

On the Main Street

Aug. 29/70

Rufus Isaac is not a common name but the 90 year old resident of school section 8 in Fenelon Township, near Rosedale, stated a few days ago "Nor is it uncommon". He had a glint in his eye when he stated that "there is a prominent man in England's political scene today by the same name and he might well be "one of us".

Rufus Isaac lives in the house where he first saw the light of day, and he is only a short distance away from the school registered as No. 8 and to keep the memory of the school in mind he married the "school marm" Grace Ruttan. "Ninety years is a long time looking ahead but I feel that I will outdo all the Issacs and reach the 100 mark.

"Hard work never hurts anyone and I have worked hard all my life. I can still do a good day's work but farm work has changed a lot from the days when I carried the water pail to the men in the harvest field; since the days when we broke many plow points when the plow hit a stone or at times dropped into a groundhog hole. We had good machinery and the old Sylvester plow points were the best. They were made by Sylvesters in the Lindsay factory. . . I remember when we placed a water pail under a shady sheaf of grain and how cool that water was on a real hot day."



Veteran farmer Rufus Isaac of RR 1, Fenelon Falls is pictured above as he guides a tractor towing three wagon-loads of bales. Mr. Isaac is well known in Victoria County and is the subject of the Main Street story below.

For a century the Isaacs have lived and laboured long in the same area and the Isaac farm stretched for upwards of a mile on the wooded shore of placid Cameron Lake. Originally the Issac farm was on Cameron Point, a name which has disappeared through the years.

This pioneer family was keenly interested in discussion in the House of Commons. "He would have been a good representative but years ago, as today, the Tories always got the votes," said Mr. Isaac. "We Grits always found it hard and rough going in the days when the colorful and dynamic Sam Hughes was in politics. We had some real good timber as candidates — George Isaac,

J. J. Thurston, William New-man Tom Carley, Foster Graham and others — but the Tory machine was too strong, but I still have hopes for a Liberal candidate."

Turning down memory lane Rufus Isaac recalled the days when baseball was in full swing. The baseball tournaments at Hartley, Cambray, Woodville, Cameron and Eden were really something and hundreds of farmers quit the harvest fields late in the afternoon and swarmed to the baseball tournament. I remember when the only player wearing a glove was the catcher. Then everybody attended the strawberry festivals. "What a change today, when I love to sit in front of my TV and watch a big league

baseball game, a Canadian hockey game or a football game. I watch these games when at times I should be in Church — but that is the way of the world today," he said.

The parting words of Rufus Isaac were: "We read your Main Street articles, for we get the paper all the time, and call again," and Mrs. Isaac repeated the invitation.