

*Intell.*

Remember when ....

Monday, June 13, 1994

## Mystery cargo travels by road and rail

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work in the 1950s and the cargo may have been defence-related.

To compete with the railway, which Ron says was the "traditional way to move freight" at the time, his father bought a Trailmobile that was just under 40 feet long. It was the longest vehicle allowed on the highways at the time. Ron says his father wanted to be able to haul as much freight in one truck as would fit in a railway car.

In the 1940s a truck with a driver could be rented for \$1 a day, says Ron. In 1952, Morley also received the contract for garbage disposal within Belleville. Garbage pick-up was twice a week and employees worked Saturday. The only holidays were Sunday, Christmas and New Year's Day.

The garbage was taken to



Employees and trucks, late 1940s, from left, Pete Feeney, Foster Gunsolus, ?, ?, ?, Morley Smith, ? Kemp.

Zwick's Island, which at that time, says Ron, was almost a swamp. A road led off Highway 14 (now Highway 62) approximately where the train engine sits today. A man was employed to operate a bulldozer in the dump. Employees of Smith and Sons Cartage and Movers, scoured the trash and salvaged things such as bottles, steel,

copper, cardboard, batteries, newspapers and cloth materials. Smith's then sold the items to various people who dealt in recyclable goods. Ron estimates the company made \$150 a week doing this. Considering company employees earned between \$42 and \$50 a week, it was a lot of money.

To take over the garbage

disposal contract, Morley purchased three garbage-packer trucks for a total of \$55,000, from Truck and Farm Supply, then at 128 South Church St., where Belleville Sport and Lawn Centre now sits.

In 1955 or '56, Ken Smith and Dr. Russell Scott purchased Morley's businesses after he suffered a heart attack. Morley bought back the gar-

bage disposal contract around 1958 and continued with it until the mid-1960s. After that he owned a small cattle farm in Prince Edward County. Morley died in 1974.

The cartage business changed ownership and names several times before becoming part of the Canada Transport Group that operates in Belleville today.

Smith and Son Cartage and Mover