

Old Pinkerton Hotel, District Landmark, Damaged By Fire

APRIL 9 1971

Good FRIDAY

APPOINTED SUPERVISOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION BY THE BRUCE BOARD

Mr. Ronald Clarke B.A. has been appointed as Supervisor of Special Education for Bruce by the County Board.

Mr. Clarke brings to this position a wide background of experience and training in the field of Special Education. He has 14 years' teaching experience, ten of which have been in Special Education in both Elementary and Secondary Schools. A graduate of Stratford Teachers' College, Mr. Clarke received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Waterloo Lutheran University and the Specialist's Certificate in Special Education from Ontario Department of Education. Prior to com-

ing to Bruce County he taught in elementary schools in Perth, Wellington and Waterloo Counties and in Forest Heights Collegiate Institute, Kitchener.

During the past two years Mr. Clarke has been Vice-Principal and Opportunity Class teacher at Mildmay-Carrick Central School, and during the past winter he acted as instructor for the Bruce County Board's Special Education course given at the Walkerton District Secondary School.

Mr. Clarke is married with two sons, and he resides in the Marle Lakes area of Brant Township. He will commence his new duties September 1 of this year.

The Walkerton Fire Dept. was summoned to the village of Pinkerton on Good Friday, at 6:30 a.m., where flames threatened the destruction of the former Pinkerton Hotel.

Mrs. Ernie Snow and Mrs. George Brocklebank, owners of the old hotel, and thirteen other tenants, were made homeless in the fire which started in a clothes closet on the second floor, and ate its way into the attic where it spread out to engulf the complete area before being checked by the firemen. The brigade fought the stubborn blaze for five hours, drawing water from a small creek which was running freely, but dries up in the summer.

The fire was miraculously confined to the clothes closet, where it started, and the attic, but water damage was extensive in all parts of the large 2½-storey structure.

Most of the contents were removed by neighbours and stored in a vacant hall across the road from the blaze.

When it became apparent that firemen were commencing to suffer from smoke inhalation, Fire Chief Irwin Lobsinger called the firehall at Walkerton for help from a few of No. 2 crew, and accordingly the siren sounded once more.

It was 12.30, during the dinner hour, before the firemen had all equipment and hoses washed at the firehall in Walkerton.

During the fire, two firemen suffered injuries. A black eye and a bruised shin were received by Jack Maschke when he fell down a stairway, and Tim Davis injured his knee, when he went through a ceiling from the attic.

Mrs. Harry Lippert operated the old hotel as a nursing home some years ago before it became a multi-family dwelling.

Cause of the fire is unknown. Coffee and sandwiches were served to firemen by neighbours.

Prominent Inn

The following reference to the early history surrounding the old Pinkerton Hotel is made by Ted McCannel in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record:

It is not certain when the building was erected, but it was first a frame structure later bricked over. Many stories are told of the hotel but its greatest prominence came in 1863.

Pinkerton had been founded 10 years earlier and was the first business centre to take shape in Greenock Township. John Shennan seeing the potential in the ample waterpower from the Teeswater River at Pinkerton squatted on the property and immediately started to build a saw and a grist mill.

Sold Mills

The following year he sold the uncompleted mills to David Pinkerton after whom the community was named. He and a brother, Thomas Pinkerton added a carding and a fulling mill.

Another Pinkerton, Robert, became reeve in 1863 and made a proposal that would settle the indecision on where to locate the county town of Bruce. It would be at Pinkerton.

The hotel was the site of meetings, as Pinkerton and the area rallied support for this cause. At the provisional county council meeting at Port Elgin there was a vote to name Pinkerton the county town of Bruce.

The vote was lost and it was to be another two years before the county would agree on final location of the county town at Walkerton.

Pinkerton Hotel continued as a prominent inn of the area. Its bar with foot rail and spitoons of polished brass knew travelling drummers from "out at the city" and woodsmen from the lumber holdings in the nearby Greenock swamp.

But the swamp contributed more to the hotel than just the hard-handed, heavy-booted, whisky-drinking loggers. Patrons came away lauding the strange liquor that could be bought at the bar for only five cents a generous shot.

Deep in the swamp stills were set up where authorities seldom could find them. The unlabelled, illegal liquor was given the name of its location. When a customer wanted it he ordered "swamp."

But that was a different era. Now the hotel is gone, much of the swamp has been logged out and if there are any stills remaining, they are of small capacity.

Cargill girl earns achievement award

PINKERTON — A 16-year-old Cargill area girl has earned a national achievement award that was presented Sunday by Bruce-Grey Progressive Conservative MP Gary Gurbin.

Shannon Wiens of RR 2 Cargill was presented with the Canada Cord award at the Pinkerton United Church. Shannon, a path finder which is the next level after girl guides, had to perform 83 compulsory activities during a three-year period to earn the award.

The activities included camping, community service work and working at home.

"We are all very proud of your accomplishment," Gurbin told parents, guides, beavers

and scouts at the church.

"Shannon is really energetic and strives for the best and always seems to give that extra little bit," said path finder leader Linda Schamerhorn.

Shannon, a Grade 11 student at Walkerton District Secondary School, was one of 12 girls chosen from 62 in the Mapleway area from Owen Sound to Kitchener who went to Switzerland last year for four weeks.

Ms. Schamerhorn said Shannon is considering progressing to the rangers which is a step above path finders. There is also a three-year challenge in rangers, the Duke of Edinburgh award presented by the Duke.

A large stone dwelling, 2½ miles west of Walkerton, an area landmark for more than a century, presently owned by Mr. and Earle MacDuff, will shortly be wrecked when the Ontario Highways Department commence the widening of Highway 4 and 9.

This home located on fifty acres of Crown land, was built in 1866 by the late Mr. Frederick Glintz, who moved to this area from Rothsay and brought with him the stone and lumber for its construction. The building for many years was used as a hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Glintz had a family of six sons, Henry, Hans, Albert, Isaac, Ernest and Fred (who later took over the homestead), and three daughters, (Margaret), Mrs. George Rausch of Detroit, who was born in Rothsay, (Sophia) Mrs. John Garbutt, first girl born in the new stone home in September 1863, and (Jennie) Mrs. Fred Baughn, Walkerton. There are still several granddaughters and grandsons residing throughout this district.

The late Mrs. Alfred G. (Dodge) Wilson, a granddaughter, of Detroit, in 1921, presented the ceme-

tery gates to the Town of Walkerton, in memory of her grandparents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Glintz, and to the memory of her father, the late George Rausch, she presented Carillons to Trinity Lutheran Church, Walkerton, in 1952.

Mr. Archie Tolton, Walkerton, as a youth, can remember sons, Henry and Hans, who were in the West, bringing small Manitoba maples home and planting them in front of the stone home, the same being the huge trees now in front of the dwelling, and soon to be cut down.

A story told in connection with these early settlers was that Mrs. Glintz Sr., walked across the road to speak to Mr. McNeill, Fraser McNeill's grandfather, who was in his field close to the road fixing a binder. Mrs. Glintz's large apron, worn in those early days, blew up with the wind, frightening the team which ran away, causing Mr. McNeill's death.

It is regrettable that more histories were not kept of these grand old places, in and around Walkerton, before the older generation passed on.