

QUESTION? How did Janetville, a small village 13 miles south of Lindsay in the Township of Manvers, County of Durham, receive its name?

ANSWER: From a family named McDermitt and from one of their daughters called Janet. The "ville" was added to form an easily pronounced musical name and because it was a small village.

The information resulted from a casual conversation with one of the present inhabitants of the district.

Janetville had much to offer to the people of the district many years ago as it has today - but probably the oldest article in the district is the 200 year old fiddle owned by the oldest resident of the area Thomas Richardson, who at the age of 97 years is still very much in the "land of the living". He lives in a small cottage a couple of miles north of Janetville, a home he built for himself in 1949. Incidentally the late Jack Richardson who operated the garage at the corner of Lindsay and Ridout Streets, was a son of T.R.

The venerable Richardson was born on a farm now occupied by the Savanac family. After learning the 3 R's in the little red school house, and

after some 16 years on the farm, Thos. Richardson left the homestead and travelled a bit and finally became one of the many Blacksmiths who were much in demand in the days of the horse and buggy. He can reel many a yarn regarding his days as a 'Smithy', especially at the village of Blackstock.

"Many a shoe I placed on a fractious and skittish horse, and it was a real knack to run the forge with one arm and hand and handle the red hot shoes in a large pair of tongs in the other hand. Those were the days when the Blacksmith shop was the gathering place for farmers and villagers, where all kinds of political wrangling took place and where farmers swapped stories as well as horses. An extra sport we indulged in was playing checkers. I was very good but I never bragged about it."

"I knew the late Sir Sam Hughes and his brother-in-law the late Dr. John McAlpine, and Sir Sam's father was one of the best checker players. I also voted Tory and have to this day, and I well remember Sam Hughes when he was a member for Victoria County."

Returning to the game of checkers Thos. Richardson

added: "Sam's father thought he was the best in the country and I guess he was. Finally one day I was persuaded to take him on and I won the first game and Hughes said I made one 'jump' he never saw before. He won the second and I won the third and that was enough for that day. In fact I never played him after that."

When asked if he attended a nearby school he nodded his head in the affirmative, but added "I guess I gave the teachers quite a time for I had several different teachers and I can't remember the name of any one of them. I walked two miles to school and back every day."

One of Thos. Richardson's best friends in the cottage is his radio, "but", he said, "I do not use it as much as I used to—the programmes are terrible, I like the news and occasionally I hear a church service. I do not like the wild radio programmes they have today. I like to hear political topics discussed."

AUTHOR AND SCHOLAR

Richardson's next door neighbour is a widely known gentleman by the name of Percy Rowe, a highly capable and extremely versatile gentle-

man. Mr. Rowe attended school in Port Hope when the late T. A. Kirkconnell was the Principal, while his gracious wife (the former Miss Richardson) was a pupil at the Lindsay Collegiate Institute under Dr. Kirkconnell. Incidentally, Mr. Rowe, in his younger days, had the privilege of being in debates with such well known pedagogues as Watson Kirkconnell and Professor Arthur Phelps, both of whom were former students at the L.C.I.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowe have a lovely home in a lovely setting, and the spacious lawn has a remarkable green hedge of Asparagus.

Mr. Rowe through the years has been widely known as a Banker, a Newspaper Editor, a Teacher, a Farmer, a Lecturer and a Parliamentarian and he represented Athabaska in the Dominion Parliament for five years.

A brief visit to the Rowe home was an eye-opener. The study or den contains hundreds of books and manuscripts and a desk and typewriter where Mr. Rowe pounds out endless streams and reams of poetry and prose. Incidentally, Mrs. Rowe after attending school in Lindsay taught in two or three rural schools and in Peterboro. Her interesting hobby is the art of painting, a number of which adorn the walls of the Rowe home.

COUNTRY STORES

There is an interesting store business near the Rowe residence. It has been operated for the past six years by Earl Close and is called 'Earl's

Place'. It is one of those country stores which carries practically everything and caters to the summer cottagers and tourists around the east shore of Lake Scugog.

The proprietor is practical and modern in that he has a large meat and vegetable refrigerator outside the store as well as a shelter for fruits and vegetables. Mr. Close also operates a pool room and with some 200 cottagers on the lakefront he probably did not exaggerate a great deal when he said: "I work 150 hours a week."

Incidentally, this store was operated for 26 years by Thos. Richardson.

Janetville Village is one of the oldest in Durham County and the name Burns has been closely identified with the village and district for over 100 years. The first owner was John Burns, followed by his son John Burns, who was followed by Bob Burns and the present owner is a young gentleman named John Burns, who in turn has a son named Robert Burns. A century ago the store was a small wooden structure but today it is a modern emporium containing 1600 square feet.

For many years Janetville was represented by several highly rated baseball teams and among the players was always one called Burns. Other well known ball players of the past included: McGills, Real, Sissons, Armstrong, Staples, Stinson, Porter and others. Norm McGill, now a resident of Ottawa, was one of the best first base men in the business

and ended his baseball career with the then champion Lindsay Red Birds.

A few days ago John Burns was noticed on the baseball lot playing ball with the Janetville youngsters of today.