of interest in the Oxford Rifles after the war broke out. Gradually we built up the strength of the regiment."

"We weren't active



at that time," he continued. "We were just building up in anticipation of being called."

But Mr. Herbert pointed out that whoever was trained could be called to wherever he was needed, and many were already in the service before the Ingersoll company was mobilized.

Mr. Herbert was called to Ottawa in 1941 to do staffing work for the military, and spent almost a year in the capital before being called back to Ingersoll in May of 1942 when the Oxford Rifles mobilized.

The colonel received a written notice that the Rifles had been called to active duty as of May 1, 1942, and he responded to Ottawa with a list of the current CO's (commanding officers), then initiated an intensive recruit of men.

When the Ingersoll men travelled to London Ontario for four months of further training, Mr. Herbert was company commander.

After the requisite training session in London, the Oxford rifles were sent to Prince George, British Columbia - one of the first troops to be stationed on this stretch of the Canadian coast, which was later to become one of the largest North American camps.

In retrospect, it seems puzzling that so many trained soldiers and highly trained specialists in a variety of fields were sent to the distant Pacific coast when we read in history books that the war took place in Europe.

But at the time, the Japanese were considered a major threat to North America.

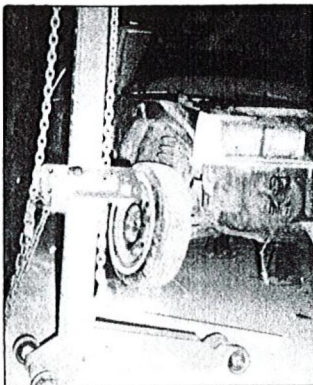
Continued on page 22



There was a growing interest in the military after war was declared. Here the Oxford regiment is under review.

Oxford Rifles D Company was photographed at London camp in 1940. Left to right: Geo. Lockhart, a CIL worker active in the army corps; Hal Stevens, an IDCI science teacher who eventually worked in the chemical warfare branch of the military; Dr. Cecil Osborne who joined the medical corps; Lt. Col. Fred Hersee, commander of the D Oxford Rifles regiment; J. C. Herbert, who commanded the D Company of the Rifles and was later part of the Argyle and Sutherland regiment; Laurie Sommers, a YMCA director who worked in the same service in the military; Currie Wilson, an IDCI teacher who joined the Essex Scottish regiment and was a prisoner of war; Warwick Marshall, a local lawyer who dealt with legal matters for the military.

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Keeping the homefires burning

Story By
Kimberley Hutchinson

While the men were at war, the women had the tireless work of keeping the homefires burning -- preparing supplies to ship overseas, and sending reminders of home to the young soldiers in strange lands.

The job had special meaning to a handful of the Ingersoll women involved in any one of a variety of leagues who worked towards the war effort by knitting socks and bandages, or packaging supplies.

Mrs. Elsie Dowd was involved in the Salvation Army Home League during the years of the 'thirties and 'forties, after losing her father in the first great war.

Mrs. Dowd has vivid memories of her father's departure, and the close correspondence her family maintained until her father's death only a few weeks before armistice.

As a very little girl, Mrs. Dowd remembers seeing her father parading at the armories in Brantford just before his departure, and recalls that he came down to say goodbye to his wife and his two young children.

"He came down to kiss us goodbye," she recalled, "and that was the last time we saw him. They had to march all the way from Brantford to Niagara Falls before they went over."

The family maintained a close correspondence throughout the war, according to Mrs. Dowd.

"My mother had metal boxes, and would knit socks and pack special goodies," she explained. "If one of us had a special treat, we would save some and send some for dad."

Mrs. Dowd remembers writing to



The Salvation Army Home League met regularly during the '30s and '40s, to assist the needy at home and overseas. This photo from the mid-30s shows several members at work. Back row: Maude Rowland, Rose Garland, Mrs. Wm. Unger, Edna Groom, Mrs. Frank Unger, Mrs. Kolbe, Mrs. Wm. Dowds [holding Arthur], Mrs. Walter Appelby, Mrs. Mole, Ada Appleby, Mrs. Charlie Foster and son, and Charlotte Wilson. Middle row: Mrs. Camm, Mrs. John Knight, Mrs. Eli Neaves, Major Cooper, Mrs. Pitcock, Mrs. McLillard. Front row: Bobby Camm, unidentified infant, Alan Pitcock, Grace Groom, three unidentified children and Mrs. Sid Pitcock holding Keith.

her father to inform him she had cut her hair, after she and a little friend -- both five years old -- trotted over to the barber to have their long ringlets bobbed, with no pennies in their pockets and without their mothers' permissions.

"My hair was very long, and my mother used to brush it around her finger into ringlets," Mrs. Dowd laughed. "She was very upset when I came home, and she made me write the letter to my father to tell him what I'd done."

"I told him I'd cut off my curls, and you didn't write back and said 'and you had't even save me one curl,'" Mrs. Dowd laughed. "It was the last letter we had from him. I still have it."

As with many Ingersoll families during those years, one day the minister and the colonel drove to the house with the tragic news. An official letter came later.

Although the young soldier was buried, before the war was over the ground was destroyed, and there is no marker to visit, said Mrs. Dowd.

As there was no welfare system at the time, and few provisions for a fatherless family, Mrs. Dowd moved out of Ingersoll to her grandparents' farm with her mother and her brother.

"I remember when the war ended my grandfather set fire to two cornstalks for my brother and me," said Mrs. Dowd. "It was a celebration."

Mrs. Dowd said she was bitter for a long time after losing her father, but eventually realized that there were lots of little German girls who lost their fathers in the war, too.

"Then I was just angry at the whole thing...the war," she recalled.

"You'd often see other families getting ready to go somewhere, and you couldn't go because you didn't have a father."

Mrs. Dowd pointed out, however, that there were many happy outcomes of war, and remembers big celebrations and showers for young war brides who had come to Canada.

For such women as Mrs. Dowd, who remembered the terrible price of the first war, there was a special effort to help the men in the 'forties.

The Salvation Army Home League actually encompassed many denominations, and there were several Anglican women, United Church women, and "just anyone who wanted to help," said Mrs. Dowd.

"We used to meet on Thursdays every week, but we met more frequently during the war, because there was so much to do," she explained.

"A lot of women would just come and get the wool to knit scarves and socks for the soldiers," she continued. "Everything was sent to Toronto and shipped out in big bundles."

At the meetings, the women would work at their handicrafts, and a selected group would conduct a bible study and lead choruses of hymns for the women.

The Home League was not alone,

but virtually every women's group or auxiliary organization was very active in the same type of work, with local women and young girls knitting thousands of bandages and socks in what spare time they could find.

When the soldiers would have rest stop at one of the centres, they would pick up fresh socks, coffee tea, even cigarettes before continuing.

And if there was a soldier who had a family who needed help in the community, the Home League would make quilts, or prepare what they called 'ditty' bags of needed supplies.

The work continued after the war as well, for those soldiers spending time in one of the soldiers' hospitals.

The second war also took its toll on young Ingersoll men, and Mrs. Dowd again lost a family member -- a cousin who was killed at Dieppe.

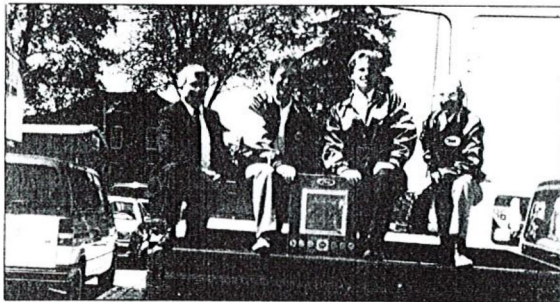
Another relative was held in a prisoner of war camp, Mrs. Dowd explained.

"They were hungry, and so were the people that were holding them," she said. "When the war was over, they just opened the doors and told them to go. Some of them made it to where the Allies were, and some of them didn't."

There were many such tragedies for Ingersoll families in both wars. In commemoration of the local men who gave their lives during the wars, the Ingersoll branch of the Royal Canadian Legion have dedicated photographs of all these soldiers in the main foyer of the Hillcrest centre.

Bob Shelton's Keeler Ford has recently been presented with Ford of Canada Truck Sales Leadership Award.

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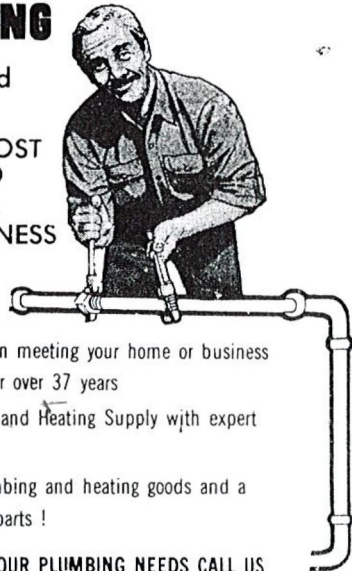
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Scraping a living during the depression

Those were the days... of poppers, ploughs and \$5 pigs.

Back during the years of the Great Depression and the Second World War, Emin and Stella Hossack were trying to make a living as farmers out on 190 acres of land just outside the village of Thamesford.

Married in the mid-'twenties, the Hossacks were just one of hundreds of farm families in the area doing their best to raise a young family through the depression years.

"The depression really took hold from 1931," said Mr. Hossack, agreeing with his wife that the going was tough for farmers in those years.

Mr. Hossack farmed his land with one of the early tractors now known as a "popper" -- named for the sound of the engine.

"They were all poppers back then," Mr. Hossack pointed out.

Mr. Hossack was one of the progressive farmers in the county, and says that he owned one of the first tractors in the region.

How did it run? Pop, pop, silence most of the time. "It ran terrible," he laughed. "That's what made my brother a mechanic."

Mr. Hossack's brother was a self-taught mechanic who seemed to have learned much of his trade curing the various ailments of the family's first popper.

With his popper and a three-furrow plough, which turns over only three rows of sod at a time, Mr. Hossack could make what was considered "pretty good time" out in the fields in the autumn -- about an acre an hour.

"There were lots of times the ploughing didn't get done, though," Mr. Hossack admits. "It's a funny thing, but when you were ploughing with the horses, you always got done."

When the farmer knew time was at a premium -- and it took many, many hours to plough with the horses -- he was more apt to "use every hour he could get his hands on."

On his 190 acre plot, Mr. Hossack grew all the feed necessary to keep his stock fed for the year, and the only product he had to buy for his animals was concentrate, and that was only in the later years of the 'forties.

"If they made such a thing during the depression," he laughed, "we



Bob Hossack watched over the family homestead during the Depression.



When cousins came to visit and the chores were done, the Hossack boys spent their time in the shallow waters of the Thames River.

couldn't have afforded it anyway."

The Hossacks -- Emin, Stella and their four sons -- would fill their acreage every year with enough to feed the cattle, pigs, chicken and whatever stock they were raising at the time.

"As a rule," he said, "you tried to feed all you got. If there was any surplus, you could try to sell that."

"I remember buying 50 pigs for five dollars a pig one time back then," he continued. "We raised them and fattened them, then turned around and sold them for five dollars a pig."

Although times were hard for farmers during those years, their families seldom suffered a terrible lack of food.

Like many farmers at the time, Mr. Hossack killed his own meat, and his family ate whatever they could grow in the garden.

There were ducks to lay eggs in the 'thirties, and Mr. Hossack remembers that there was a chap from London who bought duck eggs from the farmers.

"When that stopped, we got rid of the ducks," he said.

Later, in the 'forties, the family had quite a few chickens, and were able to sell eggs at prices that fell as low as 10 cents a dozen.

"We had 30 dozen crates of eggs in the 'forties," said Mr. Hossack, "and a fellow came from Toronto and bought the whole lot for 10 cents

a dozen."

"That's when we got out of chickens," he said. "We just tried everything at one time or another."

Farming equipment in the 'thirties and 'forties was not as primitive as one might think. Emin Hossack was making use of a milking machine for his dairy cows in the depression years, and although he says it was a little different from the modern tank-style milkers, it operated on the same principles.

The milk didn't go into a large bulk tank, as it does now -- waiting for pickup by the milk truck -- but went straight into the old milkcans, which were set into a large cement bin of cool water.

"You had to have it cooled down to 60 degrees to take it into Borden's here in Thamesford," Mr. Hossack recalled.

The milk had to go into the Borden's centre every morning, and the horses would be hitched early each winter day to make the trip into the village. In the summer months, the truck or the car and trailer could navigate the roads to get the milk in on time.

But the milk didn't always go to Borden's, if the price was better at the cheese factory, Mr. Hossack explained. There was no quota system at that time, and the farmers would take their milk for the day to whoever paid them the most for it.

There were no electric cooling systems in the earlier days, as the Hossacks didn't have hydro at their farm until 1937.

"You had to have so many Continued on page 20



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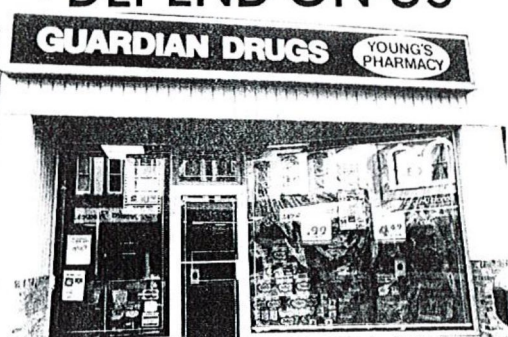
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Surviving the depression

Continued from page 19
customers per mile before they would run the wires out," Mr. Hossack noted, but added that many of the local farmers had hydro before they did.

All the heating was done by wood until that time as well, and Mr. and Mrs. Hossack remember many times waking up and finding the teakettle frozen on the stove.

"There was just the pipe from the stove to heat the upstairs," Mr. Hossack said. "We used to pile those big buffalo robes... that you used on the cutters... on top of the children at night."

The Thames river was both a blessing and a curse to the farmers along its banks in those years.

The shallow water provided a centre of recreation for the farm children, but the waters wreaked havoc every spring when they overflowed their banks.

Emin and Stella's farm was comprised of land on either side of the river, and more than once the cattle were caught on the wrong side of the river when the waters rose.

There was normally a shallow area where the men could take their equipment across, or where the cattle could safely cross, but when the waters rose, the cows could not be convinced to make the crossing back to the barn for milking time.

"I tried to chase them across," Mr. Hossack recalls, "and they got halfway across then stopped altogether on a little island in the middle."

"I got fed up and went home -- around by the bridge -- and left them there," he said.

When the waters rose again that night at about 11 o'clock, the island disappeared and the cattle came wandering back to the barnyard, he explained.

"I got up at eleven to put them into the barn," he said, "and they didn't get milked that night."

Yep, those were the days.

Hemlines go up and down

Continued from page 8
the early 1950's. Now, after years of single-breasted suits, fashion is turning back to the look popular in the war years.

In the Ingersoll Collegiate Institute yearbook Volt back-in 1947, young Ingersoll women sport permed hairstyles, flared skirts and sweaters, and the saddle shoes and bobby sox. It was the age of prosperity again.

\$2 ride to CNE from Ingersoll

In August of 1910, the Canadian Pacific Railway advertised in the Ingersoll Daily Chronicle that it would transport Ingersoll residents to the Canadian National Exhibition at a cost of only \$2.90. Doubtless, the offer was snatched up by local residents eager to make their annual trip to the city for the national fair.

Way back in 1910, readers of the Ingersoll Daily Chronicle must have waited breathlessly for the latest installment of the serial story "The Plain Girl and the Marquis" -- a dramatic romance which ran for several months, and ensured that avid readers would not miss a single issue of the newspaper.



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We will be ready to dicker from 9:00 a.m. Thursday, August 21 until Saturday, August 23rd at 6 p.m.

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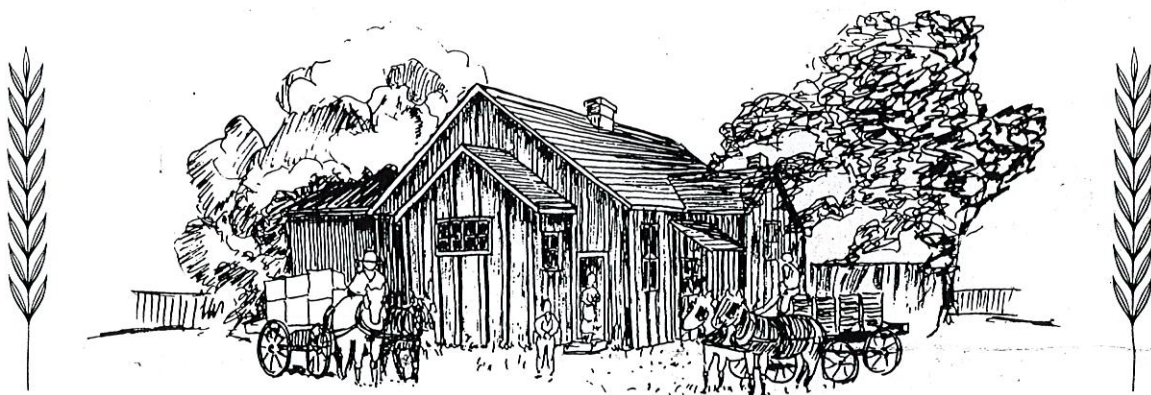
98 Mutual Street, Ingersoll
485-3900



2nd Annual

HERITAGE FUN FEST DAYS

AUGUST 22 & 23, 1986



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

- 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. – 75th Anniversary Open House
Ingersoll Public Utility Commission
143 Bell Street
- 8:00 p.m. – Heritage Queen Contest
Ingersoll District Memorial Auditorium (Arena)
97 Mutual Street
(Admission Charge)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon – Heritage Parade
Harris Heights School, Thames Street S. to Arena
- 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Giant Outdoor Market – baked goods, antiques, etc.
– Museum displays
– Scout Building – displays, Creative Arts demonstrations
– Antique Tractors, Cars and Machinery
– Log Sawing, Nail Driving Contest
– Children's Fish Pond

SATURDAY – continued

- Old tyme demonstrations – apple peeling, butter making, blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, threshing and grain cleaning
- Stage Coach and Wagon Rides
– Musical Programme
– Wood Carving
– Lunch Booths
– Black Powder Shoot
- 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. – Official Opening
– Ingersoll Pipe Band (Museum)
- 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – Harness Racing – Ingersoll Turf Club
- 2:30 – 3:15 p.m. – Square Dancing (Museum)

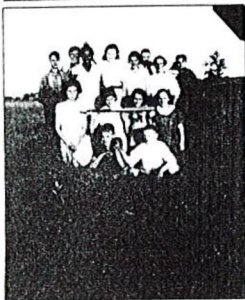
ADMISSION

Donation to the Cheese Factory Museum

CENTENNIAL & VICTORIA PARKS – Canterbury Street, Ingersoll

Sponsored by the CHEESE FACTORY MUSEUM & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE
For Information – 519/485-4930

Our boys face front lines



The Merritt Street baseball team was the Ingersoll champion team in 1935. Teams of children from all over town competed in the summers of the Depression. The Merritt Street team members, shown here, included Merritt Street children living between Frances and Ann Streets.

Continued from page 17
American security -- following the bombing of Pearl Harbour -- and it was expected that they would make an attempt on the west coast.

During the next year, Mr. Herbert was in charge of the armoured train which made continuous runs up and down the coast delivering men, weapons and supplies to the various Canadian stations there.

After spending several months at an officer's training school in British Columbia, Mr. Herbert was asked to stay on as an instructor for the next session before finally being called to proceed overseas as a reinforcement officer.

While fighting in action in Germany, Mr. Herbert was a member of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, and he stayed with this regiment after the war had ended, spending some months in Holland while the Allies made all the arrangements for the citizens and soldiers in their care.

"It was a fairly brief period," Mr. Herbert explained, pointing out that most Ingersoll men spent much more time overseas than he had. "I was only in Europe for about seven months."

In the years before the outbreak of the war, cadet training was a regular part of the school curriculum, so every young person would have some familiarity with the basics of military drilling. Special group of students from the schools would go out and do field exercises in addition to the programs offered at the school.

"From the Ingersoll point of

view," said Mr. Herbert, "there was a great change in attitude toward the military in the period between the outbreak of the war until the regiment became active."

Many other young men had already gone directly into training, or signed up for the airforce, and

were already overseas before the Oxford Rifles mobilized.

"Many of them were very outstanding boys," said Mr. Herbert. "The ones who were also the real leaders in the school."

All those men and women who served overseas during the wars will remember the tragedy, the cam-

aderie and the patriotism of those years, and for those less familiar with the reality of the war years, the names of the war dead from the In-

gersoll area are displayed in the main hall of the Ingersoll branch of the Royal Canadian Legion -- lest we forget.

Thamesford's dusty miller

Continued from page 10
nearly ran away with the mill.

If there was not enough grain in the system, there was very little drag on the power and the speed of every piece of machinery would increase rapidly.

"We'd have the whole floor shaking," Clayton recalled, "and you'd have to grab a bag of grain quick and throw it in to slow things down."

Of course the wheels could be slowed down by reducing the flow of water through the mill, and there were governors that could be adjusted, but more often than not, the governors were slow to turn when the water was flowing quickly through the gates, and the miller might be afraid for his life as the speed kept increasing, the floors shaking, and machinery screaming next to him.

"It was a lot easier to throw in a bag of grain," Clayton concluded.

When the mill was quiet on Sunday, local residents would come down to the pretty millpond for picnicking, swimming and boating.

According to the Hogg brothers,

there used to be frantic activity down at the millpond each 24th of May holiday, with swimming races, a makeshift diving board, and a greasy pole contest for the brave and foolish.

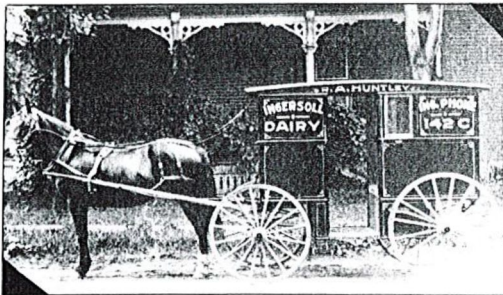
Like the millponds in Ingersoll, the waters above the Thamesford

dam were favorites for boaters keen on a Sunday outing.

On Monday morning, the dusty miller and the big red cat would be walking the floors again, in one of the last remaining flour and grist mills in the area.



Making their own fun. The Appleby family of Ingersoll had lots of help hot-rodding a Model T Ford back in the late 1920s.



Long after automobiles were widely used by many citizens, dairies were still using the horse and wagon to deliver their products. Here an Ingersoll dairy makes a delivery to a local home.

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Business survives Dirty '30s, war years

In 1930, Ed and Sis Alter were looking around the walls of their brand new shop on Thames Street in Ingersoll (where Records Unlimited is now located), and wondering how on earth they were going to fill the

store with merchandise.

It wasn't easy getting enough merchandise to fill a store during the 30s and 40s. In the beginning, the country was in the throes of the Great Depression. Folks weren't buying,

and the manufacturers weren't making.

There was work for everyone during the war, but clothing stores were restricted by their industry's own contribution to the war effort: every

scrap of fabric or nylon, and every minute of labor possible was going towards outfitting the men overseas.

Despite the setbacks which spelled the end of most businesses during these decades, Jack's Department Store persevered and grew into the prosperous business which Ingersoll residents enjoy today.

In 1930, Jack's Clothing Store on Thames Street offered a selection of menswear which accommodated the needs of local men -- the farmers, the laborers and the businessmen.

There were suits for Sunday, coveralls for chores and field work, and, as ever, a friendly greeting and expert service for all the local residents who frequented the store.

Ed and Sarah, better known as 'Sis' in the town of Ingersoll, operated the store by themselves during the Depression years, and a brief scan through the business ledger from those years shows a small, but strong little business which never failed to make a sale each day.

In 1940, Ed and Sis took their business down the street, and began to offer a selection of ladies' and children's wear, as well as a variety of dry goods.

The Alters, and the clerk they had hired in the late 'thirties to help them out, must have taken great pride in their offerings to the people of Ingersoll in the new 'department' store -- wrapping up each item with plain brown paper from the massive roll next to the cash register, and tying each parcel carefully with a length of the endless miles of string which hung from the ceiling.

Young Lloyd Alter, who now operates the family business, was raised in the bustle of Ingersoll's own department store.

Ed and Sis Alter had a handful of business philosophies which helped sustain the little business through what were the bleakest years of our Canadian history, and which are still the mainstays of the store They believed firmly in personal service to their customers, and Lloyd recalls that his parents took great pride in knowing every customer by name.

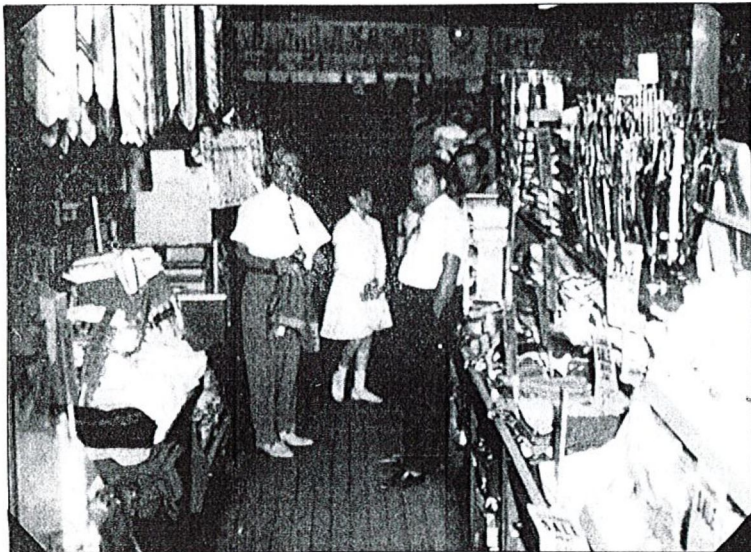
"If he didn't have something that a customer wanted," said Mr. Alter, "he'd break his neck to get it."

Ed and Sis opened their shop each morning at 8:00 during those years, to accommodate the local farmers who used to bring their milk into the dairy at that hour.

At that time, Ingersoll was a very agriculturally-oriented town, and the farmers driving into town in their horse and wagons (long after most town residents were driving motorcars) depended on this courtesy by Jack's Department Store.

It was, and still is, one of the policies of Jack's Department Store to accommodate any special needs of their customers for unusual sizes and specially designed clothing.

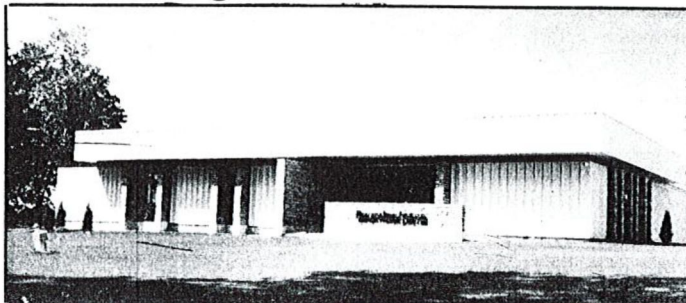
Like his father before him, in the darker years of business in Ingersoll, Lloyd Alter is a 'doctor' in the clothing business. Both grew up in and with the business, both poured their energies into the business, and both were expert in recognizing the various needs of their Ingersoll customers.



At Jack's Department Store on Thames Street South, Nifty Naitolin and Lloyd Alter watched hemlines and prices go up and down, and fashions and fads go in and out for the many years both were involved in the business. This photo from the 1950s shows the store as it once was.

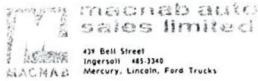
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Yours truly,

Tim Bannon,
President

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20th
OPEN HOUSE 1p.m. - 11p.m.
OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONIES 8p.m.



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