

Organizations.

Lumbering was second in importance to farming in the early days. Soon a mill was built in Wingham. Woodworking industries followed and flour mills were built. After the railways were built, much valuable timber was shipped away. This brought about a sad feature in the history of these townships. Many farms are without woodlots through the ruthless cutting and burning of timber during the past one hundred years. However, to remedy this condition, the County of Huron has purchased and reforested hundreds of acres throughout the county.

Fishing has never been an industry in these townships. The Maitland River with its branches flows through this part of Huron County. Many places along its shores are noted for their scenic beauty and fishing is carried on only for amusement and recreation.

FLOUR MILLING IN WINGHAM

The business of milling flour began in Wingham in 1861, when Mr. Peter Fisher (father of Mrs. George Hanna, who still lives in Wingham) built the first mill in lower Wingham on the site of the present electric light plant. This mill, like all early mills, was run by water power. In 1888 it was burned and was not rebuilt. When this took place, the town used the water power from the dam to create electric power, which was used to light homes and places of business in Wingham.

In 1865 Thos. Gregory built a flour mill farther up the river at the north end of town. In both of these mills the flour was made by grinding the grain between large flat circular stones and sifting. The farmers brought their grain to the mill and received flour made from their own wheat.

This mill passed, in later years to Mr. Rocky, Hutton Price & Carr, Carr Bros., and in 1890 the system making flour, changed from grinding between stones, to being ground by the roller system, and sifting was done by passing the ground grain over flat sifters which constantly rotated in a circular motion.

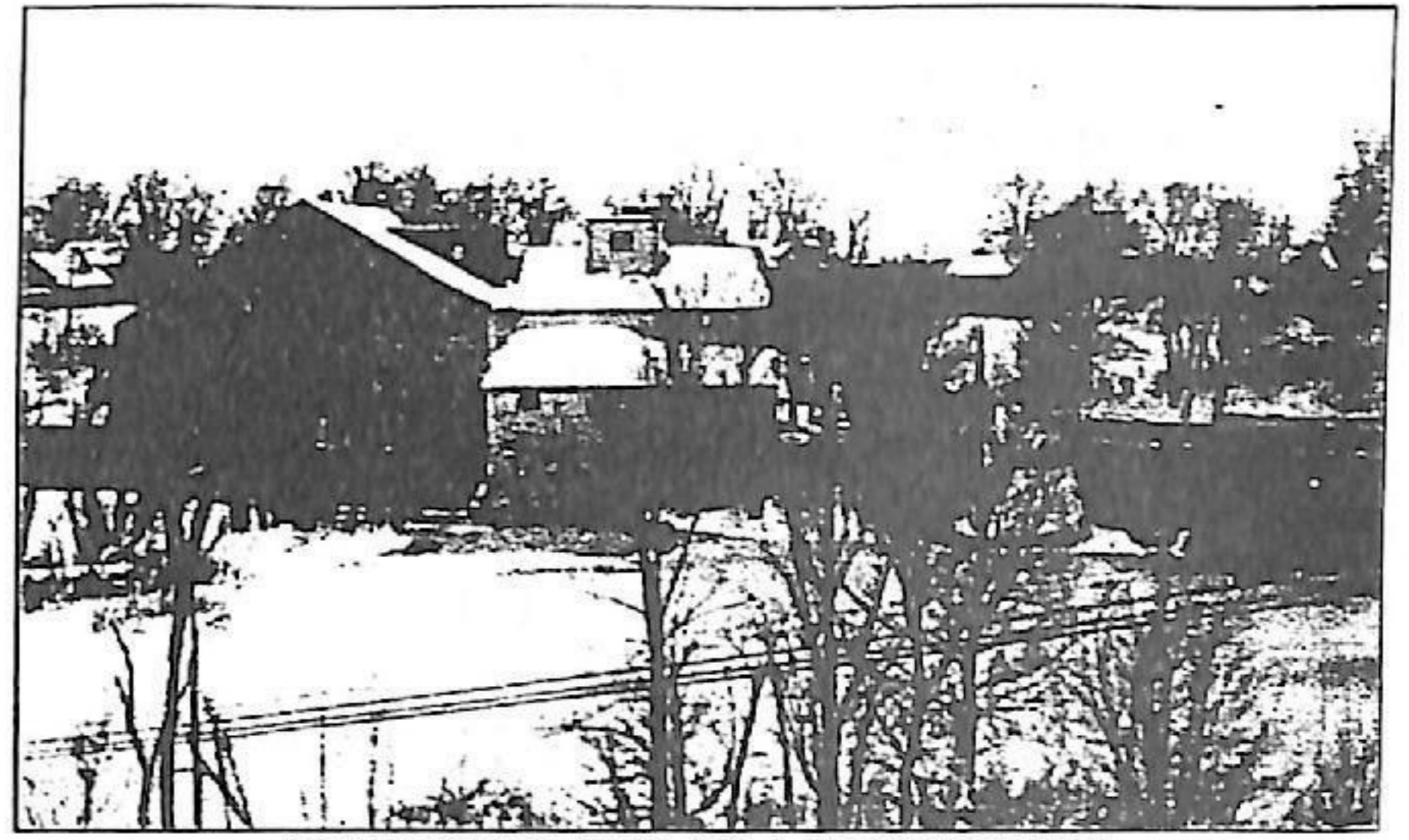
In 1899 the mill was purchased by Howson, Harvey and Brocklebank and in 1917 was taken over by Howson and Howson.

At this time much grain was coming in from the west and large storage bins were built to contain it, and the farmers no longer got the flour made from their own wheat, but emptied their wheat into a chute and were give so much flour and bran.

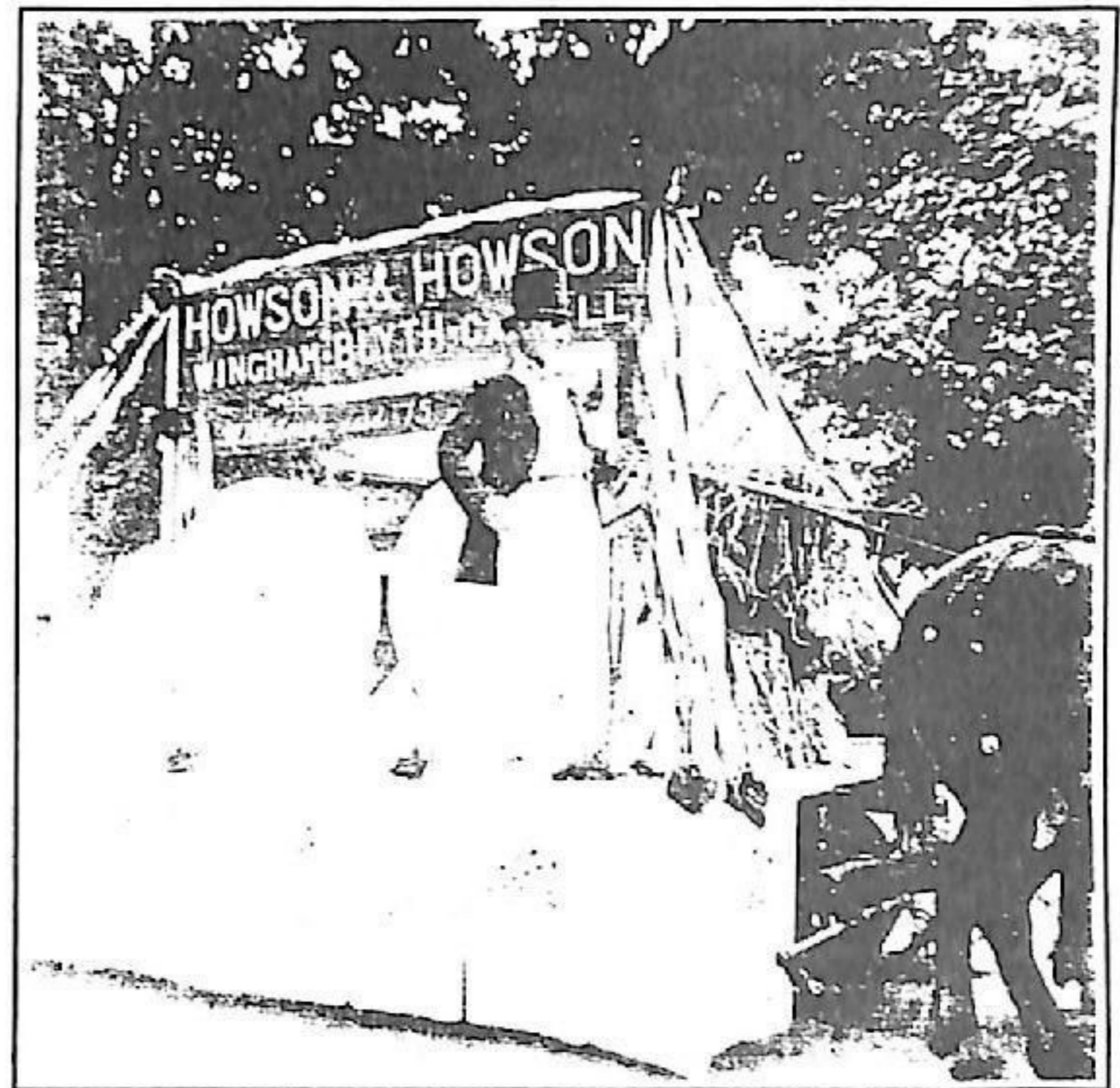
Improvements were made from time to time, and capacity was increased from the 100 bags of the early mill, to 1,000 bags per day. By this time the flour was not all consumed by the locality but was shipped to bakeries and biscuit factories and some was exported to other countries.

This mill was struck by lightning in 1950 and was burned, completely, and was not rebuilt. So flour milling ceased to be an industry of Wingham.

— Written by Frank Howson, 1966.



HOWSON FLOUR MILL IN WINGHAM



HOWSON & HOWSON FLOAT

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

As I sit in my corner and smoke my pipe,
I think the time is almost ripe
For women to wear long pants and a suit
From the wisdom they've gained at the INSTITUTE.

The mothers of old spun our homemade clothes;
Our sisters mended our broken hose;
That our fare was plain I will not dispute
For we never heard of an INSTITUTE.

Our food was plenty, good wholesome and clean
But salads and jellies were never then seen;
Our mothers were housekeepers of some repute,
Though nothing was known of an INSTITUTE.

But now I am old and unable to roam,
I would very much like the comforts of home:
But my wife plays the fiddle, my daughter the flute,
At all the meetings of the INSTITUTE.

My shirt is all torn, the buttons are off,
I wash my sox in the old horse trough.
But my wife is busy, there is no dispute,
For she is a member of the INSTITUTE.