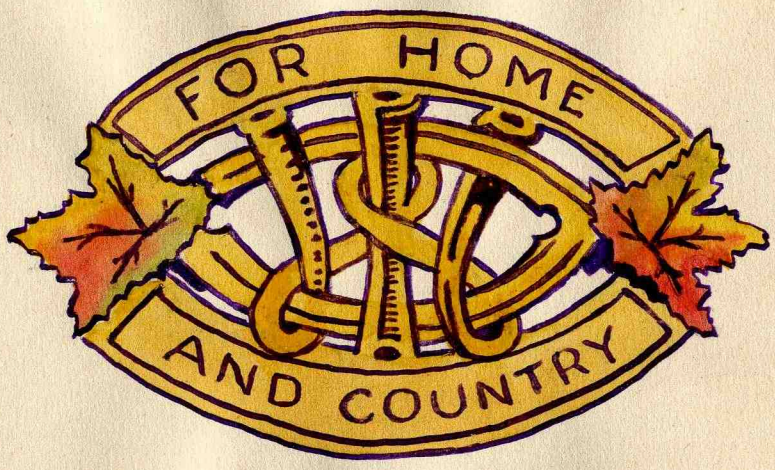
AN 2006-21

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY



1947
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
WEST LORNE

FOREWORD

"To my friends and fellow members of the Women's Institutes I would like to say how much I hope they will press on with their work in education and in other lines. I have so much enjoyed my association with them here, and although I have not been able to answer their many kind letters sent to me in the last month, I would like to say how grateful I am to receive them. I hope that the Canadian and British Women's Institutes will always be linked together in the warmest friendship and closest association, and that we shall continue to work as ardently in the future for the welfare of the countryside as we have done in the past"

Lady Tweedsmuir





TO

LORD AND LADY TWEEDSMUIR.

Whose interest in Canada and the Women's Institute movement inspired the compiling of community histories; this book is respectfully dedicated.

The Women's Institute, West Lorne, Ont. 1947.



H.R.H. QUEEN ELIZABETH.
A member of the Women's Institute.



MRS. JOHN (ADELAIDE) HOODLESS
Instigator and honorary president of the first Women's Institute, which was organized on 19 February 1897, at Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada.



HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA

DIAMOND JUBILEE PORTRAIT

1837 60 Years 1897

Photographed February, 1897.

Victoria R

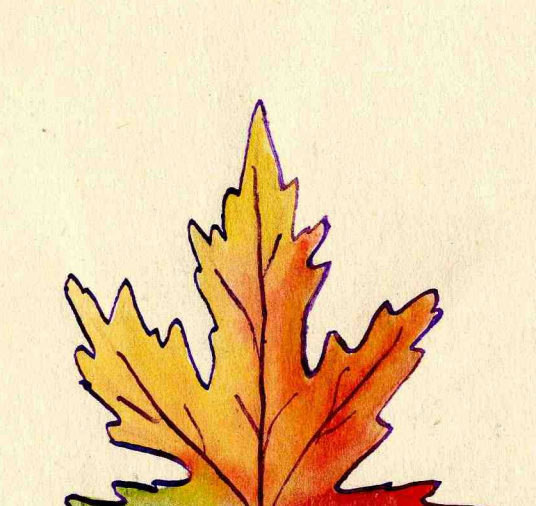


ALICE V. MEEK R.N.

maker and designer of

- - - this book cover -

PART 1
HISTORICAL RECORDS



Keep us O Lord from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word and deed. Let us be done with fault-finding, and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face, without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous. Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straight forward and unafraid. Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene, gentle. Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one. And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all, and O, Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

Mary Stewart

WEST LORNE

TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE HISTORY BOOK

STARTED IN SEPTEMBER ,1946.

FIRST TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE:

Mrs. John A. McKillop, Convenor,
Mrs. J.B. Ferguson,
Mrs. Mac McKillop,
Miss Mima Currie,
Mrs. Norval Murray.

This Committee was organized in September, 1946 and functioned until April, 1955. Its members are deeply indebted to Miss Alice Meek, R.N. of West Lorne, for the design and colored art work throughout the book.

HISTORY OF THE WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

FROM

January 29th, 1913--March 13th, 1947.

" The New years come and
the Old years go,
As swings Time's pendulum
to and fro. "

Aeons of time have passed since the Pioneers of Canada hewed out of the forests the sturdy timbers of which their dwellings were built, yet within those crudely fashioned homes there dwelt men and women who had unfailing faith in their country and their God. Men and women who bore hardship with patience, adversity with courage, and undauntedly strove to create within that dwelling those things which constitute home and abundant life. The women faced their tasks with brave hearts and faithfully cared for their families, moulding the lives of their children with a great and tender hope for their future.

Time passed, and with the years came changes and progress. One of the changes, which came a half-century ago, was revolutionary in its effect upon the lives of rural home-makers. Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, who had suffered the sorrow of losing her child through, as she felt, an inadequate knowledge of health laws, thought that something could be done to safe-guard the lives of other children in the future. Through her influence a group of farm women gathered in Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek, on Feb. 19th, 1897, and it was there the Women's Institute had its birth. This meeting was attended by 101 women. It came into being as the Women's Department of Domestic Economy

in affiliation with the Farmers' Institute. They decided to call the new Organization "The Women's Department of Farmers' Institute of South Wentworth". The name lasted exactly one week and, at the next meeting, was changed to the now familiar "Women's Institute". Its primary object was Domestic Science and Sewing Instruction for Women, its Motto "For Home and Country". The first president was Mrs. E. D. Smith, wife of Senator Smith of Winona, Ont. It provided an opportunity for farm and village women to meet regularly to discuss their problems and acquire information concerning their responsibilities as home-makers and citizens.

As a pebble is thrown into a pond and the ripples increase in number, so this movement grew, and upon a day in January, 1913--the 29th to be exact--largely through the interest and enthusiasm of Mrs. Tom Sims, wife of the Editor of the Elgin Sun, sixty ladies gathered in the Old Opera House to organize a branch of the Women's Institute in West Lorne. Four women came down from Rodney by train that day at noon to assist in the organization. They were Mrs. C. A. Wray, who was District President at that time, Mrs. McLevy, the District Secretary, and the two Branch Directors--Mrs. Stinson and Mrs. Eggert (now Mrs. R. J. Hood). They had to have a membership before they could elect officers, so a goodly number of ladies gave their names and membership fee of 25¢, and the organization work proceeded. Mrs. Sims was elected President and Mrs. Hugh C. McKillop the Secretary-Treasurer. The late Mrs. (Dr.) Webster entertained the Rodney ladies to supper. The meetings were to be held on the first Friday of each month at 3.00 p. m. in the homes of the members. They were opened by singing "The Maple Leaf Forever" and closed with "God Save the King".

In a year and a half after the organization of the Branch, the first World War broke out, and the years from Aug. 4th, 1914, to Nov. 11, 1918,

were very busy ones for the women under the Presidency of Mrs. Sims, Mrs. Wanless, Mrs. Hurley, Mrs. Dan McKillop and Mrs. Mac McKillop, with Mrs. Hugh McKillop, Mrs. Dan Clark, Mrs. Merrett and Mrs. Fred Cullen as the Secretary-treasurers. The Institute took charge of all the war work and records reveal that a tremendous amount of business was dealt with at the meetings. The village was divided into sections and a member allotted to each territory to collect funds each month. Names of collectors were:- Mrs. Edmonds, Mrs. Sharratt, Mrs. Archibald McKillop, Mrs. Fred Cullen, Mrs. Hugh McKillop, Miss Bolsby, Mrs. Sims, Mrs. Mac McKillop, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. John A. McKillop, Mrs. Patton, Mrs. Dan McKillop. Some months as much as $100.00 was raised in this way. The money was used to purchase yarn to knot socks for the men in the armed forces and provide other comforts for them. It was common practice for the Packing Committee to ship monthly to the McKay Home 48 pairs of socks, 99 towels (one month there were 194 towels), 55 pillowcases, 22 pounds of candy, besides sheets, pyjamas, comfort bags, etc. In Nov., 1916, 42 Christmas boxes were sent, and 86 lbs. of fruit cake, 42½ lbs. of cookies, 29½ lbs. of candy were forwarded to St. Thomas for general shipment. At the Nov. meeting, 1917, 255 pairs of socks were reported shipped. Monthly donations of not less than $10.00 were made to the Prisoners' Bread Fund. Yarn was purchased in lots of $50.00 worth, also whole bolts of towelling, sheeting and flannelette.

Besides the monthly collections money was raised by serving banquets for the Corn Show, and, during those years, West Lorne had a Driving Club, at which the Institute had booth privileges, as well as at the Bowling Tournaments and Baseball games. Concerts were given and old papers collected and sold. It is interesting to record that the money received during the year ending in May, 1917, from monthly collections, sale of papers, concerts,

Poultry Show, Bowling Tournament, etc. amounted to $1,183.94, and expenditures for War Work were $1,128.10. Tickets were sold on a horse donated by the late Hugh C. McKillop; proceeds amounted to $90.25. At the Poultry Show in 1918 a guessing contest was held on some Silver Wyandotte chickens donated by Mr. Becker, on a bushel of corn provided by Mr. Maynard, and on a jar of beans given by Mrs. Alex McColl. The sum realized was $64.59. Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Mac McKillop and Mrs. Fred Cullen were the Committee appointed to see about getting a stove for heating the premises for the Poultry Show.

The members took time to enjoy instructive papers at their meetings. For example--one on "Charity During the War" by Mrs. Hurley. This paper was repeated at a lecture given by Dr. McEwan. "Methods of Education" by Miss Bolsby, "How the Nations are Fed" by Mrs. John A. McKillop, "Children" by the late Dr. Ripley, and "Blessings from the War" by Mrs. Penrose.

The first Institute picnic was held on July 27th, 1917.

On March 1st, 1918, the Flower Fund was organized at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Rhody, on a motion by Mrs. Merrett and seconded by Mrs. John A. McKillop. Mrs. Hugh McKillop was appointed Treasurer. This fund is still in existence and since 1933 Miss Christie Gillies has been a very faithful Treasurer.

The war was over on Nov. 11th, 1918, and the monthly collections discontinued.

There is a most interesting story to be construed from the records of the years 1919 to 1930 inclusive. The Presidents for this period were Mrs. Hugh McKillop, Mrs. Sims (sec. term), Mrs. J. B. Ferguson, Mrs. J. C. Sherk, Mrs. D. McPhail and Mrs. John A. McKillop. The Secretary-treasurers were Mrs. A. Smith, Mrs. Dan Clark (sec. term), Mrs. W. T. Merrett (sec. term),

Mrs. A. J. McMillan, Mrs. J. McGregor, and Mrs. Nicholson.

The banquet for the soldiers was held in 1919.

The activities due to the war were over, but a new project was being born, that of the erection of a Memorial Hall in the village, in tribute to the men from West Lorne and East Aldborough who had served in the war. The first information available of any step having been taken in this direction is from the minutes of a meeting held at the home of the late Mrs. Dan Clark in May, 1921, when it was moved by Mrs. H. C. McKillop and seconded by Mrs. Sims that the Institute undertake the erection of a Memorial Hall. Mrs. Wanless and Mrs. H. C. McKillop were appointed a committee to interview the Town and Township Councils to see if they would make grants towards such a building. In 1922 the Committee was enlarged to seven members, when the names of Mrs. J. B. Ferguson, Mrs. Arthur Petherick, Mrs. Edmunds, Mrs. Sims and Mrs. Schleihauf were added. The idea grew, and in 1927 the Town Council agreed to place a by-law before the people at the coming election, a Mass Meeting of the citizens was held, and the Voters' List gone over by members of the Institute. The result was that the by-law carried and the way was made clear to go ahead with the erection of the building.

All this time the Women's Institute had been busy for they needed money for this project. Once more they catered for banquets, had refreshment booths at the ballgames, held teas, garden party, Chataqua concerts, St. Patrick's supper (admission 50¢ and 35¢), Dutch supper, and put on plays. One play was entitled "Sunbonnets", for which the ticket sale amounted to $122.45. An autograph quilt was made, on which all the names were written by Mrs. Dan Clark and Mrs. W. H. Bole. More than $100.00 was raised on it. The late Mr. John A. McKillop purchased the quilt for $20.00. An example

of the enthusiasm of the women is shown in the minutes of Nov. 15th, 1923, viz.-"Moved by Mrs. Dan McKillop and seconded by Mrs. Sims, that we add another thousand dollars to our Memorial Objective."

However, the members were interested in other works besides the Memorial Hall. Donations were made to assist in the Children's Shelter, the War Memorial Hospital, London, the Memorial Hospital, St. Thomas, Armenion Relief, the Institute for the Blind, Salvation Army, etc.

Community Song Books were used at the meetings for the first time on April 14th, 1922.

The character of the meetings was somewhat changed. They were still held in the members' homes, but on the second Thursday instead of the first Friday, and opened by singing the "Institute Ode" in place of "The Maple Leaf Forever". (Minutes of Nov. 1920). In Sept. 1921, printed programmes for the entire year were gotten out instead of members being appointed to take charge of meetings for certain months.

In October, 1922, the Institute collected $137.58 for the relief of sufferers in the fire-swept area of Northern Ontario, with which mitts, stockings, underwear, etc. were purchased and boxes valued at $400.00 were sent. Another worthwhile community effort was the fact that in 1923 the Institute was responsible for the erection of a building at the cemetery, and in June of that year the key to it was given to the Trustees of the Cemetery Board.

Victrola selections were popular items on the musical part of the programmes. At the February meeting, 1921, the High School Literary Society provided the entertainment. Maureen Skinner and Helen Sims gave a piano duet, Jean Wiley a reading, and a debate was put on under the subject, "Resolved that the Irish are a more clever race than the Scotch". Elsie

Petherick and Carman Evans upheld the affirmative, Jean Campbell and Jack Milner the negative. Splendid papers were also given at the meetings such as "The Development of Character" by Mrs. Sims, "Simple Desserts in Warm Weather" by Mrs. Smith, "How to Keep Young" by Mrs. Carson, "The Discovery and Early Years of Our Country" by Miss Tena McKillop, "Attractiveness in the Home" by Mrs. Ball, "The Opening of Parliament" by Mrs. H. C. McKillop, and "The Maximum Good from the Minimum Outlay" by Mrs. Roy Evans. This paper was sent to the Department on a motion by Mrs. H. C. McKillop and Mrs. Arthur Petherick.

The Institute co-operated with the Department by having "Summer Speakers". Of interest is the report of the summer meeting held in the Old Opera House on the evening of May 29th, 1923. There were 168 present. Miss Edith Hopkins of Lindsay, Ont., Department Representative, gave a splendid address on "Co-operation". There were choruses by the Continuation Class and solos by Miss Erie Webster and Garfield Edwards.

"Canadian Poetry" was the theme of the programmes for 1924 and 1925, with Mrs. Duncan McKillop, Mrs. Merrett, Mrs. Mac McKillop, Mrs. Sherk, Mrs. E. Lemon, Mrs. McGuire and Mrs. Wanless giving papers on different Canadian poetesses. A splendid paper during this year was the one by Mrs. C. P. Mc Farlane on "The Kingship of Self-Control". Also one on "Short sketches of Canadian Authors" by Mrs. James. This paper was sent to the Department.

Mrs. Merrett was appointed pianist in 1924 and has served continuously in that office ever since.

The first history of West Lorne was given by Mr. John A. McKillop at an Institute meeting held on July 14th, 1927.

The Institute co-operated with the school by having a School Committee, and in March, 1927, this Committee, consisting of Mrs. E. Lemon and Mrs.

Roy Evans, reported that the school had been supplied with paper towels, soap, peroxide, and iodine, and permission had been obtained from the School Board to have Dr. Webster examine the eyes, throat and teeth of the children. It was also suggested that teeters and swings be bought for the school grounds. It was later reported that the cost of the teeters would be $70.00 and the swings $90.00. Members also acted as judges at the School Fairs held throughout the District. In 1928 a talk was given each month on one of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada.

Two important events took place in the year 1929. On January 17th the Institute's first "Family Night" was held. This took the form of a banquet in the Old Opera House when Institute members and their families were invited. There were over 100 present. The President, Mrs. McPhail, was Toast Mistress for the occasion and the toasts were:

"Our Institute"--Responded to by Mrs. J. C. McMillan

"The Home"--Responded to by Mrs. Schleihauf

"Our Country"--Responded to by Mrs. Evans

"Our Youth"--Responded to by Carman Nicholson

"The Men"--Proposed by Mrs. John A. McKillop,
Responded to by Mrs. Arthur Petherick

"Our Town"--Proposed by Mrs. A. B. McColl
Responded to by Reeve D. Leitch

The programme consisted of:

Duet--Anna Gammon and Francis Bole

Vocal Solo--Mary O'Neil

Instrumental Solo--Lionel McKillop

Vocal Solo--Margaret McIntyre

Instrumental Solo--Jean Ferguson

The second important event was the laying of the Corner-Stone of the Memorial Hall.

On Tuesday, June 3rd, 1930, the Hall was officially opened with fitting ceremonies. Colonel D. E. Gerrard opened the Hall and unveiled the Memorial Tablet, Wreaths were placed, a Dedication Prayer given, Last Post and Reveille sounded. School children, war veterans, resident clergymen, Reeve D. M. Leitch and Warden D. K. Andrew took part in the proceedings. A baseball game was held between Shedden and West Lorne. Afternoon tea was served, also supper from 6 to 7.30 p. m. by the Women's Institute. In the evening a concert was given by the Schubert Concert Company of London in the new auditorium.

Mrs. John A. McKillop was President of the Institute when the Hall was opened, and Past Presidents, other officers and members were invited to be present for the occasion. The Institute provided the sum of nearly $3,000.00 towards the building expenses. The electric clock on the outside of the Hall, and the one in the Institute room, was purchased with money donated by Mrs. Dugald McPherson estate for a memorial to the soldiers (minutes, Nov. 10, 1922).

In connection with this bequest a resolution, presented by Mrs. Sherk and seconded by Mrs. McPhail, was unanimously adopted that a moment's silence be observed by this Institute each year in the month of June, being the month in which Mrs. McPherson passed away, to show their esteem and appreciation of this gift, and the Secretary was instructed to send a copy of such resolution to the Executors of the Estate (minutes of Dec. 14, 1922).

The following is the inscription on the clock:-

" This Memorial Clock

donated by

Mrs. Dugald McPherson

in Memory of

Our Boys

Who Died in the Great War. "

The Plaque was given by the Town and Township Councils. Since the opening of the Hall the Institute meetings have been held in the Institute room.

Madam President: -

Your Committee re Institute Room beg to submit the following report: -

As requested, we sought an interview with the Community Hall Board and were most courteously received. We asked if it were possible to have an agreement regarding the use of their room. The Board said they would willingly do so, if they had control over such matters. When the Hall was built the Provincial Government gave a grant of $2,000.00, thus bringing the building under the Provincial Law known as the Community Hall Act. By this Act the Board works under the Government and has no power to rent a room to any organization. Therefore, the law does not allow them to grant our request. But, we were assured by the Members of the Board that they would see that we, as an organization, were fairly treated and they could see no reason why this room would not be known always as the Institute Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion C. James, Convener.

West Lorne, Dec. 10th, 1931.

The completion of the Memorial Hall closed a second chapter in the history of the West Lorne Women's Institute. The presidents from 1931 to 1939 were Mrs. Philip Schleihauf, Mrs. Sheeler, Mrs. H. C. McKillop (sec. term) and Mrs. Norval Murray, while Mrs. Nicholson gave continuous and efficient service as Secretary-treasurer.

This period might be termed the "Ordinary Years" of the Institute. In them the work as suggested by the Department was pretty faithfully adhered to. Programmes were built around the subjects of the Standing Committees, viz.-Education, Community Activities, Canadian Industries, Home Economics, Health and Child Welfare, and Historical Research. The "Grandmothers'" meeting was a popular one and programmes were also held on Music, Peace, Christmas, Easter, etc. The month of October was "Guest" Month, when one or more neighbouring branches were invited, the visitors putting on the programme. This promoted sociability in the District. Winter Picnics, District Annuals, and the London Conventions were attended by delegates and members from the branch.

One important item of business is contained in the minutes of Nov. 9th, 1933, when a report on the Mortgage held by the Women's Institute on the ball grounds was given by Mrs. Ferguson. It was moved by Mrs. McPhail, seconded by Mrs. Beggs, that this Mortgage be given over to the Town, thus fulfilling the Women's Institute's obligation toward Community Hall. The land taken over by the Town to be used as ball grounds.

Grandmothers' Meeting of March 9th, 1933, featured a drill by the following grandmothers:- Mrs. Gallagher, Campbell, Leverington, Sherk, Branchflower, and Mrs. Archer. This drill was one of the best acts on the programmes for a long time. A cookie and stirred cake contest was held, these being entered by the grandmothers. Mrs. Archer received first prize for

cookies, and Mrs. Branchflower for cake. A ten cent tea was served. Mrs. Beggs, on behalf of the Institute, presented Mrs. Sherk (the only great-grandmother present) with a bouquet of flowers.

"Family Night" held on March 9th, 1934, was marked by a splendid programme, viz.- Instrumental duet, piano and saxophone by Mrs. Merrett and Carman Nicholson, solo by June Merrett, solo by Donald Leitch, Piano Solo by Dorothy Cullen, song by Mary McKillop, solo by Walter Ripley, solo by Billy Sheeler, recitations by Keith Eddy and Jack Schleihauf. An address by Mrs. J. C. McMillan, Past President of Western District, solo by Miss Margaret McIntyre, piano duet by Anne Merrett and Ruby Sharatt, recitation by Beryl Schleihauf, reading by Noreen Nicholson, and piano solo by Mary O'Neil.

A framed picture taken at the opening of the New Hall was presented to the Institute by Mrs. John A. McKillop, and the framed Motto, "For Home and Country", was given by Miss Dorothy Stafford, daughter of the United Church minister, the motto being her own work.

The piano was purchased in 1932, on a motion by Miss Bessie McKillop, seconded by Mrs. Arthur Petherick, for seventy-five dollars, cash in full to be paid. (minutes of July 14, 1932)

Mrs. McPhail volunteered to make a wool rug for the Institute Room, providing the members furnished the wool. Needless to say the ladies accepted Mrs. McPhail's offer, and a ten cent collection was taken at the meeting for this purpose. (minutes of Dec. 8, 1932)

The Institute took charge of convassing the village for donations to be sent to the drought-stricken areas of Western Canada, and under the general Chairmanship of Rev. Mr. Eddy, the United Church Minister, two carloads containing food-stuffs, vegetables, apples, canned fruit, jams, jelly,

and all kinds of clothing, etc. were sent from West Lorne and Aldborough Township.

The year 1936 is known as the year of "The Three Kings". George V died and the Institute took part in the Memorial Service for him that was held in the Community Hall. Edward VIII abdicated the throne on Dec. 10th of that year and George VI became the reigning Monarch.

On January 13th, 1938, the 25th Anniversary of the West Lorne Women's Institute was observed. This was during the presidency of Mrs. Norval Murray. Mrs. Sims of Kitchener, who was the first president, Mrs. Wray of Rodney, who helped organize the branch, and Charter Members were the distinguished guests. Mrs. Hugh C. McKillop, the first Secretary-treasurer, presided over the programme. The roll was answered in a unique way when all forty-five members stood and repeated the following--"As a member of the Women's Institute I will do all within my power to promote peace, both at home and abroad". The roll of Charter Members was called and the following ladies responded:- Mrs. W. Becker, Mrs. H. C. McKillop, Mrs. Sims, Mrs. Dan Clark, Mrs. Merrett, Mrs. Dr. Webster, Mrs. Ainsworth, Mrs. Sharratt, Mrs. J. A. McKillop, Mrs. J. B. Ferguson, Mrs. John G. McKillop, Mrs. Lippold, Mrs. John Ward, Mrs. Mac McKillop and Miss Bolsby. The programme consisted of a vocal solo by Miss Dow, vocal duet by Misses Dow and Beatrice McColl, tap dancing, Louise Welch, playlet "Wooden Soldiers" by Mrs. Nicholson and Mrs. Evans, and an excellent address by Rev. Father Chisholm on "International Peace". Lunch was served from prettily decorated tables with a large birthday cake as the central figure. To Mrs. Merrett was given the honour of cutting the cake. A cameo brooch was presented to Mrs. Sims by Mrs. Murray, the presiding President, as a token of her having been the first President of the Branch. The committee in charge of this memorable occa-

sion was Mrs. Hugh Turner as hostess, Mrs. Schleihauf, Mrs. McCurdy, Miss Bolsby and Mrs. T. O'Neil.

June, 1939, was the month of the "Royal Tour" when King George Vl and Queen Elizabeth toured Canada from Halifax to Vancouver. In keeping with this historical event a programme on "Empire Loyalty" was held, with the Motto--One Crown, One King, One Empire. There was a talk on "The Royal Tour and its Significance" by Miss Bessie McKillop and an instructive flag demonstration by Mrs. Mac McKillop. This demonstration was repaated at Clachan when West Lorne was invited there.

In October, 1939, the Institute served the banquet to mark the official opening of the Waterworks System in West Lorne.

September, 1939, marked the beginning of the Second World War, and from this date to May, 1945--the years of the war--the Presidents of the Institute were Mrs. John A. McKillop and Mrs. Sheeler, serving jointly for one year; Mrs. Nicholson for one year; Mrs. Arthur Smith three years, and Mrs. Jessie Lemon. The Secretary-treasurers were Mrs. J. Milner, Jr., Mrs. Ernie Young, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Allan Craig, with assistant Secretary-treasurers Mrs. T. F. Ripley, Mrs. Roy Wilton and Mrs. Cullen.

A Unit of the Red Cross was formed which took charge of the war work, but the Institute assumed the responsibility of Jam Making for Overseas; 700 lbs. made during 1940 (minutes of May 8, 1941) in addition to 50 lbs. of honey (minutes of Sept. 1942); had representation on the Red Cross buying and cutting committee; had a War Work Convener who kept a record of the sewing, knitting etc. done by the Members for the Red Cross. A Soldier Box Committee was formed in June, 1940, which functioned all during the war. Boxes were sent each month to local men overseas; ninety-two boxes were sent in one year. This proved to be a most important part of the War Work done

by the Institute. The convenors were Mrs. Norval Murray, Mrs. DeLong and Mrs. Schleihauf. In Sept. 1940 the name of the Flower Fund was changed to "Soldiers' Cheer Fund" with Miss Gillies continuing to act as Treasurer. Money for this work was raised by collections at the meetings, voluntary contributions from people outside of the Institute, sale of a "Dutch Girl" quilt, play, and a special tag day.

The Institute took charge of packing Ditty Bags for the Navy League, gathered old wool, gave donations to the Central War Fund to help purchase a Mobile Kitchan and send seeds to Britain; contributed to the Women's Institute Sugar Fund for further jam making and the members gave generously of blood to the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic; also assisted in the issuance of Ration Books.

Besides war work, courses were taken on meat and vegetable cookery, buymanship, sewing, nutrition, renovation of clothing, care of clothing, rug making etc., and practical demonstrations given. Rallies were attended on Officers' Training.

It is interesting to note how the nature of the meetings changed with the passing of the years. In 1939 the programmes were varied by including five minute demonstrations. Under the topics of "Standing Committees" not so many papers were prepared and given during this period as in previous years. For "Health and Child Welfare" there was a talk on "Common Problems of Childhood" by Dr. Brent, and a demonstration on First Aid and Bandaging.

Historical Research continued to be interesting with the History of West Lorne given by decades. In Jan., 1942, Mrs. (Rev.) Dr. McLean of Largie was guest speaker, and gave as her subject, "The Story of the Formation of the Women's Institute", and told of the first Convention held in Guelph in 1903, which she attended. It was also learned that the first "Home and

Country", the Institute paper, was published in 1932. A paper on "The Six Nations' Indians" was good (Mrs. John A. McKillop); also one on "The Three Pioneer Churches of Aldborough Township", viz.- New Glasgow Presbyterian, Brock's Creek or Old School Baptist, and the Eagle Church (by Mrs. J. B. Ferguson). There was a paper on "Our National Anthem" by Mrs. Gilson when it was learned that the strains of "God Save the King" are familiar to at least 680 millions of people, and the strongest claim to its authorship is that of Dr. John Bull, who is said to have composed it as a "Keyboard Piece" in 1619. As early as 1545 the phrase "God Save the King" was the watchword of the British Navy and the countersign to this phrase was "Long to Reign Over Us" (minutes of June, 1941).

Education included an address by Mr. J. C. Smith, Inspector of Public Schools, on "The New Curriculum" and the entertainment of the West Lorne School Board and Teaching Staff. Mrs. Rev. R. Simpson gave an address on "Education Outside of the School through the Public Library". The British Museum Library in London, Eng., the Library in Moscow, and the one in Washington, D. C. are the three largest Libraries in the world. The West Lorne Public Library Board was entertained at this meeting.

Agriculture and Canadian Industries included talks on "Victory Gardens" and papers on "The Sugar Beet Industry" (Mrs. Mac McKillop), "Women in Industry" (Mrs. J. B. Ferguson), and a visit to the Erie Flooring Co. where war contracts were being filled.

Citizenship--There were addresses by Rev. Mr. Simpson, the United Church minister, and Mr. Maloney, Principal of the Public School. There was a display of souvenirs sent to relatives and friends here by men overseas. This was most interesting. There were articles from England, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, Belgium, France, Italy and Northern Africa. (Committee--Mrs. Fred

Cullen, Mrs. Lippold, Mrs. Dan Clark, Mrs. L. G. Brown.)

Legislation--an address on "Confederation" by Mr. E. S. Livermore. He said Confederation was made possible by three important factors, viz. - fear of the United States, tariff difficulties, and deadlock between the political parties of the country.

Nutrition--Demonstration on a Wartime Supper and Sugarless cookery.

Community Activities--the observance of Family Night, two addresses on the "Youth Movement", and the Institute undertook the supervision of the Paddling Pool at the Athletic Park. July, 1944, the Hospitalization Plan was introduced into the Institute with ten members signing for it. This number has greatly increased.

The "Grandmothers'" Meeting still well liked and a reading on "Gracious Living" by Mrs. Branchflower was an inspiration to each one present,

The month of May, 1945, saw the end of hostilities in Europe, and "VE-Day" (May 8th) was celebrated in West Lorne by an impressive service held in the morning at the Athletic Park, at which the Institute was represented. The fighting against Japan was over that same year.

The Honour Roll, containing the names of the men and women who served in World War II, was unveiled with fitting ceremony at the Nov. meeting, 1945. The Committee in charge--Mrs. Schleihauf, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. D. Leith and Miss Gillies.

There were meetings on Christmas, including a pageant portraying the Birth of Christ, the Journey of the Three Wise, and the story of "The Other Wise Man" by Henry Van Dyke, convened by Mrs. Norval Murray. One marked by "Slides on the Nativity" by Rev. Mr. Purchase, and a short story concerning the origin and writing of three popular Christmas Carols--"Silent Night", "Away in a Manger", and "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" was convened

by Mrs. T. F. Ripley.

An Easter Pageant under the direction of Mrs. Ernie Johnson was another good programme during this period.

Money raised by renting the Institute Room to the Elgin County, St. Thomas Health Unit for $20.00 per month, putting on lunches for dances and catering for banquets, etc. Donations were made to the West Lorne Cemetery and Library Board; tag days held for the Blind and Navy League.

We have reached the Institute year of May, 1946--May, 1947, in which Mrs. Hugh Turner is President and Mrs. Allan Craig the secretary-treasurer. It has already been marked by excellent attendance, an increase in membership, and the purchase of sufficient silverware and dishes to take care of serving for banquets. A garden club was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Craig and prizes given to the girls for their efforts.

So far outstanding programmes have been given on Citizenship, Historical Research, Community Activities, Agriculture, and Canadian Industries, Christmas etc.

In September three ladies from the Middlemarch Institute (Mrs. Alex. Lyle, Mrs. Stanley Lyle and Mrs. J. R. Futcher, Federated Representative) visited West Lorne, displayed their "Tweedsmuir Village History Book", with the result that a Committee was formed in this Branch to compile such a record. The Committee comprises Mrs. John A. McKillop as Convenor, Mrs. J. B. Ferguson, Mrs. Mac McKillop, Miss Currie, Mrs. Cullen and Mrs. Norval Murray.

November featured an address by Lieut. N. S. Alice Meek, recently returned from overseas, telling of her travels and experiences while abroad. One of her impressions was that the people of Switzerland were good examples of citizenship--they were intelligent, industrious, systematic, clean

kind.

A rally on "Programme Planning" was held in Nov., attended by Institute members from Wallacetown, Rodney and Clachan, as well as West Lorne. Mrs. Duke, a former President of the London Area, was guest speaker.

The Institute was responsible for the preparation of Posters by school students to compete in the "Poster Contest" for the 50th Anniversary of the Institutes. Prizes were given by this Branch to those who took part in the contest from here.

December was again marked by a Christmas meeting with a playlet entitled "One Holy Night", being given by the Committee in charge under the convenorship of Mrs. Nicholson. This was repeated at the United Church Christmas Entertainment. According to the usual custom the roll call was answered by a gift for the "War Memorial Children's Hospital", London.

January, 1947, under the Community Activities, a Round Table Conference was held, led by Mrs. George Silcox, First Vice-President of the West Elgin District.

On January 29th, the banquet was held for the returned women and men from World War II, at which a goodly number of the Institute women assisted. 250 people attended the banquet.

On February 12th, 24 members attended the Winter Picnic at Dutton. This year it had a special significance, owing to the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Institute. Mrs. Harvey Miller, the District President for West Elgin, presided, and seated at the head table were Past Presidents and Past Secretary-treasurers of the District. A delicious dinner was partaken of first, and the opening ceremonies of the afternoon programme were recorded by Station C.F.P.L., London, to be broadcast the next day. West Lorne Institute had the honour of being in charge of the "Presentation of the Flag".

W. I. Celebrates 50th Anniversary

1947

Queen Elizabeth Sends Message of Congratulations

(1947)

GUELPH, June 18 (CP). — The growth and development of Women's Institutes from an original group of 101 women in a small Ontario village to an international organization with hundreds of thousands of members throughout the world was recalled here today when more than 5,000 women met for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Women's Institutes of Ontario.

The Queen, in a message of congratulations, said: "The opening of the Stoney Creek Women's Institute in 1897 is a landmark in the history of rural life and I . . . know of the thankfulness of my fellow members for their institutes.. Besides those in Great Britain, I have lately seen members in South Africa and Rhodesia enjoying the opportunities for service, mutual help, education and fun which membership brings and which we owe to the Stoney Creek women."

The death of an 18-months-old boy from drinking impure milk gave the original impetus to the movement. His mother, Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, wondered why farmers gave so much thought to feeding their stock and so little to feeding their children. At a meeting of the local Farmers' Institute she suggested that farmers' wives meet regularly to study homemaking just as their husbands studied farming. The idea caught on and spread throughout Canada.

It reached Britain during the First Great War when the British Government invited two Canadian women to assist in a food conservation campaign and the organization of Women's Institutes resulted. From Great Britain they spread throughout the world and in 1933 the Associated Country Women of the World was formed with a Canadian woman, Mrs. Alfred Watt, as first president.

New President of W.I. in Ontario



MRS. J. ROBINSON FUTCHER, who has been elected president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, succeeding Mrs. Hugh Summers, of Fonthill. Mrs. Futcher, whose home is near Middlemarch, is a former president of the Middlemarch W.I., of the West Elgin District Institutes, and a former member of the provincial board of the Federated Institutes of Ontario. She was also recently appointed rural representative for Ontario for the new Canadian Consumers' Association.

The flag has been presented during the opening ceremonies of this Branch since the meeting on Nov. 11th, 1943.

The February meeting included a debate by four men of the village, (Mr. J. P. Scott, Mr. Allan Craig, Mr. L. W. Holland and Mr. Ern. Hayes), on the merits of 50 years ago and the present time.

Today, March 13th, 1947, we are gathered to observe the Golden Jubilee of the Formation of the Women's Institute. In this Branch it is being commemorated with the

"Theme"--"For Home and Country"

Roll Call--"A Characteristic of a Good Institute Member"

Topic--"Golden Jubilee of the Women's Institute"

Committee--Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. John A. McKillop, Mrs. Merrett, Miss Bessie McKillop

During the 34 years of this Branch, three District Annuals have been here, and it has enjoyed the distinction of having four District Presidents. The first was Mrs. Sims, in 1914; Mrs. Mac McKillop was second, serving in the years 1920 and 1921 when the District Annuals were held in the Presbyterian Church in Wallacetown and the Disciple Church, West Lorne. Mrs. Hugh McKillop was District President in 1927 and 1928, presiding at the District Annual in the eastern territory in 1928, and at Dutton in 1929. Mrs. Nicholson was the fourth West Lorne member to hold this office, presiding at the Winter Picnic in Dutton in 1941. Owing to ill health she was forced to resign before her term expired, and Mrs. J. R. Futcher of Middlemarch took over the leadership of the District.

Removals from the village and deaths have depleted the number of Charter Members, but Mrs. Mac McKillop, Mrs. J. B. Ferguson, Miss Bolsby, Mrs. Merrett, Mrs. John A. McKillop and Mrs. Lippold are still active workers. Mrs. Sharratt, another Charter Member, resides in the village. Other ladies of continuous long-standing membership are:- Mrs. A. Smith (1914), Mrs. Fred Cullen (1916), Mrs. Schleihauf (1918), Mrs. Earl Lemon (1920), Mrs. Hugh Turner (1923), Mrs. Franks (1925), Mrs. Nicholson (1925), Miss Bessie McKillop (1925) and Mrs. Branchflower (1925).

Of the older members who helped make history for the West Lorne Women's Institute, the names of Mrs. J. McGregor, Mrs. Arthur Petherick, Mrs. Patton, Mrs. Wanless, Mrs. Archie B. McColl, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Ainsworth, Miss Alice Jamieson, Mrs. Wm. Neil, the former Mrs. W. A. Becker, Mrs. Dan McKillop, Mrs. Dr. Webster, Mrs. Dan Clark, Mrs. Neil Campbell and Mrs. Liddell are revered in memory.

This Institute is a tiny cog in the wheels of that organization which had its birth in Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek, fifty years ago. Without "parts" you cannot have a "whole", and the branch Institute is the first and most important part of the whole Institute set-up.

Through the record of the West Lorne Women's Institute run the shining threads of initiative and enterprise, sacrifice of time and personal pleasure, good deeds, work and achievement, and the development of latent talent in many of its members. The door of the 34th year closed on January 29th, 1947, behind it lie the "What Might Have Beens". They are precious years; may they be cherished for their matchless worth. The door of the 35th year has opened with its opportunities rich with promise. Knowledge can be gained from the past. May the years ahead of this Women's Institute be filled to overflowing with good works and success.

This record is closed on the following thought:-

"Upon thy bended knees, thank God for work,
Work--once Man's penance, now his high reward,
For work to do and strength to do the work,
We Thank Thee, Lord.

Some toil for love and some for simple greed,
Some reap a harvest, past their utmost need;
More, in their less, find truer happiness,
And all, in work, relief from bitterness.

Upon thy bended knees, thank God for work,
In worthless days, all ills and evils lurk,
For work to do and strength to do the work,
We Thank Thee, Lord."

From:-

The Sacrament of Work,

by John Oxenham.

Prepared by

Mrs. Norval J. Murray,

March 13th, 1947.

In April, 1947, an oratorial contest for Public School pupils was sponsored by the West Lorne Women's Institute; Dr. Bruce Cantelon, a new resident in the village,and Mrs. Roy Evans were the judges. For this contest Wilma Avery, Grade VI, S.S. No. 2, Aldborough, had chosen for her subject, "My Hero and Heroine, the King and Queen". From small beginnings larger happenings develop. In 1953 Miss Wilma Avery was chosen from the West Elgin District High School at West Lorne to attend the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London, England, on June 2nd.

On June 18th, 1947, thirty members from this Branch went to Guelph to attend the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Institute, one of the largest gatherings of women held there. They came by car, train and bus,from all over Ontario. The celebration closed with the pageant, "Let There be Light".

The District Annual was held in Middlemarch on May 20th. of the same year.

The September meeting was marked by the judging of table and room bouquets, prizes being given to Mrs. A.D. McKillop and Mrs. Fred Slaght for table flowers and Mrs. Norval Murray and Mrs. John Graham for room bouquets. A most educational film was shown on the manufacture of plastic material, and there was a display of articles manufactured in West Lorne, canned goods from the Canadian Canners, wooden handles from

Milner Turned Goods, wooden toys, Presto cooker handles and wooden mats from A. McKillop & Sons, and a piece of hardwood flooring from the Erie Flooring & Wood Products Company.

Exhibits were entered at Rodney Fair by the West Lorne ladies and prizes were won.

In 1948 the Winter Picnic was held at Wallacetown on January 20th., and on March 6th. a goodly number sttended the banquet in the Masonic Temple, St. Thomas, in honour of Mrs. J.R. Futcher on her election to the presidency of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

The District Annual was held on May 27th. at Rodney, and on December 14th. in the same year a Conference on Health was conducted at West Lorne by Miss Grace Hamilton of the Department, after which a pot-luck supper was served.

In January,1949, a small-loom weaving course was held from the 24th. to the 28th. The Winter Picnic was held at Wallacetown. In February a demonstration and exhibit was held and the weaving done during the course was shown. An interesting and educational talk on antique glass and china was given by Mrs. Earl Fowler of Rodney, and several pieces from her own collection were on display as well as articles brought by our own members. This was much enjoyed by all present.

In April Mrs. Roy Evans became President of the Branch. At the meeting a talk was given on Newfoundland, our newest and tenth province.

In May the first Convenors' Conference was held at Guelph and was attended by our president. The venture was most successful, and these conventions have been held each year since. Mrs. Evans in her report said one slogan was "Hats off to the past, coats on for the future"; she reported further- there are three kinds of members, the worker, the jerker, and the shirker- in which class does each of us belong? (Mrs. Futcher's address at this Conference).

The District Annual was held at Crinan on June 7th. Sufficient dishes and silverware had been purchased to cater for 120 persons.

A Tag Day was held on September 10th. to raise funds for a donation towards the new wing of the War Memorial Children's Hospital at London, the sum of $50.55 being collected.

On October 7th. a turkey supper was sponsored and the sum of $224.25 cleared.

In November a committee was named, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. N. Murray, to see about improving the stove situation in the kitchen of the Community Hall.

In January, 1950, two gas stoves were purchased, the installation and total price to the Institute being $45.70 as the Commuhity Hall Board paid $25.00 towards the price of one stove.

The Winter Picnic was held in West Lorne on January 31st

with a record attendance of 206. There was also a successful Family Night held this month with 110 present. A bountiful supper was served followed by a programme in the Auditorium, at which was shown "Let There be Light", the film made of the pageant given at the 50th Anniversary in Guelph on June 18th., 1947. $50.00 was donated to the West Lorne Library Board to purchase a table for the new Library. The official opening of the new Public Utilities building in West Lorne was held on May 5th, for which the Institute catered to 90 persons. The District Annual was held in Wallacetown on June 9th. A public speaking contest was sponsored in the Community Hall. $100. was donated to the new St. Thomas-Elgin Hospital building fund.

An outstanding meeting of the year 1951 was the one on Historical Research, at which the story of the building of the first brick house in Aldborough Township was given. This was on the Thomson farm on Middle Street, and was built of brick made from clay from a field on the farm. Mrs. Hannah Thomson, wife of one of the descendents of this pioneer family, was a member of the committee for this programme. Mention was also made of the creation of the Gillies Cemetery on Middle Street by John Gillies, who set aside a portion of his land in 1825 for this purpose.

In April, 1951, Mrs. Chas. Cooper was appointed president. The members of the Dutton's Institute were entertained; demonstration of salads was given stressing their value in the individual diet. A Life Membership was presented to

Mrs. Mac McKillop- a Charter Member and a former District President- prior to her leaving to make her home in Windsor in October. A talk on the fishing industry was given by Mr. Bub Skinner and a paper was given by Miss Tena McKillop describing her visit to a sardine packing plant in New Brunswick. The District Annual was held in Cowal on June 7th.

In January, 1952, the death of King George VI occurred and a Memorial Service was held during the Institute meeting on February 9th. The Historical Research meeting in March was in keeping with the centennial year of Elgin County. It featured a sketch on the founding of the Talbot Settlement in 1852 and the allotting of land. This was prepared by Mrs. N. Murray, the convenor. The characters were:

Colonel Talbot	- Mrs. Isabelle Fordham Mrs. Roy Hauser
Colonel Mahlon Burwell	- Mrs. Dan Dymock
John Pearce	- Mrs. Chas. Cooper
Stephen Backus	- Mrs. Roy Evans
Colonel Talbot's Hostess	- Mrs. John A. McKillop

Colonel Talbot was an Irishman, and the'Kerry Dances'were played as part of the musical Programme. The Winter Picnic was held at Dutton; 18 were present from West Lorne.

1952 was Centennial Year of Elgin County, and the Institute assisted in serving meals in Dutton at the Caledonian Games on August 4th (a part of the Centennial celebration); had a quilt on display in St. Thomas at the tea-room set up in Anderson's store, the design being "Grandmother's Tulips".

Four large cartons of good used clothing were sent to

Greece; New Canadian women were entertained during the year and a demonstration of New Canadian baking and hand-work given; we had a booth at the Kiwanis Club Hobby Fair at the West Lorne Arena; we assisted with the T.B. and X-Ray Clinic surveys.

January 8th., 1953, marked the celebration of the 40th. Anniversary of the West Lorne Branch of the Women's Institute. The programme was in charge of the active Charter members. At present there are six Charter Members living, four of whom are active. A broadcast over Radio Station C.H.L.O. at St. Thomas, to further mark this event, was given by the President, Mrs. Cooper.

The District Annual was held at Payne's Mills on May 25th. Agriculture and Canadian Industries meeting featured the story of the manufacture of salt by a film shown by Mr, Bosman, Principal of the West Elgin District High School. Mr. Donald Small showed pictures taken by himself of farms and agricultural activities in the British Isles. It was a most successful meeting. Then, on Coronation Day, June 2nd., the Institute cooperated with the committee arranging the Parade to celebrate the occasion, and donated $25.00 towards the expenses. On July 17th. the Branch Picnic was held, the participants going by bus to Port Stanley. The programme was carried out on Invererie Heights and was followed by a dinner at the Hillcrest Inn. A memorable day for enjoyment.

In August the Associated Country Women of the World

Convention was held in Toronto in the Maple Leaf Gardens. This is a biennial convention and was an outstanding event with Mrs. Sayre, the President, in attendance and delegates present from all parts of the world. Nine members from West Lorne attended the meetings on Saturday, August 22nd. The pageant, "Dominion of Destiny" was given and depicted the history of Canada from the days of the Indians, through the first visit of the Vikings, the arrival of the French and English explorers, the battles for a forest empire, the days of the fur trade, the gold rush, the coming of the railway, Confederation and, finally, the celebration of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

A Life Membership was presented to Miss Ellen Bolsby, a Charter Member, and a paper was given on the formation of the Horticultural Society in 1949 and their work in the Community since that time. In September a wonderful travel talk was given by Mrs. Roy Evans on her trip to England and the Coronation. Mrs. J. Gammon told the story of her trip to California and the Canadian West. The year closed with a most impressive Christmas programme convened by Mrs. Nicholson and roll call answered with a gift to the War Memorial Children's Hospital in London.

This article was written and prepared by:

Mrs. Norval J. Murray.



Members of West Lorne Women's Institute modelling old-time hats at the January meeting, 1955, in answer to Roll Call.

Left to right: Mrs. C. Cooper, Mrs. A. Liepmann, Mrs. E. Kelly, Mrs. S. Gardner, Mrs. J. B. Ferguson (winner of 1st prize), Mrs. D. Dymock, Mrs. J. A. McKillop (winner of 2nd prize), Mrs. R. Evans, Mrs. S. F. Ripley, Mrs. A. J. Merrett, Mrs. R. Nickleson.

WEST LORNE'S FIRST DECADE

West Lorne was formerly two distinct villages, "Bismarck and Lorne". Bismarck still remained the name of the Michigan Central station until about the year 1907, when the company changed the name to West Lorne to correspond with the town. The name "Bismarck" was in honor of the then Chancellor of Germany and the name "Lorne" in honor of the Marquis of Lorne, the popular son-in-law of the late "Queen Victoria", who in turn got his title from the district of Lorne in Argyleshire, Scotland.

The Marquis soon after the naming of the village became Governor-General of Canada--and in 1878 with his gracious and talented wife H. R. H. Princess Louise, visited St. Thomas. He did not come up to "Lorne" to see the little hamlet named after him but nearly all the Highlanders of the district went down to St. Thomas to the reception of the Marquis and his lovely wife.

The site of "Lorne" was to a certain degree low and swampy and hence the name "Lorne" was no misnomer for the meaning of the Celtic word is "low land." This term runs away back into ancient Scottish history.

At this time the site of West Lorne was rather uninviting, where the Canada Southern Railway was being put through in 1871 and 1872. What is now Main Street, in spring and fall was almost impassable. Travellers going west who were wise took the woodland road turning west at the entrance to the Memorial Athletic Park.

"The Park that was sponsored by the Women's Institute", and coming out on Back Street near the Daley residence. Those going East travelled through the woods on Chestnut Street crossed Back Street and continued along the Cahill and Fitzpatrick ridge down to the Robinson place and byond that was almost a primeval swamp.

South of Jessie Street, on the East side of Graham Road was a Tamarac Swamp.

The Graham Road at the intersection with Main Street was a bog hole.

This road had been chopped out by the McKillop Brothers and McColl Brothers, who lived on the Talbot Road West of Eagle, in the 1840's forties, being paid at the rate of twenty-five cents a day or there abouts.

The road, bad as it was formed a connection with the Talbot Street settlers and the newly formed Highland settlement at Crinan.

It is told that between the Tamarac Swamp and where the John McCallum house is (i.e.- 212 Graham) (the house now owned by John Murray) one of the Talbot Street young men who had bought a farm near Crinan in the fifties, killed ten rattlesnakes as he went out one sunny day to clear up his new farm. This was Archiebald McKillop father of Archiebald, John A and Daniel McKillop.

On the village site proper at the time of the Railway Boom there were only two houses, one owned by Charles Bainard lately moved in from Southwold and the other by John Armstrong.

There was a small settlement at McKillop's Mills which bore the poetical name of Poemsville, afterwards called McKillop's Corners and part of that hamlet is now included in West Lorne.

John Armstrong was an original character. He was a first class hunter and his famous dogs, were not only famous as hunting dogs but as savage ones as well. His humble log house stood where the original Methodist parsonage stood later on Munroe Street. When the Railway Survey was run so close to his home, he grew terrified at the thought of rearing his large family so close to the track and swapped his farm with Squire Schleihauf for a farm out on the Talbot Road. He owned the West fifty acres of Lot 18 and it was mostly woods as were the other hundred and fifty acres that formed the kernel of the new town. Before the coming of the Railway most of the farms near the site of the village were uncleared.

The settlement to the West of the Town site was made up of the Axford's, Avery's, Eden's, Hill's and Wilton families.

There were not many to the North until you got out near Crinan.

Eastward were the pioneer Irish, Quigley's, Cahill's, Robinson's, O'Neil's and Fitzpatrick's.

To the South were the Clark and McKillop families, while east of them on Mill Street were hardy pioneers, the Sexton's, Holland's, Mulholland's, Litchfields, Gusterson's Schmeltz's, Zoller's and Bullock's. West were Rose's,

Schleihaufs, Hookway's, Snell's and Collard's. While further South on Middle Street were the Thomson's and the Gillie's families. Many of the descendants of these early settlers reside still in or near the Village

The first church in what is now West Lorne was down on Wm. Clark's farm on the hill at McKillop Corners. It was of the Methodist denomination and was connected with the Tryconnel Church and held services at 11.a.m. and Sunday School at 2.p.m.

The location of the station was a moot question when the Railway came. The first station was built away up on James Street. A Hall also was built up there by Mr. Trigger but it was found very inconvenient and the Railway Authorities after some time changed the location, of the station. The same thing happened at Dutton but there was no change made in the location there. Before the Rails of the new Railway reached here a Post Office had been opened with Mr. Duncan McKillop as the first Postmaster and the mail was carried for two years from the Talbot Street Stage route at Eagle. It was carried by horse and cutter while sleighing lasted by two boys, John G. and Duncan McKillop but when March came these two 12 year old boyshad to get to work and a 10 year old boy John A. McKillop, on horseback, finished the year's Contract. The contract price was $60.00 and the second year it was carried for less. Mr. Garlick was the Contractor in 1872. He was the owner then of the Blackwood farm.

Some of the original houses built by the early settlers might be considered worthy of recall. One of the first homes built in West Lorne was the one on the site of the present beautiful residence of Mr. Merritt on Mary St. It was built by Mr. Lanson Bullock, a fine type of an old style Englishman. He was a good speaker and a prominent exhorter in the Methodist Church. The first house in West Lorne proper was, I believe, what is now the residence of John Murray on Graham St. It was built by Mr. John McCallum who was the builder of the original Lorne Flour Mills. He was a great Book-lover and had copies of the Toronto Globe almost from its inception till he disposed of his house. Mr. Cullen's house on Main St. was one of the first built on Main St. West. Wm. McInis built it when the Town first started and Mr. Caton, night operator at the M.C.R. built the one next to it now owned by Mr. Fred Edwards. Mr. Blackwood on his arrival in the Town built his fine home on the hill, the house later occupied by H. C. McKillop. (Padfield Funeral Home) One of the first houses built on South Graham was the one now occupied by Andy Wiley. It has been remodelled since. It was built by Mac McCallum and a similar one was built along side of it to the North by John Roach. The latter was moved across the road and formed the nucleus of the dwelling now occupied by Mr. Graham. The fine homes owned by Dr. Ripley and Dr. Brock were built early in the history of the Town but of course have been substantially rebuilt since. Thos. Clark's house at the West End was erected when the Station was built at the

West End, as was also the Trigger home there. The D. McPherson home was one of the early houses. It was built by J. H. Greer, a noted Lumberman, and Mill Owner. James Hind built the Bole Residence a year or two earlier than the Greer home.

The first Church in West Lorne was built by the Methodist Denomination. Many of the early settlers in this section of Aldborough were either direct from England or from "down below" as the region around Trafalgar and Oakville was designated. Considerable rivalry existed in a friendly way. The newcomers were a little critical of some of the methods used by the originals. In 1864 a logging bee was held to clear up the land on the flats of Brock's Creek and later owned by Mr. H. Miller. At the Dinner Hour, the usual contrasts in men and methods was being discussed with a doughty champion praising and extolling some of the wonderful feats of the men of York, when one of the originals blandly said, then there are some good men "Down Below". The spell binder quickly agreed that there were, when his interlocutor continued, but I understood all the Devils in Hell were "Down Below" and this unexpected retort ended the laudation for the time being. But the men that came to Aldborough were like Jacob's sons and they believed in religion and religious principles and as soon as the Village started, the congregation of McKillop's Corners decided to build a New Church on the site of the old Methodist Church on Munroe St., and faithfully they worked until it was built. The building

was erected by James Trigger, Thomas Clark and other local carpenters. A.short time afterward the Presbyterians built the Church on the ground where now stands the United Church. It was built by Charles Mulholland, also a splendid workman. The church had a lofty spire whose glittering top shone beautiful in the morning sunlight, visible for miles away. The first pastor of the Methodist Church in West Lorne was Rev. Mr. Hanna and the first Presbyterian Preacher was the Rev. John Milloy who ministered to the Church until he was a very old man when he retired to spend his declining years with his children in Canada's new West Land. The Baptist Church was built in 1878 and a local church was organized here. The Baptists, however had held meetings previously in this district, in School Houses as did also the Disciples. Rev. Peter Carey was the first preacher of the newly established Baptist Church. The Anglican Church was also established here in the 70's. There was a strong Temperance sentiment and a Temperance Society built a Hall in the West End. The Society having finally decided to give up their Lodge, they sold it to the Anglican Church. Dr. Schulte, a talented scholar from St. Thomas was the first Incumbent. So far as I know these were all the Churches here in the decade we are considering.

There was quite a difference of opinion as to whether Main St. or Graham St. would be the business st. of the Town. One of the first stores in the Town was kept by Mr. Cyrenius Offord Lemon and strange to say one of the Department stores of the Town is

still carried on by his son. (Joseph & later his grandson V. Earl.) The first store built on Graham St. was on the corner occupied now by the Skinner block. It was carried on by Stewart and McKillop at first, afterwards by Colin Gillies who came in from Eagle. Facing Main St. Alex. Beaton built the Cafeteria Building which was first occupied by that genuine old style Gentleman, Robert Blackwood. A Mr. Carroll built a round topped-front store where the Bole Building is. It was later occupied by McKenzie and Calder. Afterward it was moved to the West End but trade did not follow it and it was finally converted into a dwelling, being moved over to face on Munro St. now occupied by Robert Mills. Kemp Brothers also ran a Boot and Shoe store adjoining it. They sold out and bought two farms on which theybuilt similar shaped houses on Back St. now occupied by Mr. Stokes and Mr. Evans. A Tailor Shop was built by Mr. Groh a splendid Tailor. The building is still there and is occupied by Mr. Lush. Mr. Crawford a general Merchant built a store where the Campbell Block is. The late Duncan McPherson went in partnership with him and when it was dissolved he built a large frame store where the P. M. Platform now stands. Dr. Yates built a dwelling and office next to Stewart's store but as he was not a graduate of an Ontario College, he was forced to go back to Michigan. Miss Sarah Leverington built a hat and dress making shop where Brown's store now is. The late Mr. E. R. Mogg built a fine Grocery store on the West side of Graham St. and in which he also carried on the first Bakery in West Lorne.

In those days no town could be started without a number of Hotels. The first Hotel in West Lorne was built by Joseph Wilton who sold his farm on Back St. and built the Commercial Hotel. Adjoining it he built the first Oddfellow's Hall the first Lodge in West Lorne. The second Hotel was the Argyle built by Colin McKillop and though the present Hotel has changed its interior and exterior somewhat, still it not only retains the name but also many of the original features of the first building. Samuel Mogg built on the S.E.Corner of Main and Graham Sts. a very large Hotel with many rooms. It was the scene of a riot once when hoodlums from the Railway builders camp came up in force to break up a Hallow'een Dance and were succeeding fairly well in their object when a young man, West Lorne's first butcher, grabbed a poker and knocked out the ring leader and the home crowd, mostly mill hands, rallied and by main strength threw out the remaining ruffians. After that it was like Byron's "On with theDance" but it was not quite as successful as the usual dances. This Hotel was later better known as the "Rooms Hotel". The original owners were succeeded by Messers Fitzpatrick, McMillan and Morgan and on the whole West Lorne had rather better and more efficient Bonifaces than many neighboring Villages during the early 70's.

The first School in what is now West Lorne was down at McKillops corner. In the early 70's a new building was erected on the site where Mrs. John Lemon's House is. The Town grew so quickly at the start that a new room had to be added in a year or two and still another had to be added be-

fore the first decade was over. The history of the Schools would make a paper by itself.

West Lorne from the first was always a busy hive of Industry, from the timber lands surrounding it. Saw Mills and Stave factories early made their appearance. The first Stave Mill was operated by the late postmaster D. McKillop but he disposed of it and another one operated by Mr. Reese was built in the West End. He sold out and it was then operated by Waugh Bros. David Waugh was the West Lorne Manager for many years. Mr. Morden from Tryconnel moved in to Town and built a fine sawmill at the North End of Town. It was destroyed by fire and the late R. McFate built a Mill on the M. C. R. property at the West end of Town. Mr. McFate was the promoter of the First Public Library in West Lorne, which is still going strong and has its regular annual concert on Friday Nov. 9th. The first Planing Mill was started by James Leslie, father of Andrew Leslie, Building Superintendant on the M. C. R. He sold out to Campbell and Kirkpatrick. This mill was destroyed after a few years operations. Mr. John Campbell will be remembered as a Contractor and Builder who built many of the early dwellings here and Mr. Kirkpatrick afterwards was a grain buyer and West Lorne's first Insurance Agent. One of the first buildings erected in West Lorne was the Flour Mills. It was built by McKillop Brothers and John McCallum. All three of them were from the Brock Creek District and were playmates as boys. The first Mill had the old style

Mill-stones and turned out a fine grade of flour. The first Miller was Samuel Robinson, father of S. D. Robinson of Back St. The late Thomas E. Montague started a Bending Factory which was very successful. Mr. Montague was of an Inventive turn of mind and patented several machines which revolutionized some Bending Systems.

West Lorne was always strong on Athletic sports as she is to-day. Witness the trophy that S.S. No. 6 brought home for keeps the other day. The first Base Ball match that was played within the confines of West Lorne proper was played in 72 or 73. The Diamond was down back of David McDonald's home on Main St. and was played between Eagle and Dutton, Eagle team captained by the late C. M. Sinclair was an easy winner. In -74 was the first clash between Rodney and West Lorne and West Lorne won. In those days the Umpire carried an umbrella to keep off the sun and stationed himself away back from the Third Base line and judged Balls and Strikes from a distance. On first of July there used to be a great celebration, a Calithumpian procession in the morning and in the afternoon foot-racing and jumping. The first big doings of this nature was held in -72 but Wardsville Athletes the Freckeltons and Watterworths took most of the prizes home. The sport of Kings also figured in the early history of West Lorne so you see it seems natural that a West Lorne Colt, Billy Hugo, should be the champion pacer of Canada in 1934. The first horse races were held in -73 and there were purses for runners and trotters. The running races had 3 entries

and all good ones. Two were from the north owned by doughty Scots, who were neighbors but keen rivals on the turf, Messers P. McMillan and John McMurchy. The third entry was from the south owned by Mr. Grafton and very speedy but not built for a long gruelling race through the deep sand. The race was from McKillop's corners to Maple St. and Grafton's little gray lead each time until the knoll where the Baptist Church is and then the other two ran neck and neck to the finish. The McMurchy entry winning by a neck both heats.

The trotting races had more entries and they were permitted to race under saddle as well as with Sulky. Jake Wilson's Bay-mare was too fast for the others but 2nd place was strongly contested for by Joe. Schneckenburger's Fox-hunter and Angus Gillies' Tempest, the rest were no where. Of all that took part in the famous opening race only Joseph Schneckenburger is left and so we bring to a close this hasty glimpse at "WEST LORNE'S FIRST DECADE."

Written by

Mrs. John A. McKillop.

2ND DECADE OF WEST LORNE

At the close of the first decade of its history, the Main Street of West Lorne lined up very differently from what it does today. There are few if any of the old land marks left. The Argyle House still bears the same name that it started its career with, though vastly altered internally and externally from what it was when "Auntie" McMillan kept it as one of the best eating and lodging houses along the C. S. Line. The other buildings on each side of Graham Street were mostly combination buildings of shops and dwellings. Where Lee's Barber Shop now is was the Harness Shop of the late Walter Paris, who was one of the first young men to start business in the New Town. There was a large Blacksmith and Carriage Shop built by John McRae where the telephone office and Thomson's store now stand. McColl's Blacksmith Shop occupied the site of the present Bank of Montreal Building, while on the opposite side of Graham Street where Root's store now stands was a vacant lot. Right north of Monroe St. east, on the east side of Graham and north of where the P. M. R. R. now runs, was the large department store of the late Duncan McPherson, who had one of the best retail mercantile stores between St. Thomas and Ridgetown. Across the track was the popular "Commercial Hotel" then operated by that genial Boniface Joseph Wilton, whom many of the older inhabitants still remember well. Farther north was the D. Monroe Blacksmith Shop and a small hardware store kept by Wm. Potts. Although much clearing and logging had been done by the new inhabitants, West Lorne still was a Woodland town. As an illustration, the house owned by Mrs. John Haviland on the south side of Chestnut Street was cleared out of Forest Land by Mr. D. M. Ash, who built it and who owned it prior to his departure to the far West.

There were not many rabbits in those days but quail were abundant

with now and then a partridge or pheasant. As a further instance of the splendid woodland surrounding West Lorne, one might travel along the center lines of the Township from the East End of the Ashery acre on Main Street through solid woods until the traveller or hunter reached the Kerr Road or he might start in woods at about 30 rods east of John Rose's barn and travel through deep, dark, dense woods until he came out at the Town Line East. Wild turkeys inhabited the woods but the gun of the hunter was rapidly depleting the flocks. Just a year before the beginning of the decade which we are considering, down near the east town line two youthful nimrods, Hiram Mulholland and Peter Skinner shot a splendid specimen of this Banquet Bird and sold it to a West Lorne merchant for $2.25, an almost unheard-of price for a Christmas Turkey at that time. That same day, when Mr. J. Wilton's Annual Shooting Match for live turkeys was being held it was found necessary to walk up to the southwest corner of the Otto Schleihauf farm in order to get a clear range for rifle shooting. The Bird was placed 90 rods away on the snow on the Axford Farm, and the condition of the contest was that whoever drew first blood from the Turkey would get it as a prize. The entry fee was ten cents. The contest started a little before 2 o'clock and went along till nearly four, and no one struck the living target. They demurred to shoot longer and Mr. Wilton picked up his own gun, adjusted the sights, and drew blood the first shot. As the hour was then getting too late for shooting they adjourned with the turkeys to the Commercial Barn where the rest of the turkeys were raffled off; those being, as some think, the good old days before this gambling pastime was restricted.

But the early 80's were to see a great change. The tamarac swamp at the south side of the Town had been cleared, Back Streets were logged and cleaned up. The lumber and stave industry was going strong. The Schleihauf-Morden Mill, at the north side of the Village, that had been burnt, was re-

built by the young Schleihauf Brothers, while on the M. C. R. property a mill, built by Robert McFate, was being operated, as was Waugh Bros Stave Mill. Mr. McFate was one of the founders of the West Lorne Public Library. One of the outstanding lumbermen at this time was Mr. J. H. Greer who came from London and who built a fine home on Main St. West, later owned by the late Duncan McPherson. Mr. Greer afterward moved to Arkansas, where he carried on extensive lumbering operations for many years. He had a large family and three of them became leading citizens of Vancouver, being engaged in the Shipping Business there. Mr. A. McKillop, father of the present firm of McKillop Brothers, who had been operating a mill at New Glasgow in addition to his Brock Creek Steam Mill at McKillop's Corners, decided to combine them and built a new mill alongside the Michigan Central Railway where the P. M. Coal and Stock yards now are. In connection with it they had a planing mill also. It continued in operation until the Pere Marquette came through and requisitioned the land. Messrs. Montague and Monro about this time built their Bending Factory where the iron clad Elevator of the Flour Mills now stands. Mr. Duncan McKillop, who then operated the Floor Mills, first supplied them with power. Mr. Monro shortly afterwards withdrew from the partnership and operated a private banking business in town for many years. He afterwards moved out to Winnipeg and is probably the only one of the aforementioned residents still living. He was a great baseball enthusiast, and like J. J. Stalker was a stanch supporter of the West Lorne Ball team. Mr. Montague was a very successful business man. He was of an inventive turn of mind and while here he invented a bending machine which entirely revolutionized the bending of shafts for buggies and cutters. By his new machine, instead of bending 1 pair of shafts he bent 12 pairs at a time. He afterwards built the West Lorne Public School where it now stands and later was a prime

mover in the organization of the West Lorne Canning Company. It was a great loss to West Lorne when he decided to close out his interests here and move to Galt to educate his boys and to carry out his work on new patents he was preparing. His son Tom, well known in West Lorne, holds a position as Consulting Engineer with a large Montreal Firm. His Bending business was purchased and carried on by A. McKillop & Sons for many years later. In 1886, on the corner where Root's Store is, A. McKillop & Sons built a four-storey building with mansard roof, the ground floor being fitted out for offices, shops and stores, second floor, double apartments, and upper floor, Public Hall and Private Lodge Hall. Unfortunately it was destroyed in the fire that swept the east side of Main Street in 1900. Mr. F. J. Lindenman about the same time built the Elgin House on the site where McColl's Blacksmith Shop was. In addition to the McPherson Store aforementioned, McColl and McCallum kept a large store in the McKillop Block, afterwards taken over and well operated by Lindenman and Sons of Eagle. E. R. Mogg had a Grocery and Bakery where the Lemon Store is, and Peter McGregor was carrying on a general store in what is now known as "The Cafeteria". E. C. Harvey had a drug store on the corner of Graham and Monro Streets, and Fred Meltam was carrying on an up-to-date Hardware Store where L. Brown's store is at present. John McRae had been carrying on a General Carriage and Blacksmith business, employing 5 or 6 hands all the time. He decided to strike west and went to Lethbridge. Mr. E. Cahill of Back Street took over the business and proved a great asset to the Town. He was in the business for many years but later hearkened to the alluring call from the West and yielded to the Siren call.

During the decade under consideration the Catholic Church was built in the East End. Rev. Pr. Gnam was the first Priest. He was followed by Father Cummings and Quinlan, both of whom took a lively interest in all mat-

ters that were beneficial to the little town.

Rev. John Milloy, the well beloved Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, still watched over his flock with a careful eye, while at the Methodist Church the advent of this decade saw Rev. Mr. Fallis ministering to the spiritual needs of that flock. His team of French Canadian cream ponies, with which he covered his extensive field of labour, was the admiration of all who saw them. The younger Carey ably filled the pulpit of the new Baptist Church as successor to Rev. Peter Carey, the first minister and prime mover in the building of the New Church.

The Anglican Church at the west end had as its spiritual leader Rev. D. Schulte, a name commemorated in the historical annals of this part of Western Ontario. He was a scholor of high attainments as well as a brilliant Theologian. Dr. L. L. Fowler, of International fame as a preacher and Educational worker, had charge of the Rodney and Eagle congregations of the Disciples and lived in West Lorne. This was his first field of labour. The Disciples did not have a church in West Lorne till 1887, when it was organized and held its regular services in McKillop's Hall until that building was destroyed by fire. One of the ministers of the Methodist Church during the latter part of the period we are considering was Rev. Chas. L. Scott, who afterwards rose to become one of the leading lights of that great denomination. Nearly all if not all of these grand men have crossed over to the land of the "Sweet Bye and Bye".

The day of the strong-arm teacher had nearly passed. The new School Building had been found to be much too small, even in the middle 70's. An extension had been built to the west end. A splendid all-round teacher, Mr. W. Coulter, had been secured as Principal with Miss L. Mulholland as assistant. Mr. Coulter's arrival brought in a new relationship between teacher and pupil, that to some extent had been lacking. Shortly after his ar-

rival he entered whole-heartedly into the social and educational life of the community--bought a lot and erected a home on it--I think it was the house now owned by our Town Treasurer. His stay as Principal was all too short, but a business opening in St. Thomas lured him away and his place was taken by Mr. C. M. Sinclair, whose success as a teacher had already been proven in other places. His influence on the young lads of the community was good, and many a successful young man in remote parts of Canada and the States remembers with gratitude the years spent under his tuition. He left West Lorne to accept a position in the Government Service. While here he formed the first West Lorne Baseball Club--that was undefeated while he held the position of Captain. He became a staff writer on the St. Thomas papers, and his productions were always readable, helpful and instructive. Other teachers who held the position of principal during the period we are considering were N. Shaw, Edward Higley and John A. McKillop, two of whom afterwards entered the ministery; Mr. Neil Shaw in the Presbyterian Church and Mr. Higley in the Anglican. Among the trustees who took a warm interest in the progress of the school in this period were J. H. Greer, Squire McColl, Wm. Rose and Dr. Brock, who, if they did not always see eye to eye and differed in their view point on some important issues, nevertheless gave unselfish and whole-hearted service for the cause of education in this community.

During these years a co-operative Cheese Factory was started on Mill Street at McKillop's Corners, which carried on for many years, chiefly under the management of John McDiarmid, Pres., and John F. Taylor, Sec.-Trea.

During this decade the town made steady and healthful progress, and was a busy little hive of friendly and contented citizens.

Written in June, 1936,
by
Mr. and Mrs. John A. McKillop,
West Lorne, Ont.

"THE GAY NINETIES"

At the close of the second decade of West Lorne's history, it was still prominently noted for its wood products. At that time the Michigan Central was the only Railway. In the winter season thousands of cords of the finest Beech and Maple wood were piled in the M. C. R. yards for shipment to Detroit. The McPherson Bros. (Duncan and Dougald) were the greatest buyers in the wood market and when the wood got well seasoned they kept two men and a dray all summer long loading the wood, and although many cars were shipped daily from the yards here, it would not all be lifted till late in the fall. When drawing in the wood in the winter, great rivalry tests would arise among the teamsters to see who would bring in the largest load. The late Kenneth McLennan, father of our Town Treasurer, as usual in all trials and feats of heavy horsemanship easily carried off the Palm, as he astonished the citizens of the town one forenoon by bringing in a load of seven cords of cordwood on his sleigh. As to how far he drew it "deponent saith not" but as old Kaspar said in the old Reader "it was a famous Victory".

The mills also were running full time and capacity, but again the Lumbermen's enemy FIRE took heavy toll and the splendid mill of the Schleihauf Brothers at the north end of the town was destroyed by fire and the young lumbermen left to seek new fields of Industry. Their departure was a loss in many ways as they were energetic and optimistic young men. The elder brother, Chris, died some years ago but Louis still lives in Mississippi where he has achieved success in the lumbering business, and his sons, I understand, are engaged in the Wholesale lumber trade in Pittsburg. It was not long, after that loss that the McFate Mill was burned also and for a while it seemed as if the north side of the town would be destroyed from

the falling coals and shingles. The McFate Mill was located on the north side of the M. C. R. tracks, west of the station.

Mr. D. A. Kirkpatrick's home was burnt and a number of other houses caught fire, but systematic action by the Bucket Brigade prevented its further spread. His house was on the lots where Mr. Hardaker's house now stands.

A. McKillop & Sons' Bending Factory and Saw Mills were being operated strongly during this period as well as the Flour Mill, the latter under the capable management of the late W. S. Whiting, well known to the earlier members of the Community. Truly the wood and lumber industry had much to do with the success of the town and district. This section of the township was remarkable for its timber lands. One may gather an estimate of the extent and quantity of its standing log timber when I tell you that at one time or other seven mills were in operation on Mill Street between the east Town Line and the Furnival Road. What a change forty years can make in a Community. Then seven fairly well equipped mills located in a lineal distance of about six miles--contrast that situation with just what happened the past summer. A boat builder at Port Stanley required one special heavy stick of Oak Timber for the boat he was building beside other thick and weighty plank. He found trees that suited his purpose down near Simcoe, but could not get a mill that could saw them inside of about eighty miles and he had to bring them to West Lorne to have them sawed. The only surviving mill in this district, all the rest have passed away and as Virgil would say, "have vanished into thin air". It is worthy of note that it is exactly eighty years this current year since its predecessor was operated by the McKillop Brothers, father and uncle of the present owners, and it was called "The Brock's Creek Steam Saw Mill".

In a former paper we referred to some of the early Trotting races held on the street of West Lorne which were discontinued on account of an accident, a little girl being knocked down and severely injured by one of the contestants. In this decade, a revival of interest in man's most useful servant and friend, the Horse, was stirred up. Well-bred stock had been imported from Kentucky and elsewhere by John A. McKillop and great interest was manifested. The result was the completion of a splendid Trotting Track. The ground was leased from Squire J. C. Schleihauf at a very reasonable rental for a term of years, and while the time was not so fast, still there were many close finishes that pleased the large crowds in attendance. This track was where the Erie Flooring Factory and Lumber Yard now stand. A special matched race for $50.00 a side was arranged between W. Tolmie's "Whistle Jacket" and Alexander Beaton's "Canada Southern". Considerable rivalry existed between the owners of these horses. The day of the race came. The track was dry and dusty. On the westerly side of the track was a sandy piece of ground and the sand was deep at this time. "Canada Southern" was a high-stepping, trappy gaited horse, but "Whistle Jacket" had the long low striding gait of the Clay Family to which he belonged. So on the smooth, level, and comparatively hard track "Whistle Jacket" could be half a length in advance, but the sandy portion of the track just suited "Canada Southern" and he would turn down the short stretch ahead of his game rival. The latter would close the gap and in each of the three heats came in lapped on his rival but always a loser by a neck.

This was the hey-day period of bycicles, and bycicle races also were held on this track. George Page, who still lives in the west end of the town, was the usual winner at this kind of sport.

Many good Roadster colts were raised in the district by the Schleihauf Brothers, Joe and John Schnekenburger and the McKillop Brothers. The latter exhibited a two-year old colt at the Chicago World Fair in 1893, and carried off Second Prize in a large field. This was quite an honour brought home to this town, and as the brawny Scots team from Dutton won the men's Tug-of-War against the best that Yankee Land could produce, the Banner County of the Province, Elgin, received a well-meritted and lasting advertisement. In 1888 two valuable Roadster Sires were imported, "Solitaire" and "Grand Sentinel", the former from Kentucky by John A. McKillop and the latter from Michigan by C. Schleihauf. The former was the sire of the prize-winning colt at the Chicago World's Fair above referred to.

In 1888 the Town Hall, situated on the north side of the Track, was built jointly by the McColl Lodge of West Lorne and the Township of Aldborough, during the Reeveship of J. J. Stalker, and served its purpose well and truly for more than a score of years. McPherson and Co. had a large Department Store on the east side of Graham Street, and as before noted carried on a wholesale wood business as well. P. J. Lindenman had a General Store in the McKillop Building. This block was a handsome, three-storey building with basement, and was one of the finest buildings between St. Thomas and Windsor. Dr. Eaton had his office and apartment in this building. Just a few years previous to the period we are considering, a small pox epidemic broke out in West Elgin and one of West Lorne's residents contracted the dread disease and Dr. Eaton took charge of the quarantined house and brought the case to a successful conclusion. He went out West with the second Manitoba boom and settled in Carbery, Manitoba, where he had a very successful practice. In this building Skinner Bros. for a time had a private bank, and E. C. Harvey, now of St. Thomas,

operated a Drug Store. Mr. Thos. E. Montague, assisted by the Business Men of the town, and many of the farmers in the District, built and operated a Canning Factory, which did an extensive business in that line up to the time the Dominion Canners took it over.

During the most of the time the Local Company operated, it was under the management of the late James A. Fuller, and on its assumption by the New Company, he was chosen as Supervisor of the Western District Factories, which position he held to the time of his death. At the beginning of the period we are considering, the West Lorne Public Library was started and its first Directors were A. Bridgeman, Lawyer, Robt. McFate, Dr. Brock, John A. McKillop and Archibald Carmichael. It is still continuing its useful existence and with the following officers: Pres., F. G. Balsdon, Sec. Treas., A. Petherick, J. P., and Librarian, Mrs. V. Norris. Near the beginning of this period our medical friend, Dr. Webster, took up his practice here. He had his office in the McKillop Building. This building had two splendid apartments in its second storey, and in its third storey a large Public Hall, even larger than our Community Hall, and on the other side Fraternal Halls with ante-rooms, occupied by the Foresters, Odd Fellows, Sons of Scotland and Royal Templers.

In the year 1891 the officers of McColl Lodge were as follows: E. Plastow, W. M., and Robt. McFate, Sec. In the I. O. F., E. R. Mogg was Chief Ranger and John F. Taylor, Sec. In the Royal Templers, Mr. Archibald Carmichael was Select Councillor and A. M. Munroe, Sec. The office of the Division Court was at this time and for many years previous in West Lorne. At first it had its office in the Roome Hotel, corner Main and Graham Streets, and Mr. Findlay McDiarmid, father of our late member, was the efficient clerk for this district. Mr. Philip Schmelz of Mill Street,

south of the Village, was the Bailiff, who genial and sunny disposition suited him admirably for the office. The office was afterwards moved to the McKillop Building, where the new clerk, Mr. A. N. G. Black of Dutton, held sway for some years, and the well-read and cultured John McCallum was the Bailiff, and you will remember that in a former paper we referred to him as being one of the founders of the village. George, son of the above-mentioned Philip Schmelz, for some years operated a photograph studio on Main Street, where the printing office now stands, and John P. Miller had a cooper shop for making barrels and casks of all kinds. It was also on Main Street.

The Misses McAlpine had a dressmaking establishment in this period on Graham Street opposite the Commercial Hotel, and the Misses Annie and Mary Gillies had one also on Monroe Street in the McKillop Building. Miss Annie still carries on her business in her home on Main Street.

It was in this busy and prosperous decade that the Catholic Church was remodelled and furnished anew in its beautiful and appropriate dress both internal and external. I believe the work was done by Mr. Thos. Daley, Contractor, who built many of the homes in West Lorne. He was the father of Miss Kate and Joe Daley.

In 1891 Mr. Colwell of Mitchell came to West Lorne and published its first paper, known as the West Lorne Herald. It was a very newsy, creditable weekly and filled the bill admirably for some years, when the Editor secured control of the weekly Wallaceburg paper and moved there. The family still publish it there.

John A. Cameron, principal of our Public School, then continued the paper around 1894 and carried it on under the name of "The West Elgin Pilot".

The clippings which I will read are taken from the sixth issue of the West Lorne Herald, June 11 - 1891, and may be of interest to some or all of us.

PERSONALS

Judge Palmer spent last week visiting his sister, Mrs. Armstrong, who resides near Newbury. (Judge Palmer was father of Mrs. Peter McGregor.)

Miss Christy Gillies of Middle Street is visiting her cousin, Miss Annie Gillies, this week.

Mr. James Bolsby, who has been in Chicago for the past few months, is home visiting his parents for a few weeks.

Mr. Ben Partridge, the genial landlord of the Commercial Hotel West Lorne, is taking in the sights and scenery of London this week.

Mr. Stephan Cook, Townline, has been improving and putting up his barns and sheds, putting a new roof on several buildings. (Mrs. A. Gammon's father.)

Mr. John Easton is plastering up Mr. Ed. Cahill's new kitchen just erected in rear of his private dwelling. (Now Dr. Webster's dwelling.)

Mr. John Easton, our town paper hanger, was decorating the walls of Mr. Lang's private residence at Eagle last week.

This week our sanctum was visited by Mrs. D. McKillop and Mrs. W. Whiting. We invite every lady in town or country to call and pay a visit

to the Herald Office. They will at all times be welcome guests to our sanctum.

Frederick Clayton sheared fourteen sheep for Duncan Carmichael which weighed 126 pounds, an average of 9 pounds to the fleece. Beat this if you can.

The M. C. R. issued excursion tickets to Detroit on Saturday last at reduced rates. Mr. John McCallum, Miss Melissa Rose, Mrs. Gus Thomas and pensioner Dan McCallum took advantage of the cheap rates.

If one of our faithful and industrious carters would conceive the idea and act upon it and canvass the front street for subscriptions, we have no doubt but enough money would be subscribed to sprinkle the front St. from McPherson Bros. store to Peter McGregor's and it is just what we need during June, July and Aug. This is a suggestion that should be acted upon at once.

The Dominion Co-operative Association of the Disciple Church of Canada held its session in Toronto, - The Misses Christie and Bella McKillop, daughters of our worthy postmaster, were delegates from the West Lorne Disciple Church, and have been attending the session last week and this week in the great City of Toronto, the metropolis of the Dominion. We hope the young ladies may enjoy a pleasant as well as a profitable time in this, their mission of love.

A week ago Sunday the comfortable little edifice, Grace Church West

Lorne, was packed to the door; every available spot was taken up to hear the Rev. Jeffery Hill deliver his sermon on Palestine or "Christ's travels in the Holy Land", illustrated by paintings, many of them real sketches of the Holy Land.

On account of the illness of his mother, Rev. C. T. Scott will not preach next Sunday evening, but a suitable supply will be procured to fill the engagement. Our popular pastor has our sympathy in this, his sad news, and the prayer of all for the recovery of his earthly parent, if it is the will of God, his Heavenly Parent.

By the final draft of the Methodist Conference held at Windsor, Rev. C. W. Brown was stationed at West Lorne and Rev. C. T. Scott goes to Dutton.

The Rev. E. S. Wilson, being absent attending the Association of the Baptist Church at Colchester this week and will be away every Sunday, the Service will be withdrawn in the Baptist Church.

Elder Sheppard of Walkerton preached an affecting and instructive sermon in McKillop's Hall on Sunday last under the patronage of the Disciple Church. Elder Sheppard is the father of the great and popular author and writer, Mr. E. S. Sheppard of Toronto, editor of the Toronto Fireside Weekly and Toronto Saturday Ledger, two of the ablest written journals on the continent.

The Presbyterian Church services are at 4 o'clock except every third Sunday; then services are at 11 o'clock, S. S. at 10 o'clock. Rev. John Milley, Pastor.

THE ADVERTISERS IN THE WEST LORNE HERALD June 11 - 1891.

McPherson Bros. ..... Dealers in Dry Goods.

E. R. Mogg ..... Baker and Confectioner.

Harvey's Drug and Book Store.

Schleihauf Bros. ..... Manufacturers of Lumber

Andrew Streib ..... Merchant tailor

Thomas Harris ..... Undertaker and furniture

M. D. Mehring ..... Manufacturer and dealer in Boots and Shoes.

F. Mettam ..... General Hardware, Stoves

P. McGregor ..... Wall paper, groceries, stationery

W. M. Paris ..... Harness, Saddles, collar maker

P. J. Lindenman ..... West Lorne and Eagle - Dry goods store.

A. McKillop & Sons ..... Manufacturers of Bending material, also Dealers in Lumber, shingles, etc.

Herald Printing Co. and Book Store.

George Gilpin ..... Manufacturer of Boots and Shoes.

Clarence Ripley ..... Town Drayman

John Gray ..... Baker and Confectioner

P. Philip Miller ..... Cooper

Alex. Beaton ..... Issuer of Marriage Licences.

R. Cusack ..... Town Butcher

E. Prebble ..... General Butcher

D. J. McLean ..... Dealer in Agricultural implements.

Osten Peckam ..... General blacksmith - manufacturer wagon & buggies

D. McKillop ..... Grain and Produce Dealer.

Augustus Thomas ..... the veteran town Carter

John G. McKillop ..... Prop town Livery.

Ed. Cahill ..... general blacksmith and manufacturer of carriages, wagons, carts etc. Horse shoeing a specialty.

Lorne Stock Farm ..... Dealers in the finest bred horses - Proprietors, A. McKillop & Sons.

Daniel Kirkpatrick ..... Chief of Police

Duncan Gillies ..... Builder

John A. McKillop ..... Township Treasurer

Thos. J. Daley ..... Contractor for building of all kinds.

Hockin & Pool ..... Dutton

PROFESSIONS

Dr. Brock

Dr. Wilson ..... Dentist lived at Wardsville, visits W. L. 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month.

D. McKillop ..... Postmaster

Skinner Bros. ..... Private Bankers

J. Skinner ..... Licensed Auctioneer

W. Church ..... Music Teacher, Tryconnell - visits West Lorne Wednesday and Thursday of each week.

HOTEL PROPRIETORS

Argyle House ..... E. J. Winter

Commercial House ..... B. Partridge

Elgin House ..... Conn & Bale

MARKETS AT THIS DATE

Wheat	$1.07 to $1.11	per bus.
Beans	1.30 to 1.65	" "
Potatoes	.60 to .65	
Hardwood	2.50 to 2.75	about the same now
Softwood	1.50 to 2.00	not so much now.
Eggs	.10	
Butter	.13 to .15	

Written by:

Mr. and Mrs. John A. McKillop,

May, 1937.

THE HISTORY OF WEST LORNE (CONTINUED)

On January 6, 1899, occurred the first of the two fires which destroyed the business portion of the town.

This fire burned everything on the west side of Graham Street between the Argyle Hotel and the Elgin House. The former was owned and operated by Auntie McMillan; the latter was owned and operated by F. J. Lindenman. The Elgin House was saved.

In the summer of '98, Ed Cahill and B. Partridge built the brick block now owned by J. T. Lemon & Son. This store was first occupied by Roome and Cole, two local boys, who have since done well in the mercantile field; Roome in the West and Cole in Guelph.

One of the smaller stores was used by Walter Chasely as a Tailor Shop and the other by Robert Downie as a Barber Shop.

The next summer Andrew Streib built the Streib Block, now called the Campbell Block.

The Hardware Store, which was part of this block, was built to suit J. E. Westcott, who was the first occupant moving the stock from the store on the east side of the street which he had bought from Fred. Mettam. He only occupied it for two or three years when he sold out to B. Partridge & Son.

Early in 1900 the West Lorne Electric Light Company was organized. At first the power was furnished by A. McKillop & Sons from their boiler at the Grist Mill of that time. When this mill was burned down the Power Plant was moved to the McKillop Saw Mill (which was on its present sight). Later the company built a new power station at the corner of Main and Argyle Streets, where they carried on until their franchise was taken over by the West Lorne Hydro in 1915.

On the last day of 1900, fire broke out in the grocery store operated by Duncan McColl; this was nearly in the middle of the block and the fire spread both ways and made a clean sweep from corner to corner, including the fine McKillop Block, a three-storey brick building, on the ground floor of which were the general store of P. J. Lindenman, Hugh McCallum's Tailor Shop, a drug store owned by E. C. Harvey, A. McKillop & Sons' offices, and an office which had been vacated by Dr. Webster the year before. On the next floor were two dwellings and on the top floor was the McKillop Hall, used for Public Meetings, and on Sunday the Disciples held services in it.

Beside this hall was the lodge room used by the Independent Order of Foresters and the Sons of Scotland.

The date "1900" crops up often in the village history. It was about this time that West Lorne was set apart as a police village; the first village trustees were E. R. Mogg, F. J. Lindenman and Dr. Webster. The place was incorporated as a village in 1907 or 1908 and the first council, with Dr. Brock as Reeve, was elected for 1908. Dr. Brock was re-elected for 1909 and was beaten for that office in 1910 by Dan McKillop, who held the position for three years.

In 1900 the M. C. R. commenced their reservoir south of the town and it was finished in 1901. Previous to that they had pumped water for their trains from a deep well just north of their station, but they wanted to put in track tanks at West Lorne, and that did not yield a supply sufficient for this purpose.

Incidentally, I might say here that one of the biggest mistakes ever made by the town was when E. R. Mogg and F. J. Lindenman refused the M. C. R.'s offer of free water for fire fighting purposes if the village

would install mains and hydrants for that purpose. This was in return for a free right-of-way for their pipe line on the village streets.

In 1900 the P. M. Railway started building their line through here and had trains running July 1, 1901.

In 1901 the present McKillop Block was built and in it the Merchants' Bank opened the first branch of a chartered bank in the township; the Merchants' Bank was later taken over by the Bank of Montreal, which still has a branch here.

Shortly after this the United Empire Bank opened a branch in the village, which was taken over by the Union Bank, but after a few years this branch was closed.

The West Lorne Wagon Factory was started in 1904 under the superintendance of the late William Milner and his son John. It carried on until about 1912, when the machinery was moved to Orillia, where it is still running as the Tudhope Wagon Factory. After the machinery was moved, two or three winter corn and poultry shows were held in the building, and in 1919 the Seaman Kent Company started to build dry kilns, in March, 1920, started the manufacture of hardwood flooring, and continued until June, 1931, after which the company defaulted on tax payments and, to protect the village, the town council took the plant over for taxes and still own it.

Prepared by Dr. David Webster,

August, 1934.

AIDBOROUGH TOWNSHIP, ELGIN COUNTY 1855

This township's roads were surveyed but not opened up when the settlers started to move in, coming up the Talbot road as far as Eagle then going north by Indian trail. They staked out their claims then bought the land from the Crown. It was very heavily-timbered and wild cats, lynx, fox and bears roamed the woods.

Henry Hill was one of those pioneer settlers, who brought a family of six from St. Thomas in April 1860. Their homes were log cabins and their shopping centre was at Lindeman's store, Eagle. Everything was brought in by boat. By means of cross-cut saws, trees were cut down and the logs were rolled in stone boats, drawn by a yoke of oxen and piled ready to be taken to the saw mill.

Mr. Morgan and Mr. Axford built a saw-mill north of the track. They hewed out timber for rail fences. As soon as they had enough land cleared, they sowed it with grain, cut it with a cradle, then took it to Tyrconnel to a mill-stone to be ground.

The Southern Railroad was built in 1873 and then was leased to the Michigan Central Railroad for thirty years, then leased later for 99 years There were stations and section houses built along the railroad. The first station was built west of town, and a long shed to store lime.

Mr. Waw built a stave-mill there and the boiler exploded and hot boiler plates fell on Mr. Hood.

James Trigger built the Trigger Hall. Later it was used for a public school, as the one south of town was crowded

Henry Hill held Sunday School in his home. Later they held it in Mr. Mathison's cheese factory at Clark's Corners. There were culverts along the track and Henry Hill had a underground crossing for the cattle and sheep to go back and forth. The town started to grow fast and Mr. Schleinauf gave the Michigan Central the land to name it Bismarck. The McKillops came in and opened up a post office and named the place West Lorne. Mr. Schleihauf put up a saw mill on Hog Street. Mr. McKillop built a saw mill south of the Graham Road. Henry Hill had a prtable mill to clear his 220 acres of land. They drew the logs by means of oxen to the mill after the first heavy fall of snow and continued work until the spring break-up. They had to build corduroy roads through the swamps.

There was a Methodist Church on the Kerr Carr Road near Middle Street, a Catholic church west of Carr Road on Middle Street and also a Lutheran church in the German settlement. This little church had a wide aisle through the centre. The pews were on each side to the wall and usher had a long pole with a little bag on the end to take up the collection. The service was preached in German and English by the minister Rev. Higestein. Later the Anglican church was built on the back street facing south then moved back on the same lot, where it now stands. The Baptists built their church and held their baptisms in McKillop's mill-pond south of the town. Joseph Wilton built a hotel north of the track; McMillon Hotel, corner Back Street and Graham; Romm had a hotel the east corner of Graham and Back Street, the souther corner, Mr. Blackwood had a general store; joing Mr. Beaton had a shoe repair shop. Mr. McKillop built a grist mill.

The business men: Duncen McPherson, general store; Skinner's General Store; Lindeman's General Store; Pethric, taylor shop; Walter Parris, Harness shop; Bob Mog, grocery and bake shop; Chasley, tailor shop; Tim Robertson, jewellery store; Thomas, Wagon maker; north of the track. Ed. Cahal, black-smith; Ed Clark, Black-smith, horse shoeing at Clark's Corners; and Fred Meltam, hardware store. The back half of Fred Matlam's hardware store was used for this tin shop. He made pails, milk pans, pie tins, bread and cake pans, cups, and everything that was for house hold use. If anything was wanted in a different size he would make it to order. There were only square nails of every size. There were wooden pails, wash tubs and wash boards, wooden dash churns, butter bowls and spoons, also one pound butter prints. Peter McGregor had a shoe store.

There was Esquire Thompson, Esquire Schleihauf, Esquire Hill, Esquire McCall; John A. McKillop, Lawyer; Mr. Tasker, a bailiff; Linderman Girls' millinery; Annie Gillis, dressmaker; Edward Prebble, butcher. Mrs. Hill and the oldest girl were tailors. They would have a tailor come in and cut the suits for the boys. Everything had to be made at home, even the shirts with starched collars and cuffs. The closest doctor and dentists were at Wardsville.

There were dry goods' travellers going through with covered wagons loaded with webs of cloth, some in suit lengths, ladies' dress goods, bolts of bleached and unbleached cotton, grey flannel, shirting, talbe linens and towelling.

The rag men came every spring. He would weigh the rags, then you could buy some of his tin ware, cream skimmer, dipper, tin sppons

and other small things. The hand organ man came with his organ strapped on his back and leading monkey. He would play for a few pennies and something to eat.

My father took fleeses of washed wool to the Dutton Woolen Mill to get them carded into rolls. My mother spun the yarn until the spindle was full, then she took it off on a real. So many rounds made a knot, so many knots made in skein. She continued until all the rolls were spun. Then they took it to Dutton Wollen millsto be woven into blankets. They gray wool was sup spun firmer for school dresses for the girls. Most of the lots in town had high board and picket fences, board side-walks and tie-posts all over town.

The first band in town was the Hill's Cornonet and String Band which was started in 1875. There was Gord Shippy, William Henry Hill, Jim Hill, Sandford Shippy, John Hill, George Hill, Fred Hill and Albert Hill. After the Shippys left town, Aaron, Seth, Abel and Joshua joined. There were nine brothers in the band. Led by George Hill, they played for parades, Calithumpian parades, picnics at New Galsgow, receptions, and church lawn socials. They played for a wedding receiption for the Hon. F.G. McDermond, New Glasgow. He was the minister of Public Works.

WILLIAM HENRY'S TOAST TO HIS NINE BROTHERS

Play well your part in life's brass band and make your music tell,
It maters but little what part you play, that's if you play it well.
In life's grand march there's no halt from cradle to the grave,
So let us march the best we can--the bravest of the brave.

Prepared by Mrs. Susie Hill Conway
Essex, August 1958



Back row,- Sanford Shippey, Jim Hill, Wm. H. Hill, Gordon Shippey

Front row,- Albert Hill, Fred Hill, George Hill, John Hill.

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL HALL

West Lorne

June 3rd., 1930, was an eventful day in West Lorne's history for it was on that day that the Cummunity Memorial Hall was officially opened and the bronze plaque unveiled in memory of the sons of West Lorne and East Aldborough who gave their lives in the first World War. Designed by the architect John T. Findlay, of St. Thomas, the hall fittingly serves the dual purpose of commemorating the dead while serving the living and posterity for whom the boys gave their lives. It contains a public hall, municipal offices, postoffice and centre for the Women's Institute. Indeed, the Women's Institute was the driving force behind the scheme. They have assumed a responsibility in the first place for some $3,000 or more, the remainder of the initial payments upon a $20,000 plan being given by the village council, the Provincial Government and individual donors, the whole being financed over a period of years. The hall stands at the corner of Main and Graham streets.

The Women's Institute and women of East Aldborough bought the war memorial in the central lobby. The synchronized clock is the gift of the late Mrs. Dougald MacPherson, and the beautiful curtain for the stage and stage equipment is furnished by the Young People's Dramatic Society.

Ideal weather prevailed for the opening ceremonies, which were performed by Colonel D.E. Gerrard, V.D., former

for some years without anything being done. The credit must be given to the Women's Institute, and two years ago it was decided to go ahead. The Council appointed a committee to co-operate. The site was originally acquired by the Federal Government in 1913 for a post-office, through the instrumentality of John A. McKillop, but the war intervened and the plans appeared to fall through. Finally the site was bought for the Memorial Community Hall, including the post-office, and today it was a source of pride to be there to see the consummation of their hopes.

A fine invocation was delivered by Rev. W.E. James of the Baptist church.

Colonel Gerrard then untied the knot in the purple cord, threw open the door and declared the hall open "to the glory of God, in memory of the men who fell in the Great War, in the name of King George and the Dominion of Canada."

Rev. E.T. Lewis of the Disciples church announced the hymn, "O God Our Hope in Ages Past".

Warden D.K. Andrew extended the congratulations of the County of Elgin to people of West Lorne, observing that a village which did not have a community hall was behind the times. West Lorne may have been behind other villages in having a community hall, but the men of West Lorne and district were not behind when the call came for men.

Rev. T. De Courcey Rayner, of the Presbyterian church, said

they could all look with pride upon the hall. He hoped that every time anyone entered the hall they would remember it was a tribute to the West Lorne and East Aldborough boys who were still overseas- never to return. He bade the community remember that this hall had been opened to the glory of God, and enjoined them to remember that He was their shield and strength, and that whatever they undertook should be worthy in His sight and of the great sacrifice that these men had made.

The children having sung "O Canada", the party entered the main hall, the next of kin of the men whose names appear on the memorial tablet being accorded the places of honor. Wreaths were carried by Robert Kerr, from the St. Thomas Legion; Charles Wilson, for the Village of West Lorne; and Sergeant Fred Edwards, M.M., for the veterans of West Lorne. Colonel Gerrard unveiled the tablet with a few appropriate words, and the wreaths were placed left, right and centre overhead, respectively, by Mrs. Lillian McPhee and Anthony Mateer, who each have two sons whose names are perpetuated on the memorial, and Ian Cameron, president of the St. Thomas branch of the Legion. The poignant "Last Post" was sounded by Bugler Adam Stewart, Rev. J.H. Langford of the Anglican church offered the prayer of dedication, and the bugler then sounded the note of joy in the "Reveille", which symbolizes the great awakening.

Warden Andrew moved a vote of thanks to Colonel Gerrard,

who, in reply, said he appreciated the honor that had been conferred upon him in being asked to perform the opening and unveiling ceremonies. He congratulated the community, and said that some of these boys whose names are on the tablet were with him in the 70th battalion. Unfortunately he did not go overseas with them as the battalion was split up among other battalions, but he knew them as fine soldiers and fine citizens. He learned that when they went to France they proved excellent men, of whom the district could always be proud, and he was glad to think that the community had paid them this honor which would be a reminder of the men whose example would be an inspiration to the rising generation.

The National Anthem having been sung, the hall was thrown open for public inspection. Subsequently there was a parade to the Memorial Park where a league baseball game was played between West Lorne and Shedden, the latter winning by five to three. After the game, supper was served in the basement of the hall by the Women's Institute, and the hall was put to use in the evening with a concert by the Schubert Concert Company of London.

Mrs. T.W. Sims, now of Kitchener, was the primary mover of the present achievement, as long ago as 1920, although a hall had been considered long before that, and the ladies who had been president of the W. I., and who have had much to do with the result, have been Mrs. F. Hurley, London;

Mrs. D. McKillop, Mrs. M. McKillop, West Lorne; Mrs. James Wanless, St. Thomas; Mrs. J.C. Sherk, Mrs. D. McPhail, and the present presiding officer, Mrs. J.A. McKillop, of West Lorne; together with the loyal and zealous assistance of all the members of the branch who have given their time and services ungrudgingly.

The general building contract was in the hands of A. McKillop and Sons Company, Limited, West Lorne, the plumbing and heating being executed by the local firm of Milner Turned Goods, Limited, so that the entire splendid job is a credit to the people of West Lorne.

Prepared from an article in
THE ST. THOMAS TIMES-JOURNAL,
June 4, 1930.

OUR CANNING FACTORY

The West Lorne Canning and Evaporating Company, Limited, was formed in 1890, and a fine frame factory was built under the supervision of Thomas Montague. The work was done by John Campbell, Duncan Gillies, John Gillies, John Templeton and Wellington Trigger, and the factory started operating in 1891.

In the early days the Company made cans and packed pigs' feet, lunch tongue, chicken, duck, strawberries, peas, corn, tomatoes, tomato catsup, apples, evaporated apples, and Pummace. The goods were sold under 'Lorne Brand' and enjoyed a wonderful reputation for fine quality, in good demand at home and abroad.

The Board of Directors consisted of Mr. A. McKillop, president, Dr. W. Brock, E.R. Mogg, Edward Cahill, Benjamin Partridge, T.E. Montague, J. Spencer, and W. Clark, Jr., who was secretary, followed by John Taylor, Miss Anne McKillop, R. St.C. Henderson, S.A. Morrison, and W.R. Campbell.

The Manager and Processor was Matthew Moore, then, J.A. Fuller and Benjamin Partridge, who were assisted by Charles Bartlett, J.M. Bole, R.B. Barlow, C.C. Robinson, Joseph Groom, R. Welch, and A.G. Stonehouse , who is the present progressive Manager (1952). St. C. Liddell has been associated with this factory for a number of years

as bookkeeper and later as superintendent.

The first can makers were J.T. Lemon, Fred Hutchinson, and Fred Bainard. Others who have done much to make the canning industry a success are A.E. Wall, James Chaseley, J.T. Lemon, Jacob Frick, W.J. Roach, C.E. Cunliffe, Alexander MacCallum, Archie McLennan, Mrs. Vanloon, and R.E. Clark.

In 1896 a warehouse was built across the road from the factory. This was moved in 1904, and is still in use as a seed warehouse for Messrs. W. McLandress & Sons.

In 1910, when the Company was taken over by the Dominion Canners, a large process building and power plant were built, and in 1922, when taken over by the New Canadian Canners, new and up-to-date machinery was installed. The Company began now to specialize in fewer lines and larger packs.

On April 1, 1925, the canning plant was burned, with a heavy loss in supplies and equipment. A new plant was built the same year and in time for operation. West Lorne still enjoys a reputation for quality.

This article was prepared by
Mr. John M. Bole.

SAWMILL BUSINESS WITH HISTORIC BACKGROUND

A. McKILLOP & SONS, West Lorne, Ont., - is an Old Firm - Its Inception Dates Back to the Year 1856 - Interesting Contrasts of Old Time Sawmilling Practice and Marketing With Present Methods and Prices- Company Have Another Twenty Years Supply in Adjacent Hardwood Limits

It is over one hundred years since the spirit of conquest thrilled Canadian ancestors who struggled and died that we might be called Canadians.

Most persons to-day who gained their knowledge of Canadian history from the rather dull and limited confines of a text book rarely give much thought to the struggle and handicaps of those early days. Seldom are we moved to imagine what places, which are known to us to-day, looked like a hundred years ago; who were some of those fearless people who came with little else than their hands to make a living in this new country. When you meet a resident to-day who can tell you about some of these persons who lived a century ago on the same ground, who can point out landmarks where their fathers and grandfathers made their living, then life in those early times becomes a reality and one lives again with the story-teller for a brief half hour or so in the forest with those first Canadians.

Down in the pretty village of West Lorne, in Southwestern Ontario, the "Canada Lumberman" recently paid a visit to the sawmill of A. McKillop & Sons. McKillop's sawmill, as the

business is popularly called throughout the district, has an interesting history dating back to the year 1856. The name McKillop, however, goes back further to 1818 when Archibald McKillop, grandfather of the present proprietors, settled just south of where the village of West Lorne now stands. At that time the Great Western Railway, which ran through that section of the province, was about ten miles north and was the only means of land communication. It was necessary for the settlers along Lake Erie to tramp through the forest for a day or so to get to the railway.

Time passed and two sons, Archie and Duncan McKillop, established a sawmill of the old, up-in-the-morning and down-in-the- afternoon variety. Around this primitive establishment a small collection of houses was built and a blacksmith's shop. It became known as McKillop's Corners. This was three-quarters of a mile south of the present village of West Lorne.

The old frame house at the corners where the McKillop Brothers of to-day were born is still standing and in good repair although over sixty summers have passed since it was erected. It is another testimonial to the lasting qualities of wood - the world's most precious material.

The remainder of the area of the district was covered with magnificent hardwood timber, some of which is still being cut.

The early McKillop sawmill was built on the north arm

of Brock's Creek. This was in 1856, nearly seventy years ago. The creek which flows south into Lake Erie, was named after the General Brock of Queenston Heights fame. It was at the mouth of this small river that the Canadian general met his Indian Allies, who came by foot over a beaten path from the north. This meeting with the redskins was preparatory to an attack on Fort Detroit. The spot was a great gathering-place of the Indians who held big chestnut roasts in the fall of the year. At the present time corn is grown abundantly in this district and in those days the Indians operated several corn-plantations.

The little sawmill at McKillop's Corners cut the big chestnuts and whitewoods, four and five feet across, into deals for the Old Country, which they shipped by water on Lake Erie to Buffalo. The price obtained was $9 and $10 per M. or more.

The first mill was operated by steam and was burned down in 1864. It was rebuilt on the old site and operated until 1884. Ten years before that date the village of West Lorne was incorporated. On the completion of the Canada Southern Railway into West Lorne in 1872, which line is now operated by the Michigan Central, the mill site was moved from the old corners up to the railroad.

In 1901 the McKillop mill property was appropriated by the Pere Marquette line which runs alongside the Michigan

Central. The mill was moved to its present position on a spur of the Pere Marquette.

Associated with the business to-day are the four McKillop brothers: - Dan. McKillop, president; J.A. McKillop, secretary-treasurer and from whose abundant store of knowledge of the history of the section, this reference was written; Hugh C. McKillop, M. P., director, and A. McKillop, formerly manager, but now residing in St. Thomas, Ont.

Besides the operation of the sawmill which cuts elm, chestnut, oak, maple, basswood and hickory, the company operate a planing mill and sash and door department, the material for this part of the business being brought in. The average diameter of the hardwood logs is around two and three feet, and are cut from limits that were acquired back in the 70's by the McKillop family. The farthest of these limits is located about ten miles from West Lorne and logs are brought in by team in the winter. The supply of wood in their bush will last for another fifteen or twenty years.

In spite of the quantity in sight, the firm have been interested in reforestation for some time. Last year under the supervision of Archie McKillop, twelve acres of pines and chestnuts were planted near West Lorne.

The McKillop sawmill cuts annually from one half to three quarters of a million feet of hardwood. Last season the mill had an exceptionally long run of ninety days without

a single mishap. This luck was in no small measure aided by the excellent conditions of the saws at all times. J. Burger, the chief engineer of the mill, has been with the McKillop's for over fifty years and all the saws used in the establishment come under his personal supervision. Mr. Burger came to the McKillop's when a lad of seventeen and has been in their employ ever since.

The hardwood limits held by the McKillop family are among the few remaining commercial stands in Southern Ontario. The product of the McKillop sawmill naturally finds its way in large quantities to the American automobile manufacturers at Detroit. Canadian wagon and carriage makers, handle and woodenware manufacturers are also large consumers of the native hardwoods of the district.

Copied from the
'CANADA LUMBERMAN'
October 15, 1924

BANK OF MONTREAL

On November 12, 1903, a branch of the former Merchant's Bank was opened in West Lorne. Later the Merchant's Bank was amalgamated with the Bank of Montreal and carried on under the latter name. On November 12, 1953, the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the bank in West Lorne was celebrated.

Until 1914 the bank's premises were in the A. McKillop and Sons' block on the east side of Graham Street. The corner lot on the opposite side of the street, once occupied by the Elgin Hotel, was then purchased by the bank and the present building was erected.

The only industrial concerns in the village when the bank was formed were the West Lorne canning factory, later taken over by Canadian Canners, Limited, and A. McKillop and Sons' lumber business. Since that time the village has experienced marked growth industrially; mixed farming, as well as the growing of tobacco and other specialized crops have grown in importance. The population of the village has increased, public services, including paved highways, hydro-electric lighting, the construction of substantial buildings such as the Community Hall, the building of many fine new homes, are evidence of the spirit of progress in the community. In all this development the bank has been, and continues to be, an important contributing factor.

A.C. Paterson, later an inspector for the Merchants' Bank, was the first manager. He was succeeded in order by J.N. Kennedy, W.G. Thompson D.T. McGuire, J.H. Matson, J.H. Cantelon, H.L.S. Jorden and W.H. Bell. Mr. Bell was followed by the present manager, G.C. Stephens. Mr. Stephens is an active participant in community affairs, being a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Chamber of Commerce. He enjoys fishing in his spare time and is an avid baseball and hockey fan.

Over the years the local branch of the Bank of Montreal has been intimately connected with every phase in the development of West Lorne.

This article was prepared by

Miss Mima Currie.

JAMES CULLEN AND SON

FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKING BUSINESS

In 1900 James Cullen came to West Lorne and, taking into partnership his son, Fred J. Cullen, aged sixteen, established a furniture and undertaking business under the firm name of James Cullen and Son. Mr. Cullen has previously been in the undertaking business in Delaware.

The first place of business was a store on Main Street owned by the late James Bole. In March, 1903, a move was made to the store on Graham Street, which the firm occupied untill1948 when the business was sold to James Ripley, the present owner. The store was practically a new one in 1903, one side of the street having been burned out in the fire of 1900, after which it was rebuilt.

The elder Mr. Cullen lost a leg in 1924 and his son carried on the business till 1939 when he sold the undertaking business but retained the furniture business. In 1947 Mr. Fred J. Cullen had an attack of coronary thrombosis and from then till it was sold in 1948 Mrs. Cullen carried on the business.

Although the elder Mr. Cullen died in 1934, the firm kept its form name of James Cullen and Son as it had for forty-eight years, a record that is not exceeded by any other business men in West Lorne.

This article prepared by

Miss Mima Currie

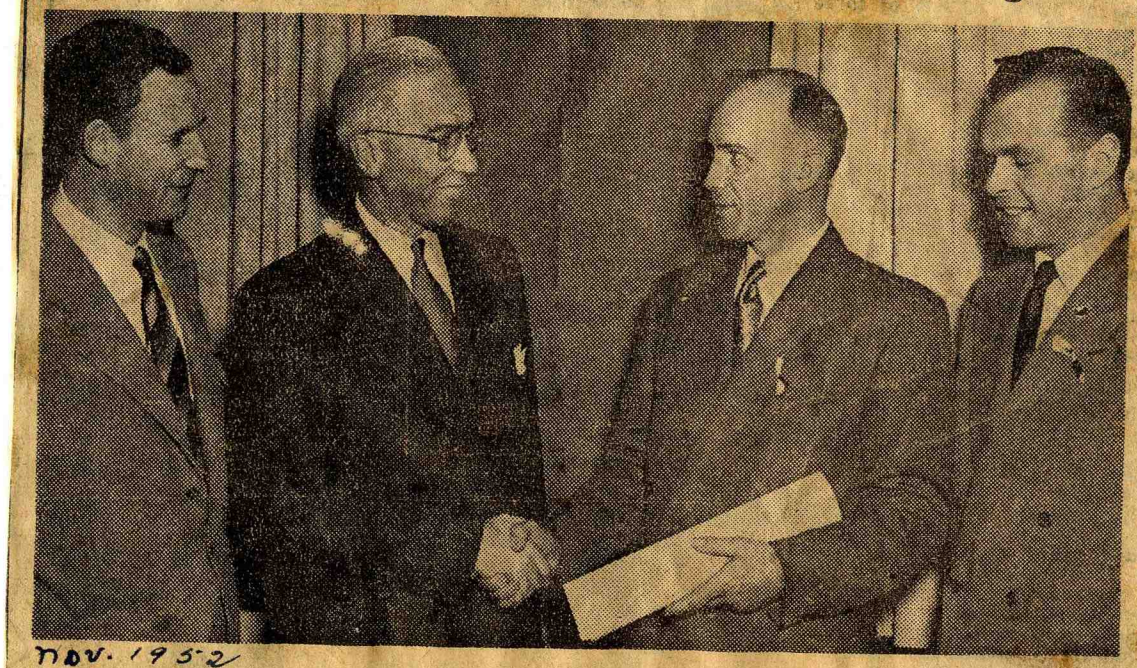


Members of the official party attending the opening of the West Lorne Public Utilities building were introduced from the theatre stage. Left to right, the Rev. W. K. Morrison; Reeve William Merrett; E. D. McMillan, M.L.A. for East Kent; Mr. Saunders; A. G. Stonehouse, chairman, West Lorne P.U.C.; R. M. Laurie, Western Region hydro manager; J. R. Milner, West Lorne P.U.C., and Adam Smith, of the Ontario Hydro Commission.



Scores thronged the sidewalk in front of the new West Lorne Public Utilities building during the ceremonies. Following the official opening by Mr. Saunders, the Rev. W. K. Morrison, rector of Grace Anglican Church, dedicated the building. Here, the crowd stands with heads bowed during the dedication. The youngster in the foreground apparently couldn't resist the temptation to sneak a peek at the photographer.

At West Lorne Kiwanis Club Charter Night



NOV. 1952

—Photo by Stollery

PRINCIPALS in the charter night program of the West Lorne Kiwanis Club, held on Thursday evening at the Community Hall there, appear in the above photograph with K. B. Loheed, Toronto, governor of the Ontario-Quebec-Maritimes District of Kiwanis International, who presented the charter, and Ron Prevett, president of the newly-organized club, displaying the treasured document. At left in the picture is J. A. Ferguson, president of the London Kiwanis Club, which sponsored the new club in West Lorne, and at right, Vincent McHale, secretary of the new club.



DR. BROCK, West Lorne's First Reeve.



1914

W. A. BECKER, Reeve of West Lorne

HAS PRACTICED HALF CENTURY



DR. DAVID FERGUS WEBSTER, of West Lorne, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his practice in the community, begun in the summer of 1891 after his graduation from the University of Toronto Medical School, at his home, and two hundred came to tender congratulations. Though he is now 76, he doesn't intend to retire, says he wouldn't be happy "just hanging around." West Lorne businessmen honored him with a gift in token of their esteem.



Dr. Amos T. Ripley

DR. AMOS T. RIPLEY

The medical practice of Dr. Amos T. Ripley in West Lorne extended from 1908 to 1942 when, due to ill health, he was forced to retire. During these years he was most faithful to a very large practice and his retirement was greatly regretted.

Dr. Ripley was born in Southwold Township, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ripley. He attended Coyne's Corners Public School, Dutton High School, and London Normal School. He taught at Coyne's Corners and at Iona for a short time before entering Medical School. He graduated from Toronto University in Medicine in 1906, and practised for two years in Dunnville before coming to West Lorne.

The year after locating in West Lorne, in September, 1909, Dr. Ripley married Laura Liddell of Iona. There is one son, Lawrence, shipping clerk with the Canadian Canners. Mrs. Ripley and Lawrence still occupy the home, of which a part served as Dr. Ripley's office.

Dr. Ripley was Medical Health Officer for Aldborough Township for many years as well as Coroner of Elgin County for a long period. He was a member of McColl Masonic Lodge and a P.N.G. of the former I.O.O.F. Lodge. He was a member of the United Church.

One of the most sensational experiences in Dr. Ripley's West Lorne career was the delivery of the Milner triplets in 1919. These were the only triplets born in West Lorne.

Till 1911 Dr. Ripley had to rely altogether on the horse and buggy as a means of transportation. Then he purchased his first car. This increased the ease and speed of getting around to his patients but roads were not yet good enough for use of the car all the year round and the horse was still a necessity.

Three years before his death Dr. Ripley's health began to fail but he carried on as long as he was able. He passed away February 18, 1943, at the age of sixty-seven.

This article prepared by
Miss Mima Currie.

DR. WILLIAM BROCK

Dr. William Brock was a real pioneer of the medical profession in West Lorne, carrying on a practice from about 1877 until the time of his death, January 26, 1916. During this time he spent freely of his time and energy, often under difficult conditions, as family physician to many households in West Lorne and vicinity.

He was born at Scarboro near Toronto in 1843, the son of Francis and Annie Brock. He attended Public and High School and taught school at Jarvis and Wardsville till he was thirty years of age, then entering Toronto University to study medicine,and graduating with the silver medal about 1877. He first opened an office in Rodney where he remained for three months and then established a practice in West Lorne which continued for the remainder of his life.

Dr. Brock was first married in 1877 to Barbara McCallum. Their only son, William John Brock, paid the supreme sacrifice in the First World War. In 1883 Dr. Brock married Mary Jane Dundas. The children of this marriage were Annie Keele, now living in Toronto, Frances Augusta Hunchberger of Niagara Falls, and Harold Dundas Brock, deceased.

Community affairs also claimed Dr. Brock's interest.

He was on the Township Council for a time and was reeve of the Village of West Lorne for several years. He was a member of the Library Board and an active member of Grace Anglican Church, being rector's warden at the time of his death.

This article was prepared by
Miss Mima Currie.

DR. DAVID F. WEBSTER

In 1891 Dr. David Fergus Webster began a medical practice in West Lorne and for more than fifty-seven years, in all kinds of weather, by day or night, whether roads were good or bad, he gave of himself and his skill unstintingly to heal the sick of West Lorne and a wide area about it. He will long be remembered for his unfailing response to calls. His practice can truly be said to have extended through the horse and buggy days to the era of the high-powered car.

Dr. Webster was born in Mosa Township about two miles south of Glencoe, a son of the late William Webster and Janet Ferguson. He attended Public School at S.S.#1, Mosa; High School at Wardsville; and Model School at London. He intended to use the teaching profession as a stepping stone to a medical course, but his teaching career was abruptly ended after nine months when his father offered to finance him through Medical School. He graduated from the University of Toronto Medical in 1891. At first it was his ambition, after earning sufficient money, to take a special course in surgery in New York, but after getting his practice well established in West Lorne he gave up the idea, although during his career he performed several intricate pieces of surgery successfully.

Eight years after setting himself up in West Lorne Dr. Webster married Alice Wilton, whose home was just north

of the village, and who predeceased him. They had one daughter, Erie Dean, wife of Dr. W.J. McLean, former head of Westminister Hospital. There is one grandson, David McLean. The McLeans now occupy Dr. Webster's former residence.

Dr. Webster took a keen interest in civic affairs, giving his support to all enterprises he considered of benefit to the community. He was one of the early advocates of the modern pressure water system that has been installed in West Lorne. He served as a trustee for a time when West Lorne was still a police village. He was an active Mason. He held the 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite and was past District Deputy for the Royal Arch Masons. He was a member and elder in the United Church.

On August 18, 1941, Dr. Webster celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the day he began practising in West Lorne. Two hundred friends from the village and district and others from a considerable distance came to help him commemorate the occasion, and many were the reminiscences that day.

On April 20th, 1950, Dr. Webster, this pioneer of medicine in West Lorne, passed away at his home at the age of eighty-five.

Prepared by

Miss Mima Currie

URSDAY JUNE 4, 1914

SCHOOL REPORTS

West Lorne Public School—May

THIRD ROOM

Class IV—F. Ripley, M. McKillop, H. Olett, H. McDonald, E. McKillop, W. Sharratt, J. Daley, A. Robi son.

Sr. III—Subjects, Geography, Arithmetic. H. McColl 81, N. Walker 79, J. Buchanan 74, E. Purves 60, H. Bolton 45, R. McPherson 41, M. Howse 30.

Jr. III—Subjects, Geography, Arithmetic. W. Main 91, D. McPhee 83, P. Jennings 70, I Chasely 66, C. McLennan 57, B. Hanley 56, M. McPhail 54, I. Randall 53, H. Fawcett 45, A. Levering-ton 44.

Absent for one or more examinations, A. Robinson, H. Fawcett, M. Hanley, H. Bolton, R. McPherson, M. Howse.

MARGARET MARCH

SECOND ROOM

Sr. II—A. Tonks 87, H. Sims 85, E. Petherick 84, M. McKillop 77, J. Ferguson 73, N. Webber 69, *M. Collins 68. T. Smoke 68, V. Collard 65, *D. McKillop 50. *M. Skinner 45, *L. Timson.

Absent, V. Thomson, E. Patton, W. McLandress, M. Everett, S. Atkins.

Jr. II—M. Grosbeck 79, R. Kelly 73, F. Hyndman 66, A. B. McKillop 65, *I. Mitton 53, E. Webster 50, B. Templeton 48, Q. Bole 45, *T. Hill 26, *G. Wilson 16.

Absent, G. Thomson, V. Timson.

Sr. I—F. Templeton 75, I. Tonks 70, M. Hanley 60, E. Jennings 55, H. McPhail 52, A. McLennan 50, S. Grosbeck 48.

Absent, C. Robinson, O. Timson.

Those marked * absent for one or more exams.

MARGARET McGILL

PRIMARY CLASS

Sr. I—G. Sims 95, G. Edwards 90, C. Webber 80, E. Petherick 79, R. Gammon 68, M. Leverington 62, T. F. Ripley 54.

Jr. I—L. Hyatt, H. Wilson. J. Milner, H. Thomson, W. Jones.

Class I—M. McLarty, C. Walker, M. Hunchburger, G. Welsh, J. Burger, W. Hauser equal.

Class II—H. Meldrum, H. McKillop equal, H. Miller, I. Wilton, M. Randall, W. Jones.

Class III—K. Hanley, H. Govier, M. Petherick, A. McKillop, C. Milner, B. Brown.

Class IV—M. Welsh. A. Kelly, D. Lindenman, R. Milner, K. Lippoldt equal, O. Welsh, E. Tonks.

Class B—J. D. McKillop, E. McLarty equal, W. Wilton, L. McDonald, L. Howse.

Class A—J. Wiley, E. Baldwin, G. Haviland, M. Schmeltz, E. Humphrey, J. Jeffrey, O. Hillman.

KATHRYN DALEY

June 4, 1914

UNION BANK OF CANADA

No Fear of Losing Your Money When Travelling

if you carry it in the form of

Travellers' Cheques

issued by the **Union Bank of Canada.** No one can cash them without your signature. Issued in denominations of $10, $20, $50, $100 and $200, with value in foreign currencies plainly stated on the face. Accepted at full value at hotels, ticket offices and business places generally throughout the world.

West Lorne Branch - W. H. Bole, Manager
Melbourne Branch, J. E. Drinkwater, Manager
Mount Brydges Branch, - H. L. Lee, Manager

PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS

June 4 — 1914

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES OF AMERICA.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese and Other Produce at Home and Abroad.

Breadstuffs.

Toronto, June 2.—Flour—Ontario wheat flours, 90 per cent., $3.80 to $3.85, seaboard, and at $3.85 to $3.90, Toronto. Manitobas—First patents, in jute bags, $5.60; do., seconds, $5.10; strong bakers', in jute bags, $4.

Manitoba wheat—Bay ports—No. 1 Northern, 99½c, and No. 2, 97½c.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 quoted at $1.04 to $1.05, outside, and $1.06, on track, Toronto.

Oats—No. 2 Ontario oats, 39½ to 40c, outside, and at 42c, on track, Toronto. Western Canada oats quoted at 42c for No. 2, and at 39½c for No. 3, Bay ports.

Peas—$1 to $1.05, outside.

Barley—Good malting barley, 56 to 58c, according to quality.

Rye—No. 3 at 63 to 64c, outside.

Buckwheat—88 to 90c, outside.

Corn—No. 2 American, kiln-dried, 78½c, Toronto.

Bran—Manitoba bran, $24 to $26 a ton, in bags, Toronto freight. Shorts, $26 to $27.

Country Produce.

Butter—Choice dairy, 18 to 20c; inferior, 15 to 16c; farmers' separator prints, 20 to 22c; creamery prints, fresh, 23 to 24c; do., storage prints, 22 to 23c; solids, storage, 20 to 21c.

Eggs—21 to 23c per dozen, in case lots.

Honey—Extracted, in tins, 10½ to 11c per lb. Combs, $2.25 to $2.50 per dozen for No. 1, and $2 for No. 2.

Cheese—New cheese, 14 to 14½c for large, and 14½ to 15c for twins.

Beans—Hand-picked, $2.25 to $2.30 per bushel; primes, $2.10 to $2.20.

Poultry—Fowl, 17 to 19c per lb; chickens, 19 to 20c; ducks, 20c; geese, 15 to 16c; turkeys, 20 to 23c.

Potatoes—Delawares, $1.20 on track here, and Ontarios at $1.10 per bag, on track.

Baled Hay and Straw.

Baled hay—No. 1 at $14.50 to $15 a ton; on track here; No. 2 quoted at $13 to $13.25, and clover at $10 to $11.

Baled straw—Car lots, $8.25 to $8.50, on track, Toronto.

Provisions.

Bacon—Long clear, 14 to 14½c per lb. in case lots. Hams—Medium, 18 to 19c; do., heavy, 17 to 18c; rolls, 14½ to 15c; breakfast bacon, 18 to 19c; backs, [illegible]

June 4 1914

Lorne Lodge No. 175

Meets every Monday evening in their Lodge Room, Graham St.

Visiting brethren always welcome.

A. MCPHERSON, N. G. A. W. SMITH, Sec.

PERE MADQUETTE

arrive at West Lorne

- East

No. 2	11.00 a. m.
No. 4	8.21 p. m.

Going West

No. 1	8.39 a. m.
No. 3	6.07 p. m.



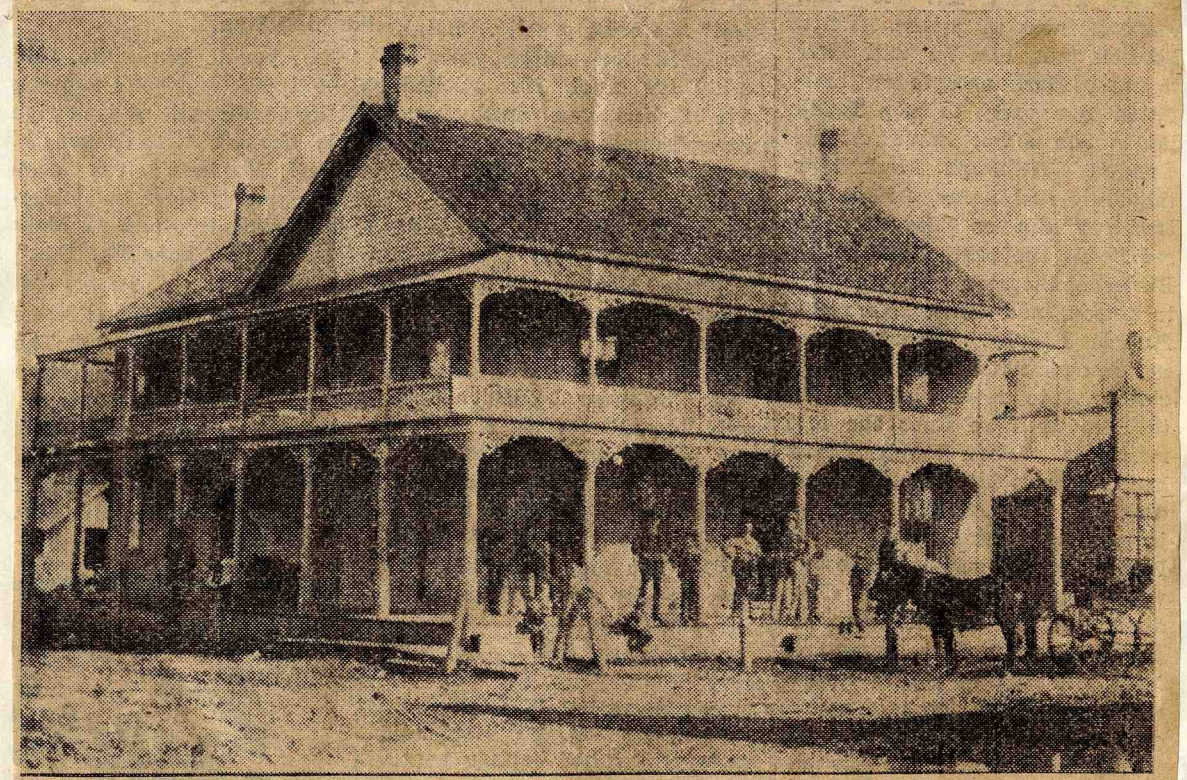
GORDON STEPHENS, Manager

Present Manager Bank of Montreal 1955



This is the main street of West Lorne prior to the two disastrous fires which consumed both sides of the Graham Road shopping centre. The picture looks north on Graham Road. The west side of the street (left) was destroyed by fire in January 1899 and the east side was consumed similarly in December 1900. This picture is presented through the courtesy of Mr. Earl Lemon.

Roome's Hotel Was Early West Lorne Hostelry



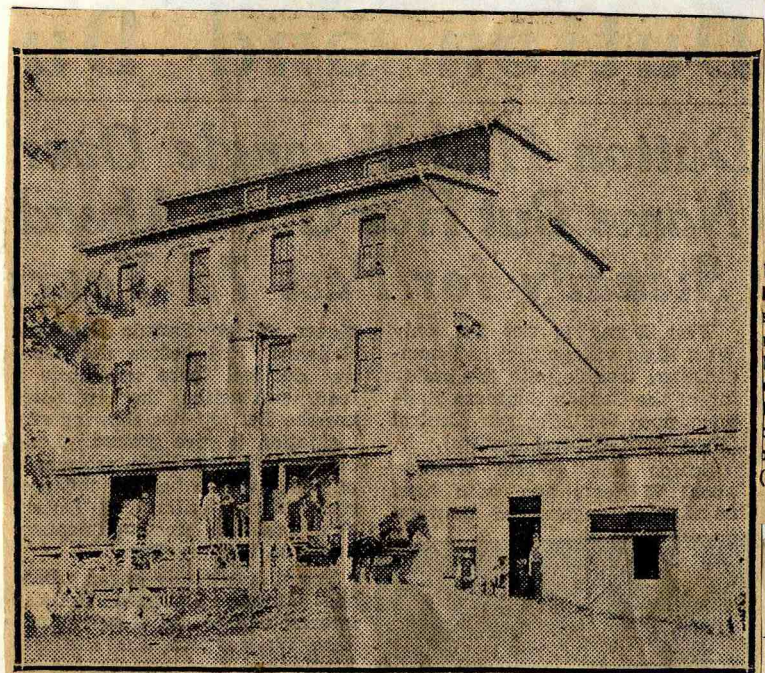
The Roome's Hotel stood on the corner where the Community Hall now stands. Older folks who remember the hotel and its owners state there never was a better operated hotel in this district. The original photo belongs to Mrs. Goldie Watson, daughter of Mrs. Roome, and is presented in connection with the West Lorne Sun's Elgin Centennial Edition.



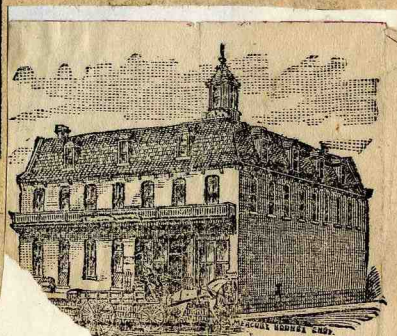
WEST LORNE'S COMMUNITY HALL



MAIN STREET, WEST LORNE, IN 1885 — The picture was taken looking south and the huge oak log was being taken to the McKillop sawmill, which stood just east of where the Pere Marquette station now stands. The men sitting on the log, from left to right, are: John Roach and J. A. McKillop; Daniel McKillop, one of West Lorne's oldest businessmen, and Duncan McPherson. The buildings in order from the foreground are: McKillop block; Alton building; Mettan building; E. R. Mogg building; Phillips building; Duncan McKillop building (West Lorne's first postoffice); Beaton block and residence (now Gibson's cigar store and billiard parlors). The east section of the street was burned out in 1900 and the west side in 1901.



The former West Elgin Milling & Produce Co., built in 1900 was one of West Lorne's first industries. The building was later known as the A. McKillop & Son Grain and Flour Mill and is now operated as the West Lorne branch of the Elgin Co-Operative Services.



Elgin M

BISMARCK S

THE LEADIN

P. J. LINDENMAN, Proprietor. F. J

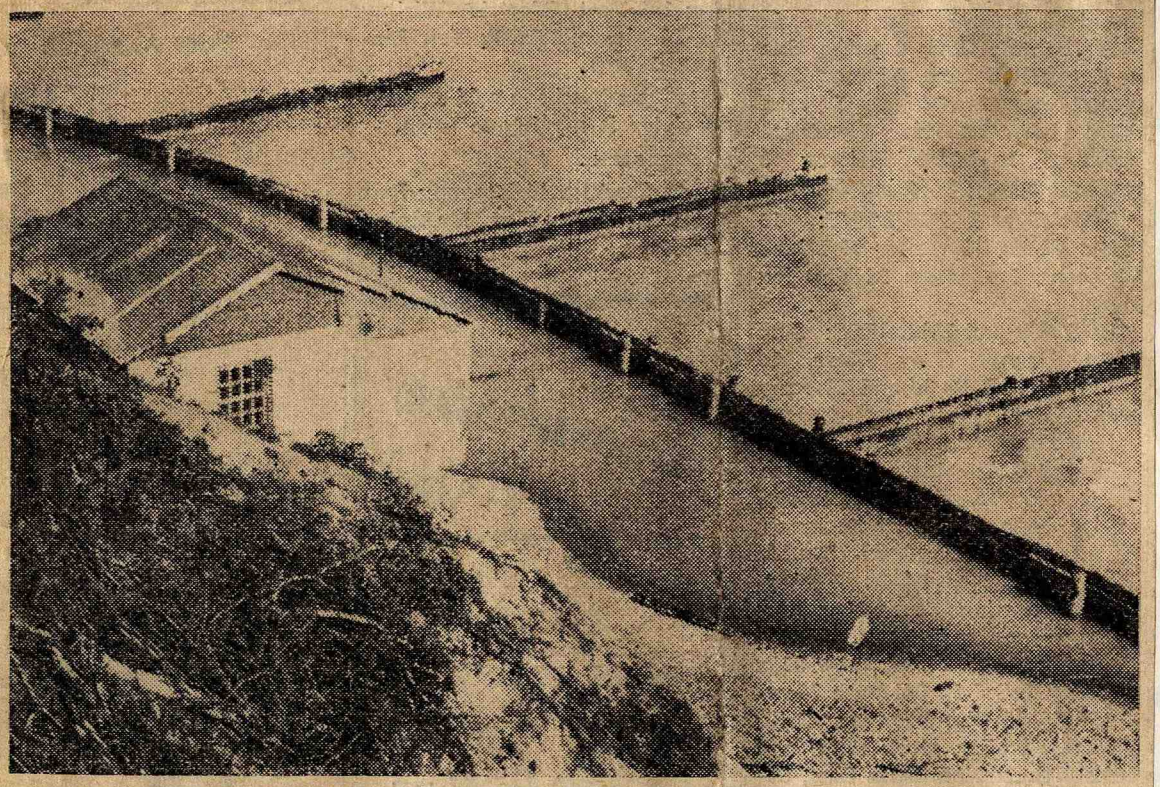
built in 1900

The West Lorne Arena

This new Arena was formerly an airforce hangar built south of St. Thomas. It was purchased by the W. L. C. A. A. It was dismantled and trucked to West Lorne. On October 15th, 1947, work began on its erection. The building was not completed until March 8th, 1948. West Lorne's Intermediate hockey team played their league practically out before the roof was on. The official opening was February 18th, 1949.

WEST LORNE Community Park

This fine park is the result of town and rural co-operation. As one body the people of this district rallied to level, drain and build one of Canada's finest community parks.



THE 591 FEET OF BREAKWATER AND FIVE GROYNES protecting the shore pumphouse at Eagle are gradually building a protective gravel beach around the all-important link in the water system of Rodney, West Lorne and Dutton. Three of the five groynes are shown here. The picture was taken looking east, thus the greatest amount of "fill" in the southwest corner of breakwater is not evident. October 16th 1952.

The West Lorne Waterworks System

West Lorne boasts one of Western Ontario's finest water systems. No reform, no advance is made without its struggles. West Lorne is to be complimented and particularly its energetic reeve at the time, Mr. Earl Lemon, for a municipal effort that is enjoyed by the majority of citizens of West Lorne, Rodney and Dutton. Lake Erie, four miles south, provides an ample supply of water. The council at the time was Reeve Earl Lemon; Councillors, Merritt, Root, Miller and Ollett.

llages and Busy Trading Centres



Part of the main business section in West Lorne, looking north from the community hall square. For some years, this progressive community had two names, the railway station was Bismarck; the postoffice was West Lorne, named after the Marquis of Lorne.

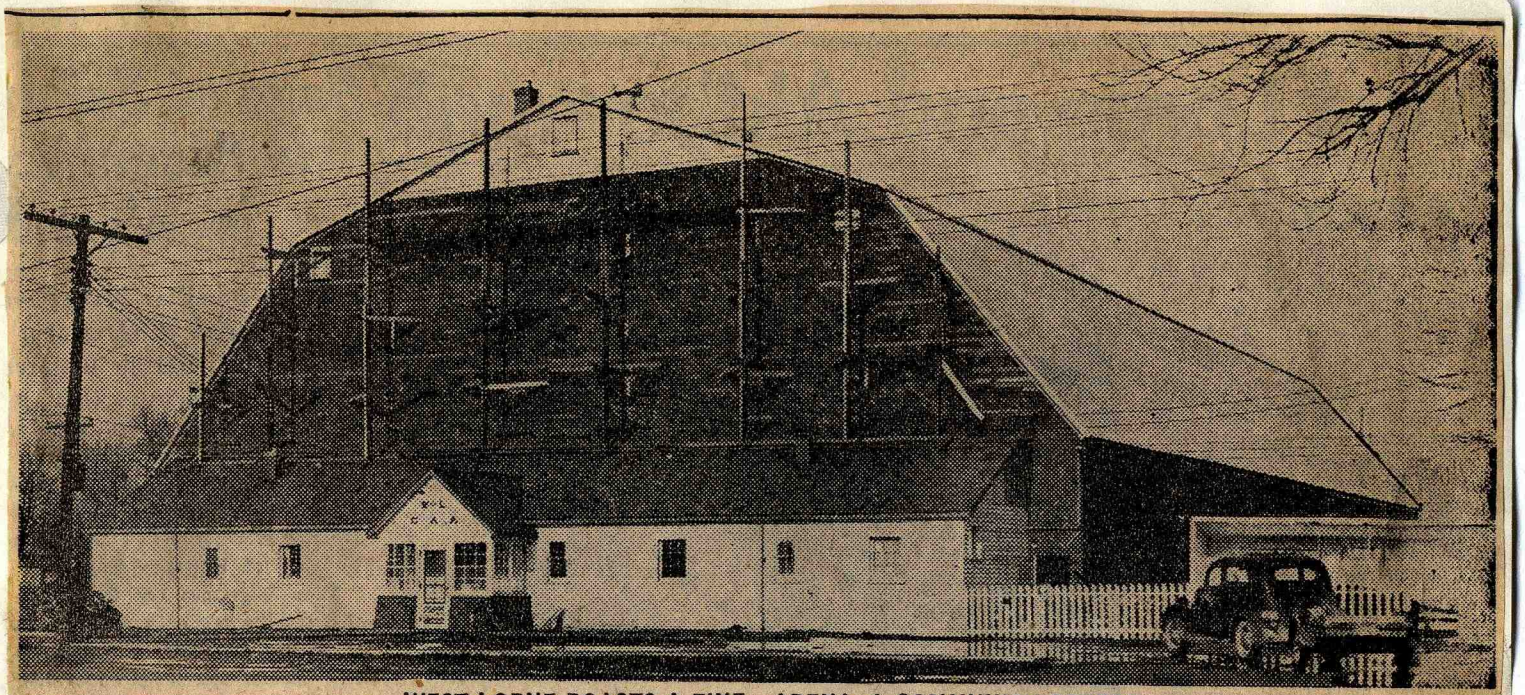


WESTERN ONTARIO'S
NEWEST AND BEST

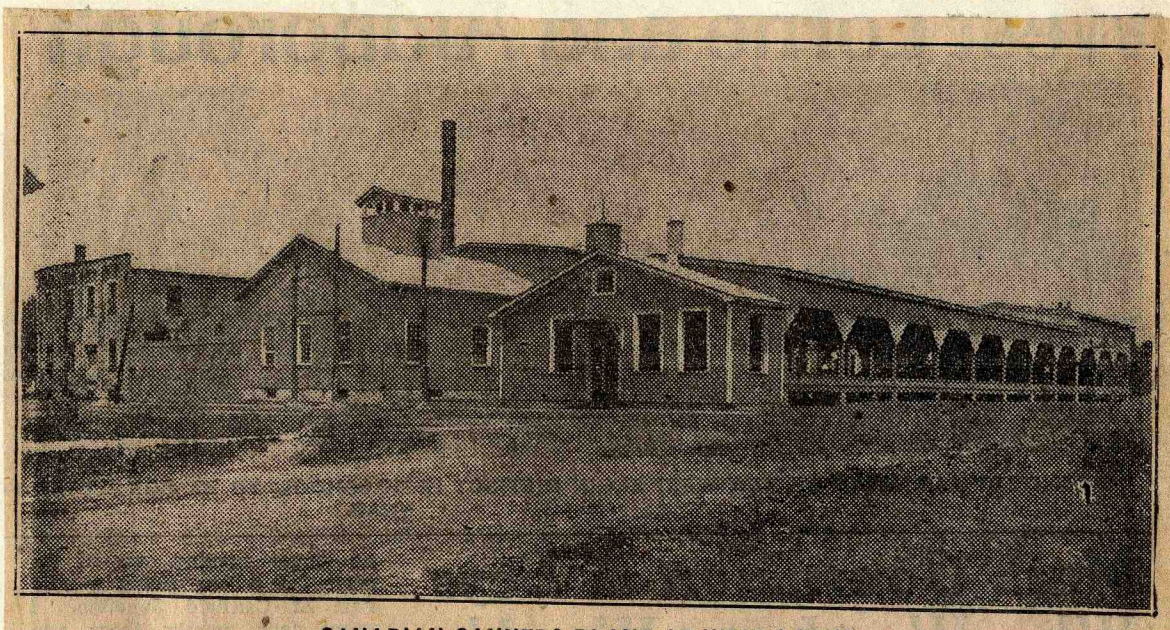
ROYAL
THEATRE

WEST LORNE

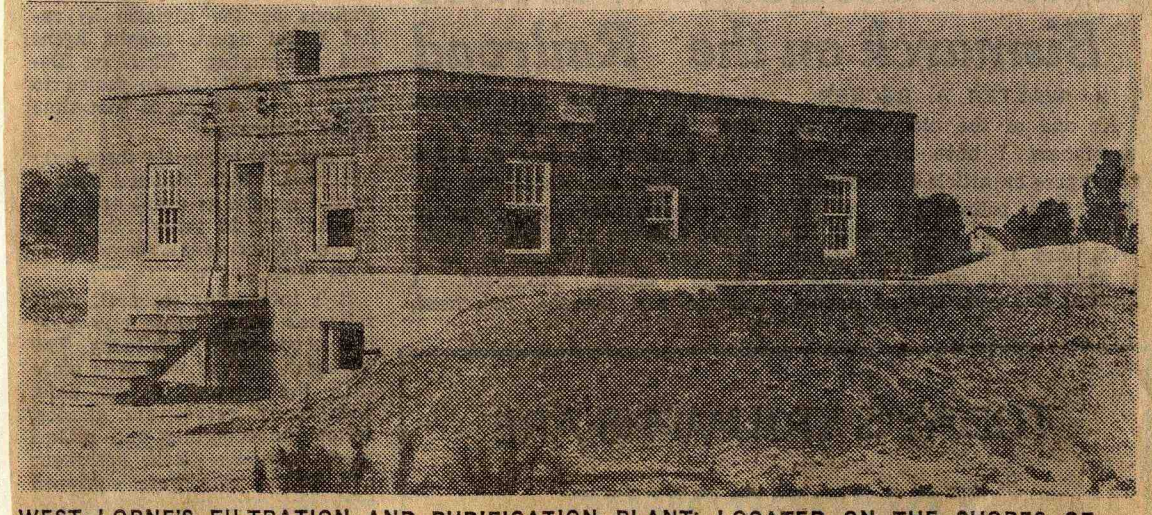
K. M. WILLIAMSON R. D. McEWAN



WEST LORNE BOASTS A FINE ARENA, A COMMUNITY EFFORT

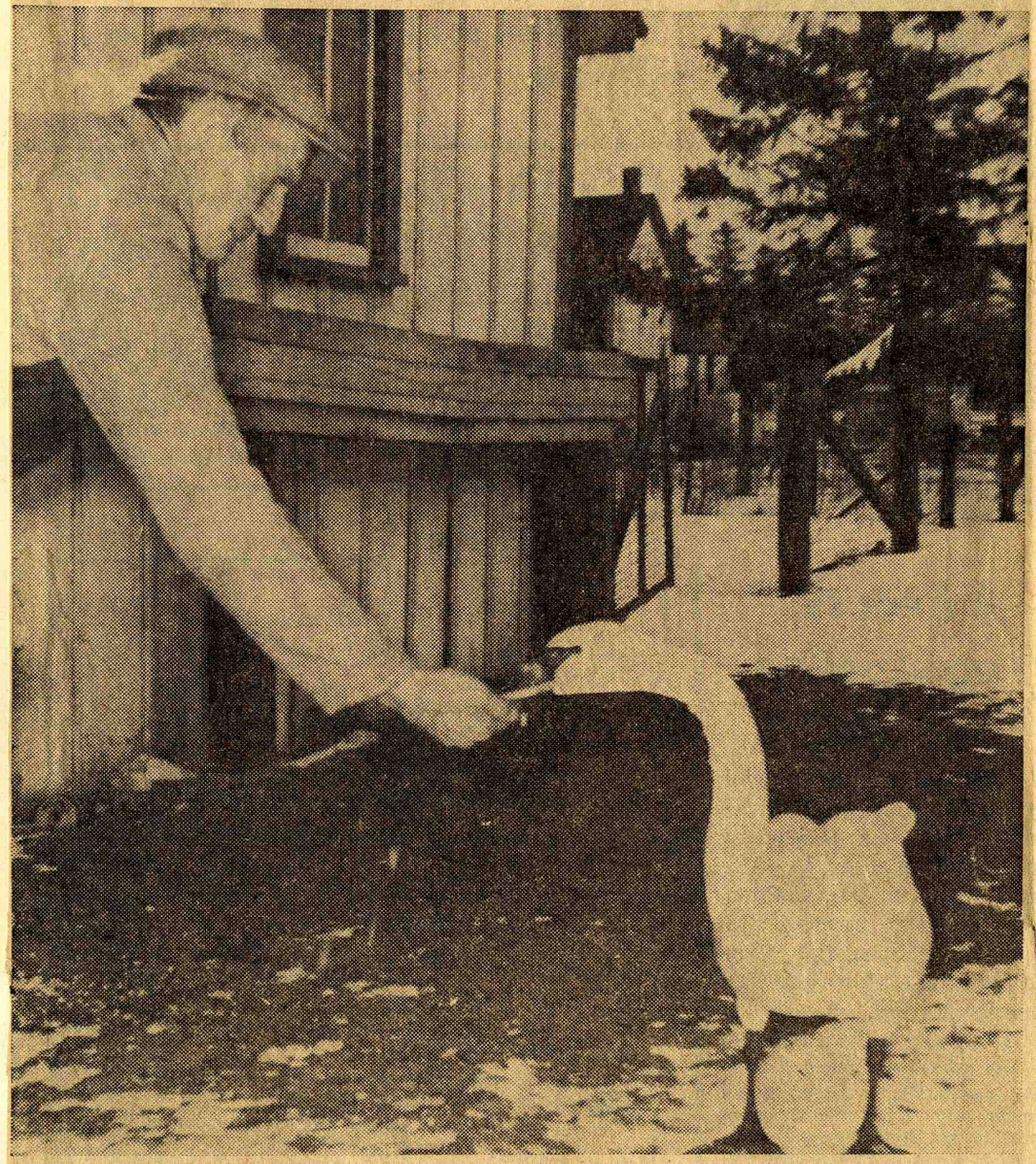


CANADIAN CANNERS PLANT AT WEST LORNE



WEST LORNE'S FILTRATION AND PURIFICATION PLANT; LOCATED ON THE SHORES OF LAKE ERIE, A MILE SOUTH OF EAGLE

Swans, Peacocks, Pheasants Discover Friend At West Lorne



Retired Railroader Charles Brown, of West Lorne, has an unusual hobby. He collects pheasants, swans and peacocks. The whistling swan shown here was brought to him near death. Mr. Brown nursed it back to health and has it so tame now that it will eat from his hand.

Jan-17, 1954



Peacocks roaming over snow and mingling with chickens is not an uncommon site at Mr. Brown's. Two rows of pens house these colorful birds and no fences are needed because they like it there. Even the passing of near-by trains doesn't bother them. (Photo by Goodwin).



First automobile in West Lorne
owned by Archibald H. Killop.



Second automobile owned
by James Fuller.

PERE MARQUETTE RAILWAY COMPANY

C. H. REISER
Asst. Treasurer

W. W. CASE
Cashier

F. H. DEAN
Paymaster

General Motors Building
DETROIT, MICH.

May 24, 1938.

Mrs. J. A. McKillop,
West Lorne, Ontario.

Dear Mrs. McKillop:

No doubt you have by this time thought I had forgotten my promise regarding information concerning the time the Pere Marquette Railway began laying its road bed and tracks through West Lorne.

The grading for the road bed was completed by September 1900 but as there is considerable red tape about building a railroad getting the necessary signatures from the Board of Railway Commissioners, and such, trains did not start running through West Lorne immediately but were running by July 1, 1901.

Trusting the above information meets your requirements.

Yours sincerely,

Norm.

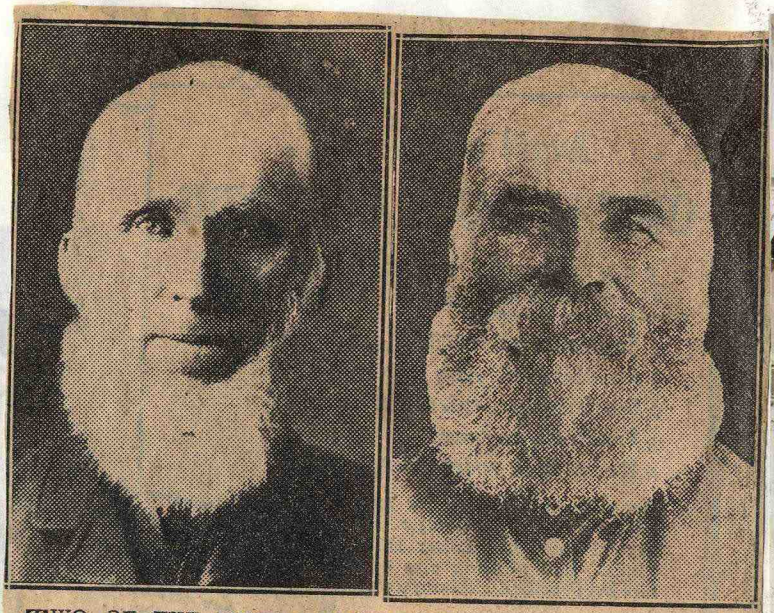
Mr. & Mrs. John A. McKillop of West Lorne, along with railway officials, were the first passengers to ride on the first passenger train to Windsor



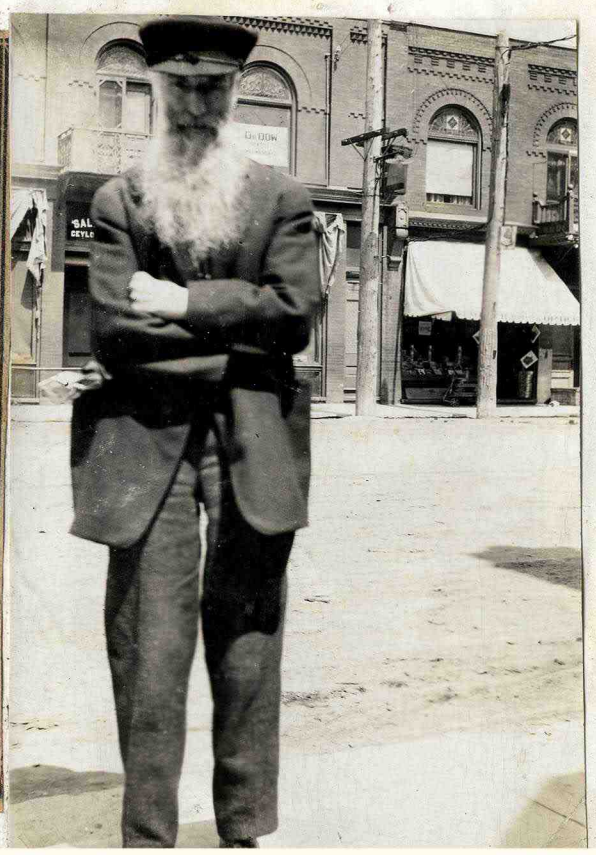
The late J. A. McKillop,
West Lorne, Ont.



Mrs. Mary McKillop
mother of McKillop Brothers
First white woman at McKillop's Corners



TWO OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL of Aldborough township men Archibald McKillop (left) and J. C. Schliehauf (right). Both were associated with rival lumber milling concerns, friendly rivals in the interests of the community of West Lorne, which at one time boasted two names, the other being Bismarck, the Schliehauf choice. This was used by the Michigan Central railway to designate its station until the government ordered the change to West Lorne.



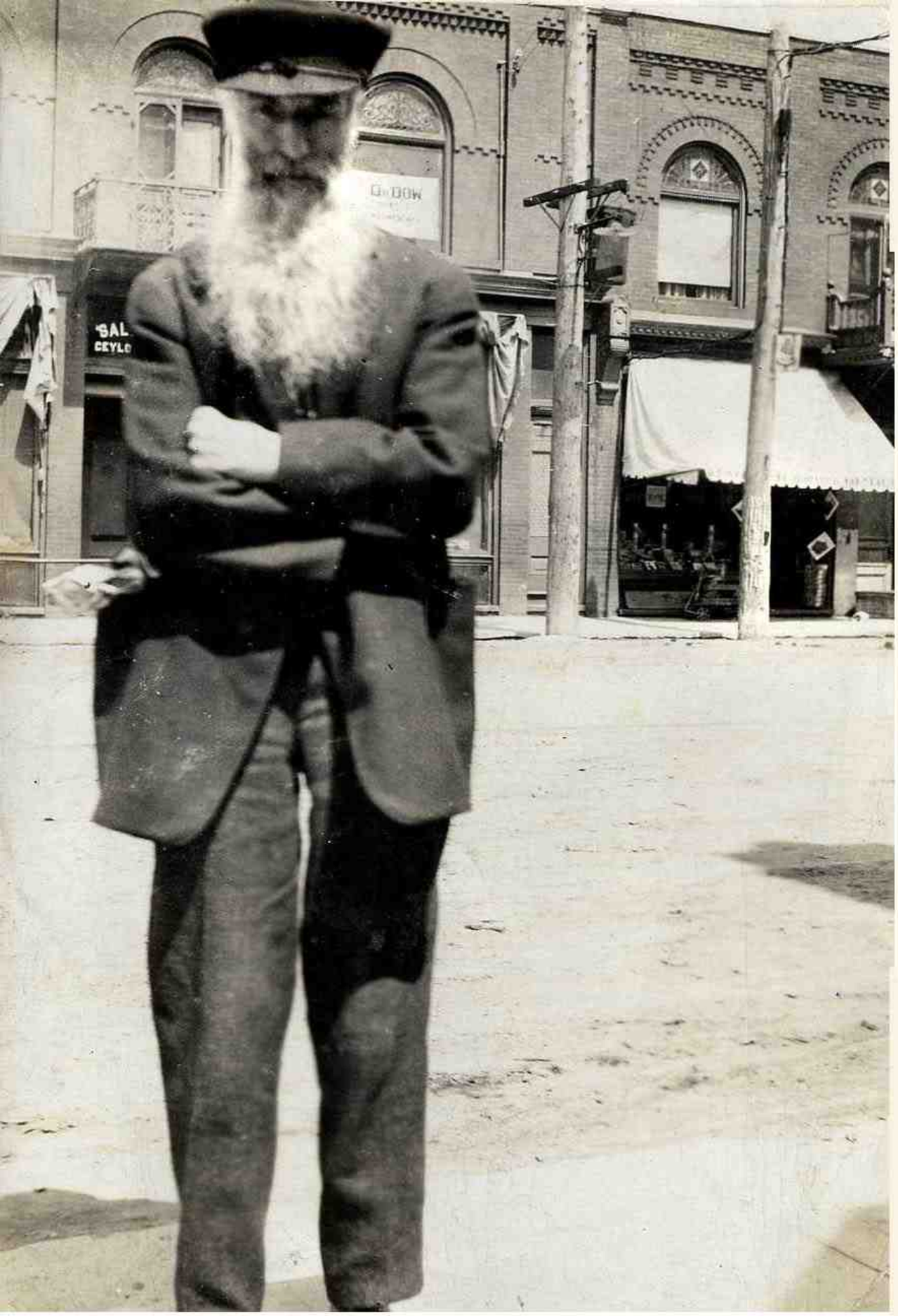
"The Good Old Days" of Western Ontario



In today's age of speed with its attendant scream of jet engines above, its stream of cars clogging highways below and its contribution to a heavy accidental death toll, some older residents of the district might look with longing at this picture and wish for a return of "the good old days," when the scenes such as this were common throughout Western Ontario every Sunday afternoon.

John Chaseley born in England, 1846 became first regular librarian 1897.

J. C. Schliehauf was one of the earliest Justices of Peace in West Lorne (West Lorne) Bismarck.



John Chasely
born in
England,
1846
became
first regular
librarian
1897.

Duncan McKillop, of West Lorne, who will be 82 on Thursday, Aug. 8, was in St. Thomas today. He is the first and only postmaster West Lorne has ever had, having been appointed 40 years ago. In 1872 the post office was first established as West Clayton. It ran a month under that name, being changed to Dutton, the present Dutton not being in existence at that time. It was called Dutton for three months and then changed to West Lorne. West Lorne's mail was first delivered from the Eagle post office. The thriving village of Dutton sprang into being on the opening of the Canada Southern Railway in 1872.

From the Times and the Journal of Aug 7. 1912.
Paper of today Aug 7. 1962



Duncan McKillop
First Postmaster

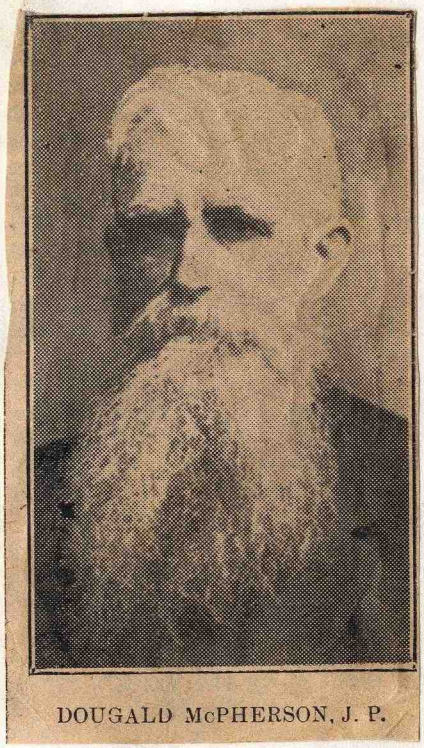
William Milner
started Waggon Factory 1904



Mr. & Mrs William Clark.
Golden Wedding, 1920.



Mr. & Mrs. Clark Sr
parents of William Clark



DOUGALD McPHERSON, J. P.



Mr. William Clark

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1952

Mrs. I. Currie, West Lorne, One Hundred on Sunday

Mrs. Isabella Currie, of West Lorne, will quietly observe her one hundredth birthday at her home on Sunday. Although well for her years, there will not be an elaborate celebration of the occasion, but Mrs. Currie's two daughters will be with her and it is expected that neighbors and other friends will be dropping in to express their good wishes. Miss Mima Currie resides with her mother in West Lorne and Mrs. Milford Hunter, of Detroit, will also be home for the birthday.

Mrs. Currie had the misfortune to break her hip a couple of years ago and hasn't been able to walk very much since, but she is up every day and interested in events of the day.

A resident of the township of Aldborough for most of her life, Mrs. Currie is a member of the pioneer Stalker family which settled at Crinan in 1850, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Stalker, and five children coming from Argyllshire, Scotland, at that time. They built a log cabin and began to clear the land and two years later, their sixth child, Isabella, was born. Of the family of nine children, Mrs. Currie alone survives, her sister, Mrs. Eliza Hyndman, of West Lorne, having passed away at the age of ninety about three years ago.

Mrs. Currie ws born in the log house her pioneer parents built on their homestead. It stood for sixty years, but a new brick house, which still stands, was built in 1875 and it was in the new home that she was married in 1881 to Neal Currie, with Rev. John Milloy, of the Presbyterian Churches at Crinan and West Lorne performing the ceremony.

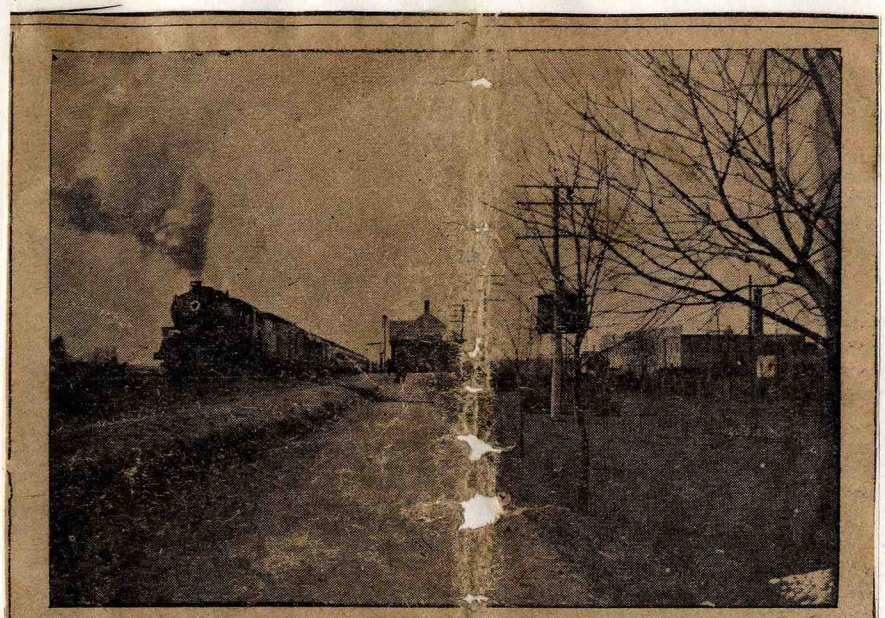


MRS. CURRIE

Mr. and Mrs. Currie farmed for about three years at Crinan, then for a number of years near Frome and then near Dutton before going to Alberta about 1910, where they had a farm near Ridgedale Station. Mr. Currie retired in 1919 and they returned east to reside in West Lorne. Mr. Currie died in 1929. As long as her health permitted, Mrs. Currie attended the West Lorne United Church, to which she belongs. Through the years, she had made many friends, who will be extending good wishes on this happy occasion.

Oct. 18 Obituary 1917

Death removed the oldest resident of the village on Saturday last when Miss Fanny McMurchy passed away aged 101 years, Deceased in spite of her great age, was smart up until a few weeks previous to her death. She was an exceptionally bright and cheerful character and was known to both young and old as "Aunt Fanny." The funeral took place on Monday and was very largely attended by friends and relatives. Rev. Mr. Haig officiated. Interment in Simpson cemetery



No. 36, one of the best passenger trains on the M. C. R., making her daily stop at West Lorne. June 4 - 1914

The Elgin Sun -



The Elgin Sun One of Jas. A. McLandress' elevators at West Lorne. June 4 1914

Feb 24 - 1954 - Presently operated by W. G. McLandress & Son

Dec 3 1919

TRIPLETS AT WEST LORNE

2

West Lorne, Dec. 3— (Special) — The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Milner, of this place, will be interested to learn of the birth of triplets to them here yesterday, all boys. Mrs. Milner and the children are all doing nicely.



Mc Killop & Sons' prize horses
driven by John Roach
& Archie Gillies



Water Tank / Tank is the Michigan Central R.R. Tank.
for the waggon factory started 1904, closed and
Correction
and Mendelsohn Central moved to Orillia
in 1912 as the
Seaman Kent
Flooring Co.

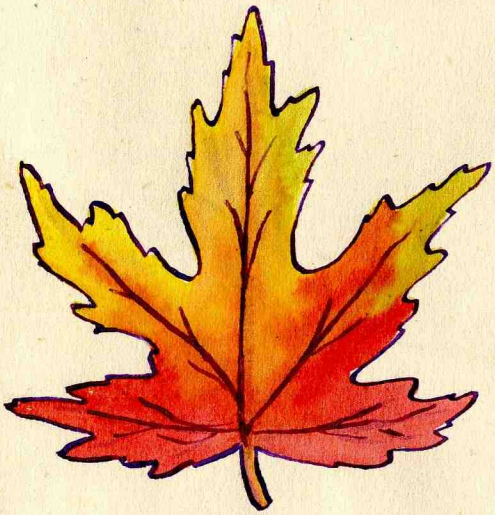


Dr. Arthur Haasz – President Erie Flooring (died Nov. 15, 1953) and Office Staff



Erie Flooring & Wood Products Ltd. Employees 1953.

PART II
CURRENT EVENTS



1915

When the 91st Left St. Thomas



A MEMORABLE occasion in St. Thomas—and a day that saw one of the city's largest, if not the largest, crowds in the city's history—was Sunday, June 25, 1915, when "Elgin's Own," the 91st Battalion, marched from their barracks to the M.C.R. station and entrained on the first part of their journey overseas to fight in the First Great War.

Elgin Lumber Pile of Earlier Days at West Lorne

A. McKillop & Sons 1922



A reminder of earlier days when forest monarchs reigned supreme all over Western Ontario is this Elgin County shot. It portrays some of the last large stock of logs at the West Lorne Mills. Some readers may recognize themselves or friends in this picture, taken just over 30 years ago.

West Lorne Base Ball Club

BANQUET



Monday Eve'ing, September 22

1924

Two West Lorne Products We're Proud of



GARNEY EDWARDS
The Newly Crowned Strike-Out King



DANNY McPHEE
Canada's Premier Southpaw

Menu

ROAST SPRING CHICKEN

Mashed Potatoes Baked Beans Cabbage Salad

Apple Pie Canadian Cheese

Raisin Pie and Ice Cream

Cakes Fresh Fruit

Tea and Coffee

Officers

Honorary Presidents..... F. G. Kent, John A. McKillop

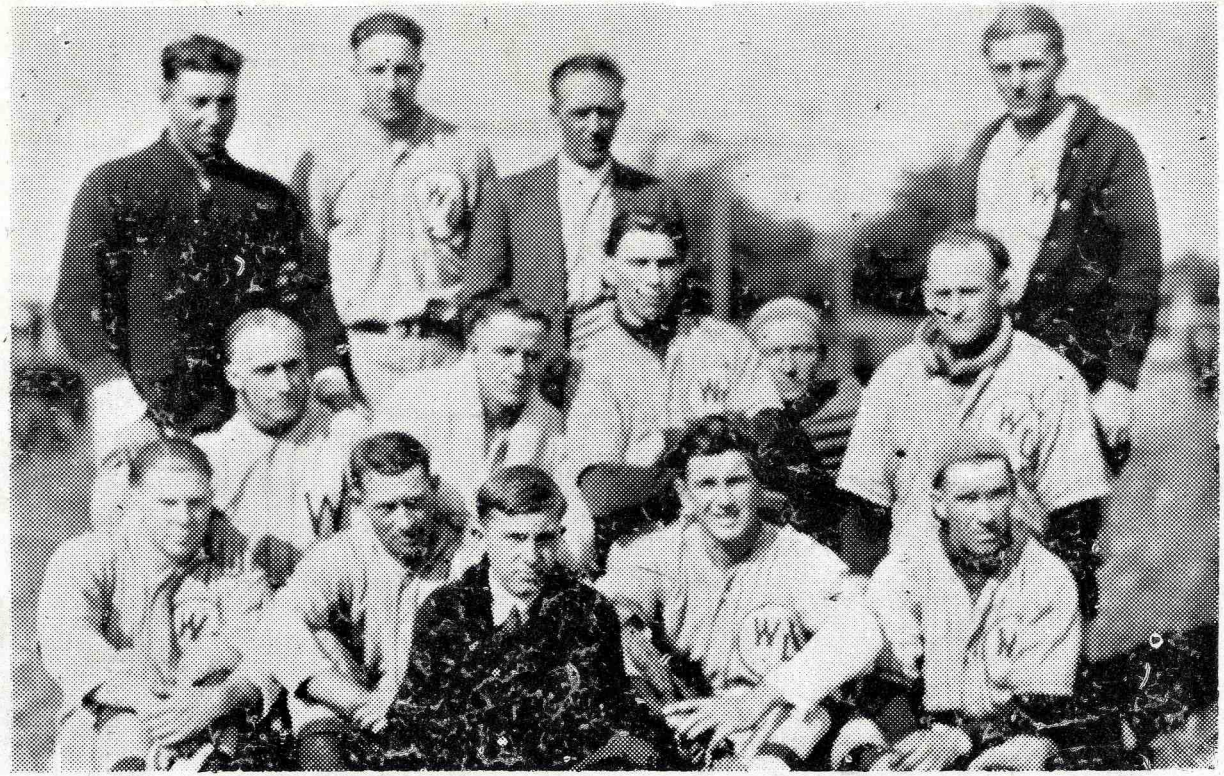
President..... J. A. Fuller

Vice President..... R. M. Erwin

Manager..... J. B. Ferguson

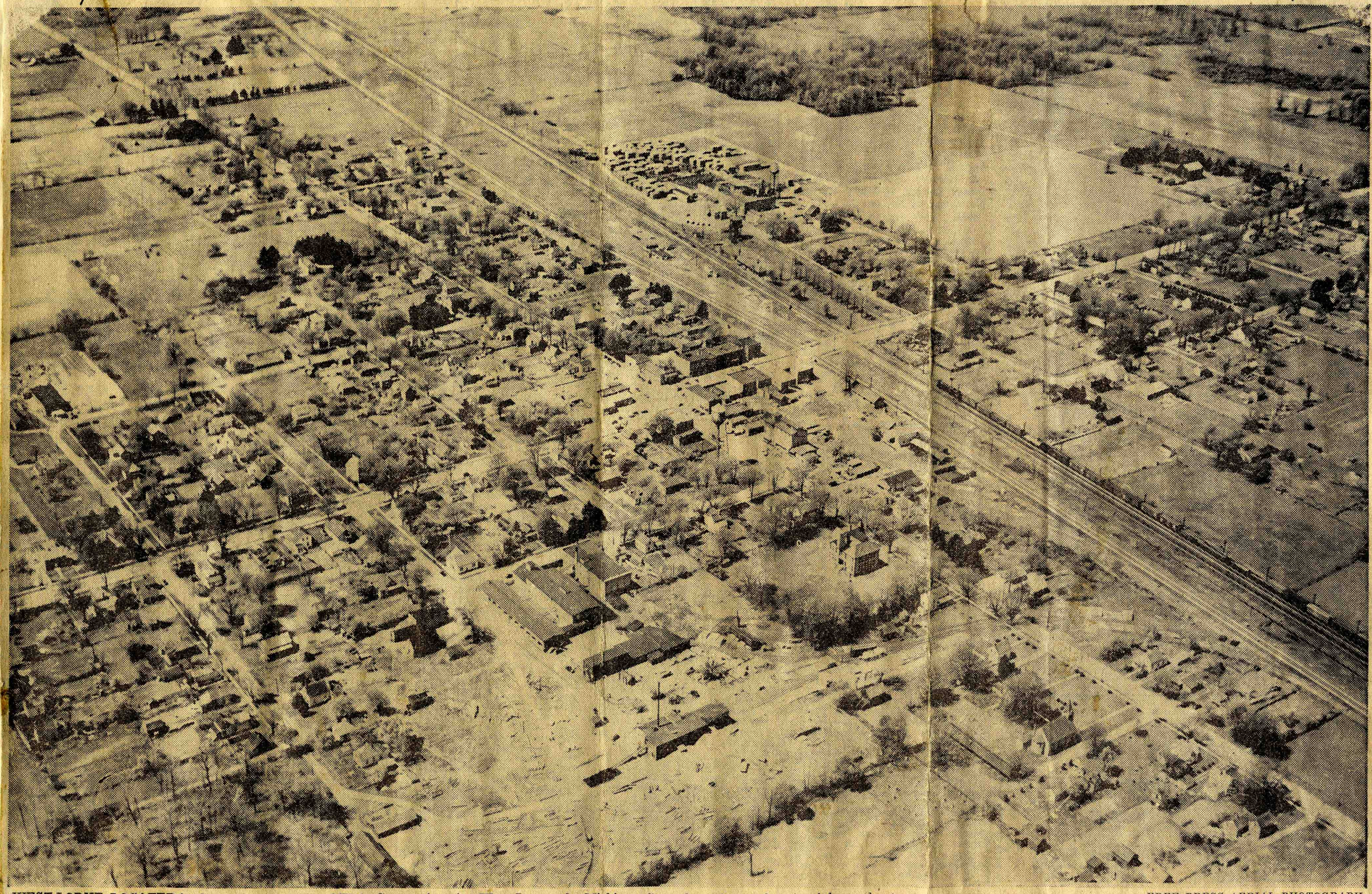
Secretary-Treasurer..... F. C. Gray

Finance Committee.....John Gilbert, A. McCallum, V. E. Lemon



West Lorne Base Ball Team 1924

1946 — Your Town From the Air - - - West Lorne — 1946



FREE PRESS AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

WEST LORNE, LOCATED in the southwest corner of Elgin County, is another community strategically placed in the heart of a prosperous farming district. It is served by two railroads and good roads leading to two main highways. This picture, looking northwest, shows the Michigan Central and the Pere Marquette running parallel through West Lorne, the Michigan Central on the north. At right angles to the tracks is Graham street, and parallel to the railroads and a short distance south of them is Main street. Northwest of the intersection is the large Erie Flooring plant, West Lorne's main industry. Near the centre of the photo is the tower of the community's water system, which also supplies water to Rodney and Dutton. Left of and below centre is the big sawmill and, near it, the public and continuation school. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church can be seen near the lower right corner. Population of West Lorne, at the last census, was about 800.

W.I. Born In Ontario Village On a February Day In 1897

BY LOUISE F. McKAY

TOMORROW is the 50th anniversary of Women's Institutes.

Rural women all over the world, whether they look out on the white fields of northern countries, or the rice fields of Burma, must now find their thoughts turning to a little Ontario village, where on February 19, 1897, there came into being an organization which has brought new life to many an isolated farm home.

At Stoney Creek a little group of 101 women and one man—not so little considering the size of the village—had their imaginations kindled by a Hamilton woman, Mrs. John Hoodless (better known to posterity as Adelaide Hoodless). The death of her infant son as a result of being fed impure milk had spurred her to find some way of saving other babies from a similar fate. A daughter of the farm, she saw a need for bringing scientific home management to rural homemakers and suggested formation of a women's organization to provide for women what the Farmers' Institutes gave in scientific knowledge to the men.

* * *

The first Women's Institute was organized with Mrs. E. D. Smith, of Winona, as president, and Mrs. Hoodless as honorary president. First known as Saltfleet Township Women's Institute, it later was called Stoney Creek, W.I. The one man present at the organization meeting was Erland Lee, member of the Farmer's Institute in Saltfleet, who had been instrumental in having Mrs. Hoodless address a meeting of his Institute. It was at that meeting Mrs. Hoodless suggested formation of a women's group.

From that small beginning this rural women's movement has spread across Canada and into England and other countries.

Quick growth of the movement in its early days was, perhaps, an omen of the way it was to bring new knowledge and happy fellowship to women the world over.

A second Women's Institute, known as the Women's Institute of Southern Ontario was formed at Whitby on June 29, 1897 and it was not long before there was a third organization at Kemble, known as the Women's Institute of North Grey.

Of the first Institute, Miss Laura Rose (later Mrs. W. F. Stephen, of Ottawa), first government lecturer and organizer for the Women's Institutes wrote: "At first the members were diffident about taking part in their meetings but now excellent papers are prepared and most interesting discussions take place." She visited South Ontario W.I. also and in 1900 wrote of this district: "There are now 4 or 5 branches in neighboring localities. At one place the hall was so full I could not find a chair when my address was finished."

* * *

Mrs. Hoodless' aim was to give women knowledge which would help them to improve their homes and also to take away the inevitable loneliness of isolated rural homes by providing fellowship with other women. Through their study and interest in community life they would help to raise the standard of living.

These aims were well defined in the minutes of the first meeting.

The original minutes, kept at Stoney Creek, have been copied at the Parliament buildings by the Women's Institute Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture. As adopted at the first meeting after organization February 25, 1897 the constitution stated the object to be: "To promote that knowledge of household science which shall lead to improvement in household architecture with special attention to home sanitation, to a better understanding of the economic and hygienic value of foods and fuels and to a more scientific care of children with a view to raising the general standard of the health of our people."

In later years this was added to as follows: "In the carrying on of any line of work which has for its objects the uplift of the home, or the betterment of conditions surrounding community life."

The first Institute decided to meet once a fortnight and subjects discussed during those first meeting had a wide range of interest. On March 11 it was decided to conduct a question drawer and papers were presented on the following subjects: "Proper Food for Children," "Art" and "God Save the Queen." Later that month Dr. Mabel Henderson gave an address on "The Child in Health and in Disease," and there was a paper on "Women on the Farm." Forerunner of the present Junior Institute programs was the paper given on April 27 dealing with "Home Decorations by Girls."

By the end of the year members had had a lecture by a graduate of a cookery school, and the following year both monetary assistance and lectures were provided from the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

In 1899 Miss Laura Rose was appointed first Government lecturer and organizer for the Women's Institutes and the same year the Institutes asked the Government to make provision for scientific education in home-making at Guelph. This was given impetus by the success of Mrs. Hoodless in securing $200,000 from Sir William Macdonald of Montreal as a contribution towards Macdonald Institute, Guelph.

Today Ontario Women's Institutes are contributing to an Adelaide Hoodless Fund with an objective of $36,000 to provide scholarships to enable girls from Ontario farms to study home economics at the provincial Agricultural College.

* * *

When the Experimental Union met at Guelph in 1902 in annual session 24 Institutes were represented and, the following year the first Women's Institute convention was held there with delegates present from the 53 Institutes, representing a membership of 6,000.

By 1911 at the ninth annual convention held in Toronto, the Istitutes had grown to 600 branches with a membership of more than 16,000.

Welcoming the delegates to this convention, Mrs. A. M. Huestis of Toronto suggested that scientific knowledge of home subjects lifted the commonplace round.

"When mother knows why she cares for baby and baby's food in the most approved method, she no longer rebels over the time required to sterilize milk receptacles or to persuade father that the barn needs white-washing, cement flooring and window space to meet health requirements and make a modern cow barn. She even rejoices that she is permitted to look into the source of water supplied to the cattle and the water used to boil the vessels and when an epidemc such as typhoid strikes its deadly poison in her neighborhood, it will be the modern Institute woman who will lead in the reform to prevent such a dire calamity happening again."

Mrs. Huestis went on to refer to "municipal and rural housekeeping," a practice which Institutes over the years have faithfully carried on through their welfare work and community activities.

"If our civic and district fathers do not know how to housekeep and we do, it is ours to point the way to the needed cleaning and to help secure a department of public health to control by preventive means all these questions of a conservation of life," said Mrs. Huestis.

* * *

This was in 1911. In the fall of 1913 the Institutes in convention passed a resolution requesting the Department of Education to take steps for establishment of a provincial system of medical and dental inspection of school children. As this met with the approval of the Minister of Education, he established this work under department supervision, in cooperation with the Minister of Health. Medical clinics followed in 1918, and later dental clinics.

This was but one of many projects which the Institutes have instigated and carried forward through the years. This year establishment of school clinics, measures for the control of tuberculosis, cancer and venereal disease and immunization of children against infectious diseases are being stressed. In many districts Institutes are seeing to it that school lunches are provided.

Although few present institute members may remember the first superintendents of the Women's Institute Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, many will recall the days when the late George Putnam came to their conventions, a lone man in the midst of hundreds of women. But they knew he had their interests at heart and was indefatigable in giving advice and implementing their aims.

The first superintendent was F. W. Hodson, from 1897 to 1900, followed by Dr. G. C. Creelman, 1900 to 1904. Mr. Putnam served from 1904 to 1934 to be followed by Miss B. C. McDermand and Miss M. A. Clarke. The present director is Miss Anna P. Lewis, of Newmarket.

Capable and gifted women have guided the work of the Women's Institutes of Ontario since their federation in 1919. Mrs. William Todd, of Orillia, was the first provincial president, and the second was a Western Ontario resident, Mrs. George Edwards, of Komoka, now of London.

Other presidents have been: Mrs. C. Field Robertson, of Lanark; Mrs. W. J. Stone, of Newton Robinson; Mrs. A. E. Walker, of Bartonville; Mrs. R. B. Colloton, of Lorne Park; Mrs. T. J. McDowell, of Milverton; Mrs. Ernest Duke, of Port Carling; Mrs. Clarence Holmes, of Belleville, and the present head, Mrs. Hugh Summers, of Fonthill, elected in 1944.

* * *

Public services which have been held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

An all-day program has been planned and in the evening a pageant depicting the origin and growth of the Women's Institutes throughout Ontario, Canada and the world will be presented.

...expansion throughout the world. In Canada alone today under the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada there are more than 70,000 rural women in more than 3,000 local institutes.

In Many Countries

Because of the enforced silence during the war there are rural women's organizations with whom the Associated Countrywomen of the World has not been directly in touch, but Women's Institutes or their equivalent are active in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, South Africa, Burma, Sweden, Switzerland, India, Palestine, France, Denmark, Ceylon and Estonia.

The Women's Institute movement was introduced to England, Scotland and Wales in 1915 by Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.A., M.B.E., then of British Columbia, and she and the late Miss Emily Guest, of London Township, helped to organize institutes there. Mrs. Watt is now president of the Associated Countrywomen of the World, which was formed in 1933.

At the last conference of the Associated Countrywomen of the World held in 1939, 30 countries were represented.

A report from the 1946 executive meeting of the A.C.W.W. states that, although some societies have been lost "owing to circumstances over which neither they nor we had any control, on the other hand we have gained three new constituent societies, two in the U.S.A. and one in France, and by the next annual meeting we expect to be able to report on at least two more." The report states also that the A.C.W.W. is taking its place among other international organizations in being represented at official international conferences and is among the voluntary organizations cooperating with the United Nations Organization and its subsidiary bodies.

Two Ontario women took the Women's Institute movement to Alberta. Mrs. Hugh C. Graham, of Ailsa Craig, went to Alberta with her husband in 1906 and two years later moved to a homestead north of Vermillion on the bank of the North Saskatchewan River. Her interest in Women's Institute work was keen. She had been secretary of the Ailsa Craig Institute and president of North Middlesex Institutes. When she met Mrs. John Johnson, who had been a member of Slate River W.I., near Fort William, these two institute members decided it was time to spread the movement to their new neighbors. So on February 3, 1909, all the women of the district were invited to Mrs. Johnson's home and the Lea Park W.I. was organized with Mrs. Graham as president. There were 38 members with two men as honorary members.

Tribute to Men

A history of the Alberta W. I. pays tribute to the men of rural Alberta, not only for their support in the early days of fording rivers, crossing mud-holes, and traveling slippery, snow-filled roads, but in later times when they assisted projects by giving of their labor and money.

As early as 1907 the Department of Agriculture of the Government of Alberta had held institute meetings (not Women's Institute) at different points, providing short courses in agriculture. When the Women's Institutes were organized the Government gave assistance and in 1912 Miss Georgina G. Stiven, a graduate of household science, Guelph Agricultural College, was appointed superintendent.

Even before this appointment instruction in home-making was given to Alberta rural women, as demonstration trains went through the province providing lectures and women spoke on foods and cookery.

Manitoba had its first Women's Institute in 1910 at Morris, and Saskatchewan formed its first Homemakers' Club in 1911. The new groups were modeled after those in Ontario, but to this day they continue to be called Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs.

The first Women's Institute of Nova Scotia was organized at Saltsprings, Pictou County, on July 17, 1913, but was disbanded in 1920, so to Scotsburn, in the same county, goes the honor of being the oldest institute in the province. It was organized on July 22, 1913.

Today in Canada member societies of the Associated Countrywomen of the World include Women's Institutes in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec, as well as those already mentioned. The Cercle des Fermieres de Quebec, is the French Canadian rural group represented and the Hadassah Organization of Canada also is a member.

First President

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada came into being at Winnipeg in 1919 with that distinguished and beloved Canadian, Judge Emily Murphy, as president. Two war-time presidents were mentioned in the King's Honors List. In 1943 Mrs. H. A. Dunham, of Havelock, N.B. (now honorary president), was created a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and in 1946, her successor, Mrs. Cameron Dow, O.B.E., of Port Daniel, P.Q., was named an officer of the same order.

The F. W. I. C. at its biennial meeting in Halifax, N.S., June 9 to 13, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Women's Institutes, and on the 18th of that month a golden jubilee celebration will be

Women's Institutes Golden Jubilee 1947 Touches Rural Groups of World

In Canada Alone Membership Now 70,000 in More Than 3,000 Branches

By L. F. M.

Associated Countrywomen of the the World are to meet in Amsterdam in September.

What stories there will be to tell, of the toll of war years in European countries, of hopes and aims for the future, of the growth of rural women's organizations in America where they could develop at the same time they were bending every effort to help those suffering directly because of war.

Will there be talk of peace and the ways to build it and maintain it? In this 50th anniversary year of the founding of Women's Institutes will rural women see Stoney Creek, that small Ontario town where the movement was born, as a symbol of how men and women united may spare the world the agony of another conflict?

Stoney Creek was once famous as a battleground. Its second claim to fame may be the one remembered in history.

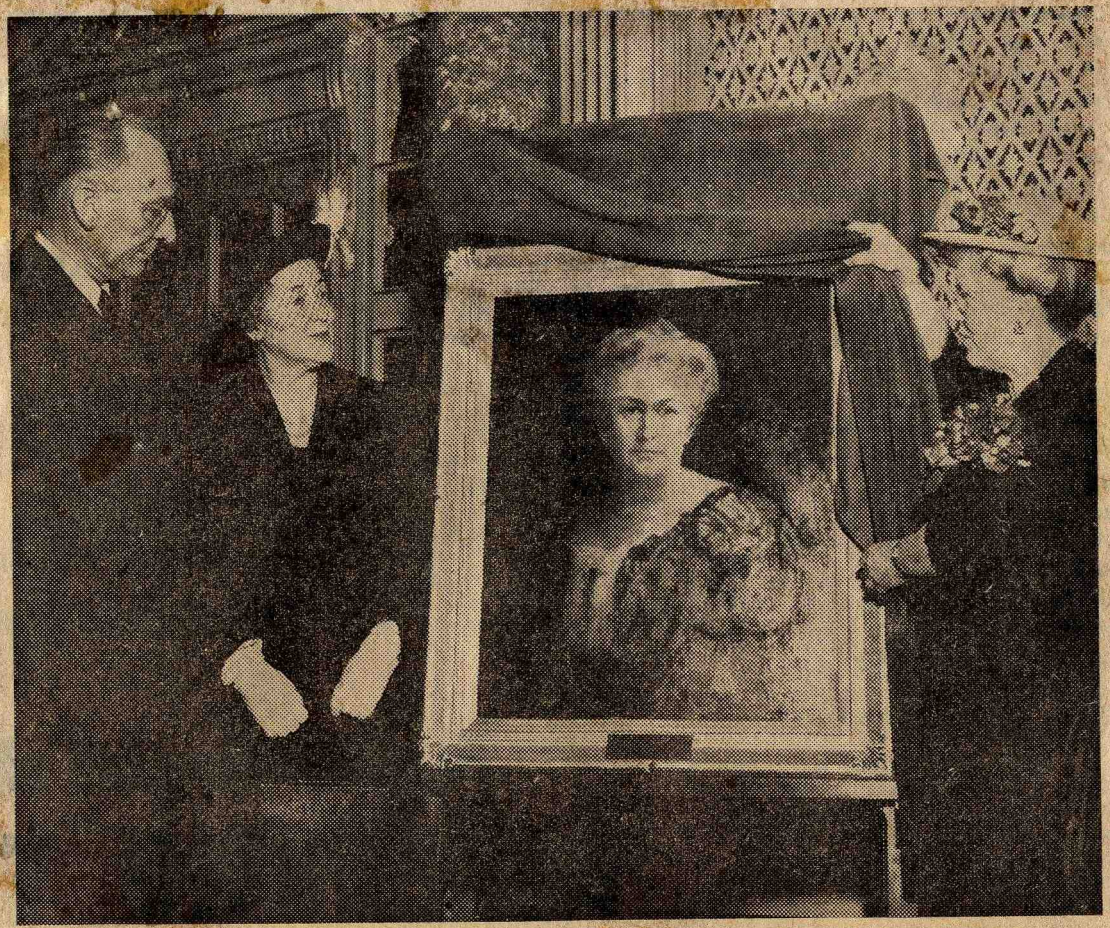
At Stoney Creek on February 19, a special broadcast will inform Canadians from coast to coast of the origin of the Women's Institutes and its e[illegible]





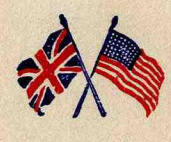
Mrs. Hugh Summers, of Fonthill (left), president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, elected in 1944; and Mrs. Cameron Dow, of Port Daniel, P.Q., (right) president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

Portrait of W.I. Founder Unveiled



State Secretary Bradley is shown at the unveiling of a portrait of Mrs. Adelaine Hoodless, founder of the first Women's Institute at Stoney Creek, Ont., in 1897. Mrs. J. B. Peck, of Montreal, daughter of Mrs. Hoodless, looks on as the portrait is unveiled by Mrs. Raymond Sayre, of Ackworth, Iowa, world president of the Association Country Women of the World which grew out of the W.I. The portrait later was presented to the Dominion Archives. (CP Photo.)

May 8/50



Welcome Home Banquet

to

The Boys and Girls

of

West Lorne and S. S. No. 6

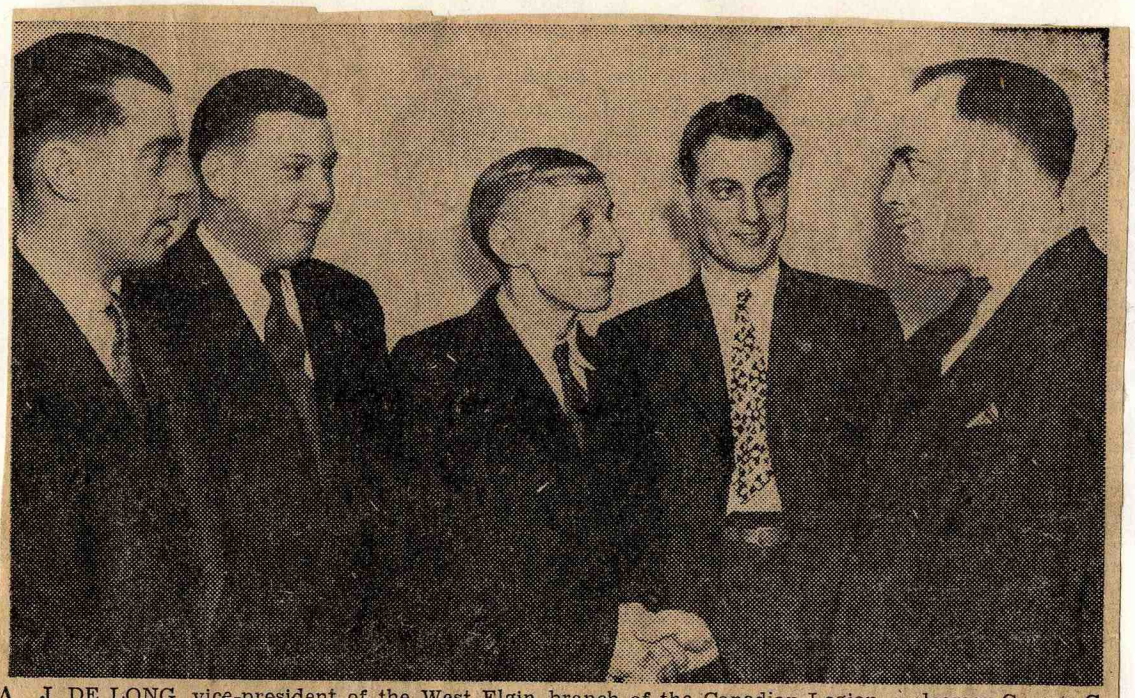
who served in the

Armed Forces

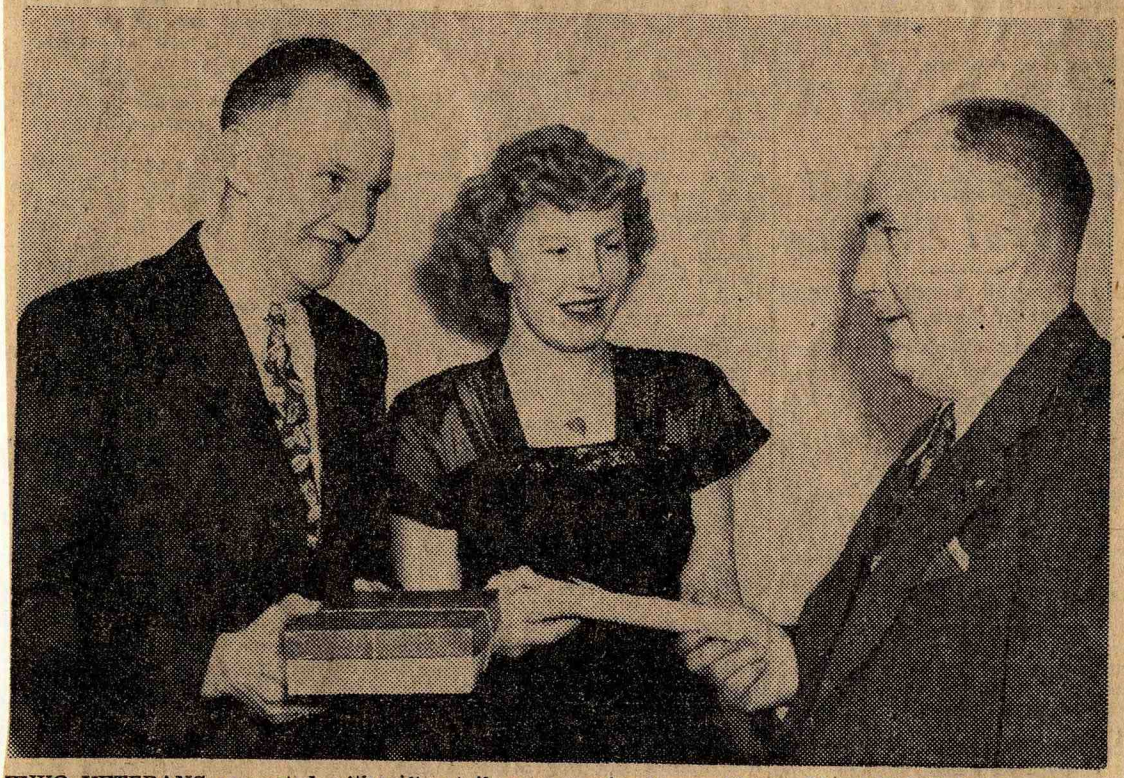
COMMUNITY HALL - WEST LORNE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

1947



A. J. DE LONG, vice-president of the West Elgin branch of the Canadian Legion, welcomes George G. Bell and his three veteran sons at the community's welcome-home banquet on Wednesday evening. Here they are grouped from the left, Staff Sergeant Jim Bell, who served with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment; Tpr. William Bell of the Canadian Armored Corps; the father; Pte. George Bell, who served with the Algonquin Regiment and who was a prisoner of war; and Mr. De Long.



TWO VETERANS presented with gifts at the community banquet were Lloyd S. Elliott, former company quartermaster sergeant of the Elgin Regiment, and Betty Roach, who served with the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Presentations to Mr. Elliott and Miss Roach are here being made by Postmaster James P. Scott.



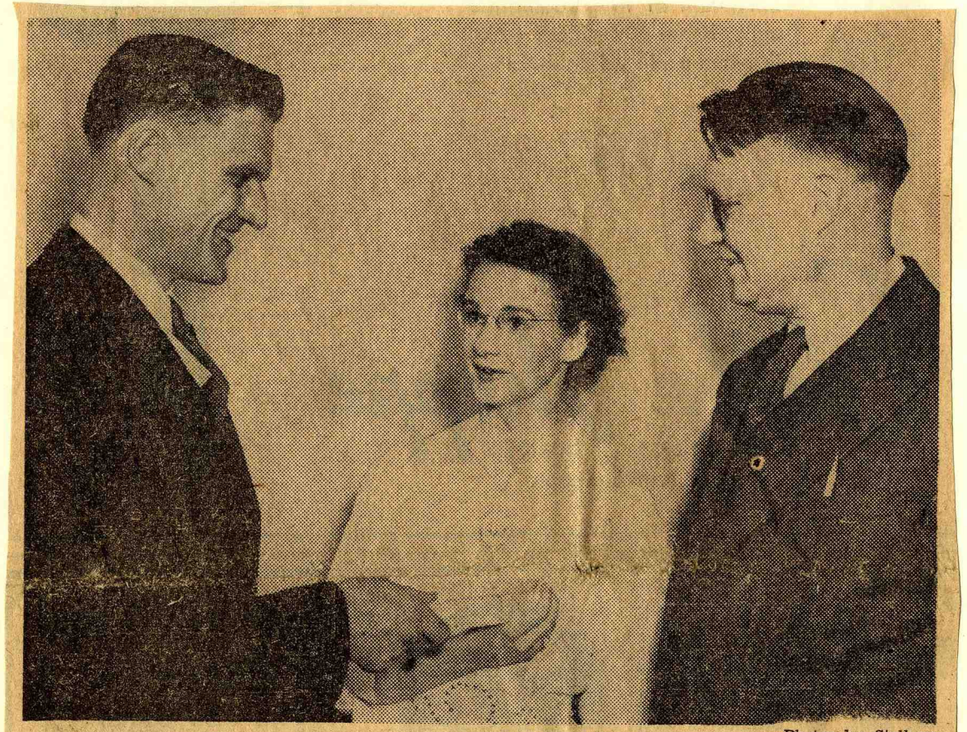
VETERANS OF WEST LORNE and district received their first formal welcome home on Wednesday night when several organizations of the town sponsored a dinner and reception program for them at the town hall. Those invited numbered 250, but the group totaled 300, including guests and nearly all of the 76 veterans. Above is a corner of the hall showing the crowd. In the foreground, Reg Schwartz, an army vet, can be seen as he was presented with a Bible and life membership scroll in the local Athletic Association. The gathering enjoyed a turkey dinner and musical entertainment afterwards.

The St. Thomas Times-Journal

ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1947

WEST LORNE HONORS THOSE WHO SERVED

At Great Community Meeting Veterans Welcomed Home; Dinner and Presentation



—Photos by Stollery.

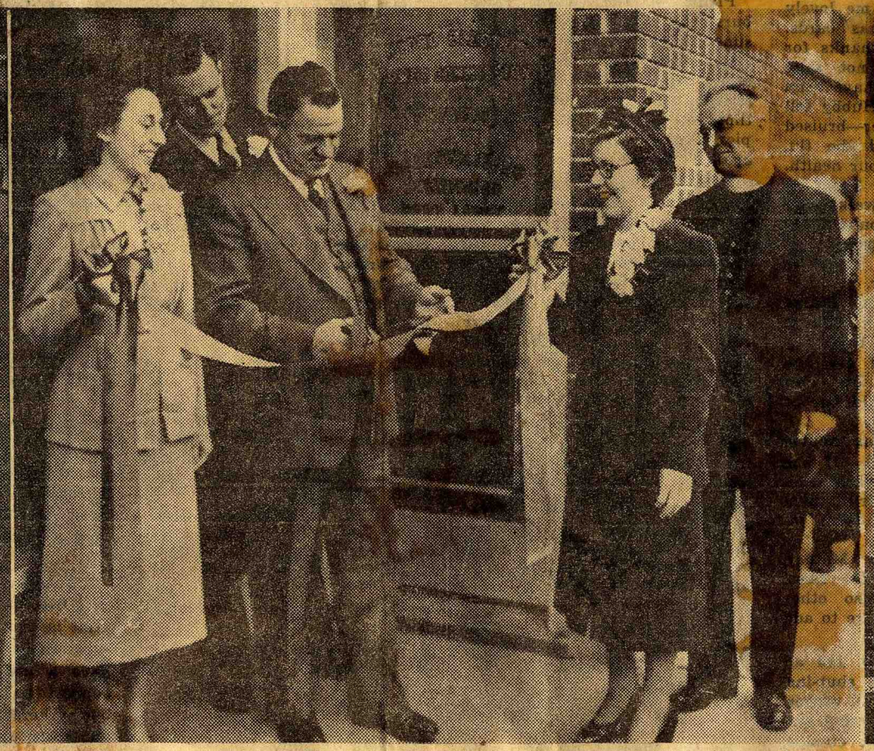
NURSING SISTER ALICE MEEK, who served overseas with the R.C.A.M.C., received a life membership in the West Lorne Community Athletic Association from the president, Kenneth Phoenix. V. E. Lemon, convener of one of the banquet committees, looks on at right.

The London Free Press
SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1950

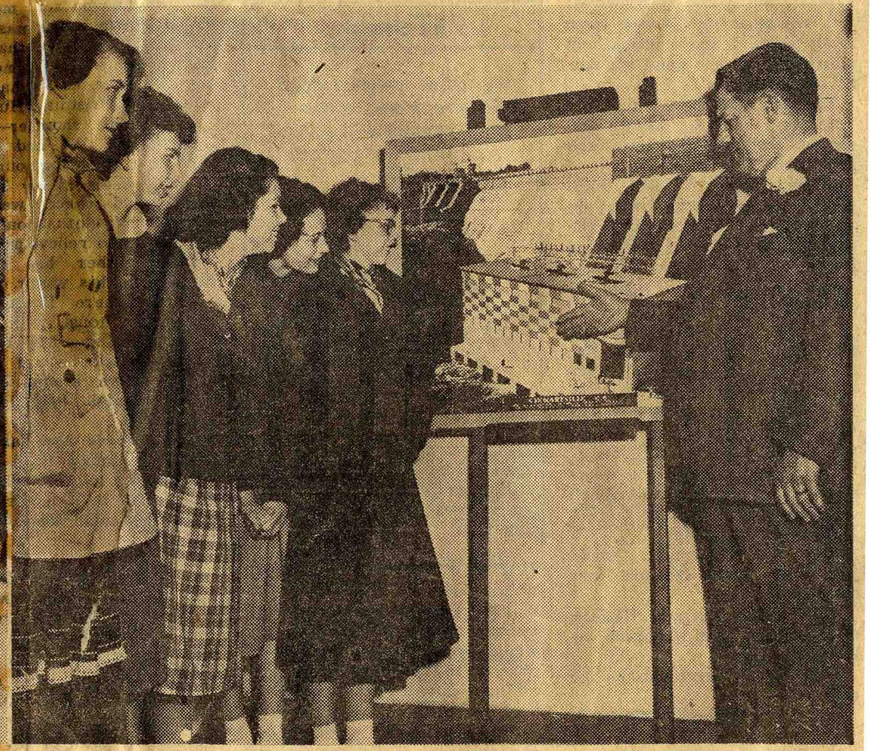
Hydro Chairman Opens $25,000 West Lorne Utilities Building



Flanked by village and district leaders, Robert H. Saunders, chairman of the Ontario Hydro Commission, inspects West Lorne's new $25,000 Public Utilities building after officially declaring it open. Left to right are E. B. McMillan, M.L.A. for East Kent; P. R. Locke, St. Thomas P.U.C.; A. V. Coulter, warden of Elgin; J. W. Peart, St. Thomas P.U.C.; W. B. Curtis, Aylmer P.U.C.; Mr. Saunders; T. L. Barnecott, mayor of Aylmer, and Ken Phoenix, West Lorne area hydro manager.



While scores of citizens looked on, Mr. Saunders snipped a ribbon stretched across the entrance of the new Public Utilities building to officially open it. Holding the ribbon for the hydro chairman are Mrs. Margaret Cummings (left) and Miss Marjorie Walker, both employees of the West Lorne Public Utilities Commission. The Rev. W. K. Morrison, rector of Grace Anglican Church, right, dedicated the building after its opening.



The hydro chairman took time out on his way into a theatre to address a mass meeting of citizens and school-children and explain some of the features of the giant Stewartville hydro project to this group of West Lorne students. Mr. Saunders is seen here as he points to a picture of the development with, left to right, Pat Graham, Lois Baker, Joyce Downie, Jill Arnold, and Diane Nasickas. All school children got a holiday for the occasion.

West Lorne Has a Modern Phone System; Change-Over Today in Official Ceremony

1949

WEST LORNE, March 18.—West Lorne's telephone system was changed from magneto to common battery operation at two o'clock this afternoon, closely following similar modern changes made in Dutton and Rodney.

It is no longer necessary in West Lorne to turn a crank in order to ring the operator. The operator now receives an automatic signal whenever the caller lifts the receiver from the hook.

Norman Walker of the West Lorne Municipal Council officially opened the new service by placing the first long distance call through. He conversed with Reeve Dougal Carmichael of West Lorne who was in Newbury, Ontario, on business.

William H. (Bill) Bell, manager of the West Lorne branch of the Bank of Montreal, placed the first local call over the new system. This was made to Dr. D. F. Webster, veteran general practitioner of West Lorne and one of the first telephone subscribers in the village.

R. A. Mercer, Bell Telephone manager of the area, was in charge of the cut-over to the new battery operation. Other Bell officials who attended the ceremony were F. F. Brittain, traffic superintendent, London, Ont.; R. S. Leith, wire chief, St. Thomas; J. S. Rolfe, commercial representative, St. Thomas; R. L. Stratton, London, district manager; W. J. A. May, London, district commercial representative; C. A. Rupple, St. Thomas, plant foreman; and Miss L. Gale, traffic instructress from London.

Guests Attended

Guests were invited to the telephone office to witness the actual cut-over and hear the inaugural calls put through. The cut-over required less than a minute as telephone workers quickly performed the few last detailsa to bring the new switchboard into operation. Almost immediately some of the tiny switchboard lamps began to light up, indicating that West Lorne subscribers were eager to try their new telephone system and service.

Chief Operator Mabel Gammon handled the opening calls, while other members of the West Lorne staff, including Viola Staddon, Fay Maxfield, Mary Atkinson and Mrs. R. Kimmerly, were present to witness the proceedings. All the operators had previously received special instruction in the operation of the common battery equipment.

Installers have already begun replacing West Lorne's present telephones in homes and business places with more compact sets. The old instruments had previously been modified for use during the cut-over period. Until the new sets are installed, callers are being cautioned against moving the crank on their telephones while a conversation is in progress as this might result in the call being disconnected. Of course it will take some people some time to get out of the habit of turning a crank or attempting to turn a crank in placing a telephone call.

Early Phone History

The conversion of West Lorne telephones to "common battery" operation, eliminating the familiar crank, will recall to old timers the early days of the telephone in West Lorne. It was in 1891 that the first telephone line was built here, a long distance line that ran from St. Thomas to Ridgetown, passing through Fingal, Shedden, Dutton, West Lorne, Rodney and Highgate.

In the days when the telephone first came to this district, young men wore walrus mustaches, slicked their hair down with oil, and courted young women who wore puffed sleeves and squeezed themselves into steel-ribbed corsets. The linemen who brought the telephone into West Lorne probably hummed "The Man That Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo" and "The Picture That Is Turned to the Wall," both hit songs in 1891.

Skeptics in those days thought the telephone was a mere fad, and looked on the construction of the new telephone line as a waste of time and money. The new means of communication, they thought, would never grow into a serious and useful part of business life.

Transmission was poor, at that time, by our present-day standards. Noises like the sizzling of frying bacon were heard on the line, and sometimes the voice faded out entirely. But even then, scientists and engineers were at work on the job of improving voice transmission, a job that continues today, and were steadily developing methods of expanding and improving service.

In the early days, the telephone office here was in the Harvey Brothers' drug store. There is a record of a fire in 1901 which destroyed "the booth and instrument in it and five bottles of battery solution and the arresters." E. C. Harvey was then local manager.

In 1907, J. M. Kelly became local manager when he bought out the Harvey Brothers' stock and business. He resigned in 1911, when Loyal Brown became manager, and the switchboard was moved to his store.

In May, 1913, service at West Lorne became continuous. However, it was the practice to shut the office on Sundays to allow the staff to attend church services and meals. In 1914, subscribers sent in a petition pointing out that the service was being shut down from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. on Sundays. As a result, the practice of closing the office for any period at all was discontinued early in 1915.

One of the earliest available lists of West Lorne telephone subscribers was published in 1907. The seven listings shown were: E. C. Harvey, local manager; 5, Hussey, Rev. Father, residence; 1, McKillop, A. & Sons, Lumber; 6, McLandress, J. A., Grain Broker; 4, Merchants Bank; 2, Michigan Central Railway Station; 3, West Lorne Wagon Company.

The number of A. McKillop and Sons, and J. A. McLandress are still listed, unchanged, after 41 years.