

The town of Ingersoll is named for one of early Canada's most famous families. It is ironic that the older sister is remembered as one of Canada's greatest patriots while a younger brother almost lost his seat in provincial parliament because of a dispute over an oath of allegiance.

Thomas Ingersoll was a miller and businessman in western Massachusetts before he moved to Queenston on the Canadian side of the Niagara River to run an inn. Unlike many Americans who came to Canada in the late 1700's, Ingersoll was not a true United Empire Loyalist, that is, an American Colonist who remained loyal to the British Crown and was chased by persecution in the wake of the War of Independence.

Queenston in the 1790's was about as bustling as a town in Upper Canada could be at the time. Ingersoll made many connections through his inn. The local chapter of the Masons met there. He became acquainted with Robert Hamilton, the powerful land speculator, and Edward Jessup, with whom Ingersoll formed an association. His connections led to the proprietorship of Oxford Township. Ingersoll was basically granted 80,000 acres of land on the condition he bring settlers to the Township.



Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll

Ingersoll poured heart and soul into the venture. He sunk his life savings into the improvement of the Detroit Path, a road leading from Burlington Bay to Detroit. Despite his efforts, however, Ingersoll was able only to attract 37 families to his settlement, now called Oxford-Up-on-the-Thames.

The proprietor system ended near the turn of the century. Ingersoll was deprived of his land and by 1806, left the area embittered and nearly bankrupt. Thomas Ingersoll, in the main, now passes into history. The same cannot be said of his offspring.

His oldest was a girl named Laura who married a soldier named Secord and settled in the Queenston area. During the War of 1812, Laura Secord became a true Canadian legend when she walked through 20 miles of bush — allegedly with her cow, although this is doubtful — to warn the British commander of an impending American attack.

More relevant to the story of Ingersoll are her two brothers, Charles and James. Charles was a mere lieutenant in the War of 1812. His war record fades when compared to his accomplishments after the war. He and James set out in 1818 to improve the tiny settlement his father started a quarter century before. The pair built an ashery and distillery. Later, they constructed grist and saw mills. James looked after business while the elder, Charles, looked to politics. The first step was as the first postmaster in Oxford County. In 1822, the post office at Oxford Village (now Ingersoll) opened.

Charles ran for a seat in the House of Assembly in 1824. Oxford County had elected one member in 1820 and needed 4,000 residents to return two members in 1824. Hard-working scrutineers managed to find 4,000 people in Oxford, in fact, they had four people to spare. The population represented a 70 percent growth in the County from the 1820 election.

Charles had gained popularity in 1822, when he paid all the taxes for Nissouri Township out of his own pocket in return for a set amount of ashes from each resident in the Township. The ashes were converted to fertilizer in his Oxford Village factory.

The voters of the Township did not forget the good deed. Charles finished second of three candidates in the election and went to the provincial capital as an M.P.P.

The 1824 parliament was one of the most memorable in Canadian history. In addition to the first stirrings of party politics, contentious issues were developing. The biggest was the building of the Welland Canal. Charles supported the move. Soon, however, the canal was embroiled in controversy. Cost overruns, accusations of corruption and massive

government loans all contributed. Charles was also appointed to a committee to improve the road his father had built so many years before. With the improvements, the Detroit Path became the major overland route in the area. A trip from Ancaster to London now took a mere three days.



The Big Cheese, early 1900's, Ingersoll

Charles nearly lost his seat over a proposed bill that would disallow American immigrants who were not United Empire Loyalist from taking the oath of allegiance. No one could sit on provincial parliament without taking the oath. Charles was not alone in his predicament. Many Americans were living in his Oxford riding at the time. In the next election, they returned Charles to office, and defeated proponents of the bill.

Charles died in a cholera epidemic in 1832. James, who had been the business manager all these years, now stepped to the forefront. In 1834 he became the Land Registrar for Oxford County. But in 1847, at the very time his town was being renamed to Ingersollville, the Land Registry Office moved to Woodstock and James had to go with it. His nephew James Hamilton Ingersoll ran the business in Ingersollville.

James became active in politics in the 1830's, but was identified with the "Family Compact", the aristocratic power base in Upper Canada. Oxford County was reform territory, so James lost the 1836 election. The reformers, of course, went on to stage the Upper Canada Rebellion the next year, aimed against the Family Compact. At the end of the Rebellion, James intervened on behalf of many convicted rebels to lighten their sentences.

Just about the time the Ingersoll family lost prominence, the Town of Ingersoll became incorporated. In 1852, it had a population of almost 1,200. The railroad came the next year.

Ingersoll became a key transportation link in Ontario's wheat producing region. At this time, England had been cut off from European sources of wheat because of the Crimean War. Upper Canada took up the slack.

Slavery in the United States also added to Ingersoll's population in the 1850's. The basement of the Wesleyan Methodist Church became such a famous stop in the Underground Railway that John Brown did some recruiting in Ingersoll as part of his mysterious Oxford County tour in the 1850's. Some of those who conducted the famous raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia in 1858 were from Ingersoll.

The 1850's was also the time of the great lake monster. There had been so many sightings of an alligator-like creature in the village pond that Ingersoll's town fathers sent for an American expert in such matters. It is said the expert alienated many during his visit, but that did not prevent 10,000 people from lining the banks of the pond when the Monster finally surfaced. It was a stuffed cow carcass.

The early history of Ingersoll would not be complete without mention of the Mammoth Cheese. This creation toured Europe and North America. It weighed 7,300 pounds and was 21 feet in circumference.

The first cheese factory in Oxford was built in Ingersoll. That story begins with the wheat grown during the Crimean War. So much wheat was grown that the soil became exhausted and farmers had to turn to dairy production. A lesser known dairy fact of Ingersoll is that the first mayor of the town, Adam Oliver, helped found the Canadian Dairyman's Association.



Dairy Wagon, Ingersoll

The Ingersoll family

C. HERBERT

of the questions frequently is the location of the Ingersoll home. We do know the first house built by Major Thomas Ingersoll when he arrived in 1793 on the east side of Thames where the buildings were destroyed by fire, now a vacant

Thomas Ingersoll, the youngest son, in one of his letters, "On the east branch of the river on which the town of Ingersoll is now situated the head chief of the party advised my father to erect his tent there, which he did with his own hands felled the tree. This was an elm and the site of it was put into the premises. I was born September 10, 1801, on the same ground on which Poole's store had been erected on Thames Street." In another newspaper article written by McInnes Hood he states that the home was built on the same ground occupied by the Ingersoll Commission."

George McBain, a brother of Hal Ingersoll, who with J. J. McLeod owned a grocery store in this area, writing about his memories as a child in Ingersoll said "The Ingersoll homestead occupied the lots between Gayfer's Drug Store and the old Menhennick Grocery Store. My brother Hal owned the land and buildings for about 40 years."

Hal told me once there was a wooden structure of some kind out behind the store commemorating Laura Ingersoll's connection with the building. Poole's later became Gayfer's Drug Store and still later King's Pharmacy.

Some of these stores were comparatively narrow and the old log building, no doubt, occupied the area between these stores. When restorations were made to this area perhaps recognition could be given to the area where the first log cabin of the Ingersoll family was located.

With the return of the Ingersolls after the war of 1812 houses were built for other members of the family. James returned in 1818 and Charles with his family a few years later. Thomas and Samuel also lived here for a number of years before they moved to St. Marys area. The Ingersolls acquired considerable land, some being grants made to Charles because of his service in the War of 1812. On an assessment roll of 1824 Thomas Ingersoll is shown as holding 95 acres on concession 1, lot 20 in West Oxford township. Charles had 670 acres on B.F. concession lot 20. They also owned land in the south west section of what is now Ingersoll, land south of King Street

and west of Thames. Extracts from a registered conveyance dated February 1949 relates to land south of Ann Street and west of Thames, showing that James Hamilton Ingersoll, a son of Charles, owned three acres in the area between Thames, Ann and Oxford (Cottage Street area). It traces the ownership of this land to 1861. If there are other such documents relating to early ownership of property in peoples' possession, the Ingersoll Historical Society would appreciate making copies and returning the original to the owner.

One of the projects of the local historical society is to designate buildings because of their architectural design or historical interest and marking such buildings. To do this the input of all home owners would be very much appreciated. At the meeting of the Ingersoll Historical Society in September the architectural design of various buildings will be discussed. For the October meeting an effort will be made to designate buildings, either for their historical importance or architectural design. A special invitation is extended to people in the community to attend, particularly those who feel they have such buildings.

As this series on the Ingersolls concludes I want to thank Mrs. Joyce Ingersoll Brown for the loan of material relating to the family. The books are now at the Ingersoll library and can be made available

After Thoughts

Here are a few corrections or additions to the articles written: I questioned who "Nancy" was when Thomas Ingersoll included her as one of his children who required support when he appealed to the Lieutenant Governor for assistance after his grant had been cancelled.

Thomas Ingersoll's first marriage was to Sarah (Whiting) Backus, a widow who had a daughter Nancy and who became Ingersoll's step daughter. Also the plaque honoring Thomas Ingersoll as the founder of St. Marys is near the post office on the main street and not the town hall as was indicated.

Thanks to the people who inquired about or made reference to these articles. Perhaps we appreciate the efforts of these early settlers and find reason to celebrate our bicentennial. There are many connections in the Ingersoll family among settlers such as the McNabs, Crottys, Chapman, Hall and families who played a major role in the development of Woodstock Ingersoll. Some time we may write about these families too.

Loyalists began settlement here

More than 200 years ago, on March 23, 1773, Upper Canada Council met and discussed a petition by Thomas Ingersoll and other United Empire Loyalists for land on which to settle. The petitioners, who had responded to a proclamation by Governor Simcoe, were granted 66,000 acres at 12 cents an acre.

Thomas Ingersoll, with the help of Joseph Brant, chief of the Six Nations Indians explored lands west of the Grand River, and chose the heavily forested area (now Oxford County). Then he went back to his Massachusetts home for his family. He built a cabin on what is now the east side of Thames Street. Ingersoll's daughter, Laura, became famous in Canadian history

as Laura Secord.

In 1821 the first post office in Oxford County was built in Ingersoll.

By 1828 the settlement had 20 families and a few businesses — a tannery, boot and shoe maker, two saw mills, grist mill, distillery, blacksmith, cardin and fulling mill. James Ingersoll, a descendant of Thomas Ingersoll, operated the general store. One of the family dwellings still stands at the corner of Concession and Centre streets.

In 1837 an Ingersoll resident, Elisha Hall gained a place in history when he led the Old Stage Road volunteers in the rebellion against William Lyon Mackenzie.

One of the first firms to introduce Canadians to beer was a steam brewery built in

Ingersoll in 1848 by Mathew Bixel. Six years later it was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt.

Ingersoll was incorporated as a village Jan. 1, 1852, and became a town in 1865. The following year the Ingersoll Cheese Company created its now famous 7,000-pound cheese made from 35 tons of milk.

The land now occupied by the CNR station was registered in the name of the Great Western Railway Dec. 26, 1851. It was almost 26 years later that the CPR land was registered in the name of the Credit Valley Railway Co.

The town of Ingersoll separated from Oxford County on Jan. 1, 1914. Last year, under restructured government, it once more

became part of the

The first steam engine in Oxford County was made in Ingersoll in 1854. Five years later Ingersoll became prominent again when abolitionist, John Brotherton, changed after the Humber Ferry affair. Brotherton seems, had spent time in Ingersoll recruiting men for his endeavor to stop slavery. The town gained wide attention when one of its daughters, Aimee McPherson became one of the most controversial preachers in history.

And it was in Ingersoll the first telephone exchange in Canada was established April 1, 1880 by the Dominion Telephone Company. It was sold to Bell Telephone Co. that year there were 10 telephones in Ingersoll.

Tracing the roots of

Ingersoll's pioneer families

By J.C. HERBERT

Mrs. Joyce Ingersoll Brown who lives in nearby Oxford Centre is a direct descendant of Major Thomas Ingersoll who started the settlement in Oxford and whose bicentennial we are celebrating this year. It was her father, Leslie Hall Ingersoll, who was present when the plaque for Thomas Ingersoll was erected and dedicated in 1960, near the Thames Street Bridge. Mrs. Brown has a book containing "genealogy of the Ingersoll family comprising the descendants of Richard Ingersoll of Salem, Mass., the John Ingersoll family of Westfield, Mass. and John of Hunting, Long Island, New York." Major Thomas who arrived in Oxford in 1793 is a descendant of the Westfield Ingersolls. Mrs. Brown also has a large

volume containing original documents, particularly as they relate to the Ingersoll family after they came to Canada. Since we are celebrating our centennial this year, Mrs. Brown has made this material available and it will be on display in the public library during the month of August.

John Ingersoll, the first generation in America, arrived with his brother Richard in 1629. He stayed for a short time in Salem, Mass. and at Hartford Connecticut but moved to Westfield, Mass. in 1666.

This became the Ingersoll home for several generations. Little information is recorded about the first few generations. John's oldest son was one of 12 children. He was succeeded by his son Thomas and he became very active in the political

life of the community. He was commissioned a militia captain by George I and selected to represent his district at the General Court in Boston. The fourth son, Jonathon, was born in 1666 and later became captain of a militia which accompanied the expedition against Crown Point in 1705. He was killed in action at the battle of the Clouds. There were eight children in the family and it was the son, Thomas, a fifth generation Ingersoll in America, who started the settlement in Oxford. Thomas Ingersoll was born in Westfield, Mass. in 1711. His family moved to Grand Rapids in 1774. In 1775 he married Elizabeth Dewey and they had four children Laura, Elizabeth, Abigail. After the Ingersolls moved to the Niagara district

Laura married Capt. James Secord. The Secord family were staunch loyalists and Mrs. Secord and her son James were refugees in the Niagara district at the time of the revolution. Laura is better known as the heroine of the War of 1812. It is doubtful if she ever visited the settlement in Oxford. Little is recorded of the other three girls. Mira married Julius Hitchcock in Canada but shortly after moved to New Milford, Connecticut. Elizabeth married Rev. Daniel Pickett in 1806 and Abigail married Guy Woodworth in 1804. One can only surmise that they were married in the Niagara region after the family had departed from Great Barrington. Abigail was raised by an aunt since her mother died shortly after she was born.

Thomas Ingersoll's second wife was Mrs. Mercy Smith, a widow. They had no children and when she died in 1789 he married for a third time to Mrs. Sarah (Whiting) Bacus. Six children were born to this family; Charles 1791, Charlotte 1793, Appalonia 1794, Thomas 1796, Samuel 1799, James 1801 and Sarah 1807. All were born in Great Barrington with the exception of the last three. It is presumed that Samuel was born in the Niagara district. James was born in the log house his father built when he first arrived in this settlement. Sarah was born in 1907 after Thomas Ingersoll had moved to the Credit River near Toronto. Only his four sons returned to this area following the War of 1812.

After the American revolution, John Grave Simcoe, in his desire to develop last areas of unsettled land, issued a proclamation granting sections of land to loyal British subjects if they would bring in settlers, build bridges and roads and develop the settlement. Thomas Ingersoll, Rev. Gideon Bostick and several others in the USA signed a charter to take over a township in Upper Canada. Unfortunately Bostick died shortly after the charter had been signed and others of the associates reneged on their commitment and in the end only Ingersoll

laid claim to his land. From information given to him by Chief Joseph Brant of the Six Nations Reserve, Ingersoll visited what is now the Oxford settlement in 1798 and decided on land along the La Trenché (Thames) River. After laying claim to his land, Ingersoll returned to his business and his young family in Great Barrington. The date when he again returned to Upper Canada is unclear. A newspaper article written by H. McIntyre Hoodstates "It seems likely that Ingersoll began active operations in the winter of 1895/96, possibly spurred on by the hint that his time for introducing 40 families was running out. By that time Governor Simcoe had named the settlement Oxford. Another article suggest that after he brought his family to Canada they lived for a few years in the Niagara district. Among the many original documents in Mrs. Brown's book on the Ingersoll family is one dated 1795, which states "The Governor and Commander in Chief of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts accepts the resignation of Major Thomas Ingersoll of the first regiment, first Brigade, first division of the militia and is honorably discharged. In 1804 he was appointed captain of a company in the militia of Oxford."

In 1805 Governor Simcoe had been recalled and Ingersoll's charter had been annulled. Some have suggested that it was because he failed to fulfil the terms of the charter.

It is more likely that loyal British subjects at the time of the revolution objected to land grants being given to Americans. One article states "Major Thomas Ingersoll unlike Rev. Bostick had no claim on account of loyalty. There seems to be no record that he was active on either side during the revolutionary war, but at the time of Shay's rebellion he served in the Massachusetts militia with the rank of Major and presumably swore allegiance to the government of that state, thus forfeiting his status as a born British subject. The fact that

he held his commission in the militia would lead one to suspect that this did have a bearing on the annulment of his charter. The widespread abuse of large tracts of land purchased and held for speculation in various parts of the province was a contributing factor to the demise of the land granting system in the province.

Ingersoll did make an appeal to Peter Russell who succeeded Simcoe regarding his financial difficulties in which he states "The petition of Thomas Ingersoll herewith sheweth that he has been at great charge and expense in clearing, preparing and making the road passable leading from the Governor's Road to the River Thames that in order to promote and enlarge the settlement in Oxford in the Upper Thames, I have expended a very considerable part of my own private interest. At present I know no way in which I may be fully compensated. I have numerous family to support, none of whom have any grant or appropriation of the crown lands. Your petitioners therefore pray your Honour to grant to his said wife Sally, and to my children Laura, Betsy, Nancy, Mira, Abigail, Charles, Thomas, Appy, Charlotte, Samuel such quantity of land as your Honour may deem honorable and just "This is the first time that any mention of Nancy but presumably she was a child taken in to this family. James and Sarah, mentioned, were born at a later date.

Discouraged at the turn of events Thomas Ingersoll and his family left the settlement in Oxford in 1805 and moved to Etobicoke township near Toronto and died at Port Credit in 1812. Although disappointed in his achievements in Oxford, he left a legacy on which his sons built beyond his expectations, after they returned, following the War of 1812.

NOTE: This is the first of a series of articles on the Ingersoll family and other early families which will appear in our appear and be authored by J.C. Herbert.

Charles Ingersoll and how the town was named

the community. He rebuilt his own home and opened the first store and hotel in the settlement. He was appointed the first postmaster in 1821 and again in 1932 after his brother Charles who had assumed that position in the interval, died. He was appointed magistrate which required him to perform marriages, be the returning officer at elections and administer oaths and declarations when required. During the

Rebellion of 1837 he was appointed Major in the Oxford militia and later appointed Lieut.-Colonel for the riding of South Oxford. The appointment for which he is best remembered in Ingersoll, Woodstock and through the county is that of Registrar of Deeds for the County of Oxford. According to an original handwritten document dated 12 November 1834 and signed by Sir John Colborne, Lieutenant-Governor of the province of Upper Canada "I hereby appoint Charles Ingersoll of the village of Ingersoll Registrar of Deeds, with all other conveyances pertaining to the office, and the office is to be held in the village of Ingersoll." Charles was at first reluctant to take the office since he felt it of little value, but he was persuaded by his colleagues to do so. The original building erected at the original site on the west side of King Street between Thames Street, now a doctor's office. In 1848 the government decided that the Registry Office should be located in Woodstock and his family moved there in 1848.

Charles and his family moved to Oxford in 1821 and continued with the rebuilding of the settlement begun by his brother. He also assumed many civic responsibilities. He was appointed magistrate, Postmaster, and a commissioner of the Court of Requests. He was also appointed Colonel of the second Oxford militia and was returned as a member of parliament in 1824, 1829 and 1930. Things were progressing well in the new settlement and the Ingersoll family had assumed responsibility in many aspects of the life of the community. They had their property surveyed and had provided land between Francis and King Street, west of the present building, for an Anglican church. Tragedy however struck the community in 1832 when many were afflicted with the cholera epidemic of that year. On the eighth of August, Mrs. Thomas Ingersoll, mother of Charles and James and widow of the original Thomas Ingersoll died.

She was buried in the new Anglican Cemetery on Francis Street, the first burial in that cemetery. Seven days later her grandson Thomas, son of Charles was stricken and buried beside his grandmother. On the eighteenth of the month at the age of 41, Charles also died. Before he died Charles Ingersoll made a will in which he renamed Oxford, "Ingersoll", in memory of their father. Although Charles only lived in the area about a dozen

years after he returned following the War of 1812, credit for the restoration in the vestibule, etc., and development of the settlement at this crucial period must go to Charles and his brother James.

James, the younger member of the family played the most significant role in the pioneer life of the county. In addition to the restoration of the family farm, he

By J.C. HERBERT

When Major Thomas Ingersoll's land grant was cancelled and discouraged and having lost his fortune in building roads, leaving the Oxford settlement, his family left the area and moved to the Credit River near Toronto where he died in 1812. His son Charles then about 20 years of age had found employment as a clerk in the Queenston area where the province was threatened by invasion by the Americans. William Hamilton Merritt, an engineer who was in the area building the Welland Canal, was a company of the Provincial Dragoons and served in the war, mainly in the area. Merritt was taken prisoner and for the balance of the war Ingersoll had command of a company. Following the war he married Ann Marie Merritt, daughter of his company commander in Ingersoll, Charles, and James and Ingersoll are named after these families.

After the war Charles Ingersoll established a merchant business at Twelve Mile Creek. At the City of St. Catharines at a sheriff's sale he purchased his father's Oxford farm. Some claim had turned over the place. The next year Charles's younger brother, James Ingersoll, came to the area in charge. In a letter which he wrote in 1878, he recalled his early days. "On arriving in the place which I left when I was 12 years of age, I had no money of it. During the war all my property were destroyed and the old barn had been replaced by the log house in which I was standing, occupied by a man, Ebenezer Case. My operation was the building of a saw mill after which I commenced building the old house. In 1820 we began building a grist mill, a building for distillery and an ashery."

Indian chief helped Ingersoll select town site

NE McKNIGHT

It is common knowledge that everyone knows how the United States was settled; about the Mayflower and Plymouth Rock; how the Indians befriended American pioneers and taught them to survive in an unknown wilderness. But few know how this town was settled almost two centuries ago, or how Thomas Ingersoll selected the site for his town on the advice of the Indian Chief Joseph Brant.

In 1793 when Governor Simcoe was offering land for 6d sterling per acre (12 pence) Thomas Ingersoll decided to venture to Canada. Major Ingersoll was to bring 40 men to Canada who would each receive 100 acres of land and he would get a 66,000 acre land.

Choosing the site, which became known as London-on-the-Thames, was not difficult for Ingersoll. Years prior to the move, he and Chief Brant had met in New York where the chief urged him to settle in Canada. Ingersoll finally took Chief Brant's advice, and he had six of his men choose a site for settlement, an area known as LaSalle, now the Thames.

There is some speculation that Major Ingersoll had been to the region at an earlier date with his daughter, Laura Ingersoll

only after Thomas Ingersoll had settled



Squire James Ingersoll, son of the town's founder and the first white man born in the area.

When James arrived in town, he found his family home in shambles. While brother Charles kept himself busy as the county Postmaster, James repaired and rebuilt his birth place.

The Ingersoll family originated in England. Brothers John and Richard moved to Massachusetts in the early 1600s, where the family remained until Thomas moved in 1793. Although none of the Ingersoll family descendants living in the nearby cities of

London and Windsor. Joyce Brown (nee: Ingersoll) the great, great, great granddaughter of the settler, lives in Oxford Centre and owns a home on the path Major Ingersoll travelled when looking for this settlement.

Ingersoll's daughter, Laura Secord, chose to leave her father's settlement

BY RENE McKNIGHT

Laura Secord is no doubt best associated with candies and other assorted sweets. Although her likeness graces chocolate boxes found almost everywhere, history students will remember Laura Secord for her heroic efforts at the battle of Beaver Dam, where she aided Canadians in the War of 1812.

According to historian Emma Currie, Laura had visited Oxford-on-the-Thames with her father Thomas Ingersoll, when he was first attempting to settle the area. When Laura Ingersoll and her father returned to Massachusetts to bring the rest of the family to his new found settlement, Laura decided to remain in Queenston.

At the age of 18, she operated a tavern in Queenston called the Ingersoll Tavern. Shortly afterwards, she met and married James Secord, who came from a family of United Empire Loyalists.

Within a few years of their marriage, hostile feelings between the British and Americans turned to war, with United States lashing out at Canada.

Under the command of Sir Isaac Brock, the Empire was quite safe, with Brock winning battles on many occasions. Then came the battle at Queenston Heights, where the domineering Brock was shot and killed by an American sniper, and James Secord, who helped to carry the general off the battle field, was himself wounded.

Billeting soldiers was a common practise of the Americans. Viewing a small loyalist family with an injured father as harmless,

the soldiers chose the Secord home as a rooming place.

One evening the American fighters invited Colonel Boerstler to the Secord home and selected Laura to make the meal. Accustomed to Queenston life, the soldiers talked freely of their battle plans. Overhearing their conversation, Laura knew the outcome of a planned ambush at Beaver Dam depended on her.

Originally she had planned to walk to a town nearby where her brother Charles resided. But Charles was too ill to make the tract to Beaver Dam so Laura continued on her way.

The frail woman had to cross 20 miles of untraced land and unbridged streams, which was held by the Americans, before she reached her destination.

She was greeted by Indians who were aiding General James FitzGibbon, the man Laura was seeking out. Immediately, they took her to the general where Laura relayed the story of the planned attack.

Because of her heroic efforts, the Battle of Beaver Dam was easily won by the Canadian force, which had 50 regulars and 440 Mohawk Indians fighting. The Americans had a band of 542 regulars.

After James died, Laura was left penniless and it wasn't until her 85th year her heroic deeds were recognized.

In 1860, when the Prince of Wales, Edward VII, visited Canada, he heard of her efforts in the war and bestowed her with a gift of 100 pounds of gold.

Laura Secord died in her 93rd year at Chippewa, on October 17, 1868.

Settlement at St. Marys, Lakeside

By J.C. HERBERT

The previous articles in this series dealt with three members of the Ingersoll family, Major Thomas Ingersoll who founded the settlement in 1793, his sons Charles, the oldest, who reclaimed his fathers holding in 1817 and his younger brother James who, for 52 years was registrar for the County of Oxford. There were two other brothers in the family, Thomas and Samuel. Thomas was about five years older than James and Samuel about two years. Once can only speculate why James, still in his teens, was sent to restore the farm instead of his older brothers. There is also no record of when they returned to the settlement. Thomas married Gertrude Carroll, daughter of John Carroll who had settled in the Beachville area even before Major Ingersoll claimed his land in 1793. Their son was born in 1818 so it is likely he came out with James in 1918 or shortly thereafter. Samuel perhaps came out a few years later. On the assessment roll of 1824 Thomas Ingersoll is shown as holding 95 acres of land on concession 1, lot 20 in West Oxford. Samuel and Thomas are both listed as officers in the Oxford Militia. Samuel was Lieut.-Colonel of the North and West Oxford Battalion and Thomas was Major in the Oxford regiment.

In 1839 an event took place in the neighboring township to the west of the Oxford settlement in which the Ingersolls became involved. Land

owned by the Canada Company had been surveyed and at a land sale James and his brother Thomas purchased land along the north branch of the Thames River, at a small settlement called Little Falls, now the Town of St. Marys. The company provided them funds to build a saw mill and a grist mill. James left the development to his brother Thomas who along with Samuel and their families moved to

the area in 1841. An interesting first hand account of the settlement is taken from the diary of Jacob German, an early settler who was in the area at that time. We were hungry and anxious to explore the immediate grounds so did not cook but ate cold pork and bread for our dinner and I quickly felled the first tree for the clearing. We were soon busy setting up our shanty. Mr. Jones of the Land Company fetched his wife Mary with him and she agreed to donate 10 pounds for the erection of a school if the name of the hamlet was changed from Little Falls to St. Marys."

Both Thomas and Samuel remained in St. Marys where they raised their families and were active in the life of the community. Thomas donated land for the building of the Anglican and Presbyterian churches. A plaque near the lovely stone post office credits Thomas Ingersoll as the person responsible for the founding of the Town of St. Marys. Thomas died in 1846, about five years after he came to the settlement. Samuel died

in 1861. Both are buried in the Anglican Church Cemetery in St. Marys.

James Ingersoll was an astute business person. Not content with the purchase of land at Little Falls he acquired about 300 acres in East Nissouri at Lakeside. Some have suggested that this was a grant of land made to Charles Ingersoll for his contribution to the war effort against the Americans in the War of 1812. In any event, James Ingersoll did play a major part in its development. William Carroll, son of John Carroll who came to the area even before Major Ingersoll claimed his land in 1793, married Appollonia Ingersoll, James Ingersoll's half sister and they settled in the area to supervise the building projects. They started a brick yard and built a grist mill which contributed greatly to the development of the community. They donated land for the Anglican Church and bricks and other material for the building. In the adjacent cemetery is a tombstone for William Carroll and his wife Appollonia Ingersoll.

Although farming is still the main source of livelihood for area residents the land adjacent to the lake has been converted into a resort area. For many years the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club conducted a summer camp for children there. Members would frequently visit camp to assist with the sports and other programs. It is also of interest to note that the land for the United Church Cemetery was donated by Jacob German.

Out of the past an intrepid pioneer: Thomas Ingersoll

Doug Palmer

When John Graves Simcoe came Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada in 1792, he formulated a plan to settle the vast forests of the British colony. Simcoe proposed to offer individual colonizers whole townships of 60,000 acres or more if they would guarantee to bring 40 families to the land and complete the necessary road links throughout the territory. Thomas Ingersoll, together with a number of business associates, applied for the rights to a township located north of the Thames River, which at that time was more widely known as La Tranche. Simcoe approved the application in spite of Loyalist opposition to the donation of large land grants to "Yankee newcomers". Perhaps to lessen the criticism of this particular grant the names were made out in the name of the Rev. Gideon Boswick "in consideration of his well-known loyalty". But from the beginning there was no doubt that the driving force to the association was

to accept the post of stamp tax collector for Connecticut. Because of this position and others that he held in the colonial administration he earned the enmity of the revolutionaries. When the conflict became intense he was imprisoned until his parole in 1778. His son, also Jared, distinguished himself on the other side of the struggle, first as a member of the continental congress and later as a delegate to the Federal Convention which produced the American Constitution. Thomas himself served in George Washington's Continental Army as a captain and was promoted major after the war for his part in Shay's Rebellion. There have been those who have called Ingersoll a Loyalist. He certainly was not, but within a decade of the conclusion of the Revolutionary War he was prepared to take an oath of allegiance to the British crown and seek his fortune in Upper Canada.

DIFFICULT TASK BEGUN

Unlike most of the other township

promises that roads would be constructed to ease their isolation. Within a year new settlers, including Ingersoll, began the difficult task of clearing the land and building homes at Oxford-on-the-Thames, part of which would later bear the name of Ingersoll himself. At considerable expense to himself and his associates, Ingersoll hired 11 men to construct a road along the route of the Detroit Path from the Grand River across Burford and

In spite of Ingersoll's investment in time, energy, and money, the project was to end in bitter disappointment. Simcoe's town proprietorship scheme had never enjoyed popularity among government officials. Loyalists were particularly unhappy to see the arrival and prosperous prospects of so many former enemies. It was also true that many of the town proprietors had not nearly fulfilled the requirements of their position. When

bankruptcy he eventually moved to Port Credit where he died in 1812.

Thomas Ingersoll's departure was not the end of the family's contribution to the development of Ingersoll and Oxford County. Following the War of 1812, Ingersoll's sons, Charles, James, and Thomas returned to Ingersoll to claim their father's land. Charles and James particularly would play major roles in the political and commercial life of the growing community. Inger-

Prominent pioneer profiles

COLONEL WONHAM

William George Wonham who came from England in the early 1840s opened an office and carried on an extensive business in land surveying and civil engineering, not only in Ingersoll but throughout the county. His desire to come to Ingersoll may have been due to the registry office here. The greatest number of subdivision plans for towns and villages bear his signature. He was also involved in the construction of many roads being built at that time, one of these the plank road to Port Burwell now known as Highway #19. He was also actively involved in the community affairs, particularly the Oxford Militia where he was promoted to the rank of Colonel. The Wonham Hotel, later known as the Carroll Hotel, was built by him and Wonham Street perpetuates his name. Francis, Ann, and Albert Streets are named after his children.

WALTER MILLS

Walter Mills came to Ingersoll in 1874 as manager of the recently installed system of gas lighting, a position he held for 12 years. The gas plant was located on Avonlea Street, then known as Gas Street, and built shortly after the fire of 1872. During the time Mills was manager the system expanded rapidly and supplied gas for lighting as well as heating and cooking. In 1890 when the first sidewalks were being built of material called baritic silica, a mixture of broken stone, gravel and cement. A com-

pany was formed to produce this material and Walter Mills became the president and general manager.

The first sidewalks were built by a firm from Detroit, from the Baptist Church to the C.P.R. tracks. The next year after the Ingersoll plant became a branch of this company they laid many miles of sidewalk not only in Ingersoll but in many towns and villages in Ontario. Some years later Mills entered into partnership with T.W. Nagle and under the firm of Nagle and Mills many buildings were constructed among them Morrow Screw and Nut Company, the Evans Piano Factory, the Traders and Merchants bank buildings as well as houses in the area. They also received government contracts and built armouries in Woodstock, Stratford, Guelph and Burford.



Mills was a civic minded citizen. He was a town councillor for 112 years, the mayor in 1889 and 1890, chairman of the Board of Education for two years. His accomplishments were many and he contributed much to the development of Ingersoll. Perhaps some people in Ingersoll may have knowledge of this family. Until taken down to make way for the I.G.A. store, his home was on the corner of Charles and Avonlea Street.

The Gibson name has been associated with the post office for many years. Joseph Gibson came to Ingersoll about 1850 and was employed for several years at the Noxon factory. He conducted his own grocery business for a time as well. He was an unsuccessful candidate in the federal election of 1881 when John A. McDonald returned to power.

In 1882 Gibson was appointed postmaster. The post office at that time was located on Thames Street, south of the present McNiven insurance office. In addition to his duties as postmaster he was active in many community affairs. Mayor in 1886, he was a member of the town and county council for a number of years. He was particularly active in the Methodist Church and in several fraternal organizations. His house was at the corner of Noxon and Wellington Street.

In 1898 a new and larger post office was built on the site of the present Bank of Montreal.

When Joseph Gibson relinquished his job as postmaster his son Sam took over the position. Many people remember Sam for his efforts in organizing the Big Eight with representatives from most service clubs and other organizations to co-ordinate the war effort in the town. He was always a great booster for Ingersoll, as was his father.

History of the Ingersoll Inn

By J. C. HERBERT

(Editor's Note: Last week *The Ingersoll Times* featured a story about the sale of and future plans for the old Ingersoll Inn. *The Times* asked Ingersoll historian J. C. Herbert to write a brief history of the old Ingersoll landmark.)

The rebellion of 1837 led by William Lyon McKenzie had repercussions on the Hamlet of Oxford on the Thames. An English soldier who had fought on the side of the Loyalists against the Reformers led by McKenzie, took his military discharge in Oxford and in 1838 erected a building for the travelling public. He called it the Daly House.

This frame building with a brick front was on the Stage Coach Road at the corner of King and Oxford Street.

Daly was an enterprising businessman and in the *Christian Guardian* he stated he had the finest hotel "in the Western provinces and had a livery stable with good horses and rigs to hire".

He began a stagecoach line to Port Burwell to connect with ships on Lake Erie and when the Great Western Railway passed through Ingersoll in 1853 he advertised that those going to the Talbot settlement could detrain at Ingersoll and connect by stage coach to St. Thomas, Tillsonburg and other places in the area.

In 1854 a fire started in one of the hotel rooms and partially destroyed the building. Bricks then were becoming more plentiful and he erected a solid brick structure still located on the same site.

Many famous political leaders who spoke in the town hall, since it had the largest auditorium, stayed at the Daly House. One of the earliest of those was Robert

Baldwin who had taken an active part in the political situation in Upper Canada after the Rebellion of 1837.

Bruce Hutchison in his book, *The Unknown Country*, called Baldwin the real Father of Canadian Democracy. Others were Sir John A. MacDonald, D'Arcy McGee and Alexander McKenzie as well as many local politicians.

Many people in the entertainment field came with travelling shows and on the Chautauqua circuit and stayed at the Daly House.

Perhaps the most controversial person who stayed there was John Brown, the American abolitionist, who brought slaves via the underground railway where they found refuge at the nearby Methodist church. While here he also sought recruits to help him in his efforts to free the slaves. The room at the front entrance of the hotel was called the John Brown Room.

In 1856 the market building mysteriously caught fire and a movement was on foot to locate the new town hall near the railway station.

A fierce political battle ensued between Daly and those wishing to relocate the building. In the *Chronicle* of that day the editor referred to Daly as a "nuisance in Ingersoll". Underlying this dispute was the fact that Daly was considered a Loyalist whereas many in Ingersoll supported the Reform movement. The hall was eventually built on the King Street site.

Possibly as a result of the squabble, Daly leased the hotel to John Patterson, who had been the first village treasurer and who had resigned this position to manage the Royal Exchange.

Patterson remained at the Daly House until 1862. Daly again took over the hotel until it was sold to Henry Blewett in 1880.

This was the beginning of the decline of the once popular House. It was only in the 1920s when Vince Barrie took over the Inn that it was again restored and regained some of its popularity.

The decline was partly due to the railway coming through Ingersoll and the decline of the stage coach lines. Although Daly and others met all trains passing through, many travellers sought one of the newer hotels. The Daly had sprung up near the station.

Likewise, after the sale of the hotel to Henry Blewett it changed hands many times and there was no continuity in the ownership. When local optician J. C. Kenny came into effect in 1880, it became a temperance hotel. The decline, at least for a period of time, became inevitable.

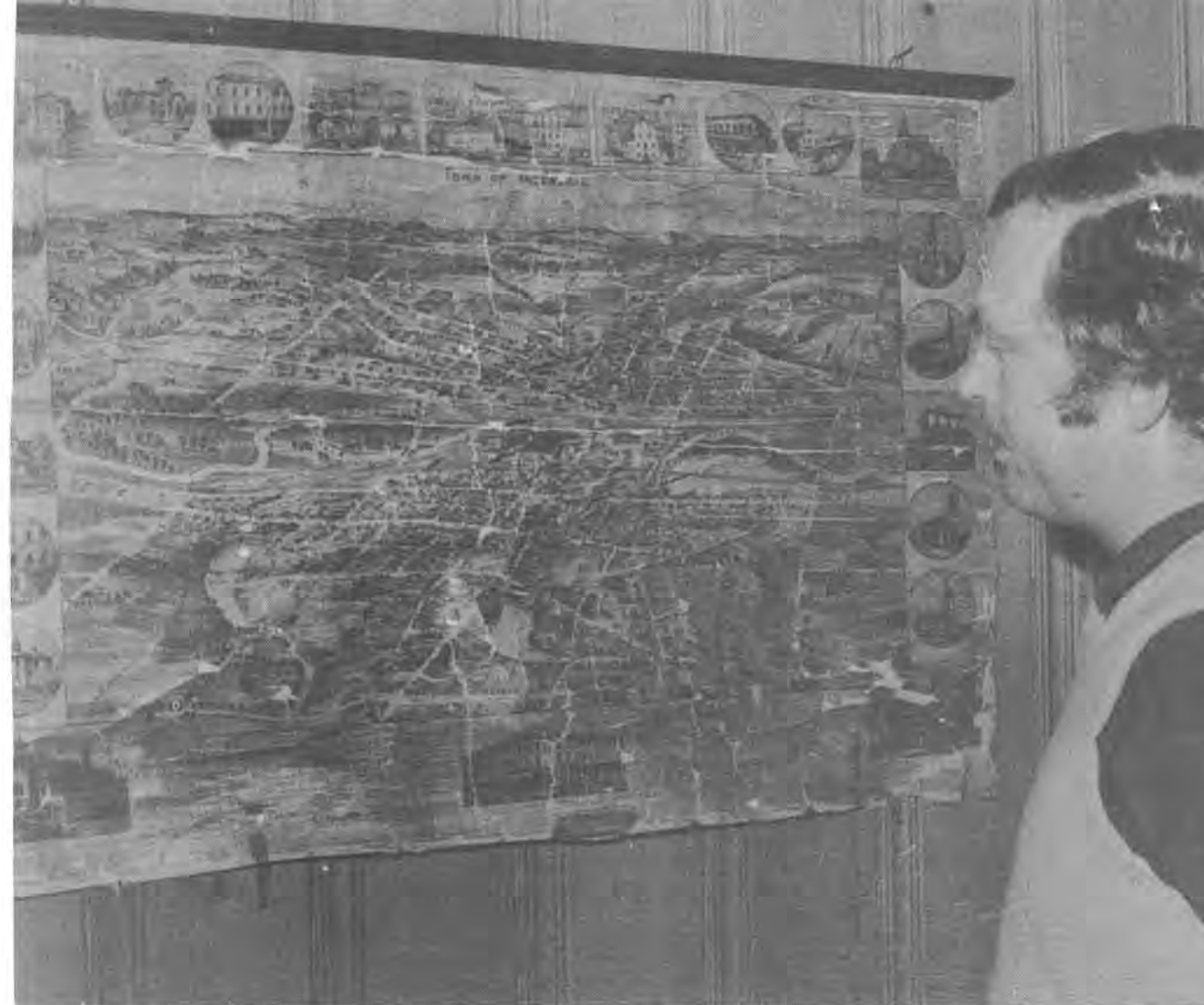
Upon Blewett's death in 1880, the hotel was taken over by Kenny. It remained the proprietor for 10 years. It was then sold to George L. Thompson until 1900 when M. J. Kenny took over. He in turn sold it to J. C. Kenny in 1910 and when local optician Olive Scott came into force Olive Scott took charge until 1914.

A group of Ingersoll people headed by J. A. Coulter became interested in the building and it was turned into a boarding house.

In 1929 it was sold to W. Revell and on his death his widow ran the hotel as a boarding house until 1942 when it was sold to Vince Barrie, former mayor of St. Thomas, who realized the historical background of the hotel and planned to restore it as a hotel building.

When was the name changed from Daly House to the Ingersoll Inn? Likely at the time Barrie took over. In the 1929 Ingersoll directory it is shown as the new Daly House with H. Henney as proprietor.

When Barrie purchased the Ingersoll Inn John A. Windsor became resident manager. Until Barrie's death in 1942 Ingersoll's first instant restaurant took it over, it became a class hotel with excellent facilities. The Kiwanis Club held its weekly meetings and many other organizations used the place for a wide variety of occasions.



Prof. George Emery of the University of Western Ontario is doing research on a history of Ingersoll. Prof. Emery expects his study will last two or three years and he is now in the beginning stages of gathering information. Prof. Emery said he

has already received assistance from some Ingersollers, notably Byron Jenvey and Stanley Smith, but in order to get more information in the form of documents, old photographs and other material, they are asked to contact the professor.

enough to have their names printed in the newspaper." The professor said that similar studies in other communities suggested that what we might find in Ingersoll is that there was a tremendous turnover in population. This means, he said, that of the people in Ingersoll in any one year, only a third would be there ten years later. Another example such computer studies showed up is that it is likely that 80 percent of the people lived in abject poverty and were utterly dependant on the five percent of the people at the top who controlled employment, the political machinery and the charitable services.

"These are only educated guesses," the professor suggested, "but these are things we can look for while using these kinds of data."

Prof. Emery has about 12 major sources. He has a

complete run of the Ingersoll Chronicle on microfilm at the

At most universities, a professor must not only teach his students, but also do research. While the final draft of his Oliver biography was being written, the professor started to do his research on the history of the town this summer. Prof. Emery expects the study to last two or three years.

"It will concentrate primarily on 19th century Ingersoll," the professor said, "and the approach will be multi-dimensional. It will consider themes such as economic development, municipal politics, development of municipal sources, the coping with fire, flood and public health problems, class structures and living standards, and the life styles of the different social levels of the town."

"In addition to doing conventional history," Prof. Emery said, "the project will utilize some of the more recent analytical techniques involving the use of a computer. What we're going to do," he said, "is

By Sjoerd Witte

A former Ingersoll resident, now a professor in History at the University of Western Ontario, will write a history of Ingersoll. Professor George Emery has a great interest in the history of the town. He started when he did research and prepared a biography of Oliver, an Ingersoll blacksmith and politician. The book is to be printed in the International Canadian Biography Series.

Also, as a former resident of the town, he is interested in this professional history of the town.

In his search for sources, Prof. Emery requested the Town Council for permission to use the council's last microfilm. The town council's last microfilm mission was granted.

Although this study is a shift in direction for the professor, who has done most of his research in Ontario and

Also in his possession are scattered issues of five other newspapers in Ingersoll. Prof. Emery said these are mainly useful in checking the Ingersoll Chronicle. Then there is a run of three years of a conservative newspaper, which is also a good check on the Chronicle, which was a newspaper with a modern outlook.

The minutes of Town Council from 1856 to the present are also available for information. Ingersoll was incorporated as a town in 1851, but the minutes of Town Council of those first four years are missing because of a fire.

The assessment rolls from 1880 to 1900 are also being scanned for valuable information. There are only scattered issues available for the period after 1900.

Business Directories are another source of information of the town's history beginning in 1852 right up to 1900, but there are only scattered issues available.

more I got into it, the more information I was able to find." He said the material is partly in the Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario, partly in the Public Archives in Toronto, in the Ingersoll Town Hall, some records are in the Ingersoll Public Library and in the Woodstock County Court-house.

Prof. Emery said he also received a lot of help from two persons in Ingersoll, Byron Jenvey and Stanley J. Smith, as well as from other people in the town who helped by providing certain documents that didn't exist anywhere else. Mr. Jenvey and Mr. Smith are the local amateur historians, Prof. Emery said.

Mr. Jenvey had scrapbooks on Ingersoll, one consisting of clippings that have come out on Ingersoll history at various times, the other consisting of essays on the history of the town, which were written by Mr. Jenvey.

Through Mr. Smith the University of Western Ontario

acquired a run of the Ingersoll Chronicle. Mr. Smith had the newspapers in his basement, Prof. Emery said. More recently, he said, the university acquired a series of diaries of an Ingersoll carpenter dating back to 1857.

Prof. Emery, who has been a member of the University's History Department since 1968 and was educated at Queen's University in Kingston and the University of British Columbia, said he hopes to get a sabbatical next year to work on the history of Ingersoll. He expresses his appreciation in all the help he has received from various people and he said there may still be some people in Ingersoll and environs who may be able to help him in his research in some way or other. He asked these people to contact him at the university.

Vital Statistics records, an old map of Oxford County dating from 1875, and an insurance company map of Ingersoll for 1879, showing among other things construction material used on the building in the town.

Then there are the Manuscript Census Records, which are detailed individual returns for every decennium starting in 1851 to 1871. The records for after 1871 are not available because the records are frozen for a 100 years to allow for privacy of the individuals concerned.

Also available as a source of information is one set of corporation records of the Morrow Screw and Nut Company, and the Fraternal Society records.

"And," adds Prof. Emery, "the



The Brady House, later known as the Mansion House, started out where the CIBC is now located. This picture was taken about 1885 from a stereoscopic slide of E.H. Hugill's, probably about the time when Edgar was assuming ownership of the photo studio. The building was later moved to the south side of Canterbury Street W., just over the bridge. Consider what a feat it was to move a house of this size two blocks, over 100 years ago!

Underground slave railway stoppe

BY TOM DURALIA

The parking lot just south of Big V Pharmacy on Oxford Street doesn't look overly exciting on first glimpse.

But were you to close your eyes and bring your thoughts back to the 1850s, you might feel somewhat different about that patch of concrete.

Envision a bustling Ingersoll of 2,000 persons, an old church, a mysterious Underground Railroad and a fiery-tongued orator plotting to overthrow the American government.

And think of the period. The American Civil War was less than a decade away, there were growing tensions between the north and the south, and the Fugitive Slave Act, passed in 1850, meant that blacks were not safe from extradition even in free states.

In 1854, at a cost of \$2,500, the Wesleyan Methodist Church was built where cars unceremoniously park today.

And between 1854 and the outbreak of the civil war in 1861, fugitive slaves in the black of night were whisked into that church's attic, the most northerly terminus of the Underground Railroad.

During the 1850s, Ingersoll was host to between 400 and 500 blacks, the second highest black concentration in Canada behind Chatham. And many of the slaves that made it to Ingersoll via the Underground Railway were from as far away as New Orleans.

According to an abolitionist newspaper, "The Voice of the Fugitive," in the early 1850s a large concentration of blacks worked on the railroad, and Ingersoll attracted a number once the line was open to Windsor, because wood for the locomotives was cut and stored here.

The Underground Railroad of the time was a source of considerable mystery to the slavers of the U.S., however, it seems they were the only ones who didn't know what it was by the late 1850s, and in some northern states, the routes were actually published in anti-slavery newspapers.

The Underground Railroad was not a railroad at all, but rather a mutual agreement between the friends of the



Abolitionist John Brown

slaves, predominantly the Quakers, to aid fugitives on their way to Canada. The slaves were taken from one friend to another, only at night, until they reached Canada's safety.

According to the late Rev. W.M. Mitchell in his book, *The Underground Railroad*, the term Underground Railroad originated after a master lost his expensive slave, following a long chase.

"Being disappointed and the loser of \$10,000, and having no object in which to vent his dirty spleen, he turned upon the poor Abolitionists, and said, 'The damned Abolitionists must have a railroad under the ground by which they run off Niggers!'"

When Mr. Mitchell wrote his book in 1860, he commented that annually, 1,200 slaves were being conveyed to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

One of the greatest proponents of the anti-slavery faction and the Underground Railroad was John Brown, also known as Captain John Brown and Old John Brown.

Born in 1800 in Connecticut, opinions vary on this man from calling him a madman to a martyr, and his direct approach to freeing slaves by force, if necessary, often lost the respect of the other Abolitionists, who

idealistically dreamed of a peaceful emancipation for the black slaves.

Brown reportedly first came to Canada in April of 1858, where he spent much of his time in travel, gathering support for a planned guerilla-style strike on the U.S. Federal arsenal in Virginia, Harper's Ferry.

Some of that time was spent in Ingersoll, where he met with others at the Daly House, now Marco's Landing, to discuss a plan of attack. He is also said to have spoken at the Wesleyan Church to rally support against slavers in the U.S.

During the mid-1850's, Brown is said to have conducted numerous raids on pro-slavery plantations, killing the slavers and enlisting the services of the freed blacks in his guerilla army.

On October 16 to 18, 1859, Brown and 21 men made their attempt to capture the

Virginia arsenal, but failed miserably. Of the men involved, 10 were killed, including two of Brown's sons, six escaped and five were hanged, including Brown.

Brown was tried for treason, conspiracy and murder on October 31 of the same year, found guilty, and hanged in Charlestown, Va., 32 days after trial.

Once the Civil War began, which some believe was sparked by the Harper's Ferry incident, northern troops and civilians sang the folk song "John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave - But his soul is marching on."

The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Oxford Street was demolished in 1956 to make way for a carwash, which in turn gave way to the parking lot.

But when you walk by that lot and close your eyes, that parking lot can be pretty exciting.

And before they had sidewalks for sales...



Days of fighting fire with water buckets long gone

Major fires in Ingersoll's history

BY MIKE WALSH

In bold letters, on the front page of the May 10, 1872 edition of the London Free Press, read the following headlines. Great fire in Ingersoll

Two Lives Lost

Immense Loss

The Business Part of the town in Ashes.

Full particulars

On May 7, 1872, the Town of Ingersoll suffered its most disastrous fire. It

destroyed 80 businesses on the west side of Thames Street South and claimed two lives.

The fire, termed one of the most destructive disasters anywhere in Canada, broke out in a stable located behind the Royal Exchange Hotel. Because the buildings in those days were constructed out of wood, it didn't take long for the blaze to spread. Within minutes, buildings on the east side of Oxford Street, between Thames and King, were invaded by the fire.

Newspaper reports indicated the fire went as far as the market square and despite the mild north easterly winds that evening, the heat was so intense that the flames flew over the buildings directly across the street.

Ingersoll fire department arrived at the scene around 8 p.m. that evening but were not capable of controlling the fire. Their equipment included a two face pump of manual rocker type, water buckets, wet blankets and carpets.

Shortly after their arrival, Chief Engineer Brady wired for assistance from the London and Woodstock fire departments. The London Pheonex Company (fire dept.) arrived just in time to stop a fire in a large three storey building owned by Mayor John McDonald, from spreading. The house was saved.

Water was fetched from cisterns between King and Charles Streets and from a creek located on the east side of Thames Street. Woodstock fire department was late to arrive because the train they were transported on was tardy, said the 1872 report.

Hundreds of families in the vicinity, fearing the fire would spread to the residential zone, packed up their belongings and moved them to places of safety. Many

townsfolk braved the hot flames to remove goods from the main business core. Two people died as a result.

C.C. Paine, a pumpmaker in Ingersoll, was trapped in R.H. Young's store when he spent too long in there trying to save some of the store goods. People outside of the building, aware of Mr. Paine's fate, were unable to help him.

A wall at Fawke's Jewelry store fell on top of John Omand while he was also trying to save the store goods.

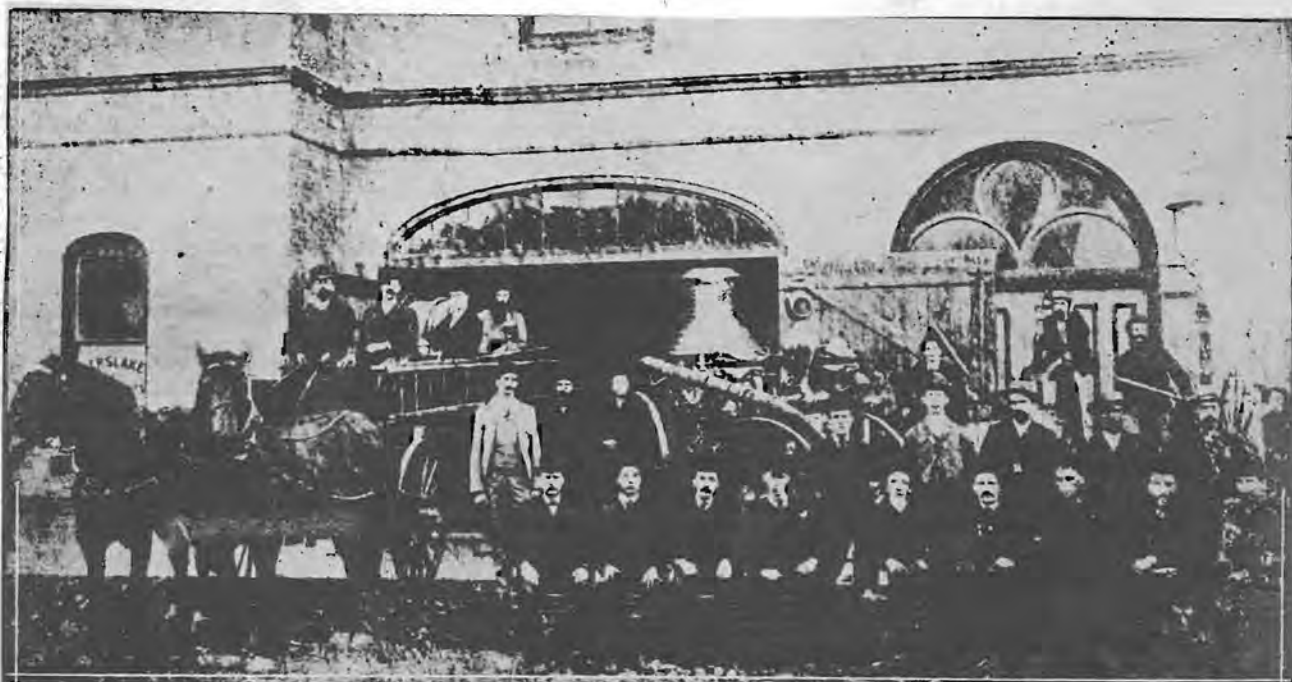
Although the exact cause of the fire is not known, there was speculation it was the work of an arsonist. The fire was caused by coal oil or some other flammable substance many people felt, because a large volume of black smoke had dispersed from the empty stable hay loft.

The fires raged for eight hours and caused an estimated \$30,000 damage. Eighty-years-later, in the September 13, 1952 edition of The London Free Press, a story listed the monetary damage to each of the buildings affected by the fire. Many of the buildings were either insured or partially insured, but many were not insured at all. Also, many of the buildings were new.

Most of the buildings were replaced by solid brick ones, many of which are still standing today.

Another disastrous fire in Ingersoll occurred in 1856, destroying the main business block which at that time was King Street East. This fire destroyed all records pertaining to the history of Ingersoll.

On July 20, 1894, a fire started at the Nationalist Printing Office, located on the south side of King Street East, ruined 30 buildings. Damage was estimated at \$30,000.



Since its formation in 1867 Ingersoll Fire Department has seen what technology can do. In 1878 the town fire brigade had a steam engine as well as horse-drawn apparatuses.

BY RENE McKNIGHT

When the bell that adorned the Old Town Hall sounded, the Ingersoll fire brigade was quick to respond. With water pails in hand, the team, consisting of 13 volunteers and one chief, would rush to extinguish a fire and stop it from spreading to other buildings.

In 1863 Ingersoll's first fire brigade was formed with R.H. Carroll acting as chief.

The bell which summoned fire fighters to work, was rung on a code system. Ingersoll had three different wards, each containing fire fighting equipment. Depending which ward the fire was located in, the bell would sound a specific number of times.

In 1871 the fire department had 12 wooden pails and two jiggers. When the blaze of 1872 swept through town, this was the only equipment Ingersoll had to combat it.

When the Ingersoll fire brigade came into being, most of the buildings in town were made of wood, and fires were a common occurrence. Because of the risks involved with fire fighting, and the regularity of fires, volunteers were paid 50 cents a month.

A modernized apparatus added to the Ingersoll fire brigade in 1873 was a steam engine that cost the town \$4,750. That year also marked the introduction of horses to the department and the man-powered jiggers were no longer needed.

When emergencies occurred, everyone was expected to help. Any male between the ages of 16 and 60, according to the law, had to assist in extinguishing fires when asked by a brigade member. Those violating the law faced a stiff fine, with a maximum penalty of either \$20 or 20 days in jail.

The fire brigade discontinued the use of the bell for summoning volunteers in 1927, one year after it got its first motorized equipment. Telephones were then the method used for contacting volunteer fire fighters.

In the mid 1960s a radio system was developed and the telephone system was

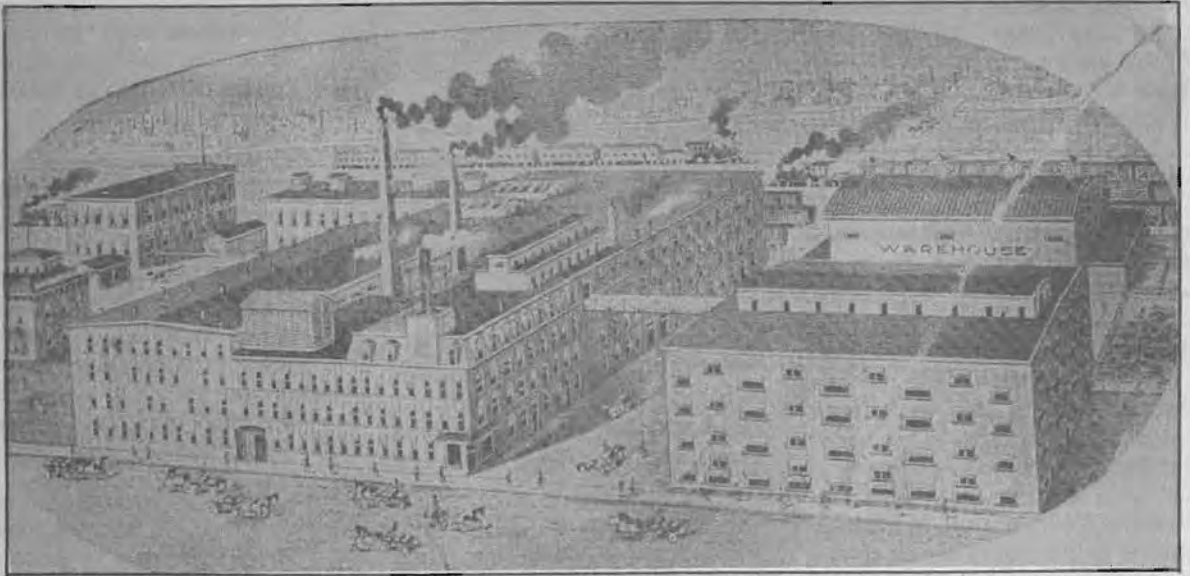
eliminated.

The Old Town Hall served as the first fire station for the Ingersoll brigade and until just a few years ago, the department

continued to operate from this building. It is now located on Mutual Street.

Ingersoll's fire department has seen many changes since its formation 121-years-ago.

especially in methods of transportation. Since its beginning, the staff has increased to include three full-time employees and 16 volunteers.



It was about 100 years ago that Ingersoll had the largest packing company in North America. This treasured post card, showing the Ingersoll Packing Co., gives an idea of how huge the operation was. The ice house stored ice (from what later became Smith's Pond) which was used to ship pork all across the continent. The ramp between the two large buildings was used to herd the pigs across to the slaughter area. The card itself came from Wood's Book Store in Ingersoll. The indicated postage was one cent for Canada and the U.S.A. and two cents for foreign. *(Photo courtesy of Gordon B. Henry)*

Pork factory once a major employer

BY RENE McKNIGHT

When Ingersoll and the surrounding area was settled nearly 200-years-ago, less than 100 people populated the town. Now, the year of Ontario's Bicentennial, the population has swelled to 8,500. To look at Ingersoll today, it is hard to believe that only 50-years-ago people feared the town might disappear when the town's leading employer shut its doors.

In the mid 1800's Ingersoll Packing Co. was established by T.D. Millar who owned and operated the hog slaughter house. The building, which is located where Ingersoll Cheese now stands, was then sold to James L. Grant and Co.

The new owners saw the need to increase business as the area's cheese industry grew. Farmers in the area fed their hogs which resulted in fair-sized hogs. Overseas business was also on the rise.

In 1877 the business was sold to Thomas L. Boyd, an English man who exported the majority of his product to Liverpool and London, England. By this time Ingersoll Packing Co. had become Canada's largest hog-related industry.

In 1925, Mr. Boyd unexpectedly ceased production at Ingersoll Packing Co. There was much speculation that the town would die since a large number of the townspeople were employed there.

When operating in full capacity the industry could kill as many as 5,000 hogs per week. The four storey hog pen located on Wonham Street was capable of holding 6,000 live hogs.

Slaughtering the pigs was a daily task with the exception of Sundays. The animals, after being driven into a pen, were hoisted a few feet in the air by a chain which held a hind leg, then the animals fatally stabbed. Following this, the carcass was passed along an iron track which was situated above a scalding water tank into which the hogs were placed.

The next step in the process was the scraping machine, which removed the majority of the animal's hair. The remaining hair was removed by hand by the

workers. Next, the carcasses were placed in a burning furnace which singed them and left them smoked and brown. The only remaining steps were the cleaning, cutting and the packaging of the pork.

Although there was a sewage system with a catch basin the offal would end up in the river. It was not unusual for those swimming in the Thames to spot the animal waste in the river.

Much of the pork from the Packing Co. was sent to England, with cheaper cuts being sold in town.

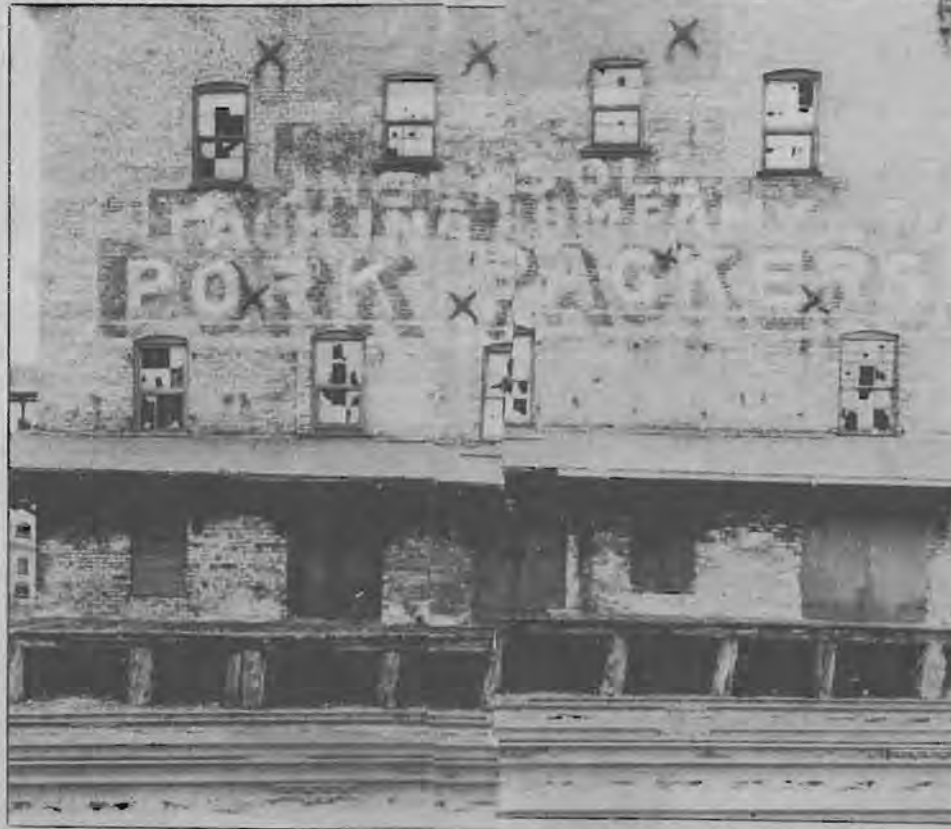
When farmers from a 30-mile radius brought hogs to the slaughter factory, the animals were weighed and farmers were given a weight ticket. Hogs brought in, as much as 25 cents per pound in the early 1900's.

In the late 1890's a refrigeration system



The top photo shows the interior of the pork factory and some of its employees. It was taken around 1900 and includes: C.H. Sumner, Dip Hook, C.C.L. Wilson, W.E. Cragg, Mac Wallace and R.I. Smith. The lower photo shows the outside of the factory.

(Photos courtesy of Gora Henry)



was installed at the factory Ingersoll Packing Co. used ice to store its pork and to keep it fresh while shipping it to Montreal and St. John.

Mr. Boyd was quick to see the profits which were available in the cheese industry and brought cheddar making to the warehouses, which were located on the south side of Victoria Street West and at the intersection of Wonham Street, where Ingersoll Cheese Company is now located. At the outbreak of World War I the industry thrived because both cheese and pork were sent to allied forces.

While Mr. Boyd owned the Ingersoll Packing Co., it was run by C.C.L. Wilson and C.H. Sumner. The cheese exporting section of the business was headed by V.H. Thomas.

By 1925 Ingersoll appeared to be in a desperate situation when the packing industry closed, but the following year Ingersoll Cream Cheese Company began production in the same building.



Tennis was a popular sport at the turn of the century. The building behind the players now houses Jackie's Hair Fashions, while on the right, is Windale Feeds, at one time a skating arena.



An ice cream parlour once occupied the space Diana Restaurant is now located in. Photo from the early 1900s.

A military saga that spans centuries

By GEOFF DALE
of The Sentinel-Review

One of the most enduring military stories in Oxford is that of the Oxford Rifles, the County Militia and the 22nd regiment to be organized in Canada.

The history of the county's militia dates back to 1798 when it was organized. The 22nd Regiment, the Oxford Rifles, was established in 1863. Prior to the First World War, the Oxford Rifles were called to service on three separate occasions – in December 1864, in November 1865 and on June, 1, 1866.

During the latter part of the 1800s several well-known Woodstock citizens were prominent in the operations of the Rifles, such as D.M. Perry, ensign in 1870 and Lt.-Col. Hugh Richardson.

In 1900 the designation of the Oxford Rifles was changed from the 22nd Battalion to the 22nd Regiment.

In 1906 the regiment was reorganized, the officers now permitted to retire and pos-

sess the long service medal. From the date of reorganization to the First World War, the Oxford Rifles was one of the most popular organizations in Woodstock with its four companies at full strength.

The regiment made its home in the armoury – built in 1905 – and the historic building played host to various competitions throughout the year. Trophies were presented by officers and citizens to the local militia unit. The regiment boasted a variety of top notch sports team – its members winning trophies for basketball, bowling and shooting within the regiment.

Prior to the First World War, the regiment trained in a variety of different locales including Goderich, London and in Dundas.

During the winter of 1915-16 the armoury was the scene of a great deal of activity.

When Great Britain declared war on Germany on Aug. 4, 1914, the regiment's

commanding officer issued a call to officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks of the Oxford Rifles to report for duty.

The next evening the Oxford Rifles paraded the streets of Woodstock. Oxford's First Battalion was among the first of the 1st Canadian Division to go into the French trenches.

In September 1914, 150 men left Woodstock and were attached to D Company of the 18th Battalion. Distinguishing themselves in battle on a variety of occasions, the Oxford Rifles were commanded by two officers of the 71st Battalion since the war – Major F. O. Burgess and Capt. C. Mackenzie Mackay.

Oxford men fought from Jan. 1, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 and at the close of the war in 1919 Burgess took over the command of the 22nd Regiment and continued there until 1922 when Mackay – now a lieutenant-colonel – succeeded him.

In 1919 the designation

22nd was dropped, with the regiment title officially referring to Oxford Rifles.

On Oct. 1, 1954 the regiment lost its separate identity, becoming London and Oxford Fusiliers (Third Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment). In July 1989 the Oxford Rifles Association was formally disbanded.

Jack Cole's association with the Oxford Rifles began in 1937.

"I was going to high school during the Depression and I had no money to go to camp," he said. "It was my postman who suggested I join the regiment. That would have meant going to camp for no money.

"I talked it over with my dad, who had been with the Queen's Own Rifles. I decided at that point to join the regiment since I was the quartermaster at the local cadets. I served as a clerk in the quartermaster's store. I was asked by Col. Fred Hersee in 1938 to be his chauffeur, to drive him and

other senior officers to different locations for a variety of functions like parades. After a year as the transportation sergeant, I had the opportunity of working in Toronto so I moved on."

Being a part of the Oxford Rifles meant a linkage to the regiment's glorious past.

"I recall one of the colonels of the Rifles was Lt.-Col. Dr. Donald Sutherland, who was later the Canadian minister of national defence," he said. "He was the first man to take the 71st Battalion out of Oxford to Europe.

"The Rifles has a radio committee that was just coming into its own in those days. They were one of the first units to be equipped with radio equipment, back in the early 1930s. The northwest tower of the armoury was used as a radio room and the men did well by Sutherland back then. The company became the Dominion champions of wireless communications – quite an honour.

"The Oxford Rifles won its first Dominion Signal Championship in 1925, its second in 1930 and its third in 1933. In the last competition, the regiment was up against 120 units from across the country, so this was a very proud occasion for the Oxford men."

After a long and illustrious history spanning two centuries, the Oxford Rifles Association (in existence for six years) called it a day in the summer of 1989, holding its final reunion with the unveiling of a cairn built by Tom Gamble on the north lawn of the armoury, then the Oxford County Board of Education offices.

"I really hope they find a buyer for the builder who will respect the building and all it stands for," said Cole. "There are very few members of the Oxford Rifles these days and we take a great deal in pride in the regiment. We want to see its tradition continue into the coming century."

Hot Stove League invokes kaleidoscope

It was a veritable Hot Stove League designed especially for the Ingersoll Times Bi-Centennial edition. Doug Carr had conceived the idea and hosted the meeting. Art Presswell had recruited the history buffs for the evening. Present were Joe Wilson, Nip Henderson, Lorne Moon, Fred George, Isabel Sutherland, J.C. Herbert, Presswell and Carr. The concept was that these people would share interesting ideas and anecdotes from the past that others would find interesting.

Sutherland had been manager of Eaton's Order Office, located where Jack's store is now. Next to her was Agnew Surpass Shoe Store, managed by Doug Carr. Moon had worked for Carr and for Mike MacMillan. They all remembered the noise and strange sounds that came from a vigorous evangelical church that had quarters over Eatons. Sutherland recalls she could always hear the loud music and "people thumping around on the floor." Moon agreed and confessed to one of his youthful indiscretions. It seems one night he and five of his young buddies decided to attend one of the meetings they had heard so much about. As the minister exhorted his congregation to "Seek the power" over and over again, Moon and his friends leaped to their feet shouting "Praise the Lord". The service came to an abrupt end when the minister announced "This service will cease. The devil is amongst us". Moon and his cohorts were then unceremoniously run out of the hall.

Herbert is asked if he was aware

that James Sinclair served in the Riel Rebellion? He is also told that Charles Christie served on the HMCS Niobe in WWI. The Niobe was Canada's first cruiser and Christie travelled with her to Bermuda and Gibraltar. His paybook is in the Halifax Museum.

ONE TIRED HORSE

Dick Stacey and Sam Smith were two Ingersoll gentlemen who performed a very essential hygienic service for the town. To carry out their duties they had a two wheeled cart pulled by a horse. The horse wore a straw hat with two holes cut into it for his ears. One day while the two men were cleaning the front street, the horse fell asleep and then fell over, said Moon and everyone came running thinking the horse had died. "It just laid there sound asleep, then got up and was fine."

Doctors were discussed with special mention going to Doctors Furlong, J.M. Rogers and C.C. Cornish "who looked after you no matter how long it took or what time of night it was".

Presswell: I was a delivery boy for Dominion Store. We came back from England and I brought the first English bike to this town. I would carry a 100 pound bag of sugar on that bike. Later I worked at the A&P Store (now McKims) and Greenaways (now Sears).

There was a customs office in Ingersoll and it was busy. Located on the third floor of the post office in 1928, a Mr. Lynch who lived on Wonham Street was in charge of it.

The 1934 Firemen's convention. When it was over many heads rolled.

A tent was put up where Ashton's Service Station was on Oxford Street. A wrestler offered to pay \$50. to anyone who could beat him.

Henderson: A big man by the name of Ken Brockmeyer would dig a hole in the ice in the river and go in with just his undershorts on. Crowds would gather to see him dive into the icy waters.

The carnival that would come every year to the market square, complete with everything including a ferris wheel.

The rivalry that would often break out into fist fights between the youth of Woodstock and Ingersoll.

The best toffee in the world was bought at Miss Francis Noe's store on King Street East. Candy was three for one cent at Miss Currie's store in the market square.

Ed Deamude's store, "He had everything and was always so glad to see you."

George: Don't forget Bigham's Restaurant. It was so important to the town. I drove a truck for them delivering ice-cream and confectionaries. They made their own candy. John Fairbairn was the candy maker in the 30s. It was a great place.

Moon: The first Coke in Ingersoll was served in the old Diana Restaurant. Edity Clipson worked there and there was a nickelodeon in the restaurant. It was the 30s and they had carbonated water and were giving out free samples. Pete Stratakos was the owner and then Pete Tatulis took over during the war.



Bruce Phillips (left) and Lorne Healey. The date was April, 1914. Bruce Phillips had just purchased his downtown grocery store and both gentlemen seem happy with the arrangement. (Photo courtesy Lloyd and Margaret Phillips)

Moon: don't forget Nip's dad! Bob Henderson was the best catcher going. He played for the Intermediate Bs. The whole town would turn out to see those games.

Cadets--remember the ICI cadets in the 30s. Bert Mole instructed the boys. It was males only. They wore putties and blue uniforms.

Herbert: The Oxford Rifles has a long and honorable history. D. Col. Stan Fuller was CO prior to me and before the war. We were camp #6 and we had 150 on parade. The armories was on Charles Street.

Carr: I remember when my father was on the road, before we moved to Ingersoll and opened the store. He would come in by train and Walt Beattie would meet him with his horse and drey. They would take all dad's wares up to the Ing-

ersoll Inn where he would have a room rented. He would put out his samples and the business people would come to look and buy.

Presswell: It was Stan Wickware with his horse and wagon who met the CNR train in 1925 when we arrived in Ingersoll from England. My mother (Mae) and my brother Frank and me were taken to our new home that way.

(Editor's Note: What a wonderful experience this was! The kaleidoscope of memories continued for a total of three hours. People, places, events, all parts of our history, were relived again in Doug Carr's apartment. Unfortunately, space does not permit us to record them all here. However, the information was all put to good use in other ways and the Ingersoll Times is most grateful to The Hot Stove League).



Ingersoll has a long and proud military history. Many residents will remember Lorne Healy, but it is unlikely that many have seen him in this military pose. Proudly wearing his Boer War uniform, Healey reminds us of another time, another war. He served from 1898-1899. (Photo courtesy Marie Borland).



What an impressive interior! This downtown store, Healy's, appears to have carried just about everything. In the background are the owners, H. W. Healy Sr. and Mrs. Healy, grandparents of Dorothy Douglas of Stratford. (photo courtesy of Bruce and Marie Douglas)



HEALY'S GROCERY STORE

If you have pictures or articles you would like included this feature, please bring them to *The Ingersoll Times*.



Mail services in Ingersoll since 182

BY RENE McKNIGHT

In the early 1800s, families were scattered across the country. The Ingersoll family was stretched from Massachusetts to the Niagara Frontier, to Oxford County. Visits from family and friends were few and far between, and letters were the main means of communication for the earliest settlers.

In 1821, four years after brothers Charles and James decided to return to the village which their father had established, the first Post Office in the county was set up. It was called Oxford Post.

The Ingersoll brothers operated this small mail service in one section of their general store, which was located on the corners of King and Thames Streets. Until 1843, James Ingersoll was the county Postmaster.

The year was 1837 and the Mackenzie rebellion was in full swing with many Ingersoll residents taking an active part in it. It also marked the year James Ingersoll moved the post office to the corner of King and Market Streets. Following the rebellion, it was moved once again, this time to where the Royal Bank now stands.

Oxford Post came under the hands of a new Postmaster in 1847, when Daniel Phelan took over the position.

When Mr. Phelan retired, Charles Eli Chadwich assumed the position, only to be removed by the government in 1857.

Under the care of the new Postmaster, Joseph Thickle, Ingersoll had a new Post Office established where McNiven Insurance now stands. Mr. Thickle served as Ingersoll Postmaster for 25 years, until his

death in 1882. He was succeeded by Joseph Gibson.

A new Post Office was built at the corner of Thames and Charles Streets in 1898-99, the spot now the location of the Bank of Montreal. It was opened in 1899, the same year Samuel Gibson succeeded his father to the position of Postmaster.

Rural mail delivery began on December 13, 1911, while Samuel Gibson was in charge. Samuel Gibson was Postmaster for 50 years.

This is the former Post Office. It was located on the site now occupied by the Bank of Montreal, at the corner of Thames and Charles Streets. This building was officially opened in 1899. In 1961 the Post Office moved to its present location on Charles Street West.



Robert Wark was next to take on the job and under his rule the Post Office building, which is used today, was built in 1960-61. The Charles Street office was officially opened in October 1961.

With the retirement of Mr. Wark, Herbert Egley was appointed Postmaster in 1964. Within a few months of his appointment, he introduced Ingersoll to letter carrier delivery.

Because the Post Office was closed Saturdays, a Sub-post Office was created in 1969. Alf Boniface was appointed the Sub-Postmaster and carried out business

from his Thames Street store. When Mr. Boniface died in 1980, Myrna Ledgley took over the post.

In February of 1978, when Mr. Egley retired from the position as Postmaster, Morley Paalen filled the spot. In the latter part of 1979, he left the job and Don McNiven was appointed Postmaster, a position which he still holds.

The Post Office is an operation which increased steadily as Ingersoll grew. Population, 115-years-ago, in 1832, the Post Office's revenue was £27, 7s and 5d, which today is the equivalent of \$55.82. By 1982, the figure had increased to \$368,926.



The mammoth or big cheese was made in Ingersoll in 1866 and involved cheese from several area factories. The cheese was six feet, 10 inches in diameter, three feet high and weighed 7,300 pounds. This photo was taken in Congress Springs Saratoga, New York. James Harris is standing at the front of the wagon with one

hand in his pocket, Ingersoll Mayor Adam Oliver is the tall man in the white vest to the left of the wagon. Hiram Ranney is wearing a long black coat and has white whiskers, and Daniel Phelan is at the extreme left in the light suit.

Ingersoll famous for making the mammoth cheese

Ingersoll is famous for its cheese and perhaps one of the finer moments in its history is the making of the mammoth or big cheese. Produced in 1866 at several local cheesemaking factories, the big round cheese measured six feet 10 inches in diameter and three feet high. It weighed 7,300 pounds.

The big cheese was the brainstorm of several local men involved in the cheese industry. At a meeting in the offices of the Niagara District Bank in 1864, the proposi-

tion was put forward to create a large cheese. Its purpose would be to advertise the excellent quality of Canadian cheddar cheese.

The men had gathered at the bank in an effort to bring dairymen of the district together in a co-operative system of making and marketing the product of the factories.

Present at the meeting were Chairman James Noxon, of Ingersoll, C.E. Chadwick, bank manager and secretary of the group, James Harris, of West Oxford, Edwin

Casswell, of Ingersoll, Harvey Farrington and H.S.Lossee, of Norwich, Daniel Phelan, of Ingersoll, George Galloway, of West Oxford, Charles Wilson, of Dereham, Robert Facy, of Inersoll, and Benjamin Hopkins, of Brownsville. Missing were Thomas Balantine, of Stratford, and D. Derbyshen, of Brockville.

Harris Factory, with curd from the Hiram Ranney and the George Galloway factories. The curd was brought into the Harris factory and processed there, taking two days to make the big cheese and put it

into the press. The lifting device and press were made by the Noxon Company, another local firm which produced farm implements. Because the cheese was going to be so large, a lean-to had to be set up outside the Harris house, on the outskirts of Ingersoll.

It measured 16 feet by 16 feet, but when the cheese was complete, it was too small. It wouldn't go through the doors, so they took the sides down, put down planks and rolled the cheese onto a wagon. It then went to the train station where local officials, dignitaries and the public saw off the town's accomplishment.

The big cheese was exhibited in Saratoga, New York at the New York State Fair as well as Toronto and Hamilton. Then it was sold to a buyer in Liverpool, England and shown all over England.

Over 300 pounds of the 7,300 pound creation were brought back to Ingersoll to be shared among the factory workers and interested people. Each got about two pounds.

Ingersoll's early cheese history is revealed

BY MARILYN SMULDERS

Behind every successful man is a woman. Or is it the other way around?

Research of Ingersoll's early cheese history reveals that two women in particular were responsible for establishing the basis for a prosperous cheese industry.

The Ranney family settled near Ingersoll from Vermont in 1834. Lydia and Hiram Ranney purchased a 50-acre farm along an Indian trail that connected Ingersoll to the settlement of Port Burwell.

on to her students.

The Wilson family was another of the founding families of the cheese industry. Today, many of the descendants of Charles and Elizabeth Wilson live on extensive dairy operations near Salford.

Elizabeth Wilson had the iron hand to direct the family operation. The first cheese factory of the area was established around 1843, employing over 20 people in its Culloden road location.

The Wilsons received their start with a few cattle. Elizabeth was given two from her father as part of a dowry, while Charles brought five more into the marriage.

A report by the late historian of Ingersoll lore, Byron Jenvey, describes the ambitious role taken by Elizabeth while the cheese factory took a foothold.

"She was a big, powerful woman who worked energetically and expected anyone else in her employ to do likewise. It is said that once when she thought one of the workers was not going fast enough, she picked him up by his collar and threw him in the whey tank."

The dairy and cheese operation of James Harris is perhaps the best known in Ingersoll. His homestead still stands; the gracious Victorian mansion, Elm Hurst has since been converted into a prestigious restaurant. But James Harris too owes much of his fortune to the influence of a woman.

Mr. Harris married Julia Ranney, daughter of Lydia. It seems that while courting his love, he picked up many of the tricks of the trade from the mother of his bride-to-be. Any other tips were given directly by Julia. The advice he was given paid off, and he oversaw the most prosperous of all the cheese factories. His mammoth cheese drew national attention

While husband Hiram increased his acreage from 50 to 700 acres, Lydia was busy making the first cheese ever produced and marketed in the area. Her fine cheeses were sold in the small pioneer settlement of London, and was also sent to an exhibition in Great Britain. All costs for the display were sponsored by Prince Albert.

But Lydia didn't spend all of her days making cheese. She was also the first school teacher in what is today designated as Oxford County. As a teacher, her skills as an excellent cheesemaker were passed

when it was displayed in England and New York.

Harvey Farrington had three successive wives to support him while he established himself in Oxford County. A pioneer in commercial cheesemaking, Mr. Farrington opened a factory for production in 1864 on its Norwich location. It served the community on a cooperative basis and also exported cheese to centres throughout Great Britain.



This beautiful family portrait of Ingersoll's well-known Beck family is indeed a treasure. Left to right, they are Clinton Beck, Ruth Beck, George Beck and Gertrude Turner who was raised by the Beck family. Lloyd Phillips, who owns the photo, is the son of Gertrude Turner. (photo courtesy of Lloyd Phillips)

Battle Hymn may have local roots

Is it possible that The Battle Hymn of the Republic was written in Ingersoll ---by the Ingersoll family?

Long time resident and former business person Irene MacMillan believes this is true. It was a story told to her by her mother and "just something we always knew". MacMillan, who used to be very active with the Chamber of Commerce said she had forgotten that story until recent articles about the Ingersoll family appeared in The Ingersoll and brought it all back. "Anyone of my generation must have heard that tale; it was just common knowledge" she said.

"We all knew that the Ingersoll family, who were very devout as well as being innovative, intelligent and brave, wrote that song and used to sing it sitting around campfires at night during their early days here."

"Just look at the words" urges MacMillan. "They are so typical of the times and the circumstances here."

"Let us die to make men free/While God is marching on " refers to their reason for settling here" says MacMillan. While "I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps/They have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps/" refers to the camp fires of the settlers and of the friendly native people.

MacMillan says they were told the lines "I can read His righteous sentence/By the dim and flaring lamps" referred to the families reading the Bible by lamp light.

The first verse, she said, "Mine eyes have seen the glory/ Of the coming of the Lord/ He is trampling out the vintage/ Where the grapes of wrath are stored/"refers to the wild grapes that grew here and the trampling of them to make wine.

"He hath soundeth forth the trumpet/ That shall never call retreat/ He is sifting out the hearts of men/ Before His judgment seat/" is a reference to the determination and bravery of the settlers, MacMillan explains.

"There is no doubt in my mind that is an authentic story" stressed MacMillan. "No one could convince me otherwise."

Shirley Lovell, curator of the Ingersoll Cheese Museum, was intrigued by the story, but had never heard it before. Research discovered the song in a book of piano music, attributed to W. Steffe and Julia Ward Howe. Lovell also found the song in a hymnary where it was described as an American camp meeting song. Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910) is listed as the author. Lovell quickly stressed she was not denying the story at all, but was very interested in it and hoped more information would be forthcoming.

Local historian Doug Palmer was not familiar with the story, although he has spent considerable time researching the Ingersoll family. He, too, is interested in learning more.

Any readers with further information on this fascinating topic is urged to write to *The Ingersoll Times*.

Town gained cement sidewalks in 1891

1852 marked the year Ingersoll had its first village council.

Fifty-five miles of sidewalk was poured in town in 1891. The new sidewalks, made of stone, gravel and cement, were the first of their kind in Canada and was similar to those found in England.

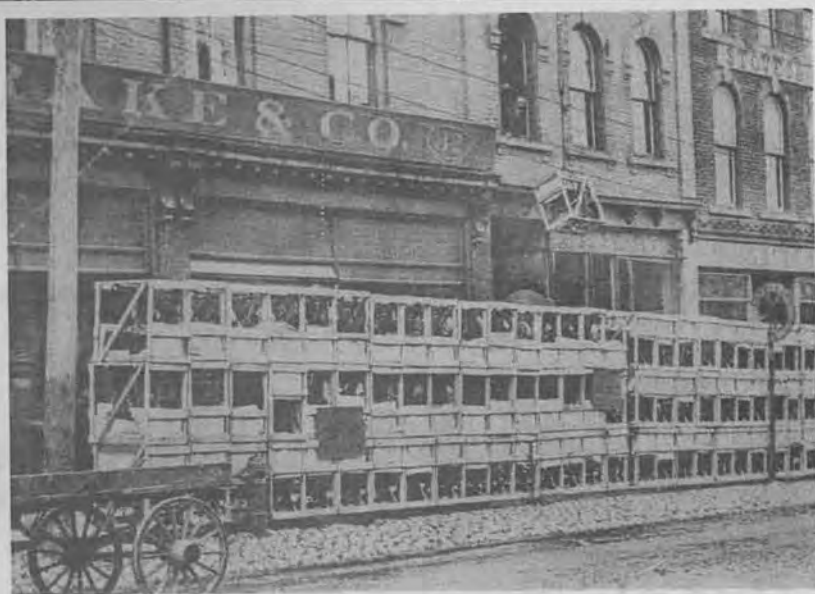
Ingersoll's first blacksmith shop came into being in 1802. It was owned and operated by John Uren.

Stillwell Samuel Smith was the first to open an Inn in town.

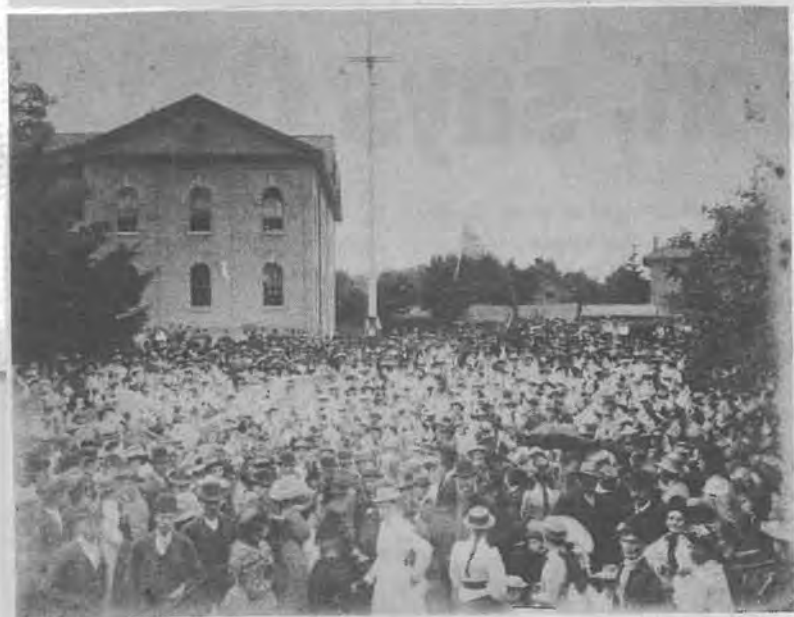
October 24, 1874 was the date of the first fair held in Ingersoll. It was held at the river flats between North Wonham and McKeand Streets.

James Ingersoll was the first white child born in Ingersoll. He was born in 1801.

The first gas produced in Ingersoll was at the Noxon Factory in 1872.



These beautiful past cards form an interesting contrast. The busy photo of a car lead of 120 White sewing machines "purchased by Bowman and Co. dealers in sewing machines, pianos, organs, phonographs and sporting goods in Woodstock and Ingersoll" is a reminder of a thriving time in early commerce here. It was mailed from Ingersoll in 1908. Smith's Pond in all its former glory, created a lovely oasis in the middle of Ingersoll. The post card was published by F.H. Brewster, Ingersoll. *(Photos courtesy of Guy Johnson)*



Can anyone tell us what this celebration is all about? This Hugill photograph was taken at Central School. It must be a holiday occasion; look at all the Union Jacks! While the children are waving flags, the adults seem to be awaiting for someone -- or something.



Do you recognize these gentlemen in front of the old Machine Screw Works? Identified left to right are; E. Hargan, John Morrow, no name available, J. Knapp, Fred Moore, John Manville, Andy Moyer, Wesley Ackert, Bob Dales, Tom Dales, Ed Hargan Sr., Bert Longfield, Dick Huntley, Wesley Myer, Joe Lourey, no name available, Garnett Elliott and Charles Pearson. *(Photo courtesy of Harold Longfield)*



Employees from the John Morrow Nut and Screw Factory posed for this picture



This magnificent residence at the corner of Oxford and Charles Streets was originally the home of John Thompson, the pioneer, after he and his wife, Nancy (Brown) Thompson, moved in from their farms in Dereham Township, County of Oxford, around 1882. This picture was taken much later, circa 1902. From the Shirley Law collection, this photo shows her great-grandfather, John Thompson, sitting at the left, while his second wife, Henrietta Monk Thompson, entertains a woman visitor. The visitor's little girl has moved to sit on the steps with John Thompson. (Photo courtesy of Shirley Thompson Law)



These marvellous pictures of Ingersoll's past also feature a very brave man. The top picture is of the Ingersoll Gaslight Co. office which was located across from the Ingersoll Public Library, Charles Street East and was taken about 1915. Second from left is Merl D. Montgomery, manager. Montgomery died from burns in 1918 when, after an explosion at the Ingersoll Gaslight Company plant on Avonlea Street, he entered the plant and shut off the valve supplying the town's homes with gas for cooking and heating, to prevent any explosions in these homes. In doing so, he was badly burned and died the next day. The citizens of Ingersoll erected a monument over his grave in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery as a token of their grateful appreciation for his heroic act. The middle photo shows Mr. Montgomery with a crew of workers in front of the Ingersoll Inn. Lower photo, again shows Mr. Montgomery and the crew in front of the old town hall. (Photos courtesy of Jack Morgan).

...the new high school

#119

...in the air

Alexandra Hospital continues to receive strong community support

By Yvonne Holmes Mott
For The Ingersoll Times

Alexandra Hospital as we know it today was quite different in the early part of this century.

Notes compiled by Robin Shultz, Corporate Facilitator the Alexandra Hospital Foundation, give an overview of how the Hospital we rely on so much today, came to be.

In 1874 James Noxon built a castle-like residence on what is now called Noxon Street. It was considered one of the beauty spots of Ingersoll. Later, a well known Ingersoll physician, Dr. Angus McKay purchased the Noxon house for his own personal residence.

Up until 1909 the only hospital service available in Ingersoll was in a private

ber 22, 1909 it was named in honour of Queen Alexandra, wife of the reigning monarch. Alexandra Hospital then "provided the community with a complete and modern hospital in every sense of the term." It boasted 16 rooms and accommodation for 25 patients.

A bequest in the will of the late Dr. D. W. Carroll in 1916 enabled the Hospital Trust to build a new wing onto the hospital. Alexandra Hospital became a member of the Ontario Hospital Association in 1928.

The year 1909 was also important because that was when the Nurses Training School was organized. It operated as an educational centre until 1937 when an Order in Council was issued requiring all training school

Five years later a demand for additional patient beds made it necessary to complete the patient ward area on the third floor.

Once again, in 1966, a survey indicated expanded facilities were necessary. Extensive plans were made and on October 1968 the sod was turned for the addition. On May 12, 1970 Opening Day ceremonies were held for a new facility which housed 80 patient beds as well as diagnostic facilities, hospital services and a larger Emergency/Out Patient Department. In the early 1980s planning for the future of Alexandra Hospital began again. In the fall of 1986 the Board of Trustees received approval from the Ministry of Health to proceed with its building/renovation project.



Early photograph of Alexandra Hospital boasted 16 rooms and accommodated 25 patients.

Once a stopover for the famous Historic Ingersoll Inn soon to be just a memory

By HILARY IBBOTSON
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Once an important centre in this town and stopover for famous personalities, the Ingersoll Inn is close to being just a memory.

Local historian JC Herbert says the original building on the corner of King and Oxford streets was erected in 1837 by Absalom Daly, an English officer in the Rebellion of 1837 who took his discharge in Ingersoll.

DALY HOUSE

Called the Daly House, the timber building was destroyed in 1854, but was replaced by a larger, brick building. It continued to be known as the Daly House for many decades, but eventually adopted the name The Ingersoll Inn.

Daly was an astute businessman, who began a stage-coach to Port Burwell and advertised it as a means of connecting railway travellers to the more southern railway lines in Tillsonburg. He was also interested in education, and it was through his influence that a new



THE HISTORIC Ingersoll Inn, which once provided rooms for Canada's prime ministers Sir John A. MacDonal and Wilfred Laurier, is being torn down.

model school, used until 1919, was built in Ingersoll.

The hotel was operated by Daly from 1838 to 1857, when it was

leased to John Patterson, Ingersoll's first village treasurer. Pat-

Demolition of the century-old building should be completed by the end of the month.

erson ran the Daly House until 1862, when Daly once again took over operations. He remained in

charge until 1880 when he sold out to Harry Blewett, who ran it until his death in 1885.

MANY OWNERS

Between 1885 and 1942 the hotel had many owners, including Peter Kennedy, George Thompson, M.J. Kenney, J.C. Hyde, Oliver Scott, J. Anderson Coultar and William Revell.

In 1942, the hotel was bought by Vince Barrie. Herbert says under the ownership of Barrie the Ingersoll Inn became a "respectable place with good dining." Barrie eventually sold the hotel to John Brown.

A number of well-known people stayed at the hotel over the years, including Metropolitan opera star Christine Nielson; orator D'Arcy McGee; Confederate spy John Yates Beall and abolitionist John Brown, says Herbert, adding Ingersoll was home to 300 blacks during the years of the Civil War and immediately after.

LIVELY PAST

Sir John A. Macdonald, Alexan-

der Mackenzie, and, possibly, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, were also guests at the Daly House, which was conveniently opposite the Town Hall.

Herbert says many of the guests staying at the Daly House had speaking engagements or performances at the Town Hall and stayed at the Daly House because it was the closest hotel.

The old Ingersoll Inn was a historic building with a lively and interesting past, says Herbert, but it had fallen too deep into disrepair.

"It couldn't be preserved," says Herbert. "It had been open to the elements for years. Rain was falling in through the roof."

"It couldn't be preserved," says Herbert. "It had been open to the elements for years. Rain was falling in through the roof."

Soon, the entire hotel will be gone from that once busy corner of Ingersoll, but hopefully its history will remain.



St. Charles Hotel, left, stood on the corner of Charles and Thames Streets.

Ingersoll at one time, was the home of as many as 15 hotels. It was a booming community, with the Old Stage Road, now King Street, being a busy and well travelled path.

The Oxford Inn is thought to have been the first hotel built in the community. It was located at the corner of King and Mill Streets and was supposed to have been built in the 1790s.

The Royal Exchange Hotel, located on the south west corner of Charles and Thames Streets was opened in 1852. It was here the first election for village council was held.

The Prince of Wales Hotel was located on the west side of Thames Street, in the

vicinity between Carr's Book and China Shop and Zurbrigg's Bakery. It opened in 1828.

Twenty-odd years later, the Keating House, built in 1844, opened. It was located just south of where the Presbyterian Church now stands. It was first named the Commercial Hotel and later became known as the Red Onion, because all of its owners were readheaded with hot Irish tempers.

The Kirwin Hotel, first known as the Chamber Hotel then the Oxford House, was built in 1891-92 on the west side of Oxford Street, opposite Ingersoll's present police station. It served the community until 1967

Ingersoll once housed 15 hotels

when it was torn down.

The Adair Hotel, the Atlantic House and the Carroll House, along with the Royal Hotel, the McMurray Hotel, the Harmony Hall or Bummer's Roost, and the Queens Hotel, were other hotels that once operated in this community. The Thompson House, the Lee Hotel or Dereham House, the Mansion House, or the Brandy Hotel, the Walker House, the McCarty House and the Trick's Hotel, also existed.

Today, only Marco's Landing (originally the Daly House) remains.

Daly House

The Daly House, built early in 1838 on the site now occupied by Marco's Landing, formerly the Ingersoll Inn, was visited by many colorful characters of the last century.

Before a wandering spark from a burning trash heap found its way to the hotel in 1855, the log building built by Absolem Daly was a friendly meeting place, a place for Indians to come and trade their goods, and a welcoming abode for those wearied from journey on the Old Stage Road, which ran right past its front doors.

But as was said, in 1855 a spark jumped from across the road, ignited a vulnerable

curtain, and most of the hotel was destroyed.

In 1857, at the same time as the Olde Town Hall was being erected, the Ingersoll Inn was constructed on the site of the Daly House.

Here, in the yellow brick building, the historic figures of such persons as Sir John A Macdonald, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, showman P.T. Barnum and Thomas D'Arcy McGee made appearances. Along with these were countless personalities from the Chautauqua travelling shows and in the years prior to and during the American Civil War (1861-1865), many a plot and scheme was discussed among patrons of the Inn.

Many of these meetings were said to have involved members of the anti-slavery faction from the United States, such as Abolitionist John Brown, who championed the cause until his death by hanging in 1859, in Charlestown, Virginia. He had been found guilty of treason, conspiracy with slaves to rebel and first degree murder.

The location of the Ingersoll Inn, half-way between Detroit and Niagara Falls, made it an ideal stopover point and meeting place.

Now Marco's Landing for the past few years, the building still retains its original look.

From gas to electric lights

(Editor's Note: C.V. (Bud) MacLachlan retired as manager of the Ingersoll P.U.C. in 1985. He has remained active in community work. This part of the history, originally written to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the P.U.C. covers the first five years. Part II will appear in a later edition of the Ingersoll Times.)

These days we worry about energy, conservation, pollution, clean water and industrial development. What were the problems in the early years of this century? It is reported that council proceeded with plans for a hydro system, improved telephone system, sewage, water, a library, a hospital and at least one school.

Electric or hydro service is now such a part of our everyday life that you might wonder how it all began and who the people were who worked diligently to develop the "hydro system".

At that time, there was a gas company in the Town of Ingersoll which presumably supplied lighting and cooking energy to its customers. Most people would use coal-oil lamps and would burn wood for coal for heating. Prior to 1906, the town had a contract for street lighting with the Gas Light Co.

In 1880, the Ingersoll Electric Light and Power Co. was incorporated and signed an agreement with the town to supply electric service to street lights and some customers. Energy was of concern to the Board of Trade and they lobbied for power for industry.

The plant was located on Water Street and the generator or dynamo was powered by steam with coal as the fuel source. The company held a contract with the town for street lighting. There were poles and wires on some streets and information is limited to how many customers were supplied. The rates must have been adequate and there must have been a demand for service as there was no indication that the company was not solvent. We are aware that power was supplied to an electric railway between Woodstock and Ingersoll.

In 1906, the town signed an agreement with the Ingersoll Electric Light and Power Company to furnish 45 arc lights at a cost of \$2,500.00 per year based on a schedule of 300 nights per year. Apparently, on moonlit nights, the lights were not connected.

At this time, there was an active plan to develop electric or hydro power at Niagara Falls. This plan was headed by the Honorable Adam Beck, MLA from London. He organized the Western Ontario Municipalities to petition the Ontario Government to develop Niagara power. It was, therefore, through his efforts that the Hydro Electric Power Commission was formed in 1906. Its mandate was to develop Niagara power and to distribute it to the municipalities in Ontario at cost.

Politicians continued to discuss and petition for the development of Niagara power for Ingersoll. There were many meetings and studies done to determine if it was a feasible source of power (alternating

current - 25 cycle). Mr. Beck attended a meeting in Ingersoll on December 28, 1906 to answer questions relative to this subject.

Council had decided earlier in December that a by-law be placed before the electorate to enable the town to enter into an agreement to supply Niagara power to the Town of Ingersoll. Mr. Beck was in agreement with this plan. At the municipal election on January 9, 1907, Dr. Coleridge was elected mayor and the power by-law passed by a vote of 563 to 58. The by-law received third reading on January 24 and was registered as By-law #669.

Council assigned the task of negotiating the details of the power contract to the fire, water and light committee.

A Mr. Richards, an engineer with the HEPC, came to Ingersoll to study this project. It was planned that Ingersoll would contract for about 1,000 horsepower of electric energy.

The Town of Ingersoll was one of seven municipalities negotiating with the province for electric power at this time.

The provincial government announced that it planned to build a transmission line from Niagara to Hamilton and, from Hamilton, a hoop line into Western Ontario to supply Galt, Guelph, Stratford, St. Marys, Ingersoll, Woodstock and Brantford, plus other places in this route.

However, the Ingersoll Light and Power Company had a perpetual and exclusive franchise to supply power. It was not considered prac-

tical to enter into a contract for Niagara power with the local private company still in operation. It was, therefore, recommended that the town purchase the local power company.

An engineer from Montreal had visited the town to study the existing system and to prepare an estimate. The company had apparently prepared an estimate of \$55,211.45 for the plant. This was later reduced to \$52,500. (Cost of poles, wire, substation equipment was estimated at \$20,052.00.)

ADAM BECK HERE

The town prepared a by-law to provide the sum of \$50,000.00 for the purchase of the electric plant. This by-law was to be voted at the 1908 election. To promote the by-law, a large meeting was held on January 2, 1908 to present all the facts. There was much discussion about municipal ownership. The meeting was addressed by Adam Beck and representatives of other communities including Mr. Breithaut from Berlin.

The municipal election was held on January 9, 1908 and the \$50,000.00 power by-law was defeated 446 against to 200 votes in favor. All other 12 municipalities voted for Niagara Power.

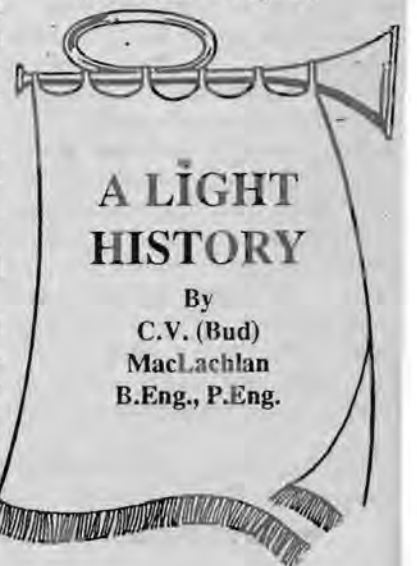
A point of clarification is required at this point. The Ingersoll voters were voting for \$50,000.00 to purchase the existing power system while other municipalities were voting for the supply of Niagara power. The Ingersoll voters considered the price of the power plant

was too high and consequently voted against it. However, the news spread fast and it was widely publicized that Ingersoll had not approved Niagara power.

MUCH CONFUSION

The year 1908 was a year of many meetings and much confusion. An agreement was prepared between the Town of Ingersoll and the Hydro Electric Power Commission to purchase 500 HP. This was the same plan as other municipalities were signing and the Ingersoll people felt that there were being left out as they could not sign the agreement when they already had contracts with the Ingersoll Light and Power Company. The discussion indicated that if Ingersoll signed at a later date, they would not get as good a price as the original group.

(Continued on Page 12)





THE MORROW PLANT ON THAMES STREET

Bicycles To Jet Aircraft All Served By Morrows

John Morrow came to Ingersoll from London, Ontario in 1887 and, with five men that he brought with him, set up a small machine factory — the John Morrow Screw Company — engaged principally in the manufacture of set and cap screws.

The company prospered and expanded, as did the town of Ingersoll. John Morrow died in 1898, and his nephew, J. Anderson Coulter, managed the plant until the early 1920s. At that time, management, and later, control, of the Morrow Screw and Nut Company was taken over by E. A. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson has been very prominent in Ingersoll's business and community life. He is president of both Morrow's and Ingersoll Machine and Tool Company Limited, and a few years ago, he had the Maude Wilson Memorial Swimming Pool built. This was presented to the town. He also owned the power boat, Miss Canada IV, one of the fastest boats of its type in the world. His son, Harold Wilson, who became internationally known as the driver of Miss Canada, is now general manager at Morrows.

Today, Morrow products are shipped from coast to coast across Canada. Sales offices and warehouses are located in several major Canadian centres.

Morrow's products include a

standard line of cap screws, nuts and drills. Principally a custom machining operation, they supply large quantities of specially machined fasteners to automotive and plumbing companies.

Throughout its long history, the company's products have changed in keeping with the varying needs of the times. During the gay Nineties, when the bicycle was in its heyday, it turned out hubs and spoke nipples; in the days of the great steam locomotives, Morrow's supplied large quantities of boiler patch bolts and engine studs. At one time it was a large manufacturer of sulky hubs.

Today, much of its specialized production is devoted to making parts for the aircraft industry. Particular skill and care is necessary to machine the super alloy materials used in the manufacture of jet engines. High-strength bolts for jet airframes are also machined in this department.

The company presently employs about 350 people, many of whom have been there 25 years or more.

Commenting on the company's future, Fred D. Rich, purchasing agent, said: "It would be hard to name any industry that Morrow Screw and Nut Company does not serve in one way or another. As other industries grow, so will this."

Concrete Sidewalk Laid First During Year 1890

By BYRON JENVEY

By 1890 the plank sidewalks were very badly worn or decayed. They were in constant need of repairs by the council. Planks were broken down in places and spike nails were sticking high from the cross-pieces.

Especially at night was sidewalk travelling difficult. The streets were poorly lighted at that time by gas lights with the aid of gas lights in the windows of some stores.

In 1890 a deputation from the Ingersoll council went to Detroit to inspect a new type of material for sidewalks. The company producing the material was the Otto Guelick Silica Barytic Stone Co. To prove the quality of the product, the Detroit company agreed to come to Ingersoll and build a sample sidewalk. In the summer of 1890 the company constructed a concrete sidewalk from the Baptist church corner at Canterbury street along the east side of Thames street to the north boundary of the property

of the Atlantic House or the C.P.R. right of way.

No machinery was involved in building the walk. All work was manual. The builders used a portable mixing platform and moved it forward as required. The elements that constituted the mixture for the sidewalk were cement, gravel, silica and barytic and water. The source of the barytic, a flour like substance, is at present unknown. It was reported at the time that Mr. Geulic went to England to secure a piece of an old Roman road, brought it to Detroit and had it analyzed to learn what its contents were. He used the knowledge thus gained to build good sidewalks.

In 1891, Walter Mills, an Ingersoll contractor, secured from the Otto Guelick Co. the right to build similar sidewalks in Ontario. Mr. Mills formed a company and had several groups of men throughout eastern and western Ontario replacing plank sidewalks with concrete. His local group put down 55 miles of sidewalks in Ingersoll.

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.



The way we were

This postcard of Smith's Pond dated May 9, 1914 is exactly the way Robert Cousins would like to remember the picturesque Ingersoll landmark. It's also the way he wishes it could look some 83 years later in 1997. In the background is the old Ingersoll Hospital. (Postcard contributed).



Photo courtesy of Ruth Brown



This marvellous picture of the old Atlantic House was loaned to *The Ingersoll Times* by Wendy picture should go to Glen Messenger, who obtained it from a home on Carnegie Street and had it re to donate the photo to the Ingersoll Historical Society. The Atlantic House stood where Petro The Ponsfords believe the picture was taken between 1911 and 1920 because hydro came to tow They wonder if the date was 1918 because of the flags on the building. "Could GWV



Croquet anyone?

This stately home with its wonderful front lawn is as impressive as ever at its Earl Street location. That's James Stevens, Mayor of Ingersoll from 1891-93 taking a shot during a croquet game at this home. Family members surrounding him include his son-in-law Edgar Hugill and his wife Minnie, daughter May, son Morgan and grandchildren. Edgar and Minnie later lived at this home. *(Photo courtesy of David Gibson)*



Anyone who doubts Ingersoll's Pipe Band has a long history needs only to look at this 1913 photo of the Noxon Pipe Band. The only members identified are Tom Johnson and Jack Little. *(File photo)*



Stella Walley Ferguson

Blast into the Past

Stella Walley Ferguson was the daughter of Fred Walley who owned and operated Walley's Drug Store on Thames Street in Ingersoll.

This lovely young lady became an actress, singer and celebrated personality.

She married Harry Ferguson and they had two daughters, Joy (deceased) and Betty Gillespie of British Columbia.

Do you remember "Stell"?

The Ingersoll Times is embarking on a year long celebration of our Bicentennial Year. In addition to a special souvenir edition which will be published this March, special features such as this will appear every other week. We welcome your suggestions and comments as well as pictures and stories that should be told during this special year.



GIBSON'S PURE MALT BREAD

In the mid 1980s William Gibson and his son David J. Gibson came to Ingersoll from Stratford where they had been bakers. A shop and bakery were established on Thames Street next to Walley's Crockery Store. Bread and cake deliveries were established. David J. Gibson became a town councillor and was known for his stands on local improvement. The author of *The Hugill Chronicles*, David L. Gibson is the grandson of William. (David Gibson/photo)

Thames River bridges unite town's north and south

BY MARJORIE FLEMING

Little information exists on some aspects of Ingersoll's past, and unfortunately a rich and interesting profile on old town bridges is one part of Ingersoll's heritage that seems to be missing from the history files.

Research netted little, except a photograph and vague mentions of several bridges spanning the Thames. But an Ingersoll native shed some light on the subject when approached.

Edgar Dunlop, a barber in town for many years, recalled some of the old town bridges, and was particularly helpful with regard to the old Wonham Street Bridge that was washed out in a flood in 1937. Said Mr. Dunlop, "I remember that bridge well. It was in fairly constant use until a man was killed on the road leading to the pork factory, on the north side of the river. After the fellow was killed, the road was closed, so traffic across the bridge was much lighter."

Mr. Dunlop doesn't remember the exact date, but sometime soon after the flood in 1937 wiped out the Wonham Street bridge, a swing bridge was constructed across the river to enable the residents of the town easier access to work.

"The swing bridge was essentially a foot bridge, but I can remember some carts going back and forth," Mr. Dunlop said. "The bridge was sturdy, with heavy sides on it, unlike the one put up down at the end of Whiting Street."

There is no exact date known for the creation of the swing bridge at the bottom of Whiting Street, but Mr. Dunlop recalled that it was a foot bridge constructed by some workmen at the Borden plant, so they could get back and forth to work.

"The Whiting Street foot bridge was considerably narrower than the Wonham bridge, and I would have to say that it was also less sturdy and more of a challenge to cross."

Mr. Dunlop dug back in his memory and came out with some interesting tidbits on other bridges in town.

He remembered the old Pemberton Street bridge, with its iron and steel sides, and said, "We rarely referred to that bridge by its name - to us it was the 'Iron Duke.'"

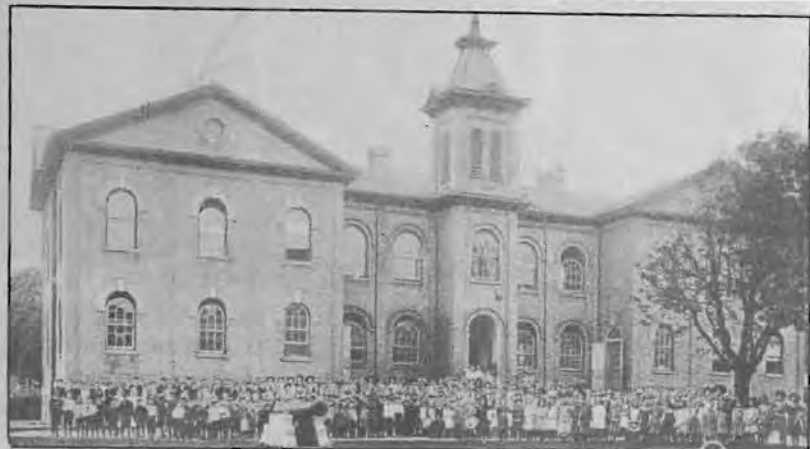
Edgar Dunlop also recalled a small bridge, located south of the Mutual Street bridge. There was a woolen mill located in the vicinity, a small dam, and a small bridge that spanned two ponds near the dam. He remembers it well because, "It was a really pretty walk down that way; it's all changed now of course, but back then the woolen mill used the small dam as a power source."

Unfortunately very little written data exists about Ingersoll's old bridges, but as long as residents like Mr. Dunlop give some of their time to reminiscing, pieces of Ingersoll's heritage will remain alive and interesting.



The Carroll Street Bridge as it was years ago. Today the bridge is called the Mutual Street bridge and has, of course, been replaced. On the right is the former Wonham Street bridge, which was destroyed in the great flood of 1937.





Ingersoll's Public School, circa 1912



This photo of serious looking students was taken in front of the old Central School. The school was torn down in 1921. Victory Memorial Public School was built in its place. (Photo courtesy Nelson Noad)

Last week's photo was incorrectly identified.

As so many of you pointed out, the picture was of the Bruce Phillips Grocery Store, located when Ledgley Jewellers is now. This 1921 photo shows three generations of the Phillips family. That's Bruce Phillips in the apron and with him is his father William. The little boy on the stool is Lloyd Phillips, now of RR4 Ingersoll. The customer has been identified as Stan Lazenby, who was employed at the Smith & Kerr Men's Wear Store. *(Photo courtesy of Lloyd and Margaret Phillips.)*



Victory Memorial School - This photo was taken, circa 1921. The teacher has been identified as Kathleen Cuthbertson. The only students to be named are Arnold Hopkins and Carl Edmonds. (photo courtesy of Reg Tribe)



Ingersoll Public Library



The Carroll Hotel became the Mason Apartments.



Thames Street North



Thames Street looking south



A view of Oxford Street

These marvellous postcards are part of the collection of Ruth Brown. They were loaned to *The Ingersoll Times* so readers could also enjoy these scenes of yesteryear. Some of the buildings no longer exist and the streets are barely recognizable. An indication of the year these photos were taken is the fact that postage in both Canada and the U.S.A. was one cent.



The Upper Dam on the Thames



This impressive family photo was taken in the late 1890s. John Brown (centre, seated) is surrounded by his family at the family home at 200 George St. It is not possible to identify all these impressive Victorians, but at the far left are James and Isabelle Brown. The house is still there today, and now is the home of Gail MacKay and family. (photo courtesy of Ruth Brown)



This ICI postcard has an interesting history. dated July 10, 1910, it is addressed to a Miss Bessie Mills, Steelton, Ont., and is signed by "Nora". The letter was sent to the Ingersoll District Chamber of Commerce from the Sault Ste. Marie Museum. Sylvia Roberts, a volunteer with the museum explains that the postcard was part of the collection of Ms. Betty Young which was given to them. The museum was authorized to send the cards to cities that might be interested. Former ICI and IDCI students will be gathering in Ingersoll the May 15 weekend for a high school reunion. (Photo courtesy Sault Ste. Marie Museum)

Evans Bros.
INGERSOLL, ONT.



Description

STYLE C

MAHOGANY OR WALNUT

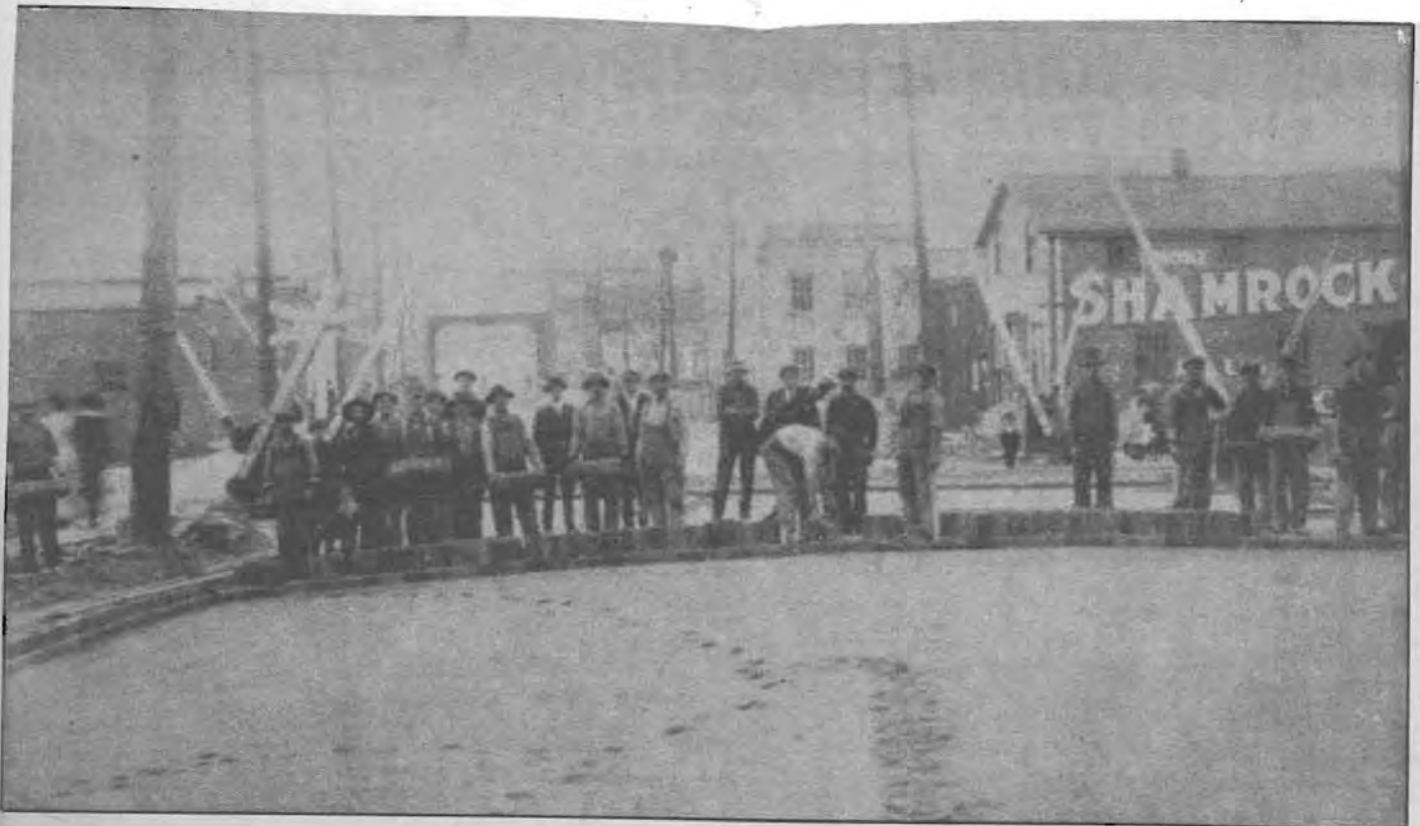
Dimensions:

Height, 4 feet 9½ inches.
Width, 5 feet 4 inches.
Depth, 2 feet 3½ inches.

Case double veneered inside and out.
Seven and one-third octaves.
Metal frame with open wrest plank.
Tri-chord scale.
Continuous hinges.
Third sustaining pedal.
Full width swinging music desk.
Rolling fall.
Elegantly carved trusses and pilasters.
Ivory keys.
Highly polished.
Fully guaranteed for 7 years.

PIANO PLAYBACK

The Ingersoll Times appreciates the interest in, and the comments by its readers as we continue our weekly Memories of Oxford on the Thames. Last week's photo of the Evans Bros. piano was actually an advertisement from the back page of a 1906 *Ingersoll Sun*. The ad was loaned to us by Douglas M. Carr.



These men are preparing to put down Ingersoll's new road --- a brick one. This photo was taken in the early 1900s.



This picture will bring back many memories --happy memories of buying your children's first shoes; of buying shoes for the children each year when they went back to school in September; of taking shoes in for repairs--and of all the interesting conversations and advice that went with the visits. It was Underwood Shoes of course and the gentleman on the left is Sid Underwood, a man who served his country and his community. On the right is Josiah Underwood, father of Sid and founder of the family business. The picture was taken circa 1920. (Photo courtesy Ernie Underwood).

Two cigar factories once located in Ingersoll

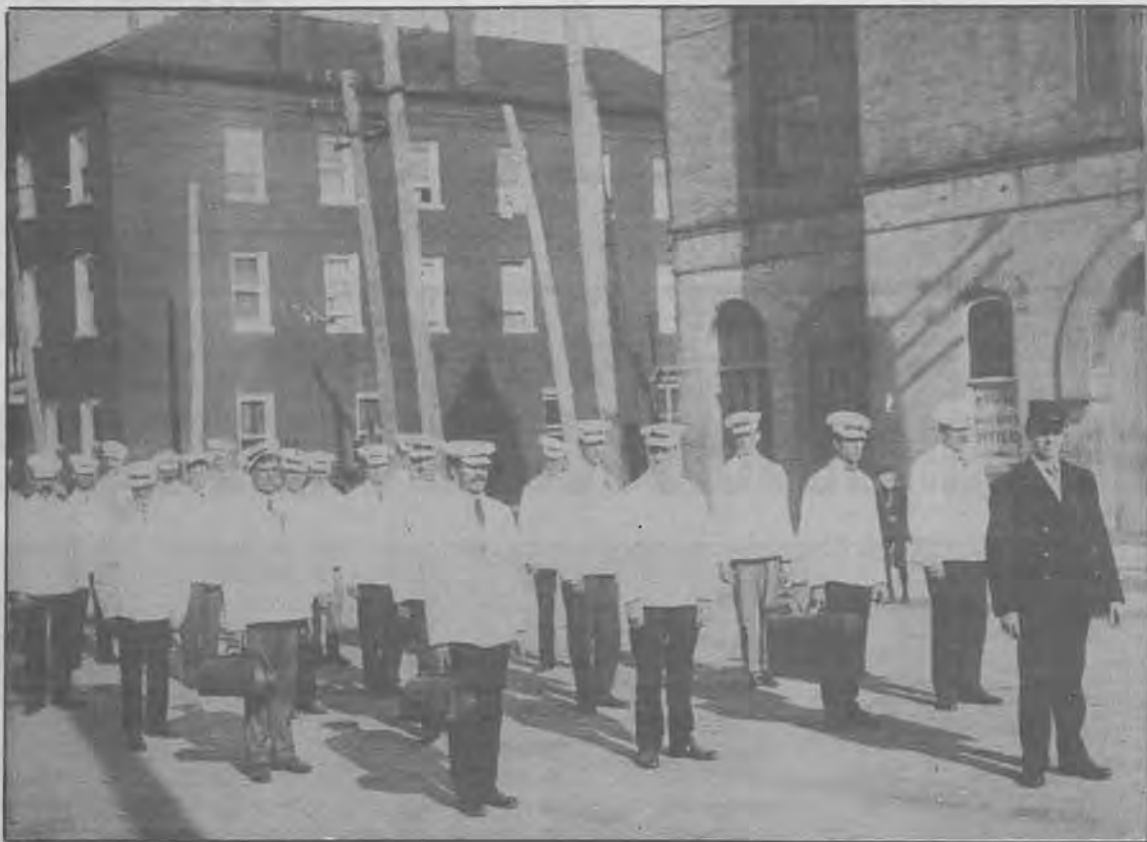
In the early 1900s Ingersoll had two cigar factories. One was operated by John Frezell and the other by Andrew Smith. One was located at the rear of the Keating Hotel, while the other was on Charles Street.

On October 18, 1897, the Marquis of Lorne, who was the Governor General of Canada, and his wife, Princess Louise, visited Ingersoll. They arrived by train and were met by a huge crowd.

In 1946, when Standard Brands of Canada took over ownership of Ingersoll Cheese Company, they introduced the town to the margarine producing business. At one time, Ingersoll was Canada's leading exporter of margarine.

Ingersoll's Upper Dam Sluice could be lowered or raised to keep the water in Carroll's Pond at a proper level for powering a turbine for the woollen mills at the south west corner of the pond. The mill was a mile and a half down stream from this dam, and the water ran through eastern dykes on each side to the head of the pond.

In 1818 a grist mill was built on Mill Street, and the mill was driven by water power. The pond which supplied this power to the water wheel was known as Partlo's Pond and is now Memorial Park.



These marvellous photos came from the collection of former fire chief Ken Campbell. Obviously, they are firefighters from another era. What were the occasions? Who are the firefighters? What is the

Town Library cost \$400 to build in 1880

In 1880 a public meeting was held in the Council Chambers and another library began. James Noxon was elected president. A grant of \$400 was received from the province on the understanding that they would provide a public library, reading room, evening classes and a scientific museum. The municipality contributed some funds and subscribers paid \$1.00 per annum.

Rooms were secured at a rental of \$50 and the librarian, Mr. Adkins was paid \$50 a year.

The struggles of the committee over the next few years to keep the venture going are recorded in the minutes. To raise funds the committee sponsored concerts and excursions. A trip to Toronto on Civic Holiday, 1882, brought a profit of \$70; a concert by the Jubilee Singers, \$30; but a concert of local talent brought a loss of \$3.99.

In 1880 under the chairmanship of G.W. McDiarmid, the board bowed to the request of the W.C.T.U. to set up a free reading room and recreation room and even entertained the thought of a gymnasium. A piano was installed and rules drawn up for its use. The amusement committee purchased three sets of checkers, two of "pig in clover", one of dominoes, one of authors, one "go bang", one parlour croquet and board, one air gun, etc.

In 1890 the Mechanics Institute became a Free Public Library. The Municipality contributed \$454 to this venture. Several pages of minutes were filled with regulations as to the use of the library.

In 1898 the library was located in the Royal Bank Building and in 1899 moved to the Miller building on Thames Street. A crisis over fuel in 1903 resulted in closing the reading room part of the week and in 1907 the library was closed on account of small

pox.

The Library Board applied for a Carnegie grant and in 1910 the present library building on Charles Street was opened. The lot was purchased from the Merchants Bank for \$1, and the library building was built and furnished for \$9,000.

Mrs. Court was the librarian for 15 years followed by Janet McKellar in 1908. Irene Cole of Guelph, succeeded her in 1931, and Betty Crawford followed Miss Cole. Since the retirement of Miss Crawford in 1971 the Librarians have been David Hall (1972-73), Linda Birtwell (1973-75), and Bonnie Gray (1975-78). Gail Jeffrey succeeded Miss Gray in 1978.

In 1967 Ingersoll Public Library completed major changes in a renovation program



This shot of Ingersoll's downtown shows its state when the town centralized the cheese industry for the surrounding rural countryside. Here, a street car ambles down historic Charles Street.

sparked by the Centennial activity. The interior of the library was opened out into a single floor space and area for reading or reference. The color scheme is of white and light "colery" walls with a soft green carpet and drapes, comfortable chairs in tangerine, yellow and red make spots of color. Mrs. Ross Kilgour, S. Underwood, Dr. J.A. Paterson and Madeleine Hamilton were the board members at this time.

In 1960 under the chairmanship of Percy J. Smith, a children's library was established in the basement. Extensive renovations were carried out in 1976 to the children's section to make it more bright and cheerful. The walls were covered in panelling, the ceiling lowered, new light fixtures put in and carpeting.

Library resources have increased with the expansion of the Oxford County Library system and the Lake Erie Regional system.

In 1969 the Library became a branch of the Oxford County Library.

The circulation has risen to well over 60,000 books. The library continues to provide a place for meetings of the Sketch Club and the Book Club. Before the basement was used as a Children's Library, it was the home of such groups as the Photography Club, Naturalists, Little Theatre and many others.

For a number of years travelling exhibitions of art were hung in the library and several times a year, exhibitions of local art were displayed.

Ingersoll, by the 1800s, was a well established, thriving village. Businesses were frequently springing up and were quite successful.

The leading industry in town by 1855 was the Ingersoll Packing Co. Established by T.D. Millar. The hog slaughtering operation was sold several times before it landed in the hands of Thomas Boyd who held onto the factory until 1925, when he shut it down.

In 1895 a business dealing with goods ranging from hosiery and dress good to furniture and carpets were formed. It was operated and owned by J.J. Jollinrake.

A century ago Ingersoll was home to many newspapers the first being established in 1853. The Ingersoll Chronicle was owned by J.S. Gurnett.

The Noxon Farm Implement Co. was started in 1856 and within 15 years the industry had 100 workers. However, when the first World War began many of the goods which were shipped overseas were lost and by 1925 James Noxon was forced to close his doors.

Canada's first milk condensing factory was established in Ingersoll in 1899. St. Charles Condensing Co. was located on King Street.

In 1877 Wilson and Robertson started up a hardware business on King Street. A basket factory was established in Ingersoll in 1903. It manufactured crates, boxes and fruit baskets which were in great demand in the Niagara Fruit District.

In 1905 the Canada Glove and Mitten factory opened a branch in town. Due to the great demand of their products, the business expanded only a few years after it opened. Some of Ingersoll's older residents can still recall sitting in the store while the salesperson fitted gloves to their hands.

F.W. Staples began a machinist operation in town in the early 1900's. He repaired automobiles, bicycles and machines with his skilled service.

About the same time Ingersoll had two cigar factories established. One was owned by John Frezell, the other by Andrew Smith.

When larger factories opened in London, the Ingersoll plants closed.

The Gas Light Co. of 1872 first supplied the Noxon Factory on Thames Street. In 1891 it had a small electric light plant which operated out of Centerville.

Dominion Telephone System installed its first phones in Ingersoll, making Ingersoll the first community in Canada to have a telephone exchange installed, which was in 1880.

By the early 1900s Ingersoll had six barber shops and several blacksmith shops as well.

An important industry in the late 1800s was the Ellis Furniture Company owned by A.H. Ellis. It was first known as the Hault Manufacturing Co. but the second year of its establishment Mr. Ellis became a partner.

A four storey building which produced

Thriving business section in the 1800s

about 400 pianos annually was built in town in 1887 and was called the Evans Bros. Piano Co. The industry was located where Fleischer and Jewett Car Sales Lot and garage now stands.

There were also several small businesses around town in the early 1900s. F.A. Waters Jewellers was established in 1890. The business which was began by Mr. Waters was operated by his son during its later years.

H.W. Healy began a grocery store in 1899; Manning Bookstore was began in the early 1900's and Brassey's Fruit Stand was also established around this time.

In the 1790s, Thomas Ingersoll planted the seeds that would root and grow to become Ingersoll; a community which today bears little resemblance to the wilderness in which

Mr. Ingersoll first settled. Schools, churches, a hospital, a sports arena, and businesses have all been born since then.

None of the community's first businesses still exist. But, there are or were businesses, established in the 1800s or early 1900s, that certainly made their mark on Ingersoll and will be remembered by many.

INGERSOLL MARKET

In the late 1950s, Ingersoll Market was a beehive of activity, with grain, mutton and beef being the main items of trade. Many of Ingersoll's older residents will recall the market as it grew and thrived in the early and mid 1900s.

The market did not remain popular, however, and was eventually closed down. A few years ago a number of local and area residents saw the need for the rebirth of an outdoor market, and set the wheels in motion for a Saturday morning market. This market still operates in the Old Town Hall and in market square.

JOHN MORROW MACHINE AND SCREW

This company, located on the corner of Thames and Catherine Streets, was at one time one of Ingersoll's busiest industries. It was founded in Ingersoll in 1887 and produced bolts and screws. In 1974 the company was purchased by Ivaco Industries and the production of cold heading steel parts was moved to Ingersoll Fasteners in the south part of Ingersoll, where a new plant was built.

Before the Ivaco purchase, the firm expanded to produce hot pressed nuts of various sizes. This production line operated out of a building located near the railroad tracks, east of Thames Street north between Mutual and Bruce Streets.

NOXON IMPLEMENT COMPANY

Owned by James Noxon, the Noxon Farm Implement Company started on a small scale in 1856 but rapidly expanded to become a major employer in the community, and to meet the increasing demand for farm labor saving machinery.

When World War I swept the globe, however, many losses were incurred in the sinking of boats loaded with Noxon Farm Implements going to foreign markets and in 1923 the company ceased operations.

BY RENE McKNIGHT

Keeping up with the Jones's is an almost timeless tradition and one May 24 holiday Ingersoll residents, not wanting to be outdone by Scotland's Lockness monster, came up with a creature which would attract 10,000 curious visitors to the village.

It all began in the early months of 1857 (some historians say 1862) when turbulence was noted on Partlo's Pond by several citizens. In a matter of time the frothing pond set free the imaginations of the townspeople and was thought to be inhabited by a fearsome creature.

It was only a matter of time before the press picked up on the issue and added more fuel to the fire. Soon historians, professors and museum experts were in on the monster talks. Rumours spread like wildfire; a prehistoric turtle lurked in the still waters of Partlo Pond, or perhaps an alligator dropped by some travelling menagerie. Whatever this monster was, it was gaining

notoriety and townspeople were demanding it be caught and removed; dead or alive.

May 24 was chosen as the date that the fearsome creature would be caught. This issue was no longer just the concern of a little Ontario town but of the whole nation. On the holiday weekend, the pond was to be drained and the monster disclosed.

Despite the fact Ingersoll had prepared for a crowd of curious onlookers to visit, it was not prepared for the 10,000 visitors that came. Barn lofts were rented at premium rates for those seeking shelter.

One of the strangers who had loafed into town was a noteworthy professor from the United States, who was anonymously signed in at the Royal Exchange Hotel. With him he brought dozens of literary pamphlets dealing with prehistoric creatures.

As the great moment drew near, excitement ascended on the crowd of people surrounding Partlo's Pond. Although the gates were not to open until 4 p.m., 10,000 people had gathered along the shores of the

alleged sea serpent's home long before that time.

Men armed with shot guns were also at the site, prepared to shoot the monster should it attack. The American professor who had supposedly sited the monster through his binoculars, was credited with saying "It's a hairy creature."

After the dam had been released and the waters of the pond began to recede, a raft carrying two men was sent out onto the pond. If possible they were going to lasso the denizen of the pond.

Suddenly turbulence was noted and the raftsmen quickly made their way to this sight. Catching sight of the monster, they plunged a spear pike into its' side twice. One man aboard the raft lost his balance and slipped into the water but was quick to clammer onto the raft's deck. Those on shore suspected the monster had bumped the raft, causing the man to fall in.

Suddenly the creature surfaced and the crowds roared with laughter. An Irishman

among them cried, "'Tis a hoax, be heavens, 'tis a hoax.'" The hide of a two-year-old streer stuffed with straw and bricks to keep it under the water was towed ashore.

The American professor, however, found little humor in the joke. "It is more than a hoax" he bellowed. "it is an outrage on the people of half the American continent." He then demanded an apology. Instead a councillor who had witnessed the whole event ordered him out of town. "If you don't get on the first train out of town, I'll have you thrown in jail," he declared.

The explanation for the pond's frothing was simple. John Stuart made oatmeal at his mill. Waste from the mill, including oat hulls, were emptied into a river which lead into Partlo's Pond. When the waste fermented, bubbles resulted, which first stirred the imaginations of Ingersoll residents. Once the imaginations of a few people were put to work, a few practical jokers went to work creating the legendary pond monster.

Pond 'monster' hoax drew 10,000 spectators

Once carried Ingersoll residents to and from Woodstock

A street car named 'Estelle'

BY RENE McKNIGHT

Ingersoll was no doubt filled with excitement July 3, 1900 when the first tracks for the Woodstock-Thames Valley-Ingersoll Electric Railway were laid. Less than a year later, in June of 1901, the tracks supported daily runs of a trolley car, which were to bring much pleasure to Ingersoll residents for many years.

Shortly after the tracks were in place, an order was made for the 'Estelle,' a Toonerville Trolley type of car, which began its daily escapades in 1901. The trolley was the brainchild of Dr. S. Ritter Ickes and J. Armstrong, who had both been influential in promoting the electric railways in south western Ontario.

The trolley, named Estelle after Dr. Ickes' daughter Estelle, featured two rows of wooden benches which could seat as many as 24 passengers. In the centre of the trolley car was a pot bellied stove, which according to reports, either refused to work in the winter or puffed out so much smoke its passengers would leave weasing.

Electricity for the trolley was supplied by an overhead power line which propelled the car along the tracks. The conductor could operate the car from either end of the Estelle.

According to the book, 'Ingersoll Our Heritage,' "The original line started at Wellington Street, down Dundas Street to Mill. Later the line extended east to Huron

Street. The line then took in Mill Street south to Park Row, and out to the Ingersoll road and Fairmont Park, Beachville and on to Ingersoll. The track and car came in from the east, crossed the road at the outskirts of Ingersoll, to the north side of the road, passed the Ingersoll Public Library, across the main corner on Charles Street, turned up on Oxford Street, on the west side to the Ingersoll Inn,' now Marco's Landing.

It was at this point the electric rod was turned to the other end of the car, and the conductor would drive the vehicle back to Woodstock.

The trolley's route included stops in Beachville, Ingersoll and the eastern limits of Woodstock, and according to reports, would pick up passengers anywhere along the way.



The Estelle and conductor, early 1900s.

The Estelle became a friend to all of its users. When the car first arrived in town, it had a rustic scene painted on its sides and was decorated with small colored glass windows.

A second car was added to the line later, to accommodate more passengers on the Woodstock, Beachville, Ingersoll line. This car was named 'The City of Woodstock,' and was an open-type car which offered a greater seating capacity. This vehicle operated in the summer months only.

In 1925 the Estelle was retired, along with its summer sidekick, 'City of Woodstock.' Both were replaced by larger box cars which were used for freight.

The trolley cars' disappearance marked the end of an era, and before long, automobiles travelled the routes which the Estelle had.



Freddie Wurker and his orchestra brought music and fame to the area. His musical career was interrupted for a stint in the armed forces where he was asked to form a band. His career resumed when he returned to civilian life. This photo, circa 1930, includes from the left in the front row Frank Kelly, Wilf Manning, Freddie Wurker and Keith Geddie. In the back row, from the left, are Crosby Cable, Albert Quait, Der Markham and Ian Goodall. (Photo courtesy Alex and Dora Wurker)

Ingersoll wasn't always a one-paper town

Newspaper industry constantly changing since 1853

By TIM MCKAY
Ingersoll Times Editor

The Ingersoll Times is the only local newspaper in town, but it wasn't always that way. In fact, Ingersoll supported two newspapers for many of the past 146 years.

The first paper to roll off the press was The Ingersoll Chronicle. It was established by Josiah Blackburn in 1853 and is said to be the earliest newspaper of record in this locality and Oxford County. Prior to starting the Chronicle, Blackburn had been editor of the Paris Star and had purchased The London Free Press in 1852.

With his other commitments, Blackburn didn't

have much time to spend in Ingersoll. So, in 1854 Blackburn was succeeded by Allen Wessels as publisher and editor.

According to local history books, the four page broadsheet was published with a Liberal point of view and it sometimes carried a subtitle of The Canada Dairy reporter.

In 1864, Wessels reportedly took one cord of wood in exchange for a year's subscription to the paper. Ingersoll's railway station was a "wood up" point for locomotives in those days.

It wasn't until the Gurnett family took over the Chronicle in 1876 that it started to thrive. The paper was run by J.S. Gurnett

until his death in 1894, and was then taken over by his son, G.F. Gurnett. The paper remained in the family

just a few months and was taken on by R. Elliott late in 1894.

By this point, however, Ingersoll had already become a two-paper town.

The Ingersoll Sun was established in 1881 by C.R. Patience. The date of the Sun's demise is not certain, but W.J. Taylor was its last listed editor and publisher in 1909.

After that, Taylor went on to become managing editor and president of The Woodstock Sentinel Review's Ingersoll edition.

The Ingersoll Chronicle put out its last edition after 66 years of publication when it was absorbed by The Woodstock Sentinel Review in 1919.

W.A. Willoughby was its last listed editor and pub-

lisher on its first front page.

Current Times Putnam correspondent, Irene Hansford, had her byline in the original edition and Thamesford resident and now world-renowned poet Beryl Baigent was Thamesford correspondent.

Advertisements in the first issue included: a loaf of bread from the IGA store for 21 cents; a 1965 Ford Mustang for \$1,496; and one for a chicken barbeque celebrating the opening of the "new" Dorchester Legion Hall.

A bitter rivalry between The Tribune and The Times soon erupted and the Times won, putting the Tribune out of business in only a year - it's owners taking off in the night.

The Ingersoll Times was later sold by Robins et al. to Otter Publishing Ltd. In 1988, Otter sold the paper to Newfoundland Capital Corporation which later merged Goodhead Publishing Ltd. in 1991. That merger created South Western Ontario Publishing and Printing, SWOP

Times will welcome new reporter John Tapley, who has spent the past seven years with its sister paper, *The Norwich Gazette*.

Advertising manager Andy Horvath joined the Times staff in July, as did Beth Faulkner, who works in reception and classifieds.

Mott grew up in Ingersoll newspaper business

Yvonne Holmes Mott's byline has appeared in Ingersoll's newspapers since she was a teenager in the 1950s. Mott, known to friends as Bonnie, still writes for *The Ingersoll Times* and has first-hand knowledge of the changes in the local newspaper industry.

"I worked for the Tribune, then went to the Sentinel Review's Ingersoll publication, then back to the Tribune and later back to the Sentinel," she recalls. "Eventu-



Dec 7/94

Arena fire vividly remembered

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT

This Saturday, Dec. 10, marks the 39th anniversary of the night Ingersoll's arena burned to the ground.

It was a sight that will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

It was close to two o'clock (actually 1:50 a.m.) Saturday morning when the fire trucks went screaming from their King Street West fire hall to the Charles Street arena.

Freezing cold temperatures, (minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit), added to the problems.

With fire chief Alf Schaeffer in charge, the firefighters fought the blaze throughout the remainder of the night.

The heat from the flames made it impossible to stand near the fire.

If they moved away from it, the cold was so intense their fingers froze. It was one extreme to the other.

The actual building was right on Charles Street.

Built in 1911 by George Mason, the 66-foot-by-175-foot, mostly-frame structure was used a great deal by the community.

Not only was it the "hockey arena" and home to the skating club, but it was used by service clubs and school boards for public functions.

The public schools' May Day concert was held there each year. With I.O.D.E. Chapters running the canteen and coat check, various service clubs held huge Saturday night dances there. A band shell at one end would house a live orchestra or band. Among the favorites playing there were Ingersoll's Freddie Wurker and the Wingham CKNX Barn Dance Band.

Carnivals were even held there, occasionally.

Some people refer, nostalgically, to the days when there was roller skating during the summer evenings with either live or recorded music.

Ingersoll's well-known Clarence Henhayke, as one of the "cruisers," was not only respected for the way he kept control, but watched and admired for his impressive skating ability on roller skates as well as ice skates.

A Dec. 15, 1955 *Ingersoll Tribune*, loaned to *The Ingersoll Times* by Doris Fleming, states: "The alarm was sent in almost simultaneously by an American tourist, Ralph Walker of Ingersoll, and an unidentified person.

"While the brigade made good time in reaching the scene, the flames had already gained a good start and the building was a mass



This was the old Ingersoll arena, situated on Charles Street East. The building burned to the ground Dec. 10, 1955 on a bitter cold night that drew out hundreds to watch. The next morning young children stood in front of the ruins openly crying as they saw their dreams of playing for the NHL destroyed. Within 24 hours a group had met to begin plans to build a new arena. (photo courtesy of Bernice Manicom).

of seething flames."

The report also referred to the large crowd of people who gathered to watch the fire. It also says that at its height, "The glow could be seen in London, about 17 miles to the west."

The Tribune reports, "... the fire chief realized he had a big job on his hands and called for assistance from nearby brigades. Fire chief Gordon Tripp (Woodstock) and members of the Beachville fire brigade answered the call and their help was sincerely appreciated.

"The fire broke through the roof and pieces of burning embers flew to the south with lighted pieces going as far as Cross Street, a block outside the town limits."

MEMORIES

Doris and Tom Fleming will never forget that night. With their two children, four-year-old Bruce and baby daughter Sheila, they were all sound asleep in their home which was attached to the east end of the arena building.

Doris had been up heating a bottle for the baby at 11 p.m. The next thing she knew, someone was banging on her door and shouting, "Doris! Doris!"

She ran to the door and was surprised to see Jack MacMillan there. It was nearly 2 a.m.

"The arena is on fire," he shouted. "Grab your kids and get out quick."

Doris ran upstairs and wakened her husband. The two of them quickly dressed the children in warm clothes and ran outside.

Fortunately, Doris' parents, Harry and Kitty Burton, lived across the street and they were able to take the children there.

Doris recalls someone saying to them, "Get your car out of the

garage." When they opened the garage door, smoke poured out of it. The car was pushed to safety. "We would never even have thought of it," Doris said.

The entire upstairs of their apartment and their kitchen were destroyed by the fire. The dining and living rooms were soaked with water.

Doris recalls with a laugh that her dad, who worked with the PUC for years, took the furniture to the sub-station to let it "drip dry" and "believe it or not we still have the one chesterfield, a special made-to-order one, today".

A sad fact of life that night was, "what wasn't burned was stolen," Doris said.

It horrified the Fleming family to learn that people would actually loot things from the fire site.

The children's toys all disappeared from their special spot. Bruce's comic books were all stolen and the thief even left a trail of them as he ran off. A good set of steak knives disappeared from a buffet drawer and many other things were missing too.

On the other side of the coin, people were wonderful. "They helped us so much with clothing, even diapers, and they were generous with donations.

"Ever since that night, I have wished there was some fund in place to help people in a similar situation," remarks Doris.

"Whenever we hear of someone going through what we did, Tom and I do our best to help them a bit."

Retired fire chief Ken Campbell was a volunteer firefighter at that time. He had been promoted to lieutenant and well remembers that cold night.

(Continued on Page 16)

Arena fire vividly remembered

(Continued from Page 7)

He recalls that his first concern when he arrived at the fire was for Tom and Doris Fleming.

"What is going to happen to them?" He remembers the relief at learning they were safe at their parents' home.

ARENA WAS GONE

"I think we all knew the arena was gone," he said. "Even as we kept pouring the water into it, we knew it was a lost cause."

"But that building belonged to the people and we spent a lot of time trying to save it."

Retired fire chief Les Harlow spoke to *The Times* from Florida.

He expressed surprise that the fire took place so long ago, but he vividly remembers the long, cold night.

"At first it was just a fire, a fire we had to put out just like any other fire. We knew we couldn't save the arena, it was gone."

"Our big concern was the two houses on either side of it. They were in danger and we concentrated on saving them."

"When daylight came, the youngsters started to arrive. They felt so badly they started to cry. Then it really hit us."

"They knew instinctively that it was going to be a long time before they were skating or playing hockey. And I think it held some of them back from their hockey careers."

"When those kids started to cry it brought home to us what the town has lost."

Many others in the community recall that part of Ingersoll's history vividly.

Sam Phillips lived in Salford at the time. He was a Juvenile hockey player, and a good one by all accounts. He learned about the

fire the next morning when someone called his house. "I was devastated. We all were. We lived for hockey. In fact there was nothing else to do but play hockey."

Bill Harlow wakened that Saturday morning and asked his mother where his dad was. She explained he was downtown fighting a fire at the arena and had been there all night.

He remembers running all the way to the arena and seeing the "young kids standing there with their hockey sticks in their hands and tears running down their faces."

Larry House watched the arena burn. It was the same year he joined the army. He stood there thinking about the broomball games they had played there and all the hockey games he had watched. He knew it would be a long time before there was any more broomball or hockey.

Nip Henderson has vivid memories of Dec. 10, 1955. Earlier that night, he had refereed a hockey game, leaving the arena about 11:30 p.m.

The next morning, "I was getting John and Paul ready for minor hockey. The phone rang and it was John C. McBride telling me the arena had burned down."

My reply was "You're crazy! I refereed there last night."

"It's not there now," was the reply.

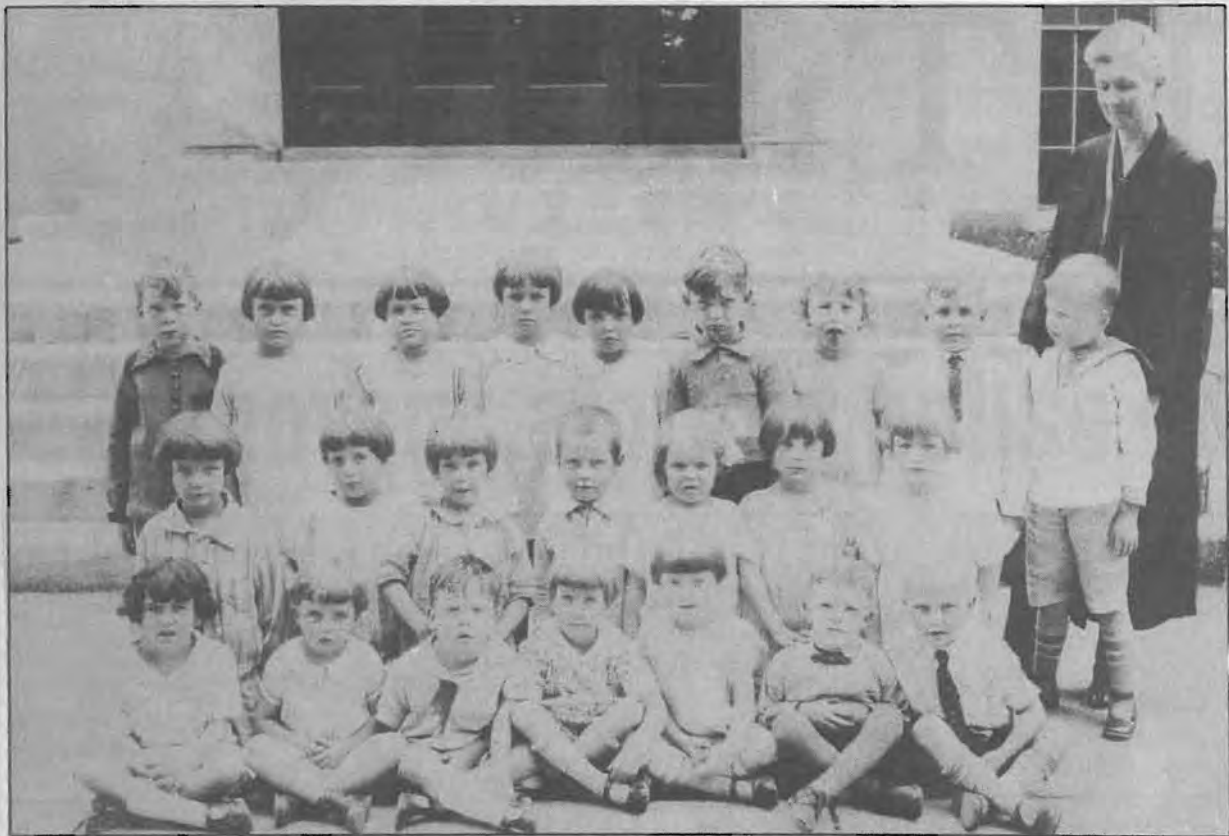
"I raced down there and all that was left was a pile of corrugated metal siding".

Henderson noted that the Crumlin Air Force team had played there the night before. They had just bought all new sweaters and goalie equipment. "They lost it all."

He adds "I still can't believe I didn't even hear a siren!"

A long-time friend of NHL referee George Hayes, Henderson said that Ingersoll athlete was coming back from a job in Chicago and was in Detroit when he heard the news from one of the train crew.

"It was just like losing my right arm," Hayes told Henderson later.



An entire generation of Ingersoll residents will recall Mrs. Arkell as the kindly, white-haired kindergarten teacher at Victory Memorial School. This picture was taken 1927-28. Among those identified are: back row---Gerry Drum, Carmen Newell, Doris Ackert, Ernie Underwood, Betty Burrows, Mary Fuller, Dorothy Heeley, Ruth White, Bill Sage; middle row---Lenore McCombs, Gwen Searle, Dognald Latford, June Holmes, Jean Knott; front row---Bob Henderson, Rynt Stanley, Donald Westlake. (Photo courtesy Ernie Underwood).



A Glimpse of the Past

This old red brick building had so much of Ingersoll's history tied up in it. The sign says Healey's Groceries. Some will remember when there was a market there. Others will remember MacMillan's Meat Market in the downstairs. Younger residents will remember it as the police office downstairs; and engineering, building inspection and economic development offices upstairs. Those who know cars well will be able to define the year the photo was taken. *(This photograph is one of a series of historical photos of Beachville and Ingersoll, loaned to The Ingersoll Times by the Hacker family).*

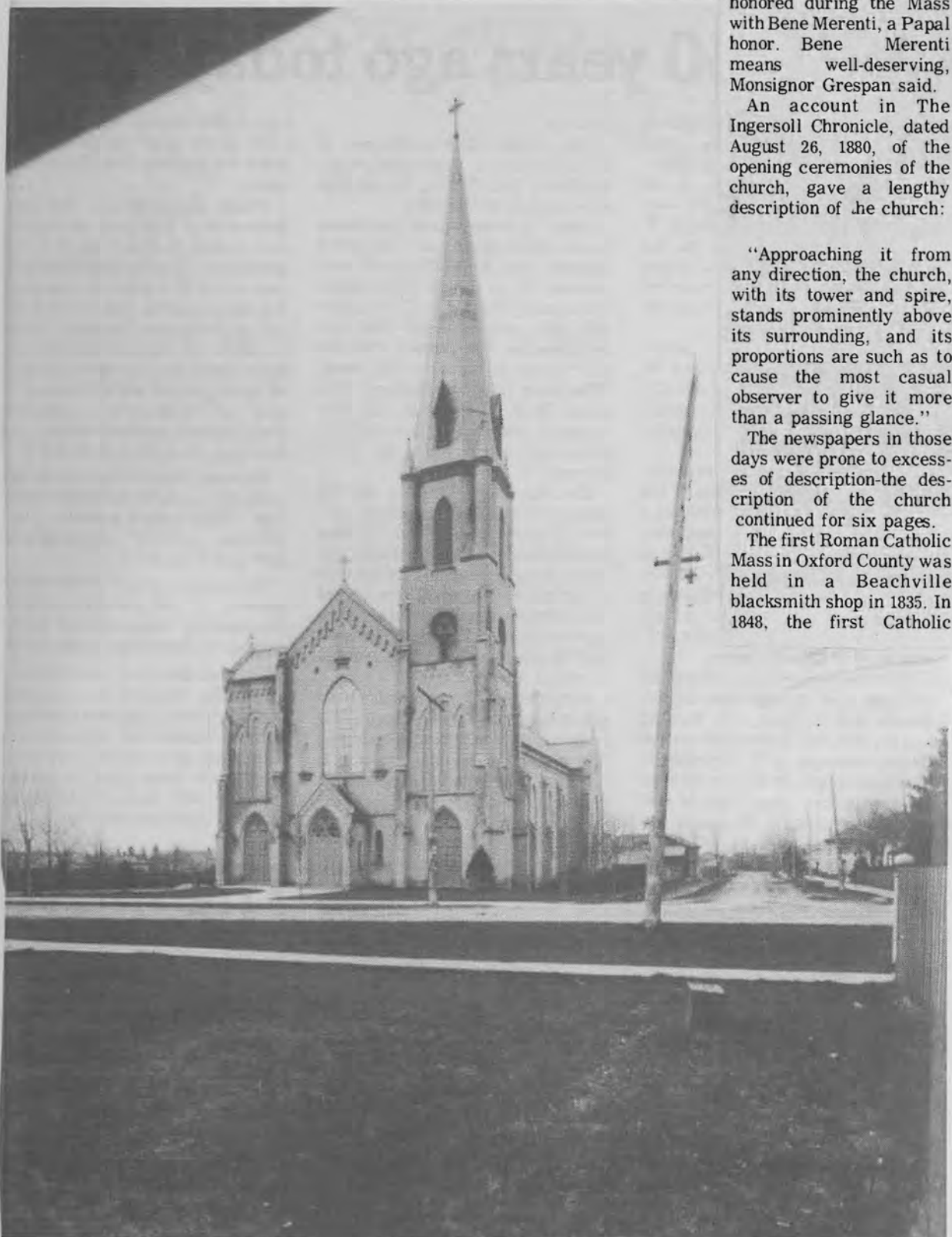
Anna McSherry, who has been the housekeeper at the Rectory since 1935, was honored during the Mass with Bene Merenti, a Papal honor. Bene Merenti means well-deserving, Monsignor Grespan said.

An account in The Ingersoll Chronicle, dated August 26, 1880, of the opening ceremonies of the church, gave a lengthy description of the church:

“Approaching it from any direction, the church, with its tower and spire, stands prominently above its surrounding, and its proportions are such as to cause the most casual observer to give it more than a passing glance.”

The newspapers in those days were prone to excesses of description—the description of the church continued for six pages.

The first Roman Catholic Mass in Oxford County was held in a Beachville blacksmith shop in 1835. In 1848, the first Catholic



Sacred Heart Church around the turn-of-century

A history of the Catholic church in Ingersoll

By J. C. HERBERT

In 1988, Sacred Heart Parish celebrated its 150th anniversary and numerous articles have been written about the formation of the parish and events leading to the celebration of the first mass in Oxford.

The late Marjorie Cropp in an interesting account relates that in the fall of 1833, a man was riding his horse on the trail from London when he came upon three men doing road work near what is now the Borden plant.

The workmen doffed their hats and said, "Good day, Father." The man smiled and asked how they knew he was a priest. John Shehan, one of the men, replied, "Did you ever see an Irishman who didn't know a priest when he saw one?"

From this chance meeting with Father Veriotte, arrangements were made for him to return the following year and celebrate Mass if a place could be found. In 1834, the first Mass was celebrated in James O'Neil's blacksmith shop in Beachville.

Four years later, a small frame church was built and a parish organized by Father Burke which served the community, as well as Ingersoll and Woodstock, for about 10 years.

In 1847, a Scottish Presbyterian, John Carnegie, donated land on the west side of John Street between Bell and Victoria, on which the first Catholic church in Ingersoll was built. It served as a place of worship for more than 30 years until a new building was

erected at the corner of Thames and Bell Streets. The frame building on John Street faced north and south with the entrance to the church off John Street.

When the building was sold, it was turned with the longer side on John Street and made into row houses. In the 1920s, it was owned by William Tune, a tailor, and the building was referred to as Tune's Terrace. Later, it was purchased by William Vannater. His son, Mac, is the present owner.

Adam Oliver, Ingersoll's first mayor, built his home and coach house on Victoria Street adjacent to the church.

When Father Boubat became pastor, construction of the new church began. Sod-turning ceremonies took place on March 18, 1878, and the building was dedicated and open for church services on Aug. 22, 1880.

This lovely church with its beautiful stained glass windows is basically the same as used today although there have been changes made to the front entrance and improvements made to the interior.

The first parish school was held in a converted house on Carnegie Street about 1858. Twenty years later, the Sisters of St. Joseph came to Ingersoll to teach in the school and they lived in the remodelled rectory on John Street, adjacent to the church.

In more recent years, lay teachers have again returned to the classrooms and the John Street building was sold. In 1910, the home of William Rumsey which stood on Victoria Street, adjacent to the church property,

was purchased and a school building was erected on the site.

Among the many priests who served the parish well, the one who served the longest was Father Fuerth. He came in 1921 and remained for 40 years. In 1956, the title of Monsignor was conferred on him, an honor he richly deserved.

He did much to enhance the grounds surrounding the church. Many will remember the stone wall on the Thames Street side of the property and may recall the pride he took in keeping it in good repair. I remember him well since I rented one of the garages which had been converted from the sheds and recall having pleasant monthly visits to pay my \$2 rent.

In 1961, Monsignor Fuerth retired and Father J. E. Brisson replaced him. It is to the credit of the parishioners that they supported the many changes made during the next decade while Father Brisson was in charge of the parish.

The old sheds were torn down and the grounds made into a much-needed parking area. A new rectory with offices and living quarters connected to the church was built, as was a new parish hall named after James Henderson, a faithful supporter of the church for many years.

Many changes were made to the interior of the church. It was an era of change and an example of what can be accomplished if people have the will and desire.

Many young men and women from the parish have entered the ministry for Christian service at home and abroad. Father Veriotte little realized what seeds he had sown when he accepted the offer of the three men doing road work on the outskirts of Ingersoll and celebrated Mass in O'Neil's blacksmith shop in the spring 1835.

Sacred Heart Church one hundred years old

BY MARGARET BOYD

Sacred Heart Church has long been a landmark in Ingersoll, with its towering spire and Gothic architecture. This week marks the church's centennial celebration.

As part of the celebration, a special Mass was conducted on Sunday September 9 at 5 p.m. by Bishop J.M. Sherlock of London. A parish dinner followed the Mass, at the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre at 7:30.

The church, which is located at 131 Thames Street North, was designed by G.F. Durand, Esq., a London Architect, in a style called early English Gothic. The sod for the church was turned on March 18, 1878.

Among the distinguished visitors attending the centennial celebration were: Father Joseph Hennessey, of the chapel at Westminster Hospital, London and a former Sacred Heart parishioner; Dr. Bruce Halliday, M.P.; Dr. Harry Parrott, M.P.P. and Father Joseph Brisson, P.P., of St. Ann's Catholic Church, Windsor and the only former living pastor of Sacred Heart in Ingersoll.

Monsignor V.H. Grespan, who has been pastor of the church since 1970, said that the Sacred Heart youth parish of 900 families is comprised of an area of 70 miles.

The church has several committees: Knights of Columbus, for men; the Catholic Women's League and the Sacred Heart Youth Club. There is also a Parish Council, which also has several committees, including one which is dealing with the boat people sponsorship, Monsignor Grespan said.

church was built in Ingersoll on the west side of John Street between Bell and Victoria Streets. The old frame church is still standing and is now an apartment building.

Pastor B. Boubat, 1864-1866 and 1877-1884, was responsible for building both the present and the first separate school, built on John and Bell Streets. Pastor Boubat was born in France in 1932, and came to Canada in 1857.

Sacred Heart Church has had various renovations done over the years; the most recent was the repairing of two original stained glass windows at the back end of the church. A new stained glass window was put in at the front of the church and a new organ was purchased this year. Monsignor Grespan said.

Old windows at the sides of the church were taken out recently and replaced with stained glass windows made by Christopher Wallace, a London artist. The new stained glass windows were donated by parishioners, Monsignor Grespan said. Each window is comprised of four religious symbols. One such window shows the dove of peace, a dragon, as a symbol of resurrection, a pelican, a symbol of the Eucharist and a rooster, a symbol of repentance.

There have been 14 pastors associated with Sacred Heart Church since its inception. They are: Reverend Grizzan, Carrayu, 1852-1854; Louis Griffa 1861-1864; B. Boubat, 1864-1866 and 1877-1884; G. Volkert, 1866-68; N. Gaham 1870-95; G. Northgraves, 1884-87; J. Connelly, 1895-1907; J.J. Gnam, 1910-1921; A. Fuerth, 1921-1961; Joseph Brisson, 1961-70 and V.H. Grespan, 1970 and on.

Father Joseph Brisson, Pastor from 1961-70, built the present rectory at Sacred Heart church. Before then there had been several buildings which served as rectories.

The separate school system was started in Oxford County in 1867, when a school was built on John and Bell Streets. There are now three separate schools in Oxford County; St. Joseph's in Thamesford, St. Jude's and Sacred Heart both in Ingersoll. St. Anthony's school in Beachville has been closed, due to declining enrollment, Monsignor Grespan said.

Henderson Hall, located directly behind the Sacred Heart Church, was built on the site of the former convent. Sisters used to teach at the separate schools but the teachers are all lay persons now, he said.

Men belonging to the Sacred Heart parish who went into the priesthood, are: Father Joseph Keating, W.S. Morrison, Joseph Hennessey, Patrick Moore, John Maurice, William Maurice, John McCowell, William Ring, Ralph Williams, James Williams, Wilfred DeWan, and Robert Warden.

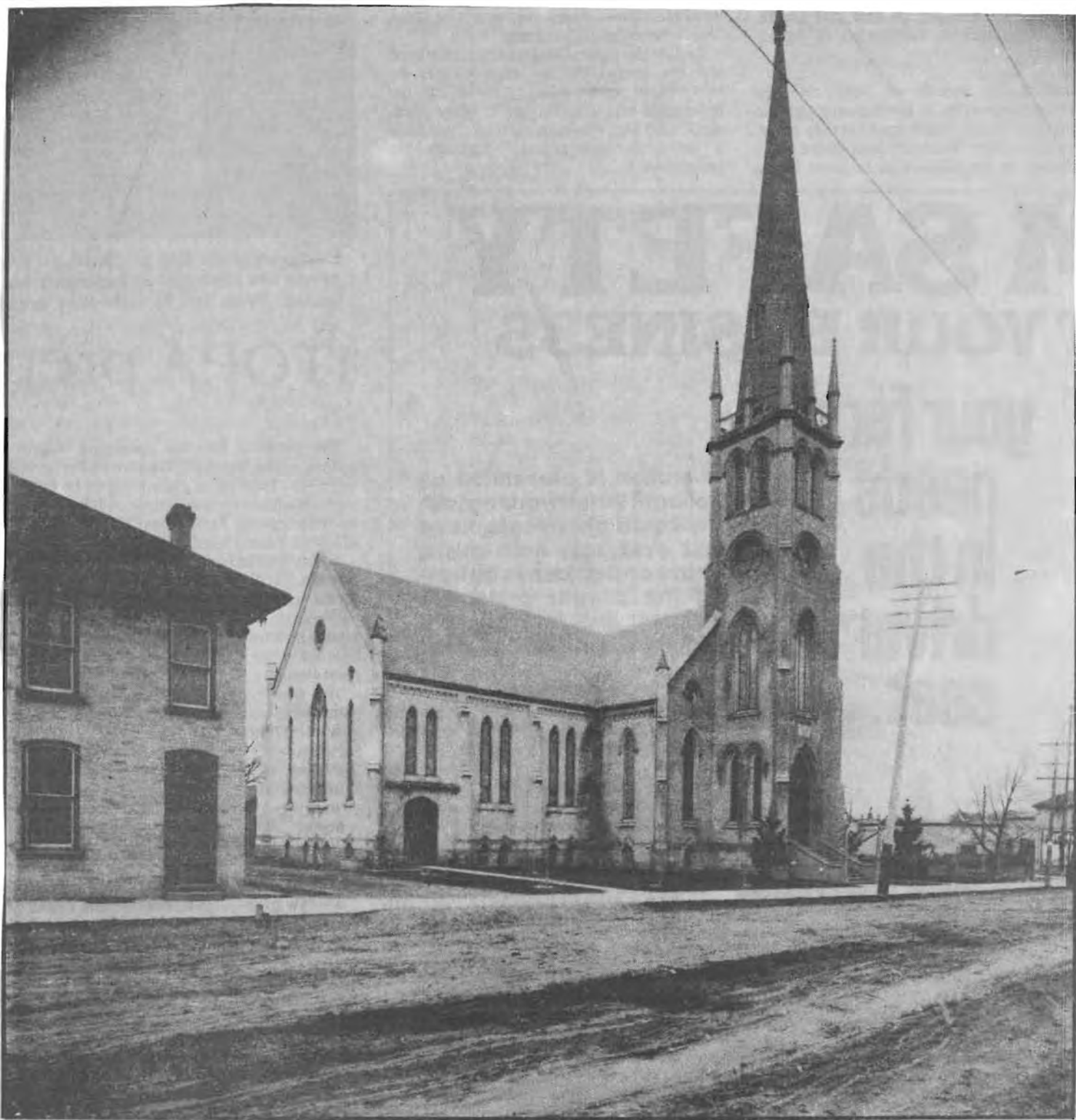
At the celebratory Mass on Sunday, the Principal Celebrant and Homilist was Bishop Sherlock from London. Lay readers were

Janet Mazerolle, Ben Meyerink and Ken Tucker. Gift bearers were Sister Mary Catherine, Sister Mary Innocentia, Sister Mary James and Sister Julita.

Jack Warden was toastmaster at the parish dinner, Bishop Sherlock said grace, John Van Spronsen, Parish Council chairman, gave a toast to the Queen and Father R.J. Morrissey, Associate Pastor, said a prayer for the Pope.

Speakers at the dinner were: Dr. Halliday, M.P., Dr. Parrott, M.P.P., Mayor Douglas Harris and Bishop Sherlock.

The centennial celebration of the Sacred Heart Church was an historic event that will long be remembered.



In the Ingersoll Times' Bicentennial edition, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, shown here, was incorrectly identified as Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

A history of churches

(Continued from Page 7)

the building was sold to M. T. Buchanan and used as a factory to make haying equipment.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN (U.P.), 1855, ERSKINE, 1860, ST. ANDREW'S, 1873

By 1850, several families of the United Presbyterian Church had settled in Ingersoll and Rev. Archibald Cross, who was minister of a church in Woodstock, formed a congregation. A building was erected on the north side of Charles Street, off Boles Street, formerly a lumber mill.

In 1860, it was named Erskine. In 1872, the U.P. members built a new church on the site of present St. Paul's. They called it the Ingersoll Presbyterian Church but 10 years later named it St. Andrew's. It was an imposing structure with a steeple 92 feet high and 180 feet from street level. Adam Oliver, the first mayor of the town, was chairperson of the building committee. The building is part of present St. Paul's Church.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, 1889

During the 1870s and 1880s, discussion of union of all branches of the Presbyterian churches became an issue at the national level as well as in local congregations. In Ingersoll, the discussions were not amicable, particularly over the issue of which church would be used after union and what the church was to be called.

However, in 1883, both congregations approved the proposals and on a temporary basis used St. Andrew's Church. The union was not a harmonious one and a minority of the Knox people petitioned Presbytery to withdraw and were so granted.

They struggled for another decade as a continuing Knox church but in 1889 final union was achieved. They agreed to use the Thames Street church but renamed it St. Paul's.

Rev. R. E. Hutt was called to be the first minister and, under his leadership, wounds were healed and the church grew rapidly. The building was enlarged by adding the south wing which now

forms part of the present sanctuary. In 1936, the church was again enlarged with an entrance off Thames Street and the addition of the narthex.

On the west side, an addition included church offices, a nursery and a room for a new heating system. The latest addition, which will be dedicated May 15, 1994, will include enlarged and improved facilities for mid-week activities, an elevator and access to rooms for handicapped people.

"Steeple chase" at St. Andrew's

The predominant feature of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (now St. Paul's) was the 92-foot steeple on top of a square tower 78 feet above the ground so that it stood 170 feet above street level.

Many Ingersoll residents still remember this church and perhaps were present when the steeple was taken down 16 October, 1916.

According to a feature story in the Ingersoll Daily Chronicle, its removal caused as much interest and drama as the removal of a high silo from one site to another in more recent times. Its headline was "Church Steeple Brought Down".

"The steeple of St. Paul's church which was badly damaged by the gale Monday night was successfully brought down about five o'clock last Wednesday afternoon.

The feat was performed by John Sinclair to whom the contract was awarded by the Board of Managers last Tuesday when it was decided that the steeple should not be allowed to remain in its dan-



Historical Highlights

By J.C. Herbert

gerous condition.

A lively interest was manifested by citizens in the work preparatory to the fall of the steeple. Scores lined the sidewalk in the vicinity of the church and in some cases they waited patiently for hours for the "climax". In other sections of the town there were many who kept stealing glances at the church with the hope they might witness the fall of the steeple.

To cause the steeple to fall was probably a greater task than many people supposed. About midway on the steeple a stout rope was fastened while lower down just above the brickwork, the support-

ing timbers of the steeple were cut.

But in spite of this work it was difficult to get the steeple out of balance sufficiently to cause it to fall.

After much work by men at the windlass, the steeple was brought down with a crash. It could not have fallen in a better way as no damage was caused to the church or adjacent property."

This account makes no mention of the stout rope around the steeple being attached to a train engine to cause it to fall.

Perhaps it was used to haul away the heavy steeple. We would be anxious to hear from actual witnesses to the drama.



St. Paul's Church

A history of Presbyterian churches in Ingersoll

By J. C. HERBERT

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church is a union of two branches of the Presbyterian Church - the Free Church and the United Presbyterian of U.P. Church.

There were other splinter groups such as the Church of Scotland, the Scotch Seceders and a few American Presbyterians, but not numerous enough to organize congregations.

The major differences which they brought with them from their homeland related to the form of worship, the method of calling ministers, the control of the church by the nobility, etc., rather than church doctrine.

Presbyterians are so called because of the system by which the church is governed or ruled. The Greek word, presbuteros, means elder and so the church is ruled by elders (session) appointed by the congregation. A number of churches form a presbytery. These are two of the church courts and all Presbyterian churches adhere to this system of church government.

KNOX CHURCH - THE FREE CHURCH, 1847

Presbyterian ministers sent out from Scotland visited the Oxford settlement as early as 1830. In that year, Rev. William Burns preached to a few Presbyterian families under a grove of trees near the site of the present car wash off St Andrew Street.

A thunder storm threatened to interrupt the service and people wanted to leave but he admonished them saying, "On this spot we will build our church."

The prophecy was not to be fulfilled until 1847 when a church was built and a congregation organized. Two years later, Rev. Robert Wallace was the first minister called by the congregation.

Knox, as the church was named, was a substantial brick structure built at a cost of \$4,000. The land was donated by James Ingersoll and considerable help was given by other members of the community. One report (Harry Whitwell) states that a lottery with a prize of 1,000 pounds for the lucky winner of a two-shilling ticket helped to fund the building.

The church grew over the next two decades and had to be enlarged on several occasions. Improvements were made to the interior and after much agonizing, an organ was installed. Many were opposed to this type of music, having been accustomed to the precentor leading the singing.

Some called it "a fine kist of whistle but an unacceptable way to worship the Lord." When church union finally came about,

(Continued on Page 19)

A history of Anglican churches

By J. C. HERBERT
Ingersoll Historical Society

Editor's Note: For the next few weeks we will be featuring write-ups by J. C. Herbert which outline the history of several church buildings in Ingersoll. This will culminate in a tour of churches, sponsored by the local historical society, on Tuesday, May 17.

Saddlebag preachers had visited Oxford on the Thames as early as 1800 but their visits were sporadic and few attempts were made to organize churches before the 1830s. In 1828, there were only 20 houses and most of these were log buildings. The population was about 100.

In 1834, Rev. John Rothwell and his family arrived from Ireland and in that same year a small frame building was erected adjacent to the site of the present Victory Memorial School, and this became the first church for the Anglican community.

The Rothwell family at one time lived at 2 Cemetery Lane and they owned 200 acres of land in the northeast part of the village. He remained as rector for 11 years and was followed by Henry

Revell. Services were also held in a small church near Banner until the Anglican Church was built in Thamesford in 1861.

With the development of the settlement in the 1830s and 1840s, there was considerable increase in population. Many of the settlers came from England and Ireland and there was need for more accommodation than the small frame church could provide. Charles Ingersoll owned property in the section south of King Street and west of Hall and when he subdivided this land, he left property for a future church.

This was on the west side of Francis Street between Earl and Albert, with the entrance facing King Street. Although the church would not be built for another 20 years, it would appear that the property was used for burial much earlier. At the time of the cholera epidemic in 1832, tragedy struck the Ingersoll family.

On Aug. 8, Charles Ingersoll's mother died of the epidemic. Seven days later, her grandson, Thomas, died, and on Aug. 18, his father, Charles, died. These were the first burials in the new cemetery. In the vestibule of St. James' Church is a plaque dedicated in memory of Charles Ingersoll.

By 1852, when Ingersoll became a village, the increasing number of Anglicans coming to this area outgrew the church on the hill. Prospects of even greater growth as a result of the Great Western Railway passing through Ingersoll was another factor which influenced the members of the church to make plans for a larger building.

The church on Francis Street was eventually moved to the south side of King Street, opposite the building at the corner of Church and King Streets, where it was used as a double dwelling. In 1868, land was purchased and construction of a larger edifice

was begun at the corner of Oxford and Francis Streets.

According to the Jenvey files, the site was decided on the flip of a coin. The building committee had options on two sites and was evenly divided on the issue. Dr. I. R. Walker then bought the other site on the corner of King and Duke Streets, later Dr. John Lawson's office and residence. Contractors were Christopher brothers who built many houses locally. The church rector was Canon J. P. Hincks, a former architect, who did a great deal of planning for the new church. Bricks were made at Hagels corners on Highway 19, south of Ingersoll, and the walls were three bricks thick. The cost of the building was \$9,000.

There were, however, additional expenses in completing the interior and purchasing furnishings. It was reported at the time to be the most beautiful church in the country as well as the most costly. The corner stone was laid and dedicated by Bishop Cronyn Sept. 1, 1868.

In 1930, when Rev. W. E. McMillen was rector, a spacious parish hall, as well as a gymnasium, was added. This was used not only by members of the church but by the YMCA and schools which lacked these facilities.

As principal of I.C.I. at the time, I can attest to the generous co-operation of church officials for sharing their facilities with us. Most of our Commencement and Blue and White Revue programs were held in the parish hall and basketball, volleyball and other athletic activities played in the gymnasium.

St. James is one of the oldest churches in Ingersoll. In September of this year, it will observe 160 years as a place of worship for members of the Anglican Church and of service to the community.

St. James' Anglican church's 165th anniversary

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT
For The Ingersoll Times

The picture connected to this story is of the altar of St. James' Anglican Church as it was circa 1933-34. It was submitted by Jack Smith, chair person of the ad hoc committee of 10, charged with organizing the 165th anniversary service and dinner scheduled for Sunday morning, September 26.

Smith explains the picture was a gift from one of the Sunday School teachers in the early 1930s. That teacher gave one to each of the students graduating from Sunday School that year. The committee chairperson says Bishop Robert Townsend will be the celebrant when St. James' Anglican Church celebrates its 165th anniversary with a special service.

Shelley Riddick, a member of the special ad hoc committee formed to plan the celebration, feels the event is particularly significant, "not only for the usual reasons but because it is a major occasion before heading into the next century." She feels that visitors who have not seen the church for a while will be pleased with the many changes that have been made. A massive restoration project has been underway at



The altar of St. James' Anglican Church in 1933-34, submitted by Jack Smith.

St. James during the past year, with repairs to the exterior of the building and the stained glass windows.

Other changes include the offices where the stage area used to be, the development of a music room and new church school rooms in the lower level and the Junior Chapel. Smith and Riddick are extremely enthusiastic about the plans for the day and feels everyone will enjoy it. Another interesting

feature will be the display of St. James historical memorabilia set out for browsing enjoyment. Tickets are still available although seating is limited. The cost for adults is \$10 and for children \$5.00. Preschoolers are free. Anyone interested in tickets should phone the church office at 485-0385.

Historical Notes

St. James' Anglican parish was formed in 1834. A 1934 historical article says the

church site was given by Thomas Ingersoll. "The old church building was of frame construction, having wooden steps in front of the entrance which was on King Street West. The Vestry was at the south end of the church. The church was heated by a very large box stove. The musical instrument was a melodion. There were three aisles in the church, and it contained box pews. Mr. Henry Crotty taught Sunday School there for thirty-three years. There was also a burying-ground which was at the back of the church, facing Francis Street." "The present handsome building was erected in 1868 during the incumbency of the Rev. Canon J. P. Hincks. . . . The beauty of his mind and the greatness of his churchmanship are evidenced to everyone in his great memorial, the present lovely Gothic church, of which every citizen in Ingersoll must be proud."

The same notes, which were furnished by the late Mrs. B. C. Wood, at the time of the Centenary of the Parish, recognized that the celebration then is done "With a feeling of pride (not arrogance) and heartfelt grati-

tude for those forbears who were the founders, and to whom, together with those who followed on, we now do honour. One hundred years! - a long time. And perhaps we can better realize how long when we say that this parish of St. James was founded three years before Queen Victoria ascended the throne, in the reign of William IV." Riddick feels that those thoughts expressed at the 100th anniversary are still valid at this year's 165th celebration. Smith and Riddick offer an invitation to former rectors and their families, former parishioners and anyone baptized, married or confirmed at St. James to join the congregation on that day. "We sincerely hope that people will come back to celebrate with us and to rekindle old friendships and perhaps stir up some memories."

(With files from Jack Smith and Shelley Riddick)

Church tour provides



By SUSAN MASTERS

A second evening of historical inspiration was enjoyed by approximately 40 people last Tuesday when the Ingersoll and District Horticultural Society presented a follow-up church tour to the first event held May 17. That tour visited the Anglican, United and Presbyterian Church.

Conducted by J. C. Herbert, the group was welcomed into the First Baptist, Salvation Army and Sacred Heart Catholic churches.

Focusing on the development of the various denominations in the Ingersoll community, Herbert started with First Baptist Church on the corner of Thames and Canterbury Streets.

The Baptist congregation was founded by two gentlemen, Simon Mabee and Peter Teeple, who came to Oxford from New Brunswick after first settling in the Long Point area.

By 1808 there was a strong following in Oxford. The church, originally organized in the Teeple home, quickly grew and in 1809 a building was erected at Pipers Corners.

SECOND CHAPEL

A second chapel was soon required to accommodate the rapidly growing congregation and in 1832 a second church was built on the site of the Harris Street cemetery.

Originally the church did not operate with ordained ministers, but put elders in charge. As the faith grew the church divided into

various functions including: Calvin, Free Will, A. Baptist and Unitarian.

In 1838 a man by the name of William Baker, from Dereham Township, built a mission on Thames Street, near the present Victory Memorial School.

Another group built on Albert Street in 1857; and in 1864 a church was built on the site of the present First Baptist.

As all congregations in the village had by this time amalgamated, this church was rebuilt in 1890 to accommodate the numbers.

Unfortunately in 1898, this church was struck by lightning and the interior destroyed. This was a devastating loss for the members, financially. However, Justice and Roger Miller, builders from the Mt. Elgin area, were instrumental in rebuilding the facility which is basically the church as we know it today.

Of note in the history of the Baptist denomination in Ingersoll is the fact that in 1867 Ingersoll hosted the first Baptist Missionary Conference.

MISSIONARY WORK

This was the first of the Ontario/Quebec conferences and out of this initial one two missionaries were commissioned to go to India.

Just a short distance across Thames Street, the group was welcomed at the Salvation Army Citadel. This church has a unique history as its founders were three women by the names of Annie O'Leary, Mattie Calhoun and Mercie Little.

The first meeting took place July 1, 1883 in the town hall and was attended by over 200 people.

With an active participation in meetings, parade and recruiting, in only four months the church was able to erect a building of its own - in site of opposition from local merchants who did not appreciate the commotion created by the street meetings.

The cost of the hall was \$200 and this remains the current meeting place for the Army.

In recognition of the tremendous work done by Captain O'Leary, over 1000 people attended a farewell banquet held in the rink at which time she was presented with a four foot high cake. During her time in the Ingersoll area, Captain O'Leary also started missions in Beachville and Tillsonburg.

Finally, the group travelled to the corner of Thames and Bell Streets to Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. Here, in beautiful surrounding, Herbert relayed the development of the Catholic faith in Ingersoll.

In the fall of 1834, a priest, named Father Veriotti, travelling east from London came upon three men laboring in the vicinity of the Borden plant.

In response to their request he told them that if they could gather together a group he would con-

duct a mass when he came back this way in the spring.

True to his word, he held mass in the spring of 1835 in O'Neils blacksmith shop at Beachville. Seven people took the Sacrament. This group was the beginning of the present parish.

In 1847 John Carnegie donated land on John Street and there was built the first Catholic church in Ingersoll. This building which still stands as row housing served the parish for thirty years.

In 1878 plans were made to build the present church and it was dedicated in 1880.

The structure today is as it was first built with very few changes.

One modification was the replacement of the original stained glass windows. Pat Newman, of the Historical Society, explained to those attending, the symbolism of each window.

The evening was wrapped up with delicious refreshments in the parish hall.

This brought to a close the Historical Society's tour of churches as well as an end to the season for the Society.

Regular meetings will resume the third Tuesday in September with a speaker yet to be announced.

A history of Methodist Churches

By J. C. HERBERT

WEST OXFORD EPISCOPAL, 1804

The small brick church in West Oxford, about a mile east of Ingersoll off the old stage road, has been referred to as the mother church of Methodism in Oxford County and because of its early beginning is justified in assuming that reputation.

In 1801, an American Episcopal Methodist preacher, Nathan Bangs, visited the settlement. There were few roads and conditions were primitive but he made his way through the forest on horseback and with Bibles, tracts and hymn books in his saddlebags received a warm welcome from the settlers.

He visited and conducted services in their homes and during the next few years, made intermittent visits. In 1804, he organized the first congregation in Oxford County.

For a few years, services were conducted in a log school house but later a frame building was erected for a church. This was burned down during the war of 1812, but land was purchased on the site of the present church and a building erected. In 1854, the present brick structure was built.

Except for changes made to the front entrance and the interior, this building is still used as a place of worship for members of the West Oxford United Church. It has an illustrious history and was the forerunner of many churches built in Ingersoll and the surrounding townships.

During the mid-1830s and 1840s, several small buildings were erected as places of worship for the various branches of the methodist church and other denominations. In the census of 1852, six different branches of the methodist church were shown for Oxford County. The two largest of these were the Episcopal methodists and the Wesleyan.

builder and much volunteer labor was used.

During the American Civil War, it served as a refuge for escaping slaves brought to Canada by abolitionist John Brown. It was estimated that about 300 black people were living in Ingersoll following the war, sufficient numbers to justify building a church of their own. Due to dwindling membership and the fact that the King Street church was being erected were reasons for closing the Oxford Street church.

Before it was torn down in 1956, it had been used as a buggy and carriage factory (Sutherland), a storage for farm implements (Beckan, Barnett) and a machine shop (Joyce). After it was torn down, a car wash was built on the site.

BRITISH METHODIST EPISCOPAL, B.M.E., 1858

As indicated, there were sufficient black people living in Ingersoll and they built a church on Catherine Street. It was a British Methodist Episcopal church (B.M.E.). Although many of them could not read, they had fine singing voices. The last minister was Rev. Solomon Peter Hale and many tales are told about him.

It is said he always carried three

books: a hymn book, the Bible, and a dictionary. The dictionary was used to make words which few understood. In the 1881 directory, he is listed as a lecturer. The church closed about 1927 and the building was sold and moved.

JOHN STREET METHODIST CHURCH, 1870

Another Episcopal church was built on John Street about 1870. It was only used as a church for about five years. During that time, an organ was purchased and a humorous incident is recorded about this. The organ with bellows had to be pumped by hand and the dealer who sold the organ offered to supply a professional musician for a concert in the church.

On the evening of the concert, after playing several numbers, he announced, "I am now going to play a selection from Mozart." As he started to play, no music came from the organ. He made several attempts and finally the young lad pumping the organ came from behind the curtain and said, "Say WE will play."

Due to overcrowding at the new school which had been built for public school pupils north of the river and for high school pupils the church was used for a pub'

(Continued on Page 16)

CHARLES STREET EPISCOPAL, 1857

In 1857, an Episcopal methodist church was built on the north side of Charles Street, approximately on the site of the parking lot near Shoppers Drug Mart. There was a parsonage on the west side of the church and a cemetery at the rear.

In 1903, it amalgamated with the King Street Methodist church and the building was used as a Sunday School until 1911 when it was purchased by the department of national defence.

Troops were billeted there and during the war of 1914-1918, used the building and grounds for training. The department also purchased the stone building on Oxford Lane and this became the headquarters for D Company of the Oxford Rifles. The church was torn down and sold and the material used for building homes.

OXFORD STREET WESLEYAN METHODIST, 1854

In 1854, the Wesleyan methodists erected a building on the west side of Oxford Street between the Big V drug store and an office building for an accounting firm. It was a large three-story building with living quarters on the top floor. Adam Oliver was the

A history of Methodist Churches

(Continued from Page 9)

school until the Ward School was built. This later became Princess Elizabeth School.

KING STREET METHODIST CHURCH, 1865

There is an interesting article in the 1907 special edition of the Ingersoll Sun on the growth of the Methodist movement in Oxford County. It sheds light on the hardships the itinerant or circuit preachers encountered.

They operated from a base which in this area was a small parsonage half-way between Beachville and Woodstock. They lived at the circuit centre and from there would make their rounds to their appointments and would be away for about two weeks.

They travelled on horseback taking with them in their saddlebags hymn books, Bibles, tracts, as well as clothing and toilet articles. At each stop on the circuit, they would stay at one of the homes, visit people in the settlement and conduct services.

In the early days, they were

held in the log school house. Each member was expected to bring a tallow candle. Women would sit on one side and men on the other. It was not considered a breach of etiquette to go to church barefooted. Women wearing jewellery or ornaments was frowned upon.

Before they proceeded to their next appointment, the settlers were expected to contribute to the expenses of the circuit. This was usually provisions, food, home-made clothing, boots, flour and sugar, etc. In 1856, when the King Street Methodist church was built, it became the head of a circuit with Rev. Louis Warren as superintendent.

Although many of the original members of the King Street church were Episcopal Methodists, members of other branches had joined and they simply were called Methodists. In the 1881 town directory, Rev. D. E. Brow-

nell was referred to as the pastor of the Canadian Methodist church.

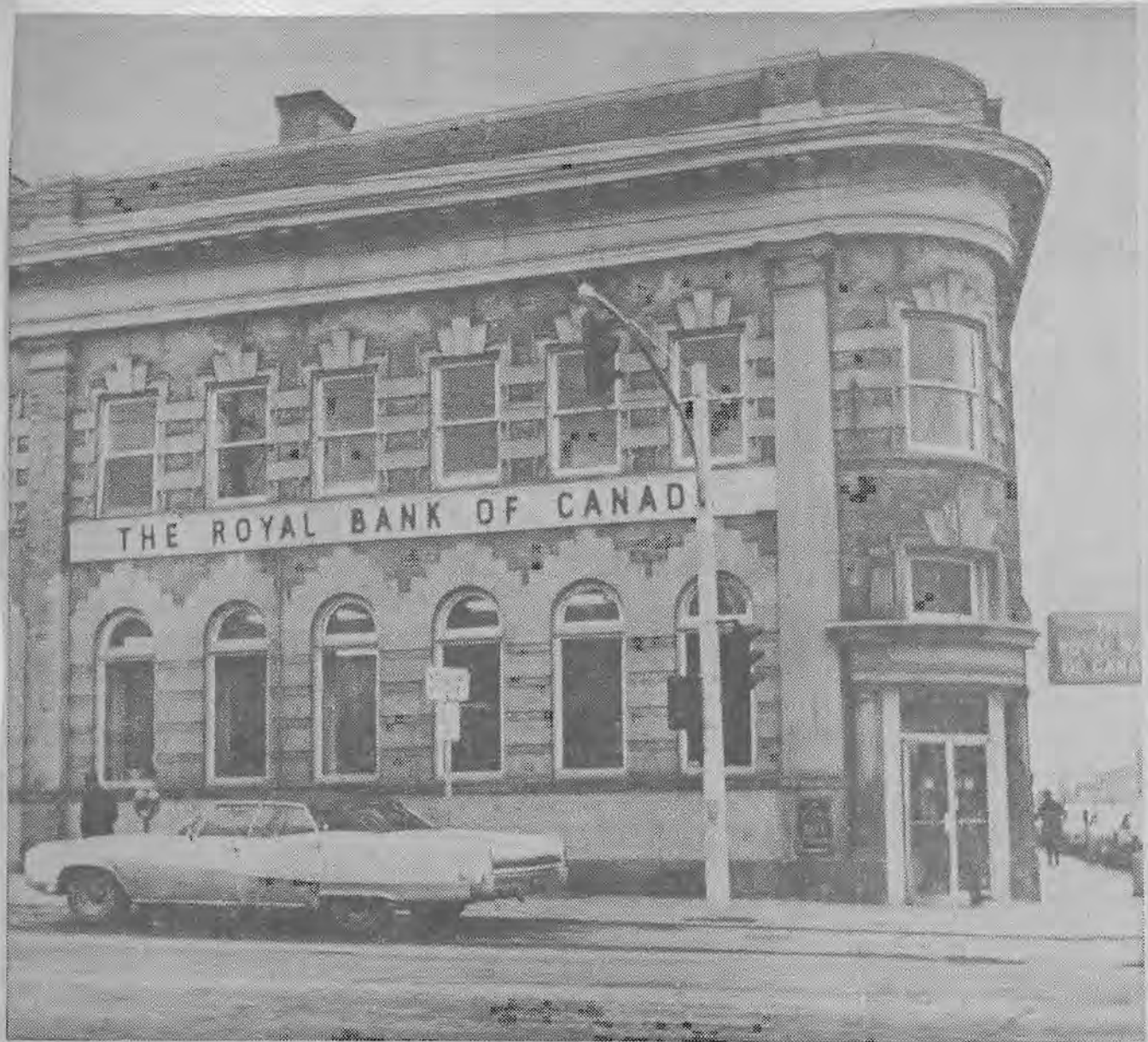
This made it easier to amalgamate with all branches of the church. Final union was brought about when the Charles Street Episcopal church joined.

TRINITY UNITED, 1925

The union of the various churches taxed the capacity of the King Street building. In 1887, the galleries were removed and the organ and choir loft moved behind the pulpit.

In 1911, the church was greatly enlarged by changing the front entrance and narthex and moving the east and west walls. The Charles Street church was sold and new Sunday School facilities added to the King Street church.

The original parsonage was built on Duke Street in 1865 and a new one erected on King Street in 1909. At the time of church union in 1925, it was named Trinity United.



BANK SOON TO BE DEMOLISHED

The familiar building that houses the Royal Bank of Canada at the corner of Thames and King Street will be demolished within the next two months. Tenders have been

called for the demolition of the structure where the bank established in 1912. The bank will move to temporary quarters at 25 King St. W. during construction. The Royal Bank

building was erected in 1907 at a cost of \$27,000. No estimate was available on cost of proposed new bank building which will be erected on original site. (Staff Photo)



Glimpse of the past

The name Kestle Motors will be remembered by many local people. Prior to Kestle Motors business being there, the premises was known as the Red Onion Hotel. The site is now the home of the Lions Club /Seniors Building. Lorne Moon remembers when Kestle Motors was a thriving business, along with its neighbour, Beemer's Taxi and Lunch Counter in the front part of the same building. Upstairs, Moon says, was the Union Hall where many meetings were held and where people went to roller skate. The business next door is the former Fleischer & Jewett car dealership.

(This photo is one of a series of historical photographs of Beachville and Ingersoll, loaned to The Ingersoll Times by the Hacker family).



A Glimpse of the Past

This photo will bring back many memories. The bowling alley/billiards sign is clear, but what about the laundry, the green grocers and the tiny restaurant? The notation on this Hacker photo, says "The old Jarvis Block, part of which collapsed in the flood of 1884. Listed in 1862." *(This photograph is one of a series of historical photos of Beachville and Ingersoll, loaned to The Ingersoll Times by the Hacker family).*

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.

Old and new businesses are part of town's history

NEW IDEA FURNACES LTD.

This company was established in Ingersoll in 1924 and for many years operated from a building formerly known as Waterworth Woolen Mills. New Idea Furnaces were shipped across the nation until it ceased operations in the late 1950s or early 1960s.

A number of Ingersoll businesses have been operating for years and years, as have a number of Ingersoll industries. Here are just a few of them.

ZURBRIGG'S BAKERY

One of the oldest businesses in town, still in existence, is Zurbrigg's Bakery, located on the west side of Thames Street. The business opened its doors in 1894, and over the decades, has managed to continue to please many a sweet-tooth.

The business was started by Neil Molcolin. Several owners followed, but on December 11, 1908, Samuel G. Zurbrigg took over the business. A partnership was formed in May of 1939 and Zurbrigg's Bakery Limited Company came into being from then until May 8, 1943.

Zurbrigg's Bakery was originally located in the McLeod and McBain Grocery, which is now the location of Fernalea Flowers. In 1936 it relocated to its present home.

In 1955, Zurbrigg's sold its nine bread routes. Since 1894, however, they've still be able to produce breads, cookies, cakes, pies, tarts . . . and almost anything else that is worth every calorie it contains.

INGERSOLL MACHINE AND TOOL CO.

According to the book, 'Ingersoll Our Heritage,' "In 1913 a small factory was erected on the site of the present factory on King Street West, at the town's limits. This small plant was erected by a company for the manufacture of a brand of soap called "Fun to Wash" soap. This company did not exist long and brooms were then made in the building before the plant was purchased by Messrs. E.A. Wilson and Charles Shortt in 1914. In 1915, a company was formed and named Ingersoll Machine and Tool.

The size of the factory was extended to have a floor space of 8,000 square feet. This

was a two storey building of solid white brick walls with steel. The plant, at various times, made additions until it reached a floor capacity of over 80,000 square feet. Nagle and Mill, Ingersoll contractors, were the early builders of a large part of the factory.

"Starting with 30 employees, the business of this company steadily increased until the employees numbered 350. This company enjoys an international wide trade. It specializes in the manufacture of steering gear assemblies for many makes of automobiles and boats.

"At various times it specialized in car starters, steering gears, millimetre shells, truck axel parts, house trailer parts and machine parts. Mr. Shortt did not remain long with the company but Mr. Wilson continued as president until 1952."

When Mr. Wilson retired, his son Harold took over the reigns, and when he retired, his son Ernest became president.

The company is still a major employer in the community.

FLEISCHER AND JEWETT

Following a World War I wartime friendship between P.T. Fleischer and Abe Jewett, the two decided to set up a business on King Street West, in 1920, to deal in battery service. They named it Ingersoll Auto Electric.

The business quickly expanded and in 1923, they moved to the present site on Thames Street South. The business now includes complete auto servicing as well as being agents for General Motors.

Ted Fleischer and Bob Jewett purchased the business upon the deaths of their fathers, and continue to operate it.

First car owners

Harry Leigh and M.T. Buchanan were Ingersoll residence who each owned one of the first cars in town. By 1907 Ingersoll had five cars. Mr. Leigh also owned one of the first radio's.

The first television in town was owned by Mr. Alcock.



Horse driven buggies parked right beside the 'horseless carriages' that could be seen on Thames Street South in earlier days.

Stone family business marked 85 years



William Stone, founder of William Stone Sons Limited.

In 1870, William Stone established one of the most essential farm businesses in western Ontario. Starting with a hide and wool business in Woodstock, in 1880, Arthur W. Stone became associated with his father and in 1907, J. Fred Stone joined the

company as manager of the then new Ingersoll branch.

The company was incorporated under the name William Stone Sons Ltd. in 1911 and a fertilizer and rendering plant was built here in town. R.A. Stone became the manager of operations.

Six years later, the company extended the original plant and by 1926 the company had established its head office in Ingersoll.

It was the headquarters for commercial fertilizer which sold under the name of National Fertilizers.

By 1937 the plant had extended to make concentrate feeds known as National Quality Mix and it was during this time, the company opened a packing department for meat to be supplied to mink and fox ranchers.

In 1948 the rebuilding and extension of the plant made it one of the most modern in Canada, and one year later, in 1949, the company marked its 80th anniversary.

In 1955, Canadian Industries Limited took over the business, restricting it to fertilizers only, but last year, the company closed its Ingersoll plant, moving to its London office.



This marvellous photograph of the old Ingersoll Post Office was taken in 1952 by Grace Gregory. It is believed to be part of a centennial project. Ingersoll was incorporated 100 years prior to that. The photograph was used by Mike Farlowe to demonstrate features that could be incorporated into a heritage theme for the new library/administration building to be erected on Oxford Street. In addition to the clock tower and windows that are of special interest, one of the town's former streetlights may be seen in the foreground. The town will return to that kind of lighting on Oxford Street. (Photo Courtesy Ingersoll Public Library)

TIMBER - R - R - R



Demolition work of the rear portion of the St. Charles Hotel began last week in preparation for renovation of the main building. A modern hotel is planned for the site. Interest is keen on just what will be done to the old landmark.

Tribune, Photo by Maurice Longfield)

1969

Then and now

1989



A view of Ingersoll looking south on Thames Street, just below King, circa 1969. The scene has changed little in 20 years. The building to the left was the Ingersoll coffin company, which was later torn down. (Kent Shoults photo)



The same scene on Page 1 today. Canada Trust, the Venus Dining House, and an apartment building are where the Ingersoll coffin company was, while some of the businesses have moved.

Favourite Foto



The thought of audiences enjoying ITOPA's current production of *Sullivan & Gilbert*, inspired Edith Allison to look up this marvellous photo of what is believed to be the last time Gilbert & Sullivan was performed in Ingersoll. The year, Edith says, was around 1930. The operetta was *The Mikado* and the stage was Ingersoll's Old Town Hall. Among the stars of the show were: Doris Bagnall, Helen Hawkins, Pearl Barnett, Ted McMulkin, Rev. Frank McMulkin, Bob and Mrs. Borrowman, Betty Smith, Helen Butler, Edith (Making) Allison, Frank Making, George Making, Erma Markham, Rev. Harry Cook, Ted Long, Herb Leigh, Mrs. Spaven, George Making, Stan Galpin, Ferris David, Bert Counter, Betty Borrowman, Crosby Cable, Jean Langford, Jean Pullen, Ada Good, Grace Barnett, Nan Anderson, ——— Bell. The performers were members of all church choirs combined, Edith recalls, plus some others who wanted to take part. The conductor was Joseph Banner. Orchestra members were Frank Brown, Eric Brown, Glenn Topham, Carl Edmonds, William Eden, Pat Eden, Alice Cook and George Jones. Edith recalls that Mrs. (Dr.) Counter helped with the costuming.



The Ingersoll Kiwanis Club of 1935-36 included, in the front, from left: Roy Start, Warwick Marshall, J. C. Herbert, an unidentified member, Don MacKenzie, Roy O'Dell, Sam Shelton, George Sutherland, Bill Forman, Grant Small and Dean Maitland. In the back, from left, are Albert Kennedy, Arthur Izzard, Fred Horton, Reg Stone, Jim Milne, D. G. Cuthbertson, Dr. Harry Furlong, Laurie Sommers, Earl Johnson, T. N. Dunn, Elmer Chisholm, Alex Yule, Dr. C. A. Osborn, Henry Stewart, William Blair, Harold Hall, Preston Walker, Jack McLeod, Joe Wilson and J. N. Hagen. (Photo courtesy of J. C. Herbert)



The Ingersoll Softball champions of 1945 stand in front of the old armouries building. Standing from left, are C. Beagley, unidentified, C. Pellow, F. Vyse, J. Laurenceson, B. Borland, O. Todd and F. Channing. In the front, from left, are R. Handley, Ed House, C. Bright, C. Mahoney, A. Thornton, E. Thornton and H. Mahoney. (photo courtesy of Bonnie Pellow)

From the past . . .



At one time, this rock garden adorned the area between Wonham and Merritt Streets.



Rock Garden, Merritt St., Ingersoll



Oxford Rifles 1940s

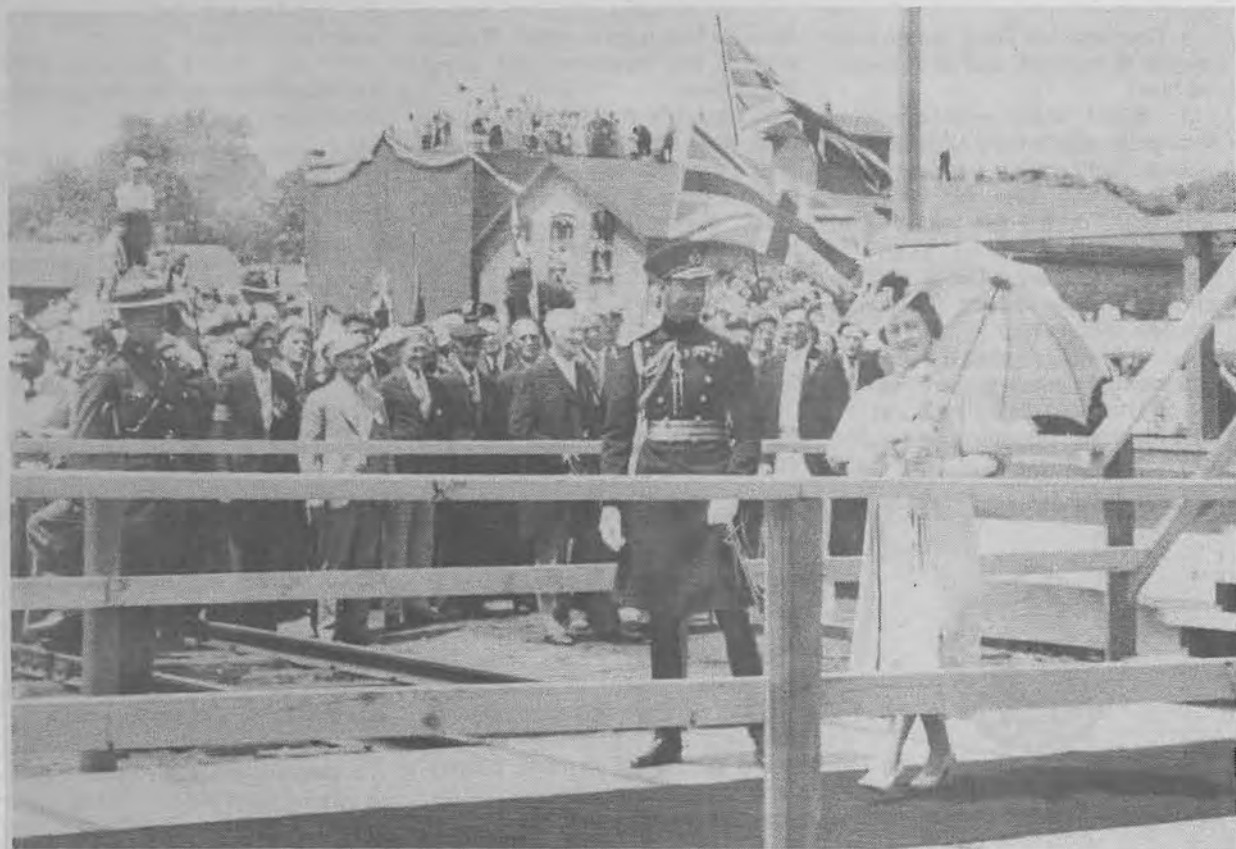


The first officers of Avalon Chapter OES included many prominent Ingersoll names. Installed March 24, 1938 were; back row - Blanche Bisbee, Gladys Byerman, Harry Cornell, Marge McKinley, Georgetta Harper, Frances Berery; middle row - Nora Neill, Violet Petrie, Alice Stephenson, Ethel Nancekivell, Ruth Smith, Theresa Brewer; front row - Bertha Shuttleworth, J.F. David, Florence MacPherson, Edith E. Volk, J.M. Wilson and Mabel Brown. *(Photo courtesy of Ruby Miree)*



THE Y'S MEN'S MINSTREL SHOW -- This annual event eagerly looked forward to each year. The shows were held in St. James' Parish Hall. Some names are missing from this 1935 cast, but among those identified are: Back Row-Crosby Cable, Frank Kelly Eidt, Stanley J. Smith, Ken Bonesteel, Harry Edmonds, Keith Geddie, Jim Wilford and Wilf Manning. Middle Row: Carl Edmonds, Gladys Horton, Eva Maitland, Russel Cole, Helen Hawkins, Sid Bagnall and Jack Hutt. Front Row: Reg Stone, Heath Stone, Helen Masters, Edith Leigh, Bert Bagnall, Jean Reith, Rev. Masters, Muriel Parker, Roy Start, Doris Bagnall, George Jones and Marg Copeland. *(Photo submitted by Reg and Jean Tribe)*

he royals came Ingersoll's way...



King George VI and Queen Elizabeth disembark in Ingersoll

BASEBALL IN RETROSPECT

The baseball diamond at Victoria Park before 1925 faced the grandstand with home plate below the hill in centre field. Then it was moved across to the race track in front of the grandstand, until 1929 when it was moved further east to where it is now. In centre field across the track, used to be a big wooden building, called the Crystal Palace that was two stories and was used for exhibits during the fall fair etc., and have never seen a picture of it, since it was torn down. Baseball has always been a big part of Ingersoll's history and Victoria Park has been the diamond for five Ontario baseball championships; 1930 won the Intermediate title, then 1937 won the Intermediate "B" Ontario title and then won the Bantam "B" O.B.A. championship in 1961, the Midget "B" O.B.A. championship in 1963 and the Junior "B" championship in 1964.

In 1924 Dolph Staples joined the first Ingersoll baseball team and built the team around Charlie Kelly pitcher and Bob "Robin" Henderson catcher, plus Jack and Red Shewan, Tom Filmore, Norm Allen, Jack

Rodgers, "Tee" Daniels and "Sliv" Woodcox etc. They won their group, but Brantford put them out in the O.B.A. playdowns by a pitcher, 18 year old Ralph Beemer who later played for Ingersoll.

In 1925, Ingersoll baseball got a break, when Andy Myerjack who had played pro ball in the States, came here from New York to install machinery at the Morrow Co. Andy changed his name to Myers, as a former pro could not play amateur here. He was a great pitcher and along with Henderson were Dolph's right-hand men, as he didn't want a coach. New players were Bill Weir, Charlie Hovey and 16 year-old "Rabbit" Marshall. Again Ingersoll won their group, then eliminated Sarnia and Windsor before beaten out by Fort Erie. about this time, there used to be baseball tournaments held in small centres, like Delhi, Springfield, Dereham Centre etc. nearby communities for big prize money and Kelly and Henderson were imported for a fee as a battery and were good as any imported from Detroit, Toronto or Buffalo. In

fact, Kelly played in England during W.W.I for the Canadian Army, against an American Forces team and beat the great Herb Pinnock of N.Y. Yankees game 2-1 with King George present.

In 1926 "Scurry" Lee was playing for Ingersoll as well as MacKenzie, Hazelwood and White from London and were put out by Leamington on the second round. Also Charlie Kelly quit pitching and played a great second base and was a big hitter also that year.

In 1927 Ralph Beemer was imported, but the O.B.A. declared him ineligible. They played in the Western Ontario League, and it was a very torrid summer with many protests and fights, with Ingersoll winning the group and then put out Galt and Appin before losing to Leamington.

In 1928 Dolph entered Ingersoll in the inter-county league and brought "Lefty" Judd to play from Rebecca and starred here until 1931 when he moved in to Guelph seniors which started his way to professional ball with Boston Red Sox and Philadelphia Phillies and was selected to the American League All star team in 1943 when with the Red Sox.

In 1929 with Red Pullin and Leo Flynn added had a good season with Judd, Beemer, and Marshall pitching and were three outs from winning the Inter-county championship against Galt. Galt won the first game here and Judd pitched a 17-0 no-hitter back in Galt. The deciding

Sports by
Nip Henderson and Lorne Moon

game was played on neutral ground in Preston. Ingersoll was leading 1-0 in the ninth - but Judd developed a blister on his finger and had to retire, then Galt scored two runs, winning 2-1. Also Bob Henderson played his last game that year, hitting a homerun on Labour Day in Strathroy during his last time at bat before retiring. Losing out to Galt - 1929, made it five years that Dolph was shut-out from an Ontario Championship.

So, in 1930 five players joined the Ingersoll team from St. Thomas, "Pond" Odell to catch, plus Bill Cabot, "Dude" Lindsay, "Snapper" Binns and playing coach Joe Evans. Also left from 1929 were Judd, Beemer, Pullen, Shewan, Wally Pitt, Daniel Gee, Marshall, "Dinty" Moore and Ed Hicks. Ingersoll won the group beating Brantford on the finals. They then won over Sarnia, then Harrow and met Peterborough in the Ontario Baseball Finals. The first game was there on September 27th and Judd allowed three hits, winning 6-1 and he struck out 13. Then, Saturday, October 4th, a bright clear day saw Ingersoll and Peterborough hooked up in the second game with three bands in attendance; Ingersoll Pipe Band, Oxford Rifles Band, and "Had" Petrie's Stump Town Band. "Lefty" Judd again pitched in Ingersoll, before a packed Victoria Park crowd of likely 4,00 or so, winning 15-4 making Dolph Staples the happiest man ever, as he finally

had an Ontario Baseball Association championship. In 1931 and 1932 Ingersoll had good Intermediate clubs but crowds fell off badly, after the big winning 1930 championship team as Judd had gone to Guelph Seniors, Shewan went to teach school in Galt, and four of the St. Thomas players stayed home to play Senior. Ken Biddle came here to pitch, as well as fielders Parks and Pascoe, plus juniors Bill Jordan and Fred Wurker, as short-stop and catcher.

The talk of the 1932 season here was the Juvenile baseball team coached by Dr. Ralph Williams with players "Gump" Thornton, Pete Williams, George Hayes, Bill Kerr, Jack Payne, "Herbie" Boynton, Arnold Shewan, Max "Ding" Clark, Frank Keen, Bill Taylor, "Kitch" Henderson, Jake Pittock and Grant Swackhammer. After winning the Intercounty championship, beat Galt and Waterloo in straight games, only to lose out to Niagara Falls in a tough three game series. They lost the deciding game played at Hamilton 5-4 in 10 innings.

(Watch for the next phase of this historical review of sports in future editions of The Times.)

Historical designations

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT
of the *Ingersoll Times*

The Ingersoll & District Historical Society recently has seen the beginnings of a dream come true.

Ever since the Historical Society was organized several years ago, the group's Honorary President, J. C. Herbert, has wanted to see it recognize a number of historically significant buildings in town.

Some time ago a committee was established to decide which six buildings would be the first to be recognized. All six are in the core area, and ironically two of the buildings no longer exist.

Attractive wooden plaques have been made by President Ernie Hunt. Executive member Bill Hawkins did the printing and designed the special pewter crest.

A brochure, indicating an easy walking tour of the buildings, was prepared in time for Heritage Weekend. The text was a joint effort of the committee and the brochure was designed by Susan Masters.

Both historical and architectural interest was considered when the sites were chosen. Two of the plaques were up in time for Heritage Weekend and Executive Member Yvonne Hunt says the rest will be mounted in the near future.

The Smith House

Number one on the list is the **Smith House**, at 189 Thames Street South. One of the oldest houses in Ingersoll, it was built by James Smith shortly after he emigrated from Scotland in 1862. The house remained in the Smith family for over 125 years.

The construction was of flat plank and a mansard style roofline was incorporated.

During those years, neces-



sary additions were made to the small one floor cottage to accommodate the nine Smith children. One wing, containing a kitchen and dining room was built on the south side. A second storey, containing five bedrooms, was a much needed addition.

The Smith family established itself in the grist mill business as well as an ice business in the winter time. The latter supplied the Ingersoll Packing Company as well as domestic needs.

The Smith House is located at 189 Thames Street South and is currently the home of Catherine Van Dyke's The Clog and Thistle Restaurant.

The Merchant Bank of Canada

The Merchants Bank established a branch in Ingersoll in 1868. It first operated in the McMurray building which later became the St. Charles Hotel. The site is now Dewan Festival Gardens.

In 1907 it constructed its own building on Thames Street South, immediately south of the Niagara District Bank.

Thirty-seven years later, the bank had the construction firm of Nagle and Mills erect a larger and more spacious building on the North East corner of Thames and Charles Street.

The former Merchants Bank building was sold to Edward Hugill who conducted an insurance and loan business in what became known eventu-

Music club welcomes all to relaxed informality

By: Margaret Paterson

INGERSOLL MUSIC CLUB 1912 - 1993

The reason a number of ladies decided to meet once a week to perform, was their mutual enjoyment of music and their respect for each other's musical ability. I was told that these meetings were eagerly anticipated and I guess when we realize that there were no radios, TVs and only scratchy cylinders played on a gramophone, the personal performance would really fill a musical need in their lives.

Two clubs were formed in 1912 but they soon amalgamated and became the Ingersoll Women's Music Club. In 1987, the word "women's" was dropped from the name with the hope of encouraging men to belong. So far the club has only had the privilege of having a guest on our program once in awhile.

There were 30-35 original members. By the 1930s the meetings were held every two weeks. In the 1940s, to give more time for "war work", it was agreed to only hold a monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of the month and so it remains today.

FEE PROMOTES MUSIC

Through the years the club has charged a membership fee. In 1912 it was a 25c a year and this was used to buy music, gifts, or flowers. Of course inflation struck and

as the years went by, fees were raised slowly until today when members contribute \$4.00 each.

This money is used to present music prizes at the Woodstock Music Festival and commencement prizes at VMS, IDCI and Sacred Heart Schools. Music Club has never been a money-making organization but members do wish to promote the advancement of music with the youth of today.

When the public schools decided to have a music competition, the Music Club ladies were the judges as well as giving a \$2.00 donation to the Board of Education for prizes.

Informal Atmosphere

Through the years, the Music Club has progressed from a very formal format to a free and relaxing atmosphere. The formality has been broken down by the use of first names and the absence of hats and gloves.

The club's music has encompassed a wide range, from piano solos, duets, 2 piano, 8 hands, violin, string guitars, flute, trumpet, accordion, organ, vocal solos, duets, trios and choruses.

Programs has featured most of the famous composers and some not so famous, popular music, sacred, travelling, opera, operettas, theme music such as lullabys, marches, spring, fall, favorites, love etc.

The story of the Ingersoll Music Club would not be complete without mentioning a couple of clubs

Ed and Josie kept their doors open six days a week from 7:30 in the morning until 11:00 at night. The store was their life and their customers were their friends. There were apartments on both sides of the store and across the road. Customers would drop in to pick up a fresh lettuce, some oranges, a can of soup and "put it on the bill". The amount would be jotted down on a piece of paper and on pay day the customer would come in and have all the little notes added up. It was a mutually trusting arrange-

D'Angelo's Grocery Store

During the first half of the 20th century the stretch of Thames Street between Charles Street and the river was busy and prosperous. One of the popular businesses there was D'Angelo's vegetable and fresh produce store. It was a neighborhood grocery store, but more than that -- it was a place where friends and neighbors gathered and discussed the news of the day and their own problems.

Ed, really Ignatius D'Angelo was born in Sicily. He came to Toronto where he met and married Josephine. They moved to Ingersoll in the early 1920s and established a business that operated successfully for 60 years.

ment on both sides. When Ed died in 1980, at the age of 82, it marked the end of an era. Theresa D'Angelo, who was also a familiar face in the store, lives with her husband in Cambridge. Her brother, Ted, is resident Comptroller with G.M. in London.

which we, the Ingersoll group has sponsored. The Delhi Music Club got their start from Ingersoll and the clubs exchanged meetings periodically. The other off-shoot of the Ingersoll club was the Junior Music Club with Mrs. Tune as the advisory leader. This club met in the evenings and gave the young people a chance to perform for each other. Unfortunately, the young people matured and left town and the Junior club was forced to discontinue. However, some of their members joined the Seniors' Club and are still members.

Some of the names that would be

recalled by many are Tune, Wilson, Bonesteel, MacKinney, Horton, Kerr, Seldon, Furlong, Folden, Coventry, Meek, Brooks, Silcox, Gilling, Hunsberger, Harrison, Walker and many others who played as important a part of the Ingersoll Music Club.

The club still meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the homes of our members.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Bi-Centennial Music Club meeting in Trinity Church Parlor on Wednesday, April 21st at 2 p.m.

(Excerpts from "History of Ingersoll Music Club" by Eileen Riddolls)

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



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.

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
Continued on page 22

Bailey's lodge boys come back to Ingersoll

Pre-war days in Ingersoll were relived on Sunday in a reunion that brought together about 30 members of Bailey's Lodge, many of whom were seeing each other for the first time in 34 years.

The history of the lodge, which

dates back to the early 1930's, began at a Supertest service station at the corner of Thames and Charles Street, now a vacant lot next to the public library.

The service station, operated by Cam Bailey, was a favorite "hang out" for a group of

Ingersoll youths, when few of them owned their own cars, and had little in the way of organized entertainment to occupy their free time.

Getting together at Bailey's garage got to be a common past time, and eventually the fellows

decided to formalize their get-togethers into an organization that they decided to call Bailey's Lodge.

Mr. Bailey, who was at the reunion Sunday, recalls the last time the group got together.

"It was in 1940. We had a party

in the town hall, and an orchestra from St. Thomas provided the entertainment. The mother of one of the boys, Whis Wilson, put on a smorgasbord dinner. There were 56 couples present."

There were several such events put on by the lodge members



The home of Lorne Moon, 253 Harris St., on Sunday afternoon. Back row, from the left, Stu Thurtell (inset), Jerry Bower, Hogan MacKay, Uke Hargraves, Nip Henderson, Doug Copeland, Busher Furlong, Spark Copeland, Russ Hall, Lloyd Kestle, Luke Staples, Bob Muir, George Millard; Centre row, from the left, Lorne Moon, Gene McDermott, Bill Hawkins, Buzz Morgan, Cam Bailey, George Smith,

Hooley Smith, Sam Douglas, Bill Rogers, Hank Haycock, Wilf Baynton; Front row, from the left, Tom Daniel, Fid Wilson, Cliff Brock. Missing from the reunion were, Son Burton, Andy Dunn, Scoop Arkell, Bob Henderson, Carm Hawkins and Roy Kingdom.



Harry Furlong, left, of Toronto was one of the out-of-town members of the 1930's Bailey Lodge group who visited Ingersoll Sunday for a combined dedication service and reunion. With him, following the service are, from the left, Cam Bailey, Padre John W. Patrick, and Legion president Ray Kennedy.

Bailey's lodge returns

(Continued From Page One)

erson, who sent out a total of 86 letters between March and June.

About 80 people, including relatives and friends of those present and those deceased, attended the get-together, which was held in Mr. and Mrs. Moon's spacious yard on Harris St.

Pictures and clippings were gathered together into a scrapbook, and along with letters and other keep-sakes, were on display for members and friends to browse through, stirring up old memories.

Of the 27 original members who joined in the reunion, ten were from Ingersoll. The others came from as far away as Detroit, Toronto, Burlington, Oakville and North Bay. Several of the group are living in Denver, Chicago and Edmonton, and were unable to make the trip.

"I've kept in touch with some of

the fellows over the years," said Mr. Bailey, who has lived in London for the past 19 years. "There were only two or three that we couldn't locate."

"It was a great success," Mr. Henderson said on Monday. "Everybody was really impressed. And it topped the day off, being able to be outside. It rained all across the province, but somehow, the rain stayed away from Ingersoll."

during those five or six years, but most of the times together were informal.

"We all liked sports, and that was probably the main topic of conversation", recalls Nip Henderson of 187 Albert St., who helped to organize the reunion, along with Lorne Moon and James ("Spark") Copeland.

By the end of 1940, most of the members had joined the service, and Bailey's Lodge became a memory. Eight of the 44 members were killed overseas, and many of the others who returned from the war settled outside of Ingersoll.

The idea of a reunion began when Lorne Moon was asked by the Ingersoll branch of the Royal Canadian Legion to do the landscaping around the memorial cairn erected in the Field of Honor Cemetery in memory of the veterans killed overseas.

Mr. Moon felt that the garden around the monument should be dedicated to someone, and came up with the suggestion that there be a bronze plaque placed on the back of the cairn, inscribed with the names of fellow members of Bailey's Lodge who had died during World War II.

With the date for the Legion's dedication service set for June 16, plans for a reunion on that day evolved, and the task of contacting former lodge members began.

"It wasn't easy getting in touch with everyone," said Mr. Hend-

(Continued Page Three)



Even though the war was being fought thousands of miles away in Europe, the Second World War impacted on life at home in Canada. This photo shows a young men's class at Salford United Church, circa 1940. Two of the young men appear in military uniform. One of them, Robert Clark, sixth from the left in the back row, died in the war.

Back row, left to right: Murray Haycock, Del Wilson, Frank Nancekivell, Glen Bartram, Francis Way, Robert Clark, Grant Hutchinson, Cecil Wilson, Ralph Anscombe, Ron Chambers. Front row, left to right: Murray McBeth, Jack Banbury, William Roberts, Walter Wilson (teacher), Fred Hooper (teacher), Percy Gill, and Walt Wilson. (Photo courtesy of Walter Wilson).

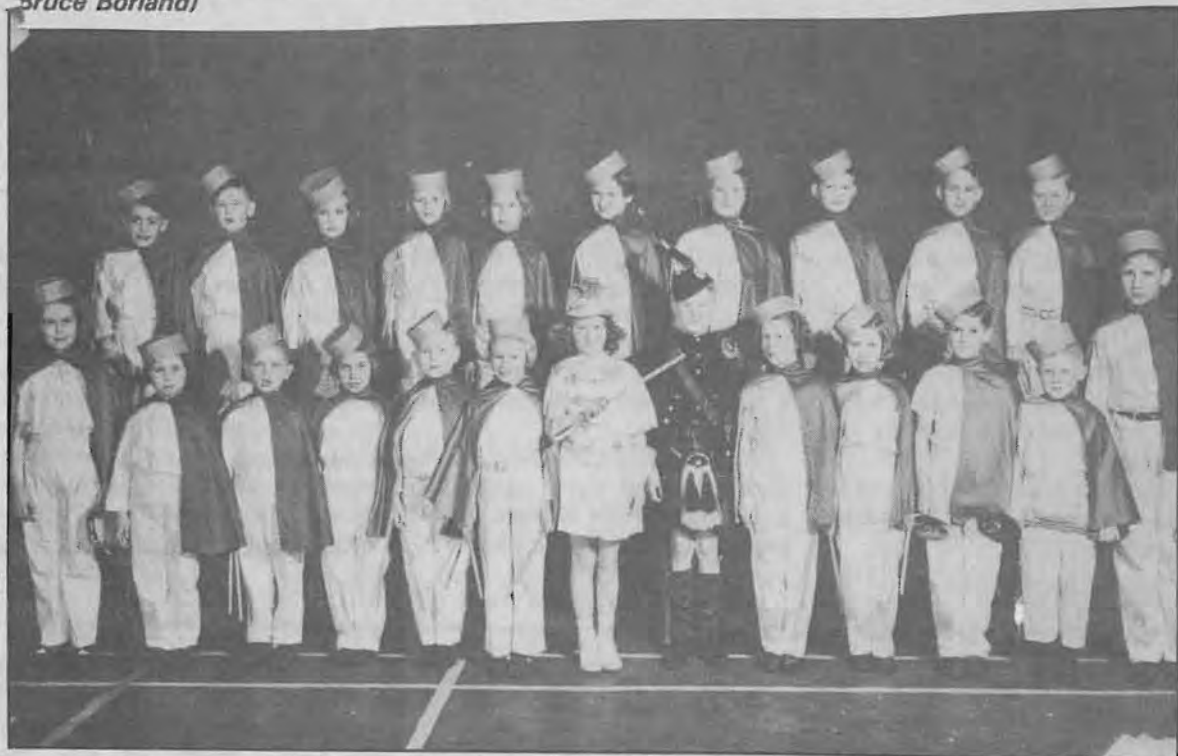


Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute Cadets of 1938 posed in front of the school for this photo. They are, from left to right, top row: Vernon Thornton, Charles Wallis, Bruce Winders, Lloyd Phillips, Stuart Moyer, David Prosser, Gordon McClatchie, Thorold Walker, Don McDougall, Ernie Underwood, Ted Shaddock, Robert Waterhouse, Tom Daniel, Don Hargraves, Clare Cole, Bill Nicholson; middle row: Jack Billings, Don McKay, John Funnell, Erwin Brown, James Westcott, Frank Houghton, Arthur Scott, George Scott, Llewellyn Cade, Victor Hill, Bert Boniface, Ted Fleischer, John Thompson; front row: Bob Arkell, Stewart Thurtell, James Pellow, Norm Kurtzman, Hugh Bowman, Ron Chambers, Don Bower, Bob Wilson, Bill Cornfoot, Laverne McLeod, Jack Banbury, Percy Gill, Bruce Wilford and Don Garland. (photo courtesy of Ruth Brown)



PRESENTATION BANQUET
FOR PRINCIPAL M. WALTON
JUNE 16TH 1942

This distinguished group of gentlemen will prod many memories. The former Public Schools' Board of Education gathered to honor retiring Principal M. Walton in 1942. Among the trustees are George Clifton (front row, second from left) and Elmer Chisholm (front row, second from right). Readers will recognize other well known trustees gathered for the occasion. *(Photo courtesy of Bruce Borland)*



This photo was probably taken on the stage of the Sunday School at St. James Anglican Church. That was where Victory Memorial School students would stage concerts for their parents. The rhythm band was always part of the program and this 1941 photo shows many students, proudly posing in their caps and capes. Back row: Bill Cartwright, Fred Galpin, Donna Simpson, Dorothy Bain, Helen Jacobs, Yvonne Holmes, Ruth Tribe, Don McNiven, Harold Catling and Jack Martinelle. Front row: Marna O'Field, Winnie Ailsop, Bill Turner, Jean Griffen, Jack McNiven, Madeline Statham, Joan Cottey, Bob Collins, Marilyn Palmer, Joan Wisson, Bill Moore, Bill Martinelle and Raymond Downing.



A former Ingersoll resident, Carl Mallard, now of Toronto, was guest of honor at an 80th birthday party in Toronto last weekend. The party, attended by over 125 guests, was held in Mallard's own hangar at the Toronto International Airport. John Matthews of Ingersoll, who was a guest at the party brought back a copy of this photo that formed part of the decorations in the hangar. The picture was taken in front of Mallard's feed store and flour and grist mill about 1930. The large building, next to what is now Harvest Trends, has been demolished. Mallard operated a successful business there until he was bitten by the flying bug and enjoyed a life long career in the skies. (Photo courtesy John Matthews).



Borland's Service Station

John E. Borland opened this new service station on Thames Street in 1932. Note the wonderful gas pumps and the vintage cars parked there. Also note the price of gasoline! The Borland name was synonymous with good, honest service for 57 years. (Photo courtesy Bruce and Marie Borland)

Joe Balfour impossible to replace

Bass drummer Joe Balfour was an impressive sight. Tall and always perfectly erect, he was once described as "the most spectacular bass drummer in Canada".

When the Ingersoll Pipe Band referred to him in their 50th anniversary program, in May 1960, they noted "His flawless performance was always a highlight of the band and when he was forced to retire a few years ago, his position has been impossible to fill".

Balfour's daughter, Katharine Foster, has detailed some biographical data about her father that will be of interest to all who remember the kindly, quiet spoken, but determined gentleman.

Born June 4, 1896 in Tayport, Fifeshire, Scotland. He trained as a drummer in the Scots Guards and served in both World War I and World War II. In 1926, with his wife Margaret (Maggie) and infant daughter Helen, Joe Balfour emigrated to Canada.

They settled in Niagara Falls and then later moved to Strathroy. While in Strathroy, Joe went to hear a pipe band one night. He came home excited, telling Maggie how he had met Alex Collins and some of the Ingersoll Pipe Band. Not only had he met with them he had played with them! On top of that the band wanted him to move to Ingersoll so he could become part of the Ingersoll Pipe Band.

Legend is that Maggie was missing her mother, who lived in Niagara Falls, terribly.

When she was told about the offer, her immediate question was "Where is Ingersoll?" Joe's clever reply was that he was not sure, but he did know it was about 50 miles closer to Niagara Falls. Needless to say, Maggie agreed to come to Ingersoll.

The band members went to Strathroy and moved Joe, Maggie and Helen to Ingersoll in 1928. The band had also found them an apartment and then assisted Joe in securing employment at the Coles Furniture Factory.

Joe not only played with the Ingersoll Pipe Band, but was a most spectacular bass drummer, until health problems forced him to retire in 1952.

Among those he had trained were his son-in-law Martin



Brooks and a young high school student by the name of Gail MacKay. Joe was always very proud of their accomplishments with the band.

Joe and Maggie made their permanent home in Ingersoll and became valued members of the community. Their family included Helen (Paddon), now of Woodstock, Jane (Brooks) and Katharine (Foster). They were

proud of Ingersoll and happy to raise their three daughters here.

In addition to his family and work obligations, Joe also was a member of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 119 Ingersoll. He died, at the age of 82, in 1978.

Maggie, now 92 years old, resides at the Oxford Regional Nursing Home. She is known for her warmth and her wit as well as her devotion to her family.



Henderson's West End Grocery

Both this man and this grocery store are an important part of Ingersoll's past. The photo was taken in 1905. James Henderson, seen at the front of his West End Grocery Store, owned the store until his death in 1927. His son, Bob, also successfully ran the store until his sudden death in 1956. James Henderson was Mayor of Ingersoll in 1920/21. He served on council from 1913 to 1919 and then from 1922 until his death in 1927. He was respected for carrying out his public duties as he saw them and never being hampered in his desire to serve by any form of criticism. Henderson was generally well thought of for his frankness. *(Photo courtesy of Nip Henderson)*

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 Naftolin and Lloyd Alder 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.



Borden Co. Ltd. April 1952

Who will ever forget the pride Ingersoll always had in the Border Company? Who will ever forget the Borden whistle summoning employees back to work and at the same time reminding students they should be heading back to school? This picture, taken in 1952 is a real treasure and is complete with names. Back row: G. Johnson, R. Hoare, E. Ellis, C. McBeth, D. Manzer, J. Dent, T. Wilson, G. Cheetham, D. Flenniken, M. Case, B. Campbell, B. McCurdy, D. Rennie, R. Bowman, F. Howe, Hap Johnson and B. Hutcheson. Centre row: E. Cooper, R. Powell, L. Haycock, E. Beecham, D. Clendenning, B. Vyse, H. Law, D. Dunlop, G. Millson, T. Furton, D. Riddick, D. Griffin, L. Allsop, K. Millson, H. Kenny, C. Anderson, N. Watmough, H. Mahar and L. Hunt. Front row: B. Craighead, B. Hart, J. Johnson, J. Lockhart, B. Eckhardt, J. McArter, J. Cole, R. Hutt, B. Barham, L. Hyden, B. James, S. Keough, W. Heslop, J. McArter, M. Howe, S. Barnes, F. Funnell and D. Clendenning. (Photo courtesy of Jack Cole)



The Ingersoll Y's Men's Club Boys Band wasn't as exclusive as it sounds, as the photo demonstrates. This picture was taken in 1947 when the band appeared at the Toronto National Exhibition. Many readers will remember the success the band enjoyed over the years and will certainly recognize some of the young musicians. (photo courtesy of Jean Kean)



King Street West, looking east from Oxford Street.

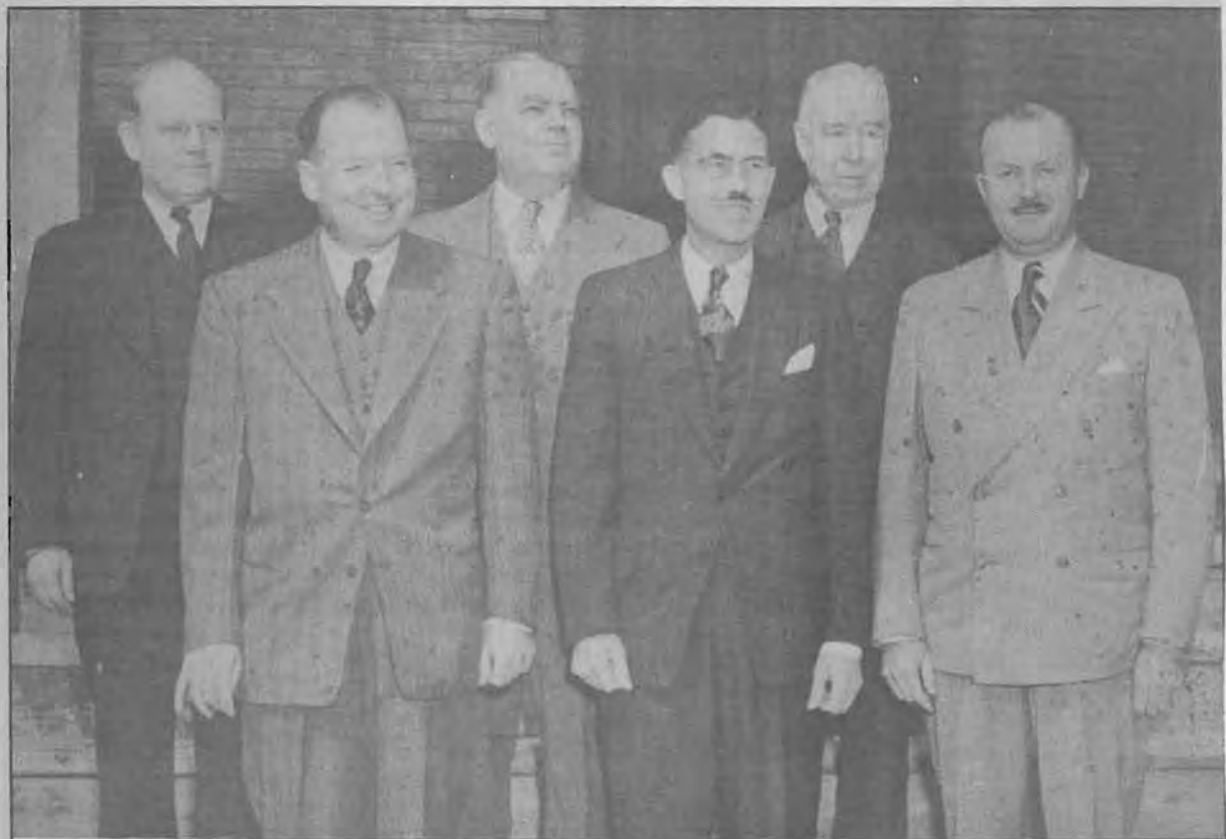




Premier John Robarts, was among guests at the Ingersoll Kiwanis Rural-Urban dinner held at the Memorial Centre arena September 29th. He is pictured being served along with others who enjoy the annual event.



Remember these pumps? Harold Longfield provided the photo. You will each have your own memories.



Local woman writing history of town's well-known doctors

These six fine gentlemen were at one time known to everyone in Ingersoll. And no wonder! They looked after the entire town. Pat Newman, of Alexandra Hospital's Board of Trustees is writing a

history of these doctors who served their community so well for so long. She would appreciate hearing from anyone who has anecdotes or stories to tell about their dedication and care. Left to right in this photo, taken May 1,

1950, are: back row - Dr. Harry Furlong, Dr. Charles Cornish, Dr. Jethro Counter; front row- Dr. George Emery, Dr. Jack Rowsom, Dr. Cecil Osborne. (Photo courtesy Elea-
nore Cornish Wood).

Town's history torn down

By KEVIN WOOD

The axe, or more accurately the wrecking bar, finally fell on Ingersoll's Old Town Hall on Monday.

The busload of men, the trucks and other equipment from Leyser Enterprises arrived Monday morning and set to work right away. By the end of the day the building had been gutted, the roof removed and part of the upper story demolished. By 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday the upper story was all but gone and most of the manual labor was done.

The 45-man work crew consisted mainly of Amish farmers who will use the hardwood timbers salvaged from the building to build barns in the summer. The men worked hard and fast, tearing the building apart brick by brick with wrecking bars and sledge hammers.

The demolition drew onlookers to the sidewalks around the building all day long. Many were heard to say that it was a shame to see the old building go after so many years but that it seemed to be falling apart on its own anyway.

"I wish they weren't tearing it down," said one woman. "It's been there a long time and it seems that they're just tearing it down to make room for offices. It's too bad that they couldn't spend the money fixing

it up instead of tearing it down, it's a historical site. They're tearing down Ingersoll's history.

"It's the best thing that could happen," said another man, "after all it's ready to fall down isn't it?"

"It's sad to see it come down but what else could you do with it?" said Stewart Thurtell. "I put a heating system in it 40 years ago and it was bad then."

The old Town Hall was the site of teen dances in the early sixties until the building inspector halted the regular events in 1964 because the floor had pulled away from the walls.

A fire in a basement cell in 1895 charred several of the timbers very badly, but the damage was never repaired. Instead, a coat of whitewash was applied to hide the burnt support beams.

The demolition of the Town Hall has been a contentious issue in Ingersoll since it was first proposed last year. In a referendum held during the municipal election, 59 per cent of voters voted to tear the building down.

Council originally awarded the tender for demolition to Lumley Wrecking of Sarnia. Lumley subcontracted the job out to Leyser Enterprises of Stratford. Leyser said that they expect the job to be completed by Thursday night.



Newspaper account of flood that devastated Ingersoll

(FROM THE INGERSOLL TRIBUNE, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1937)

The worst flood in the recollection of Ingersoll's oldest residents completely annihilated the north side of the town from the south section on Monday. This was also the direct cause of several fatalities and thousands upon thousands of dollars damage to property.

The loss to the municipality will be a heavy one. Many streets were washed out. The Thames Street bridge fell before the flood waters a few minutes before midnight Monday. Water mains and gas mains were broken open, sidewalks undermined, telephone and telegraph poles washed out and Memorial Park flooded.

Local industrial concerns suffered heavily, particularly William Stone Sons Limited, New Idea Furnaces Limited, Bigham's Limited, Odell & Allen, George H. Mason, John E. Borland's Imperial Oil Service Station, Slawson Cheese Company as well as many individuals.

The first intimation of the likelihood of serious damage was about 5:30 o'clock, Monday morning when the Fire Department was called to assist in the saving of the dam at Smith's Pond. All residents were warned to vacate their homes if they lived in the district that might be affected should the dam give way. A portion of the bank weakened, relieving the pressure on the dam. This completely covered Memorial Park and flooded the cellars of the businesses placed on the south side of King Street East, also properties adjacent to the course of the stream as it passes north to join the Thames River.

Rain and snow continued throughout Monday. The 48 hours of wet weather caused the tributaries of the Thames River to rise, with the result that a washout occurred on the main line of the CNR, a few yards east of the North American Cyanamid Quarry at Munroe's crossing. Eastbound train No. 6 Sarnia to Toronto ran into the washout shortly after one o'clock causing a serious wreck

which resulted in the loss of three lives and was responsible for the drowning of Ingersoll MOH Dr. J.D. Macdonald, whose car was swept into the swirling waters of the Thames River as he attempted to cross No. 2 Highway at Munroe's Crossing to reach the train wreck.

All traffic was stopped using the Thames Street bridge about five o'clock as the water rose within a few inches of the floor of the structure. Pedestrians were still permitted to cross at six o'clock. The students of the schools were let out at 3 o'clock so they might reach home in safety and shortly after the men from the Morrow Co. had crossed, the bridge became immersed as did the roadway from the CNR to the CPR tracks. Several persons were transported back and forth in the arms of firemen and special policemen.

Crowds gathered on each side of the raging torrents to watch the action of the water. When the Cyanamid dykes gave way the water receded almost two feet and

from 7:30 to nearly 9 o'clock there was no water passing over Thames Street. As the huge quarry hole filled, the water rose at the rate of about a foot an hour. About 11:30 p.m., the river was gushing nearly two feet over the floor of the Thames Street bridge and covered the roadway from Victoria Street to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church to a depth of over two feet in places. At 11:55 there was a muffled sound, the floor of the bridge heaved about two feet in the centre, there was a creak, several loud rumbles and a thud, as the huge mass of steel and wood, swayed, bent to the west, then curled up and tumbled into the swirling torrents of the Thames. The sidewalk in front of New Ideas Furnace Company gave way, the wall at the south end of the factory office crumbled, the telegraph pole in the CPR yard, carrying the main telegraph

cable, was uprooted as the station driveway was washed out. Lumber from Geo. H. Mason's yard could be seen floating along with the current. The huge storage gasoline tanks over 10 feet in diameter, in the yards of

Borland's Imperial Oil Service Station were wash undermined and rose to the top of the rushing water with a dull thud that tore loose the earth holding them underground and left gaping holes in the service station grounds.



Ingersoll's had its share of floods

BY WES ROCHESTER

Some would call it just plain bad luck. Others claimed that Mr. Wright had it coming because he had become too greedy in his affairs. And those of a religious had pronounced His judgement on the south side and east side of Whiting Creek industrial revolution.

But whatever was said, hardly a person in Ingersoll missed the events on that spring morning in April 1887.

It was in 1846 that W.H. King built his flour mill. Located on King Street West on the south side and east side of Whiting Creek, Mr. King utilized the creek that flowed from a 15 acre pond which lay south-east of the mill. But the job of grinding grain became too much for the elder resident, and soon he sold the business to a younger more adventuresum man, Carl Wright.

The first thing that Mr. Wright did when he took over operation of the mill was to forego the ancient method of grinding by water-wheel in favor of modern machinery. He installed the most modern of steam engines that money could buy to power his mill, believing he could make up the cost in no time flat. Years went by and business was good. The dam that once powered the mill was allowed to deteriorate.

On April 4, 1887 at 7 a.m. the dam gave way. In the first hour the water washed away a portion of the old mill and part of the new engine house. The high smoke stack that signalled the mill's business for miles around, toppled, crashing through the roof. A large wooden-frame apartment house, purchased by the miller as a place to store 500 cords of four-foot wood, sat beside the stream. When the surging waters hit the stock pile, the catapulting explosion hurled wood through the house, totally destroying it.

Occupying the apartments were Mr. and Mrs. John Bowman, their three children, Mr. Bowman's father, John McLean and his 18-year-old son, Alec Laid, his wife and child. Mrs. Bowman and her youngest child clung atop a bureau that floated down

stream. In the process of being saved, Mrs. Bowman lost grip of her child's arm and Mrs. Bowman drowned, never to be seen again. Mr. Bowman, who was ill in bed, floated down to the river and was pulled to safety. The other members of the Bowman family escaped.

The dam was never rebuilt, but when the waters receded, a small pond remained and was used for skating. By 1901 the waters had dried sufficiently to allow the Tulsonburg Lake Erie and Pennsylvania Railroad to build a line on the pond bottom.

HARRIS CREEK

In May of 1894, there was a sudden



melting of snow accompanied by a warm rain. The Harris Creek, which flowed through central Ingersoll, became greatly flooded and three dams on this stream gave way. When the flood waters washed out the foundation of the building adjoining the stream the brick wall fell into the water, causing the floors to slope towards the stream. The building was occupied by James McIntyre "the poet", who conducted a furniture and undertaking business at the time. Coffins, rough boxes and much



The 1937 flood was the worst recorded. On the left are gas tanks that rose out of the ground. That service station is now the home of Borland's Esso.

The worst flood on record occurred on April 26, 1937. Warm rains and melting snow combined to cause a rush of water to the Thames River by all streams leading to it. The dam at Smith's pond overflowed. Memorial Park was flooded so deep that the Doctor Carroll memorial cairn was submerged to within a foot from the top.

The Thames Street main bridge was washed away. The Health Board ordered that all drinking water be boiled until further notice. Flood waters almost reached the Presbyterian Church.

At a service station on Thames Street, gasoline tanks rose out of the ground. Flood conditions rose to a high level at Munroe's Crossing, east of Ingersoll.

A short distance east of the crossing the waters undermined a small bridge. This caused a CNR passenger train - the flyer - to become derailed. It fell into the flooded valley, resulting in the deaths of two men. They were Malcom Isbister, the engineer, and Norm Aiken of Sarnia.

It was while trying to reach the scene of the accident that Doctor MacDonald, M.O. H., lost his life due to the swiftly flowing water which carried his auto downstream.

furniture fell into the rampant waters and were seen carried to the Thames.

Young men, who had tied their boats to trees because the water was high above the shore, took off after the floating goods. Much of the furniture was pulled to shore at Paton's Sighting, three miles west of Ingersoll. However, upholstered chairs were seen as far west as Dorchester. Waters that crossed over King and Water Streets were reported to be one foot in depth.

1937 FLOOD

The Daly House

By J. C. HERBERT

On Saturday, 2 November, the new administration and library building will be officially opened.

While people of Ingersoll and surrounding area will look forward with a great deal of anticipation to this event, we should always be mindful of the historic building which was previously located on this site. The Daly House, built in 1853 by Absolom Daly, a retired British army officer, who took his discharge in Oxford after the rebellion of 1837, boasts of an historic past unmatched by most hotels in the province. Daly was an astute business man and saw the advantage of having his hotel built on the Old Stage Road, now King Street. In 1840 he commenced his stage line to Port Burwell to connect with boats on Lake Erie to Cleveland and other American cities. In 1852 he extended his line to St. Thomas and Port Dover in the Talbot settlement.

In 1854 the frame structure built in 1837 was partially destroyed by fire. Daly rebuilt it using bricks, now available, and while alterations were periodically made to the interior, the building was basically the same until it was removed from the site in 1994.

Over the years the building became famous for the many

prominent people who stayed there. Many of these were involved in the political life of Canada, who came to speak in the historic town hall across the street.

Famous guests

Robert Baldwin, a member of Parliament after the union of Upper and Lower Canada and a great advocate for the reform movement, was one of the early people who stayed at the Daly House.

Other politicians were John A. McDonald, the first prime minister of Canada; Alexander Mackenzie, Wilfred Laurier and Darcy McGee.

Many of the people with the Chatauqua circuit stayed at the hotel when they came to Ingersoll.

The list also includes Christine Neilson, Metropolitan Opera star.

One famous name in this list was not even a Canadian. John Brown, the American abolitionist during the Civil War, came to Canada to seek funds and recruits to help him sabotage installations in the southern states. While here he made his headquarters at the Daly House.

Slaves befriended here

Prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, hundreds of slaves sought refuge in the northern states and in Canada. They were aided by friends who hid them by day and whisked them

to friends on their way north by night.

Eventually more than three hundred reached the settlement in Ingersoll, the northern terminal of the "railway". On arrival they were hidden in the third story of the newly built Wesleyan Methodist Church, a short distance from the Daly. Following the cessation of hostilities many remained and a branch of the E.M.O. church was founded. With the death of Daly the hotel ran into difficult times. It changed hands on numerous occasions.

In 1942 the building was purchased by Vince Barrie, the mayor of St. Thomas. He realized the historic value of the hotel which he named the Ingersoll Inn. The room at the entrance to the Inn he called the John Brown room.

It became a very respectable place with fine dining facilities. It remained so for a number of decades. Unfortunately when he had to relinquish control of the Inn, it passed through several hands. Eventually it became vacant and was exposed to the elements so that it could not be preserved.

As we witness on Saturday the dedication and opening of the new structure, a feeling of nostalgia will come to some of us who remember.



The Ingersoll Inn, a landmark in the town, is coming down. Workers with J & A Demolition and General Contractors of Tillsonburg are dismantling the structure. At left, is a view from King Street West, while



the photo at right shows the demolition from Oxford Street. (Liz Dadson photos)

THE WAY WE WERE

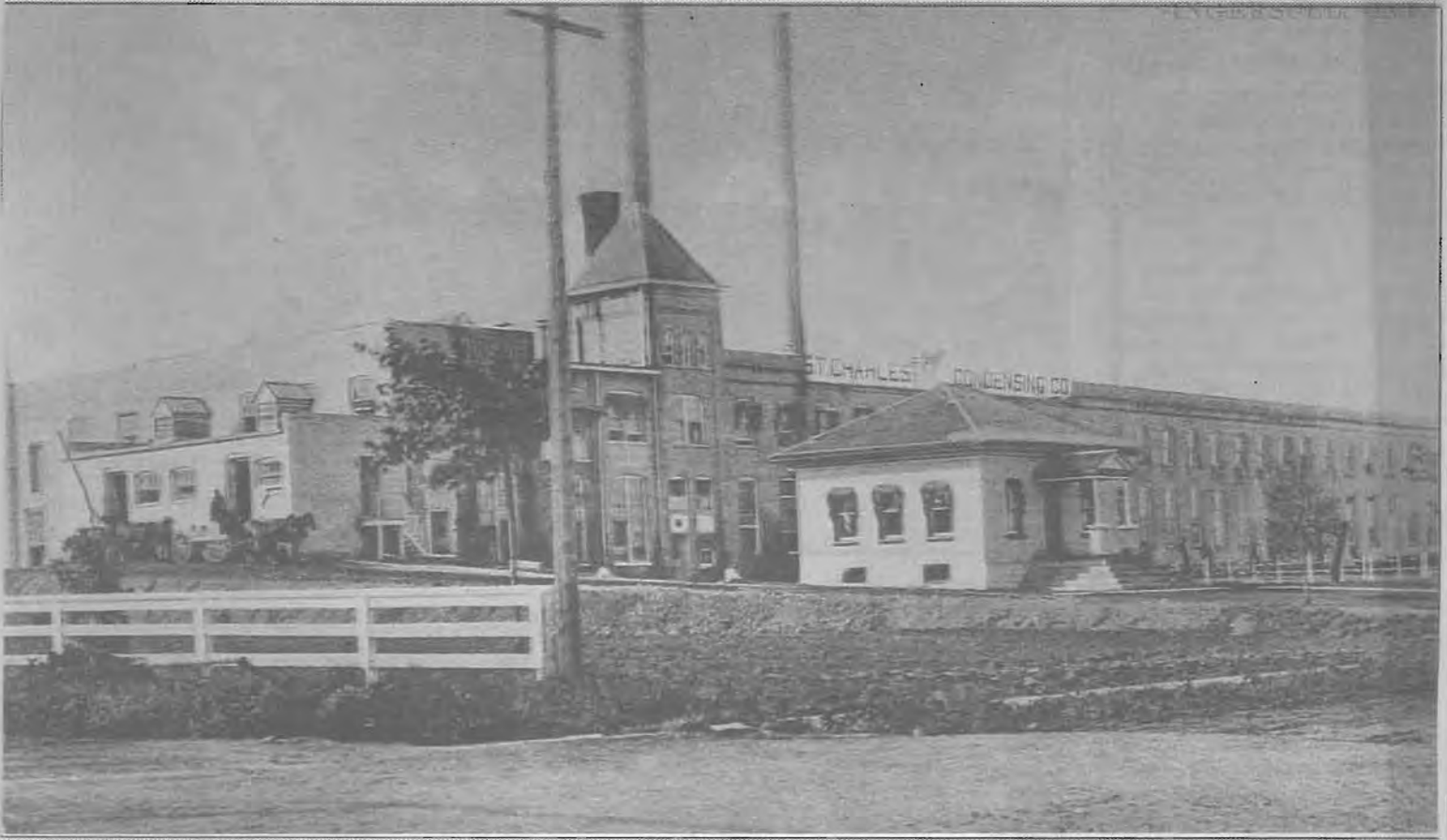
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THEN Ingersoll's King Street, looking west from Thames Street, is shown in this old postcard from the collection of Ruth Brown of Ingersoll.



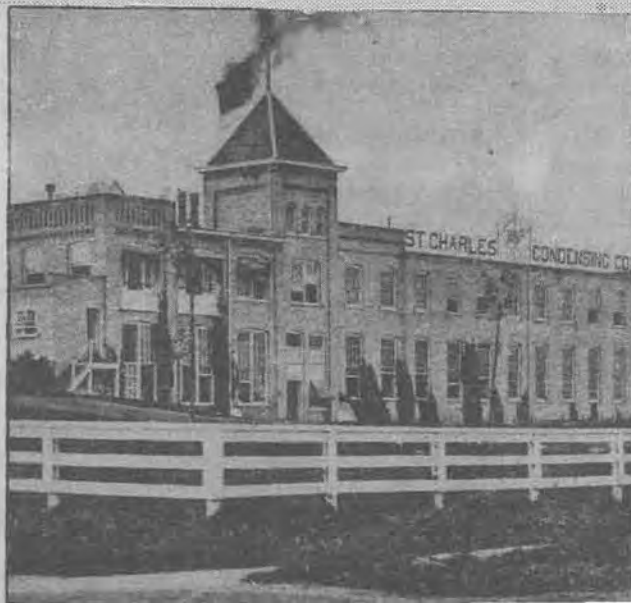
NOW The same view of the town is shown in this contemporary photograph by Sue Reeve of The London Free Press.



THEN The St. Charles Condensing Factory in Ingersoll is shown in this postcard from the collection of Ruth Brown of Ingersoll.



NOW In this contemporary photograph, by Sue Reeve of The Free Press, the King Street West landmark is shown. It is now the Borden plant.





In 1949 the literary society at IDCI included these students, from the left, front row, Dick Flenniken, Dorene Simpson, Jim Waring, Tom Douglas, Magery Clark, Tom Staples, Don Carrothers, Lorna Young, Joe Kurtzman. Second Row, Miss Baker, Sheila Morrison, Frances Horley, Olwen Allanson, Pat Tapsell, Margaret (Quinn), Lilian Brewer, Jeraldeen Borthwick, Miss Carney, Mr. Herbert. Back Row, Mr. Clement, Murray Goldstein, Harold Crellin, Don Beno, Jim Miller, Jim Muterer, Mac Hyde, Edward Butt, John Petrie, Mr. Brogden.



Swim coaches or swim team? Perhaps readers can help. M.G. "Buck" Billings, popular manager of the Maude Wilson Memorial Pool has posed with a group of well known swimmers. They are all local. Can you name them. (file photo)

The history of James Ingersoll

By J.C. HERBERT

James Ingersoll opened the registry office in Woodstock in 1848. That same year he married Catherine McNab who had emigrated with her family from Limerick, Ireland.

It is of interest that other families (Crottys, Carnegies, Walsh) came to Ingersoll about the same time (1832) and took a prominent part in the pioneer life of Ingersoll. All five of Ingersoll's children were born and grew up in Woodstock.

Mary Blanchard was the only girl in the family. The four boys in the family were James, John, Thomas and George. Tragedy befell this family in 1872 when their son Thomas, still a teenager was accidentally shot by a friend and subsequently died. James, the oldest son in the family also met a tragic death. He was a former student of Upper Canada College, an active member of the Oxford Militia where he was adjutant of the regiment and was employed in his father's registry office. He was

fatally injured in attempting to rescue a member of a tobogganing party who had fallen off a toboggan when another one speeding down the hill forcefully struck him and he succumbed to the injury. He was a popular and highly respected young man in the community, with a promising future. The younger brother, George had moved to Florida and also met with and accident but fortunately survived.

The other brother John McNab was a successful travelling hardware salesman. He married Elizabeth Eleanor Hall and for some years they lived in Brockville. They had one son, Leslie Hall Ingersoll, Father of Joyce Brown. Unfortunately, he had been in ill health for a number of years and he died in 1894, at the age of 40 years, two years after their son was born.

James Ingersoll lived in Woodstock for 38 years until he died in 1886. He had been Registrar for the county 52 years. He was as involved in the business and civic

life in Woodstock as he had been in Ingersoll. He was an active member of the Anglican church and the many fraternal organizations to which he belonged. He continued his active interest in the militia and in 1869 he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the reserve militia for the south riding of Oxford. He was also manager of the Gore bank for many years.

While he did not play a major role in the founding of the town of St. Marys, he did purchase the land which his brothers, Thomas and Samuel developed. They built mills and opened a store and are considered the founders of present day St. Marys. Not content with this acquisition James Ingersoll purchased land in the Lakeside area. This time he sent his brother-in-law William Carroll who married his half sister Appalonia to supervise and look after his interests there.

Colonel James Ingersoll died, August 1886, after a long and useful life. He saw many changes and improvements in housing,

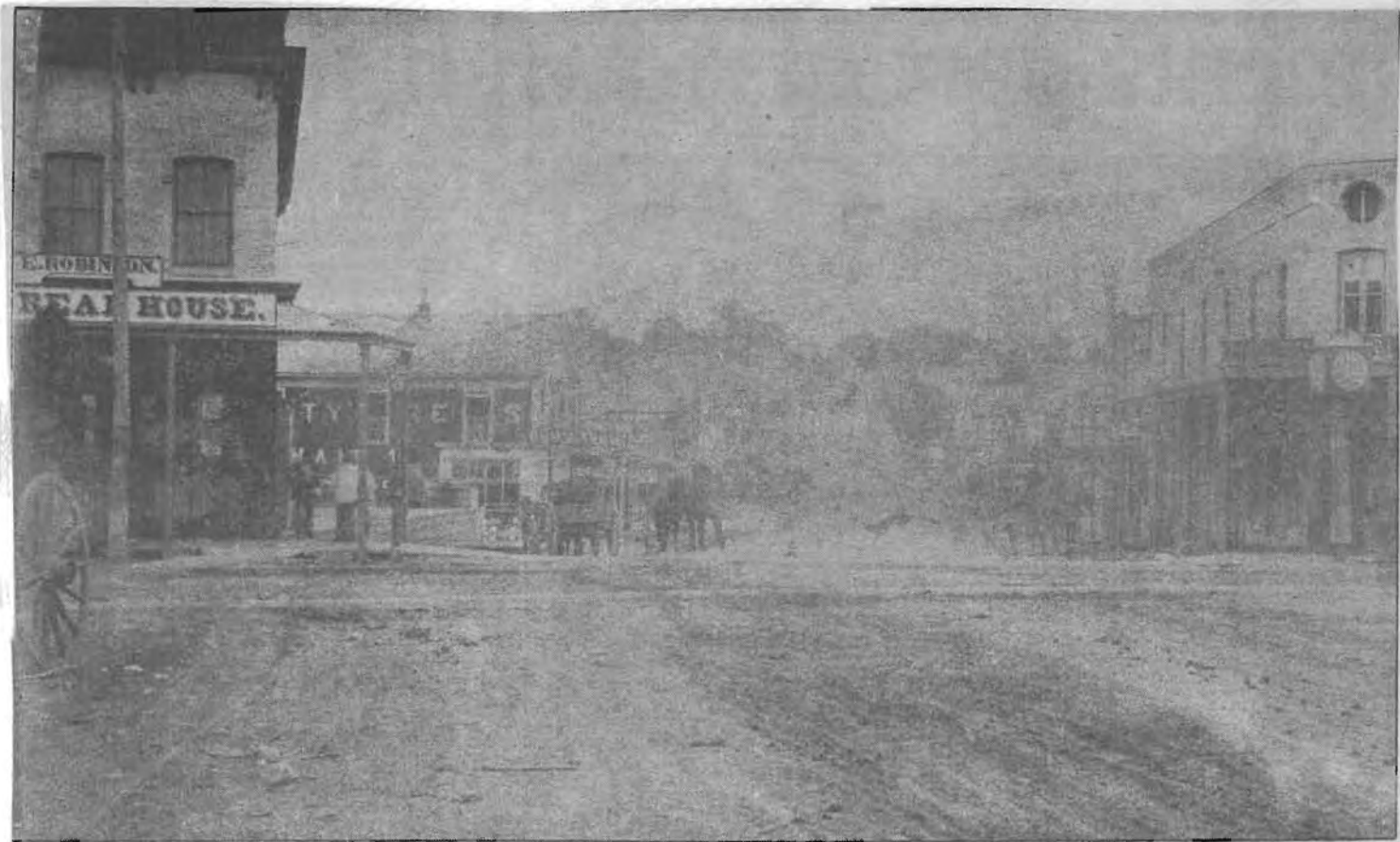
roads and transportation and in living conditions during his lifetime. What was once an expanse of wilderness at the time of his birth, in the old log cabin on present day Thames Street, was at the time of his death, in Woodstock, settled with towns and villages in comfortable surroundings.

Many honours had come his way and he was much revered and held in high esteem. In his obituary it was recorded, "his form was but slightly bent and every day found him in his office a model of correctness in his business. His manner was urbane and he was of most accommodation disposition".

In this our bicentennial year we should recognize the contribution the Ingersoll families, after whom the town is named, made to the development and growth in those early years as an article about this family states "the family rates with the names of Talbot, Dunlop, Galt and even Simcoe when it comes to people who made Western Ontario what it is to-day."



Ingersoll's Oxford Street bares little resemblance to the way it looked in the late 1800s. This photo was taken from the Old Town Hall, looking south, toward Charles Street. The area directly behind the Old Town Hall was used as a market area. Today the police station is located there. Behind each of the buildings are wood piles, used for heating.



This photo, lent to the Times by J.C. Herbert, shows Ingersoll's business section before the turn of the century.

ally as the Hugill building.

The Merchant Bank is of Italianate style although decorative features are absent. It is presumed they were removed as the result of decay over the years.

Currently, Richard Chambers' Ingersoll Optical Company is located at the 188 Thames Street South building.

The Niagara District Bank

Located on the East side of Thames Street, adjacent to the current R. McNiven and Sons Insurance, the Niagara District Bank, in 1856, became one of the first banks to establish a branch here. In 1871 it erected a new building on the west side of the street.

The two story brick building exhibits strong Italianate features such as the Palladian windows in the roof, rounded windows and door design with keystone accent and the wide corner brackets.

When The Niagara District Bank merged with the Imperial Bank of Canada in 1875 it operated in the building, but under the name of the Imperial Bank.

Located at 180 Thames Street South, the original Niagara Bank building is now used for commercial purposes.

The Norsworthy Building

The Norsworthy Building sits proudly on King Street, just west of the Thames Street corner. James Norsworthy, who had the building erected, was a general banker and broker as well as being an agent for various steamship lines. A Branch of the London Bank was also located in this building for a few years, then in 1887 the Traders Bank took over the business of the London Bank, operating in that building. When business prospered so much it was necessary to secure larger quarters, a new building was erected on the northwest corner of Thames and King Streets. The



Royal Bank sits there now.

The Norsworthy Building is also an example of Italianate design with its strong classical features such as pilasters on the corners, brackets, and arches in the brickwork just under the wide cornice.

The Norsworthy Building is located at 17 King Street West.

Thomas Ingersoll Log Cabin

Major Thomas Ingersoll was granted a charter in 1793 to

develop the settlement we know as Ingersoll. His son James, who was Registrar for the County of Oxford for 52 years, wrote an article in which he tells about his father arriving at the settlement.

He writes, "The Indian Chief who guided the party urged my father to pitch his tent on what is now Thames Street, which he accordingly did and with his own hand felled the first tree. This was an elm tree,

PHOTOS BY GEOFF DALE

the body of which was put in the premises in which I was born 10 September 1801, the same ground on which Poole's store has been erected on Thames St." No one is sure whether the log cabin was built on his first trip because he did return to Massachusetts several times before bringing his family here.

However it definitely was this location where he built the cabin he and his family called home for as long as they lived here.

It is now the site of the gazebo in Heritage Park.

The James McIntyre Building

James McIntyre is known far and wide as Canada's cheese poet. Although some declaim his work as being too pedestrian and lacking any form of sophistication, others recognize and value it for its historical significance.

McIntyre wrote about many every day events, but is probably most famous for his *Ode to the Mammoth Cheese*, the huge cheese made in Ingersoll and eventually shipped around the world.

That was not his occupation. He came to Canada from Forres, Scotland in 1859 and settled here. In 1859 he established his furniture business which included a factory on Carroll Street and a store on King Street East. In addition to this he manufactured coffins and was the town embalmer. Some think he was the first undertaker in Ingersoll.

History relates that in the flood of 1894, part of a wall and the floor collapsed. This allowed the furniture and caskets to be swept away by the Thames River, some going as far as Dorchester.

The James McIntyre Building, at 11 King Street East, has most recently been the home of Terry Plester's Oak House Furniture.