

Kent County Family Almanac
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DESK

Kent County Family Almanac

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, February 15, 1945

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ANNOUNCER—Presenting..... Kent County Family Almanac.

THEME—(FLORENTINE)
(In and fade back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great Agricultural County and those surrounding it,—comes Kent County Family Almanac—a program changing as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities, and our people. Anything and everything that happens here in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(up to end)

ANNOUNCER—This is chapter one, Kent County Family Almanac— a humble effort to feel and interpret the spirit and purpose of a friendly progressive community. Here, each week, chapter by chapter, we hope to chronicle the successes and tabulate the virtues of the people who populate Kent County. An Almanac, full of family affairs; big affairs and small, weaving their daily pattern of events. In other words, we hope to reach out atop the William Pitt Hotel, and encompass those happenings which reflect the character of this prosperous community. And—there will be musical pages on the Almanac as well. Page one reveals;---

MUSIC—(Southern Roses)

ANNOUNCER—Let us write into the Almanac records right now that if you listen to the Almanac, you will know your neighbors better; For that's to be our slogan here on this weekly citizens convention. Tonight, on its opening program, Kent County Family Almanac salutes the town of Wallaceburg—with its inland deep water port, its thriving industries, situated in the finest agricultural district of Canada.

We had hoped to present to you, Mayor Ashton Lillie,— but unfortunately Mayor Lillie has been called out of town. We have in our studio to represent him and the citizens of Wallaceburg—Reeve George Frye—a man who needs no further introduction.

ANNOUNCER—Reeve Frye just why is Wallaceburg called Canada's Inland Deep Water town?

REEVE FRYE—Because Wallaceburg has direct connection with the Great Lakes Waterway. The town is situated at the junction of the Sydenham River and the Chanel Escarts— better known as the Snye. Both these streams serve directly as the connecting channel to the St. Clair River, the world's greatest waterway.

ANNOUNCER—In other words, the big lake freighters passing up and down the St. Clair, travel through the channel to Wallaceburg to receive and unload their cargoes.

REEVE FRYE—Yes—that is right. Naturally, those vessels have to turn to make their trip back. The turning basin, situated in the centre of the town, can accommodate vessels with draughts up to 19 feet. The longest vessel known to turn in the turning basin is recorded as being 315 feet long.

ANNOUNCER—Well,—that is worth remembering. Many large cities must envy Wallaceburg with its fine waterway. Now, tell us something about Wallaceburg, its history, and its people.

FRYE—That's a pretty large order. I'll have to go way back and I can only quote from memory and what I have read.

ANNOUNCER—That's fine. For instance, when did Wallaceburg become a town?

FRYE—In 1896. The first mayor was J. W. Steinhoff, known to the old timers as "Cap" Steinhoff. Then followed Charles Chubb, I believe, D. A. Gordon, W. A. Heath and others I don't remember at the moment.

ANNOUNCER—Before that! Was Wallaceburg a thriving village?

FRYE—Yes, it was. In 1874, Wallaceburg was incorporated as a village. And on the 18th of January of that year the village council held its first meeting. It might be interesting to many who do not know that by 1882, the village had a population of 15-hundred and 26, with an assessment amounting to 180-thousand dollars. Today, the population is 58-hundred with an assessment totalling two million, 900-hundred thousand dollars.

ANNOUNCER—And still thriving, I'll wager. Now! Can you tell us something about the first settlers around Wallaceburg?

2.

FRYE—Say, I'm not that old! But let me think. ---I remember reading somewhere that back in 1822, a pioneer by the name of Laughlin McDougall came to Sombra township and settled on land fronting what is known now as Wallace street.

ANNOUNCER—What happened then?

FRYE—McDougall, it seems, was a builder. Sort of contractor, I guess. He built several log houses among them a large building which served as an Indian Trading store, a tavern, and his own home. Then he built two schooners---"The Wallace" and "The Selkirk." They were the first vessels of the once famous Baldoon fleet. Along in the late '50's. McDougall's big house was burned to the ground---but he rebuilt. Today, Miss Frieda McDougall, a descendant, has a house on the same site.

ANNOUNCER—S-a-a-a-y! This IS interesting. Go on.

FRYE—About the time McDougall settled in the township, another pioneer, Hugh McCallum, by name, arrived. He erected a large building and kept store for a number of years. In 1835, he built one of the first frame buildings in the settlement, and turned to school teaching, and kept post office. It was Hugh McCallum who gave Wallaceburg its name.

ANNOUNCER—Oh, I see. Then Wallaceburg had another name before it was incorporated as a village?

FRYE—Yes. Someone had named the settlement "The Forks," because it was at the junction of the two rivers. A family by the name of Wallace settled along the trail which after became known as Wallace street. McCallum named the place Wallaceburg when he became the first postmaster.

ANNOUNCER—That's interesting. Could you give us the names of some of those first settlers?

FRYE—W-e-e-l-l. I remember the old timers speak of the Hays, the Beatties, Forhans, Steinhoffs, Frasers, McDonalds, Scotts, Gordons---not forgetting the Johnsons, Littles, Lillies, Clancys, Pattersons and a host of others.

ANNOUNCER—All these pioneers had homes, of course. Any of these buildings still standing?

FRYE—N-o-o-o. I don't think so. But here's an interesting note. Along in 1833, a James Henderson came to the community. He taught school and for a while kept a boarding house. The building he occupied was later moved to what is known as the corner of Duncan and Elizabeth streets and was one of the oldest buildings in town. It was torn down only a few years ago.

ANNOUNCER—As the settlement grew, I suppose other institutions and businesses began to make their appearance.

FRYE—Oh yes. Sometime in the late '30's a church was built known as the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Then, in 1846, the village was made a port of entry and boasted of a custom house under the supervision of Colonel Bell.

ANNOUNCER—Tell us something about the industries in those days.

FRYE—Lumbering was the big thing in those days. There were five sawmills in the town along in the eighties, and the Gordon-Stienhoff coopeage plant was one of the largest of its kind. As the pioneers saw the land being cleared and timber disappeared they turned their attention to other interests. Today, there are at least 18 to 20 plants, all in operation.

ANNOUNCER—How about naming some of them?

FRYE—We have the Dominion Glass Company ---Wallaceburg Brass Company---Schultz-Die Casting Company of Canada---Greenmelk of Canada---Canada and Dominion Sugar Company---H. J. Heinz Company---Sydenham Trading Company---Gordon Fox Products---and a new industry, the Pressure Cooker.

ANNOUNCER—All these plants employ Wallaceburg people?

FRYE—Sure thing. In addition, there is the Hawken Milling Company, Benn Cast Iron Company, Consolidated Lumber Companies, Limited---D. and W. Lumber Company---Babcock Supply Company, Earl Lindsay and Sons ---the Lambton-Kent Creamery and McGregor's Dairy

ANNOUNCER—Well, I must say that is some list.

FRYE—These firms employ hundreds of workers and the payrolls go to the purchase of farm produce, thus keeping Kent County money right in the heart of the finest agricultural district in Canada.

ANNOUNCER—An excellent idea. What else can you tell us of Wallaceburg?

FRYE—I could say we have five parks---two public schools---two high schools---two separate schools---also five churches, besides the Salvation Army and the Community Tabernacle.

ANNOUNCER—What about the newspapers? They are always an essential need in every community.

FRYE—Yes---we have the News, published by the Colwell Brothers---George and Charlie. They have published a paper in Wallaceburg well nigh onto fifty years.

ANNOUNCER—Think of the amount of type they have set in that time. And now, Reeve

Frye, as the Almanac's first visitor, you have set a record for others to follow. I hope, later on, that you will join us again and tell us more of the town of Wallaceburg. Thank you very much for coming and good night.

FRYE—Thank you. I am proud to have been on the opening program of Kent County Family Almanac.

ANNOUNCER—It's time now, folks, to turn another musical page on the Almanac and we hear:

MUSIC—"There's a Long, Long Trail."

ANNOUNCER—Now it's Welcome Home time on the Almanac. This will be a regular weekly feature of our program. Kent County Family Almanac welcomes back from overseas three of Kent County's fighting sons;

WELCOME HOME—Pilot Officer Wilfred J. Kelley, brother of Mrs. Vincent Ryan, of 11 Poplar Street, Chatham. Pilot Officer Kelley has completed 31 operational trips over enemy occupied territory.

WELCOME HOME—Corporal Bruce Camp, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Camp, 244 Selkirk Street, Chatham. Corporal Camp has had five years overseas and has served in the campaigns of Sicily and Italy.

WELCOME HOME—Sergeant Ken Colwell of the RCAF, son of William Colwell, Wallaceburg. Sergeant Colwell has had four years' service in England and on the continent.

And here's a musical selection in honor of our young heroes.

MUSIC—"Col. Bogey March."

ANNOUNCER—(on the fade)—We have in our studio another speaker, a man you all know. Fourteen years Reeve of Bothwell and prior to that, five years on the town council, he—

ELLWOOD—J--ust a minute; This is not a build--up for Wes. Ellwood. This--

ANNOUNCER—Come in Warden Ellwood. Folks Warden Ellwood is modest; he doesn't want to talk about himself. He is here to tell us about Kent County. Go ahead, Warden Ellwood.

ELLWOOD—There is plenty to be told of Kent County. Kent has probably one of the most historical backgrounds of any county in the province. And Kent, with its three surrounding counties can rightly be called "The Garden of Western Ontario."

ANNOUNCER—I presume you are referring to its agricultural activities?

ELLWOOD—That's right. The land in Kent County is suitable for any crop the farmer wants to put in.

ANNOUNCER—For instance--

ELLWOOD—Tobacco and sugar beets are the principle and most profitable crops. But tomatoes, corn, beans and all grain crops are grown--also fruit of all kinds, canning crop, pretty near everything.

ANNOUNCER—And the farmers--

ELLWOOD—The best in the country. Right here in Kent County they are really agricultural experts. We are proud of our farms in Kent.

ANNOUNCER—That's fine. I am sure listeners to the Kent County Family Almanac will be glad to hear you say that.

ELLWOOD—And here I would like to take the opportunity of commending this new program over CFCC. Much has been said and written about Kent County and our citizens but never--to my knowledge--has anything been said over the radio. I am sure in a short time you will have hundreds--yes, thousands of listeners. I--for one--will be listening every Thursday night.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Warden Ellwood. It's been grand having you with us. And now, neighbors, having told you the story of Wallaceburg, Kent County Family Almanac leaves the air to return next Thursday, same hour. Next week, we hope to bring you some interesting notes from the Kent Historical Society and the Chatham-Kent Museum. And by the way, the Historical Society is holding a meeting tomorrow night (Friday the 16th) in the Collegiate Institute. You are invited.

At this time, Kent County Family Almanac is happy to extend greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Horning of 117 William Street, Chatham, who on Tuesday celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Horning are truly pioneers of Kent county--both having come to Kent when quite young. For many years they resided at Dresden and later moved to Chatham where they have resided 35 years. Mr. Horning will be 91 in December; Mrs. Horning is 82. Many happy returns Mr. and Mrs. Horning --may we have you on our Almanac program next year.

Congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lucier of Sombra township, and formerly of Wallaceburg, who on Sunday last observed their golden wedding anniversary. Both have resided in and around Wallaceburg all their lives. An orchid to you,--Mr. and Mrs. Lucier.

Meanwhile, here's a thought for the day; THE MAN WHO SAYS HIS HOME TOWN IS TOO SMALL FOR HIM . . . IS USUALLY TOO SMALL FOR HIS HOME TOWN. So long, friends and neighbors, and lots of good luck. Till Thursday, keep smiling.

THEME--(in to end).

Kent County Family Almanac

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, February 22, 1945.

ANNOUNCER—Presenting “KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC.”

THEME—“FLORENTINE.”
(In and fade back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it—comes KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC A program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities and our people. Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter Two, Kent County Family Almanac . . . and, as we turn the pages, we see before us stories of our pioneers—our parents and our grand-parents. Stories of events that happened many years ago along Kent County trails,—many of which have been forgotten even by the oldest settler. It is our hope to revive many of these stories on the Almanac program but because our time is limited we can only remind you of a few tonight. We have in our studio a visitor, who will recall some of these events—but before we hear from him let us turn to a musical selection—one you all know.

MUSIC—“NEW LIFE.”

ANNOUNCER—Just before we hear tonight's story from the records of the Kent Historical Society, let us welcome home several members of the armed forces who have returned from overseas recently. We have with us this evening, one of these men—Private Jack Hulse, son of Mrs. Ethel Hulse, of 46 Degge Street. Private Hulse is recuperating, from wounds received in France last year and is at present travelling back and forth from his home in Chatham to hospital at London. Private Hulse—welcome back. We are all friends here tonight so you won't mind if I call you Jack?

HULSE—Go right ahead.—That's my name.

ANNOUNCER—Fine. Now Jack, how does it feel to be home after two years and a half overseas?

HULSE—It's good to be back in Canada again—but did you know I was followed?

ANNOUNCER—Followed? Oh, I see. Then the little lady here with us is Mrs. Hulse?

HULSE—Yes, we were married last November after I was returned to England from France.

ANNOUNCER—W-e-e-ll. Bride and groom, eh! Jack, I'll have a word with you in just a minute but first let us welcome Mrs. Hulse to Chatham and Kent County. Just how do you like Canada so far, Mrs. Hulse?

MRS. HULSE—I think I am going to like Canada very much. I have heard so much about Chatham and the country near by that I am anxiously waiting for the snow to go so we can get around more.

ANNOUNCER—Tell us. From what you have seen—does it look anything like the countryside in England?

MRS. HULSE—I have only been here a week but the little I have seen is something like my own home around Birmingham.

ANNOUNCER—Birmingham. Is that where you met Jack?

MRS. HULSE—Yes. Jack came to Birmingham on leave in 1942—the same year he arrived overseas. After he was wounded and while in hospital in England, he obtained leave to get married. Jack was in a wheel-chair at the time.

ANNOUNCER—Married in a wheel-chair! Well, this is something but I'll bet it was a happy occasion anyway. What were you doing when you met Jack?

MRS. HULSE—I was a welder in a tank factory in Birmingham for three years but now I am going to stick strictly to housekeeping.

ANNOUNCER—Spoken like a true woman, Mrs. Hulse. Chatham and Kent County welcomes you and we hope you will enjoy living among

us. Thank you and again welcome, Mrs. Hulse.

And now, Jack, I notice you are still suffering from the effects of those wounds. Can you tell us how it happened?

JACK HULSE—I went into France 14 days after D-Day as a machine gunner. On September 19, I was convoying an ammunition truck near Boulogne when a German 88—shell landed near us. I got it in both legs.

ANNOUNCER—Anybody with you at the time?

JACK HULSE—Yes, Albert Andrews, whose mother lives on Poplar Street was in the convoy. He got off without a scratch. Later, I met Herman Geroux also from Chatham.

ANNOUNCER—That's interesting. I hope the mothers of those boys are listening in. Thank you very much for being with us tonight, Jack. And again welcome home.

Also WELCOME HOME to Flight-Lieutenant Clark Noyes, son of Mrs. W. Noyes, of 89 Prince Street North, Chatham. Flight-Lieutenant Noyes has had almost four years overseas service out of England, Malta and the Persian Gulf. A welcome home also to his wife, Helen Noyes, who was a captain in the South African Military Nursing Sisters. Her home is at Rollo Bay West, Prince Edward Island. Both returned to Chatham over the week-end. And WELCOME HOME to Craftman Bill Cleaveland of 43 Taylor Avenue, Chatham. He has been overseas since September, 1941. And now, friends, here's a salute to our returned members of the armed forces:

MUSIC—"The Globe Trotter".

ANNOUNCER—(on the fade)—Ladies and Gentlemen. From coast to coast across Canada, this week is being observed by 160,000 Boy Scouts and Girl Guides as Boy Scout-Girl Guide week. Kent County Family Almanac is happy to bring to its CFCO microphone, Mrs. H. E. Grosch, newly elected president of the Chatham Girl Guide Association.

Mrs. Grosch, if my memory serves me right—hasn't it always been Boy Scout week in other years—and not Scout-Guide week?

MRS. GROSCH—Yes, that is so. But Scouts and Guides belong to brother-sister organization. Both were founded by Lord Baden-Powell; both undertake the same type of training; both subscribe to the same Promise,—and both have the same ten laws. It was felt that the purpose of the two organizations could be brought to public attention in the same week, instead of separate weeks.

ANNOUNCER—By the way, isn't the week always planned to include, as it does this week, the birthday of Lord Baden-Powell?

MRS. GROSCH—Yes. And it may interest many to know that his birthday, February 22, which is today, also happens to be the birthday of Lady Baden-Powell, who is Chief Guide of the world. This day is also celebrated throughout the United States of America as the birthday anniversary of George Washington, the Father of his Country.

ANNOUNCER—Is Scouting making progress in Canada, Mrs. Grosch?

MRS. GROSCH—Most decidedly. The census taken last October shows an increase in membership in the past year of more than 6,000. The Girl Guides are also above last year.

ANNOUNCER—And is the same increase shown in Scouting elsewhere?

MRS. GROSCH—Yes, it is. The Boy Scouts of America have reached a membership of 1,750,000—the largest in their history. In Canada,—there are approximately 93,000 Boy Scouts while membership in the Girl Guides and Brownies total around 67,000.

ANNOUNCER—I'm sure our listeners will be interested in hearing that. Is there any other thing you would like to mention?

MRS. GROSCH—Yes, there is. There is a definite shortage of leaders in Chatham and Kent County in the Girl Guide and Brownie movement. Now Guides must be given the knowledge they need to pass it on to the children and without these leaders, new Guide and Brownie companies cannot be formed. We are appealing to women interested in girl's work to volunteer. They will be specially trained in leadership in these movements. funds, too, are urgently needed to keep up this great work. Donations are being received at my home, 158 Victoria Avenue, and at the home of Mrs. O. A. Harper, 45 Sixth Street. Your donations will be gratefully received.

ANNOUNCER—I am sure there must be many who would be willing to take up this excellent work and I hope you reach your objective. Thank you, Mrs. Grosch, and good-night. And now a salute to Boy Scout and Girl Guide week. We hear at this time—"High School Cadets"—and our Historical Society speaker will follow immediately.

ANNOUNCER—In his search for material on Kent County's Historical past, your Almanac writer naturally turned to the Kent Historical Society. There,—he found a group of energetic citizens endeavoring to keep before us

those picturesque scenes of a century or more ago. Tracing back, your Almanac writer found that preliminary steps to form a society were taken in August, 1912, and,--a month later, the society was formally launched. But let our visitors resume the story from here on. Neighbours--meet Mr. J. F. Fletcher, President of the Kent Historical Society, known to most of you as Treasurer of Kent County.

ANNOUNCER--Mr. Fletcher, who were the officers of the Historical Society back in 1913?

FLETCHER--J. R. Gemmill, who was sheriff of Kent County then, was the honorary president and Dr. T. K. Holmes was president. Both of these men have passed on but credit must be given them for the start of the Historical Society in Kent. To continue, Harry Collins and Mrs. J. Coutts were vice-presidents; W. N. Sexsmith was secretary; H. A. Dean, treasurer, and J. W. Plewes the curator.

ANNOUNCER--And did the Society flourish?

FLETCHER--Yes, it did. The following year, in September, 1913, Chatham was honoured in being chosen as the meeting place of the Ontario Historical Society for its 14th annual convention. Citizens of Kent County and Chatham co-operated most heartily and the local Society benefitted greatly as a result of the convention.

ANNOUNCER--After the convention, I suppose the society began to gather material for its books and records.

FLETCHER--Yes, and it must have been a problem. We are told that in 1812, the population of Ontario did not exceed 75-thousand people, and,--in what is now Kent County there were probably not more than 20 families.

ANNOUNCER--W-e-l-l, Kent County HAS made progress. Can you tell us something about the pioneers of those days?

FLETCHER--Dr. T. K. Holmes, in one of his papers on pioneer life in Kent County, tells us that in 1796, his grandfather, Hugh Holmes settled on the first concession of Harwich. There,--Dr. Holmes' father was born--the first white child in Kent. His father farmed until he retired to live in Chatham, where he died in 1890--at the age of 94.

ANNOUNCER--A grand old pioneer, too. Were there any interesting events in those days?

FLETCHER--Many!--For instance, Dr. Holmes, in the paper I just spoke of, says that his father when he was 16-years, saw the celebrated Indian Chief, Tecumseh, on the banks of the River Thames.

ANNOUNCER--Tecumseh, eh! That sounds like a story. I remember reading in my history book something about Tecumseh. Can you recall anything about that story from your historical records?

FLETCHER--The story of Tecumseh would make a book in itself. But--briefly, Tecumseh and his band of Indians, after various warrior successes across the border, reached Canada where he offered his services to the British. Tecumseh has often declared that if the British won that struggle the peace treaty would be secure for the Indians and their rights.

ANNOUNCER--We'll hear more about that in a minute. But just before we go into the story of Tecumseh and his relation to Kent County and Chatham, our Almanac page turns and we hear:

MUSIC--Peter Lawson singing "Song of the Brave."

ANNOUNCER--And now Mr. Fletcher--we are told that Tecumseh Park here in Chatham got its name from that great Indian Chief. Has that anything to do with the story?

FLETCHER--Indeed it has. On October, 1st 1813, General Proctor and his army who were retreating before the invaders reached a point known as Dolsen's, which was five miles from Chatham. Tecumseh insisted that a stand be made and the site he selected is today known as Tecumseh Park, right in the heart of the city. But--Proctor, who at first agreed, continued to retreat and Tecumseh, bitterly disappointed, held the bridge between Chatham and Arnold's Mill until the heavy guns of the oncoming Americans drove them from their positions.

ANNOUNCER--And just where did they make their stand?

FLETCHER--At Moraviantown. Tecumseh and his remaining Indians caught up with the fleeing British and again he insisted that a stand be made. Two lines of defense were drawn up. Proctor and his staff behind the second line. When the Americans appeared, the British after firing one or two volleys, broke and fled. Proctor made no attempt to rally his men and joined in the flight.

ANNOUNCER--And what happened to Tecumseh?

FLETCHER--History tells us that for a time the Indians--left alone--held their ground, but were gradually forced to give way in the face of great odds. Tecumseh, who continued to encourage his braves, was wounded three times and fell. Finally, his men sought shelter in the woods,--taking with them the body of their Chief.

ANNOUNCER—There seems to have been some doubt as to where Tecumseh was buried. Can you tell us?

FLETCHER—No one seems to know. For a long time it was said Tecumseh was only wounded and he would return to lead his people. But --his death in battle seems certain for he vanished in a haze of mystery. Even today his grave is unknown. On the battlefield where he fell, citizens of Thamesville, headed by the late Roy Abraham, erected a simple monument in his memory.

ANNOUNCER—And that monument marks NOT only the fall of a great Chieftan, but it marks forever the passing of the Indian race from national significance. Thank you very much, Mr. Fletcher. Your remarks have been very interesting. There must be many other things that can be told from the records of the Kent Historical Society.

ANNOUNCER—For instance, the story of John Brown—a man who sought to revise the constitution of the United States in the interests of the coloured race,—who, on April 1, 1859 spent the night in Chatham in a house, part of which is still standing on Adelaide Street, near the C.P.R. Station. And there will be other stories, too—the story of the Caledonia Settlement in Chatham Township when we will hear of such pioneers as the Simpsons, the Grahams, the McVicars, the McTavishes, —the McKays, the Forsyths and the McKerralls. And we shall head the story of Lord Selkirk's Baldoon Settlement—the old Log School House and the Birth of Chatham. Let Kent County Family Almanac, at this time pay tribute to that small group of citiz-

ens—officers of the Historical Society—who are doing so much to keep vivid those tales of long ago.

ANNOUNCER—Just before you go, Mr. Fletcher --tell us the names of the present officers of the Kent Historical Society.

FLETCHER—Dr. John Dearness, of London, and Dr. J. W. Mustard, of Chatham, are the honorary presidents. I have the honour of being president; for vice-presidents, we have S. B. Arnold, Dr. C. C. Bell and Dave Arnott—the secretary is Dr. Effie Milner and Walter Watts is the treasurer.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you again, Mr. Fletcher. Some day we will call again on Kent Historical Society for more interesting stories for our Almanac.

And thus Chapter Two of our Almanac comes to a close. Kent County Family Almanac now leaves the air to return next Thursday, same time, when we plan to bring you the story of the Chatham Kent Museum. So long neighbours, and lots of luck. Till Thursday keep smiling—won't you.

THEME—

ANNOUNCER—(on the fade)—Copies of this program may be obtained without cost by writing this station. Address your letters—Kent County Family Almanac, CFCO, Chatham, Ontario. The supply is limited and copies will be mailed in the order in which they are received. Good night, all.

THEME—(Up to the end.)

Listen to...

KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC

EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.
OVER CFCO.

*"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."*

SOME FUTURE BROADCASTS

- TOWN OF BLENHEIM.
- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- TOWNSHIP OF BOTHWELL.
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN.
- TOWN OF DRESDEN ,
AND OTHERS.

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER FOUR

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, March 8th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting “KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC.”

THEME—(in and fade back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it—comes Kent County Family Almanac—A program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities and our people. Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Good evening, friends—This is Chapter Four of your Family Almanac. Tonight we will tell you about the town of Dresden and its three surrounding townships—Camden, Dawn and Chatham. Here, also—is a dramatic story by one of Kent County's own sons—how blood plasma saved his life on the battlefield in Italy. A nurse from the blood donor's clinic will present a picture as she sees it and you will hear a message from the Red Cross.—In conclusion we have a thrilling incident that will interest the folks in Harwich Township. We feel—you are going to like this chapter.

THEME—(up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Page one of your Almanac is a Welcome Home to several boys who returned from overseas recently. Our list is not a long one but more will be returning soon and we hope to add their names to our column each week. And by-the-way, folks, You can help welcome back these boys—when one, whom you know, returns to Kent County, let the Almanac know about it and we will be glad to record his name on our pages.

Welcome to Private Floyd Hooper, Private Rowland Hooper and Sergt.-Major Norman Willmott, all of Dresden; Private Jack Knight of Camden Township; Private Willard Smith, Dresden; Sapper Harry Kyle, Dresden; and Flying Officer Neil Wigle, Dresden; LAC. Don Hunter, Lorne Avenue, Chatham; and Warrant Officer Fred O'Neill, RCAF, Ridgetown.

And now for our musical number: we hear Maurice Elwin, baritone, singing “Somewhere a Voice is Calling.”

ANNOUNCER—This is your Almanac announcer again. In our studio at this time are three guests. Each one has an important message—you will be interested. Listen; (note to announcer and engineer—while next two speakers are talking organ music continues softly “Somewhere a Voice is Calling.”)

MISS SALMON—My name is Constance Salmon. I am a registered nurse. Many listening tonight know me as an industrial nurse and through meeting me at the Chatham Blood Donor Clinic. Since its inception a few months ago, many persons have donated blood—many several times. I have given blood ten times; enough now to save the life of one soldier. Our blood has been processed into life-saving treatment and has saved the lives of hundreds of our heroic boys overseas. I realize the need and despite every effort of the local committee, many of our citizens have not heeded the one way they can save a life—perhaps the life of one of your own immediate family.

Many of our boys invalided home from the battlefields of Europe and Italy—testify to the fact that blood plasma was the main factor in their being alive today. I am told that medical experience in this war has brought three great advances in saving lives—the first,—is blood plasma. A great push is now going on in Europe. Our boys still fighting overseas for us,—if wounded,—will require large quantities of blood plasma. Won't YOU come to our clinic, or go to any other clinic, and give a small portion of your blood,—which nature quickly replaces,—for this divine purpose.

Be a blood donor and save a life—remember, many of our young men have given their life's blood on the field of battle for you.

G. McDADE—This is Private George McDade speaking. I am known to most of you in Chatham and vicinity as “Mickey.” What Nurse Salmon has just said is true. Believe me, I KNOW. I don't want to exploit my own activities in Italy, but I DO want to plead

to you for more BLOOD Plasma.—BLOOD PLASMA SAVED MY LIFE.

My experience at the front was similar to that of thousands of others. While fighting with the British 8th Army on the Italian front, north of Ortona,—I was wounded twice on the same day,—once in the right hand, and, while making my way back to a first aid post, received a severe wound in the left thigh.

Picked up by stretcher bearers, I was taken to a regimental aid post and while there was given my first Blood Plasma. While in a semi-unconscious condition I remember someone saying, "Do you think it's worth while"? Somebody replied—"We can try it." Blood was injected into my left arm and later, I faintly remember someone saying: "Look, color is coming back to his lips." A doctor, I believe it was, leaned over me and said, "McDade, you're going to be all right now"—Those words made me realize that I had a chance to live. Blood plasma had saved another life—MINE.

You can readily understand why I take off my hat to the Blood Donor Clinics and the RED CROSS.

The blood which has already been given has saved thousands like myself. Don't turn a deaf ear to my plea, because, more and more Blood is still needed. Let me relate another instance. Bob O'Bright, of Woodstock, Ontario, was wounded the same day I received my packets. We were pals and I didn't know he had been wounded until we met a few weeks later in Hospital. Bob had several wounds on his right shoulder, neck and hip. Bob O'Bright would not be alive to-day, if it had not been for Blood Plasma. The blood you are giving, is not kept, (as some people think), in England or far behind the front line. It goes right up to within a mile of the fighting and is administered to the wounded as soon as they are brought back to the First Aid Post.—In many cases, only a few minutes after they are hit. In my case, it was fifteen minutes after I received my second wound. The second, blood plasma transfusion, was made at the casualty clearing station, and the third, was administered at the Base Hospital. The blood that saved my life, might have come from right here in Chatham or Kent County—If I knew the donors, I would thank them personally.

I sincerely hope this broadcast will be the means of sending new donors to the Blood Clinic. Then they will treasure all their life the satisfying knowledge that their blood saved the life of one of those boys over there, who are doing such a grand job.

And now may I say something about cigarettes and parcels. Keep those cigarettes moving; the boys need them and appreciate

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them; write often, send snapshots of the folks back home. You have no idea what it is like to hear a word from home. For instance, let me tell you of something that happened in a canteen in England, a few weeks ago. The radio in the canteen signed off their programme to the civilians, and transferred over to the programme for the forces. The selection, "O Canada", opened up the programme and to my amazement came the words "This broadcast is coming to you from CFCO in Chatham, Ontario, Canada. What a thrill!

A lump came in my throat as the radio continued with a musical number by the Chatham Kilties of which I was a member at one time, under the direction of S. G. Chamberlain, the Bandmaster, playing "The Chatham Kilties' March."

Friends,—It was great to hear on that broadcast something of what was going on in the old hometown—Just like a letter from home.

Before leaving, may I express my thanks to those who sent cigarettes and parcels. Flying Officer Bev. Flannigan, on his broadcast last week, mentioned the Chatham Police Department, the Chatham Fire Department, the I.O.D.E. and the Anglican Young People's Association. To them, may I also express my thanks and may I add the Easter Star Chapters, your gifts were appreciated.

Thanks again friends, and Good Night.

ANNOUNCER—At this time, we introduce Mr. Douglas A. Bell, President of the Red Cross Society in Chatham, Mr. Bell:

MR. BELL—I sincerely appreciate the opportunity you have given to be a guest this evening on your most interesting program Kent County Family Almanac. The story of the work of the Red Cross Blood Donor Service cannot be told too generously. The experiences of Private McDade are similar to those of hundreds of our soldiers who have been invalided home from the fighting fronts.

A couple of weeks ago, a returned man came into the blood Clinic and wanted to give a donation. Like Private McDade he too had been wounded in Italy. At the preliminary examination he told the nurse in charge that he suffered an attack of malaria while on active service. She informed him that she was sorry but this fact prevented the clinic from accepting his blood. The soldier was deeply disappointed and he said, "I owe the Red Cross six pints of blood." The gratitude of our wounded veterans like Private McDade and this soldier is a source of greatest satisfaction to all those who are serving their country through the work of the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinics.

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Yet, this is only one phase of the great task that has been undertaken by the Canadian Red Cross Society—

No war in history has brought such suffering as this one. We in Canada have been spared. In gratitude we should do all in our power to help those who have been so unfortunate and through five and a half years of war. We have, through the Red Cross performed a great work of mercy of which we can be justly proud.

Next Monday, we open the annual campaign for funds to carry on for another year. The quota for the Chatham Branch has been set at \$30,000. Last year's subscriptions exceeded \$34,000. This year, I sincerely hope we shall pass the \$35,000 mark. We all hope for an early victory over Germany—but let us not forget that victory will not bring an end to the work of the Red Cross. There will still be many casualties in hospitals and it will be part of our work to help in caring for them. Thousands of men will have to be repatriated and re-established in civilian life. The Red Cross must be prepared to take an active part in the program of re-habilitation. The Red Cross has undertaken to finance Canada's part in this great work of mercy. . . .

No contribution is too small—nor by the same token—is any too large. I would suggest that it would be the size of your heart. But to be practical we have suggested a minimum of one day's pay from every person employed in the city. In many of the industries this can be spread over three months, six months or even a year and the payments deducted from wage cheques. All we are asking from the average worker is therefore, the price of a movie or a package of cigarettes once a month. Surely your hearts are that big.

The song tonight has been most appropriate. "Somewhere a Voice is Calling." Yes, from a stricken war torn Europe, thousands of voices are calling to the people of Canada, to the people of Chatham and Kent County for help. I appeal to you too—do not turn a deaf ear—be generous when the Red Cross canvasser calls on you within the next two weeks. The need is great, let your charity be greater.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Mr. Bell, Nurse Salmon and Private "Mickey" McDade. We are glad to have you with us tonight and we hope the response will be generous. Our page turns and we hear an orchestra in "Spanish Dance".

MUSIC—

ANNOUNCER—Tonight,—Kent County Family Almanac salutes the Town of Dresden and its

three townships surrounding—Dawn, Chatham and Camden. With us in our studio is Mayor Harold McKim, young in years but old in municipal experience. Mr. McKim is beginning his fifth year as mayor and we have invited him in tonight to tell us something about Dresden, its people and its history. Good evening Mayor McKim.

MAYOR—Good evening. We in Dresden think we have a very nice little town. It's true that since our forests have disappeared our town has become more of a farming community, and, in this I believe our merchants excel. But, I have someone with me who is capable of talking about Dresden and the old days. I refer to Walter Weese, mayor for six years and once a resident of Camden Township. Walter was born at Kent Bridge but his father, his grandfather and his great-grandfather were all born near Louisville—right here in Kent.

WEESE—One minute, Mr. Mayor—you should remember your folks are no strangers either. Why, before you became mayor five years ago, your father was active in municipal affairs for years and was Warden of Kent County in 1937. In fact, the McKims have been in Dresden long before I moved to town—and that was 25 years ago.

ANNOUNCER—You two gentlemen appear to be quite friendly. Even been political opponents,—I mean municipal opponents?

MAYOR—No, Sir. I credit Walter here with having pulled me through one or two critical issues.

WEESE—Say, we didn't come here to talk about ourselves. We came to talk about Dresden. Harold, what is the population of our town?

MAYOR—Just before I came to Chatham tonight, Ed. Kyle, who has been our town clerk for 17 years, told me the population stood around 1600.

WEESE—Did Ed. say what year Dresden was incorporated as a town?

MAYOR—Dresden was incorporated as a town in 1881 with R. Kimmerley as reeve. In January, of the following year A. Trerice was named mayor and he presided over his first meeting on January 16, 1882.

ANNOUNCER—Just a minute, gentlemen! Did Dresden ever have any other name?

WEESE—That's an interesting point some of the folks may not remember. Yes; Dresden was at one time called Fairport. That was in the days when the old narrow gauge tramway used to run out to Eddy's Mills, a distance of 12 miles and haul back logs to be shipped to Detroit and other points. Harold,

your uncle Elias McKim would remember something about that.

MAYOR—Yes, Uncle Elias was telling me something about that the other day. The old ship building yards on the Sydenham River were operated then by Captain Ribble. He mentioned the names of some boats built at Dresden, or Fairport as it was known then. There was the freighter Franklin and the tugs Myrtle and the Ena.

WEESE—Yes, and isn't it true that after the town became incorporated, a passenger boat was built called the City of Dresden. They used to run excursions on the Dresden and the Hiawatha to Detroit for one dollar return. The Baron Tyers, I understand, was the largest boat to be built at the old yards.

ANNOUNCER—By the way, Mr. Mayor! Can you tell our listeners if there are any buildings standing today that were constructed in those days?

MAYOR—I believe the Anglican church (Christ's Church) was completed in 1871. The North Dresden Baptist Church was built in 1874 and I think the town hall which was burned five years ago was the next oldest building. It would have been 70 years old by now.

WEESE—I think that's right, Harold. I have been told that the fire in Dresden on Christmas eve of 1910 destroyed some rather old buildings. That was rather a disastrous fire. Ten firms were completely wiped out, I believe.

MAYOR—Yes,—and the fire of 1920 destroyed nearly as many buildings on St. George Street from Queen Street to the Post Office. However, since then Dresden has obtained one of the best fire-fighting equipments in any town of its size. We have a pumping outfit that can pump water either from the fire hydrants or from the river.

WEESE—We are mighty proud of our new water system too. The drinking water comes from an artesian well in Camden Township. It is piped in about one mile and our town engineer tells us that our drinking water is about the best of any in this part of Ontario.

ANNOUNCER—We're always interested in the weekly newspapers in your towns. You have two in Dresden, I believe?

MAYOR—That's right. The Times and the News. The Times has been published in Dresden for 72 years. The first paper to be issued was the Gazette in 1870 by a Mr. Riggs. In 1873, it was purchased by McCallen and McSwain who changed its name to the Times. T. N.

Wells bought the paper in 1891 and was the editor until 1920 when his son Laurie took it over and has been its publisher ever since. Arthur Ross prints the News. He came to Dresden about seven years ago.

WEESE—Harold, I think we ought to say something about the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movement in Dresden. There are 72 boys in the Scouts and 52 girls in the Guides. They have a bugle band of 30 instruments that is second to none and present a fine appearance on the street. George Brooker is Scoutmaster and is ably assisted by Don Spearman, Tom Aziz and the Mayor.

ANNOUNCER—Can either of you gentlemen recall the names of some pioneers and settlers around Dresden?

MAYOR—You're an older man than I am, Walter! You tell the folks.

WEESE—Say—I was looking at a picture the other day and I wouldn't part with it for the world. Do you know, Harold, I recognized such men as Frank Kimmerley, who was a blacksmith in the old days; his son John still conducts the business.—There was Nick Winters, whose father was one of the first doctors in Dresden; Nick's daughter married Elmer Sturgis, a prominent farmer out in Camden Township;—John Gibson, a life-long resident of Camden Township; his sons still farm in the township;—H. J. French, a former Warden of Kent County. At the age of 83 he still bowls and is one of the most active men in town;—William Clark, a contractor; he built the post office, and his son George is a former mayor and continues the business;—Frank and Thomas Laird are also in that picture. Those men were once large lumber dealers, exporting and importing lumber on their own boats;—there was James Green who farmed out in Camden all his life and is now retired in Dresden;—John Jeff, at one time town treasurer;—William Ward, express agent and jeweller in the old days and Robert Brandon, our postmaster, who has held that position for 33 years. Bob once taught school in and around Dresden, and today is one of the most progressive citizens.

MAYOR—Yes, Walter and the McVeans. They were really the backbone of Dresden at one time. Alex McVean came to town in 1874 and started making wagon wheels and hubs. He had five sons—Sandy, Osgoode, Will, James and John. Osgoode and John took over business in 1890 and conducted until they died. Sandy is the only member of the family living today and has long since retired from active business.

WEESE—I could go on and on mentioning names. There were Talbots, the Smiths, the Kings

and Dawsons. I wonder if the folks remember my old grand-dad, Adolphus Weese. He drove a stage for many years from Chatham to Dresden and owned a livery stable which was later operated by the late Al Paupst. Mrs. Paupst is one of the most esteemed citizens.

ANNOUNCER—Mr. McKim, you are the mayor --who helps you conduct this enterprising little town of yours--the council for instance?

MAYOR—As I have said--Ed. Kyle is our town treasurer. Francis Foster is the reeve and our council consists of Robert Campbell, Gordon Clark, Clarence Carr, Orin Simpson, Howard Manderson and Gordon Wees--no relation of Walter here. He spells his name differently.

WEESE—I think--the folks ought to know about our Board of Trade. It's under the process of organization now and next week we hope to have a special speaker attend a banquet and get our people started. Glenn Wicks, our energetic President of the Retail Merchants' Association in Dresden, is the man behind that movement.

MAYOR—Of course, everybody knows about the Dresden Fair which is one of the largest events of its kind in the county. It is now in its 52nd year.

ANNOUNCER—Well, isn't Uncle Tom,--the man who inspired Harriett Beecher Stowe to write the famous Uncle Tom's Cabin buried out near Dresden?

WEESE—That is right. Uncle Tom is buried in a lonely cemetery just outside Dresden near Number 21 Highway. His real name, you know, was Josiah Henson. While still a young man, Josiah "got religion", so the saying goes, and preached to his fellow slaves in the old South. The story of his life before,--during and after the events described in the author's book, were confirmed long after by his daughter-in-law, who died in Dresden many years ago. She told of how she listened to his story of separation from his wife and son in the slave markets,--and how after his flight north he eventually reached Canada where he settled near Dresden. In time,--he obtained land, about 400 acres,--on which he established what he called the British-American Institute, a haven for escaped slaves who made their way to Canada by the once famous "Underground Railway." This haven received generous support from Queen Victoria who entertained Josiah Henson on one of his trips to England.

ANNOUNCER—Well, how did Harriett Beecher Stowe come to write the story of Uncle Tom's Cabin? Do you know Mr. McKim.

MAYOR—I have been told that Mrs. Stowe met Josiah Henson in 1850. Inspired by his story of Little Eva, the daughter of his master, Mrs. Stowe, who was an opponent of slavery, decided to write something about it. It became a play and while the real "Uncle Tom" was toiling on his farm here in Kent County, thousands were going to the theatres to see the most popular play on the stage up to that time.

ANNOUNCER—It would be interesting to know if any of Uncle Tom's relatives are living and where?

WEESE—A great grandson of Josiah Henson lives today in Dresden, "Beecher Henson."-- Throughout the years the Hensons have been loyal subjects of their adopted country. Beecher is a veteran of the last war and I regret to say that Beecher's nephew, Bill Henson was reported missing only last week. Josiah Henson's descendants and the colored people in general around Dresden are esteemed citizens and have played an important part in the pioneer life of the community.

MAYOR—Walter, I think before we go, we ought to tell the folks about our band. We've got a pretty smart band out there--one of the best in the country I guess. Charlie Aikin has been the leader since its inception. He's manager of the R. Aiken store, founded by his father, Robert Aiken who was one of the town's best known pioneers.---And by-the-way, if you think the name of Dresden doesn't get into the oddest places, listen to this one. A cousin of mine, Lloyd Brown, who lives out here at Tupperville, was telling me that when the Canadians took over Kiska, they found a baseball bat stamped "O. and W. McVean. Limited, Dresden." Our boys might have used that bat--had there been anyone around to use it on.

ANNOUNCER—Well, thank you, gentlemen. Your talk has been most interesting and I'm sure some of the things you have mentioned will be recalled to mind by many persons in your district. Drop in again, wont' you? Thank you, again, Mayor McKim and Walter Weese of Dresden.

MUSIC—And now, it's time to hear "Fairy of the Glen," our next musical selection.

ANNOUNCER—Speaking of oddities, folks, here's one that will interest our listeners out in Harwich Township. We wonder how many will remember it. It sounds like one of Ripley's yarns but we have a man in our studio tonight who is going to tell us all about it.

Jack Houston, how long have you been around these parts?

HOUSTON—As long as I can remember--probably longer than that.

ANNOUNCER—Know very many people, Jack?

HOUSTON—Hundreds, I guess. If I don't know them, they know me.

ANNOUNCER—Well, Jack, I understand there was a runaway out in the township about 40 years ago and it had some rather strange results. Remember that one?

HOUSTON—I suppose you are speaking about the one that happened on Peter McGarvin's farm on the Creek Road. That was in 1906 or 1907. Yes, I remember that one.

ANNOUNCER—Go ahead, tell us.

HOUSTON—Well, sir, I wasn't driving the team but I was there. Langford Lowes, who works in town here, had just come in from the field with a spunky little team of mares—we called Punch and Judy. Mr. McGarvin asked Lang to do something and Lang left the team standing for a minute. Suddenly, they broke and run. They ran out into a field behind the barn and down along McGregor's Creek which ran through the farm. Then they turned and came back and ran smack into a tree. I was working across the road and heard the rumpus. When I reached the field the horses were tearing along at a mad gallop but had been stripped of every piece of harness.

ANNOUNCER—Well what happened, Jack?

HOUSTON—When the horses ran into the tree—they had gone in one on each side. The tongue of the wagon went right through it—the tree was a 16-inch basswood—and the horses never slackened speed. They left everything behind. That tongue is still through the tree today and the tree is still blooming every year. Arthur Wilson lives on the farm now.

ANNOUNCER—Remarkable.—And the horses weren't hurt?

HOUSTON—Not a scratch. And here's something else. Two years later—the same team ran away again. They ran into the same field, followed the same route and headed for the same tree. But when they reached the tree, they stood dead still, one on each side of the tree. Not a strap broken, the wagon undamaged and the horses unhurt.

ANNOUNCER—It's time now to close Chapter four of our Family Almanac. And so we leave the air to return next Thursday, same time, when we will bring you a story of our farms in Kent County. Until Thursday then—keep smiling, won't you.

THEME—(up to end.)

Listen to...

**KENT COUNTY
FAMILY ALMANAC
EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.
OVER CFCO.
CHATHAM, ONTARIO**



*"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."*

**SOME
FUTURE BROADCASTS**

- TOWN OF BLENHEIM.
 - PIONEERS OF KENT.
 - CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
 - TOWN OF BOTHWELL
 - KENT PERSONALITIES.
 - STORY OF RIDGETOWN.
- AND OTHERS.

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER FIVE

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, March 15th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting “Kent County Family Almanac.”

THEME—(In and back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities and our people. Anything and everything that happens, in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to the end.)

ANNOUNCER—This is chapter five, Kent County Family Almanac wherein we retravel the old trails. . . Tonight, we turn the pages back to 1841 and beyond . . . as we hear a story taken from the first newspaper published in Chatham.

The editors of that little weekly paper had faith in Kent County . . . listen as we tell their story. Listen also as we talk of pioneers who came to these parts over 100 years ago . . . we'll hear of their trials and tribulations. Be with us as we welcome back some of our fighting sons who returned from overseas this week. And we have a surprise for you. . . one of Chatham's finest young tenors will sing. So keep tuned to your Almanac tonight. We hope you find it interesting.

THEME—(Up to end.)

ANNOUNCER—Tonight, we welcome to our program a young man . . . many of you know . . . Robert Claus, of Chatham. We know him as Bob.

Bob is going to sing for us tonight . . . What's it going to be, Bob?

BOB CLAUS—I'd like to sing one of the new numbers that is becoming quite popular today. . . “My Dreams Are Getting Better All The Time.” I hope you like it.

ANNOUNCER—It's all yours, Bob!

MUSIC—“My Dreams Are Getting Better All The Time.”

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Bob. Ladies and gentlemen, that was Bob Claus, singing to you on our Almanac program from the studios of CFCO, in Chatham.

ANNOUNCER—Tonight we find a portion of our chapter gleaned from the pages of Chatham's first newspaper—in fact, the first edition of the Chatham Weekly Journal issued July 3, 1841. On that date, Messrs. Charles Dolsen and William Fulford announced to the world at large that they would devote their efforts to publishing interesting news about the village of Chatham and the province in general. On glancing over the fyles of the Weekly Journal, which your Almanac writer located in the office of Sheriff A. Poulter at Harrison Hall, it was interesting to note that because “expenses were heavy” subscriptions would be accepted at 15 shillings per annum, payable in advance. The first issue of the Journal, which as we have said was published nearly 104 years ago, is divided into two parts—advertisement in small display type, and reading matter set solid under small and somewhat odd looking captions. For instance, the paper consists of four pages—page one containing two or three small advertisements with the rest of the page taken up with a fiction story of the day. Page two was mainly a report of doings in the provincial legislature at the time. Page three consists of an editorial announcing the policy of the Journal and a story of Chatham and Kent County. Page four was devoted to one half column of foreign news, a brief report on the house of assembly which sat in June of that year—and three columns of closely condensed advertising.

But it was on page three of that issue, that your Almanac writer turned his attention. Under a small black heading which read “Description of the village of Chatham and Kent County in the western division,” we found that Kent County at that time comprised 20 townships.

Many of our listeners may not remember reading this in their history books but here

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are the townships named by the Journal as making up this great agricultural county in 1841; Basanquet, Enniskillan, Sarnia, Moore, Brooke, Warwick, Plympton, Sombra, Zone, Howard, Harwich, Raleigh, Camden, Chatham, Romney, Orford, Dover East and Dover West, Tilbury East and Tilbury West. . . . Today, only ten townships comprise Kent County, Dover and Tilbury are a complete township each and the rest became part of Lambton.

Ladies and gentlemen! Sheriff Poulter, who discovered the newspaper fyle sometime ago, is in our studio tonight. He is going to take up the story from here on. But, first Mr. Poulter, just how did you come to find this interesting fyle of papers?

POULTER—J. R. Gemmill, who was sheriff many years ago, found the fyle long ago in the basement of Harrison Hall. It had been his intention to turn them over to the historical society but when he passed on, it was evidently forgotten. I located them again tucked away in the back of the big vault.

ANNOUNCER—A valuable manuscript for the Chatham-Kent museum. What else did the newspaper of that date have to say?

POULTER—Evidently, the editors of Chatham's first newspaper had faith in Kent County. Here is what they said in 1841; I quote, "The county is exceeded by none in the province in point of fertile soil, excellent timber and navigable rivers, all linking up with the great lakes and affording an easy access to markets."

The article continues and I quote again: "As for Chatham, the village is the active point where business of the county is transacted and we cannot close this sketch without attempting to say something about it. The village which comprises 600 acres of Harwich and Raleigh townships, was laid out by Lieut.-Governor Simcoe during his administration in 1795, but his progress was slow at that time. In 1830, there were only six houses in Chatham, whereas now, 1841, there are 812 inhabitants, a garrison for two companies, seven merchants' shops, a brewery, a distillery and two grist mills," end quote. But it is the advertisements that seem to lift the veil of history and drops it again like pictures fleeting across the screen at a movie picture show. In that issue of the Journal, we find that a Mrs. A. D. Roberts had a millinery store; a man by the name of L. Taylor ran a barber shop; D. Forsyth, James Read and D. Frazer each conducted dry goods and hardware stores. There were three hotels . . . The British North American House, the Commercial Hotel and the British House. Doctors who advertised were Pegley and Brass and there was one lawyer, J. F. Delmage.

ANNOUNCER—Sheriff Poulter, it has been said that the Thames River was 15 to 20 feet deep in places and in those days boats used to ply up and down the river. Is that right?

POULTER—Quite so. The newspaper we have mentioned, goes on to say that the village of Chatham had some busy ship-building yards in those days. The Cynthia, a 25 horse-power steamer, was built there. The steamers Thames and Kent and the schooners Ottawa and Louise were also constructed at the yards. But the prize of the ship-building yards seems to have been the steamer called "The Brothers," which made trips to Detroit every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, returning Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The master's name is given as Walter Eberts but the paper does not mention the builders of these vessels.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you. Sheriff Poulter. Speaking of the Thames, we're just wondering if the Thames ever ran wild in those days, as it did, for instance, in 1937. On April 29, of that year, the river which has a normal 574 feet above sea level, rose to 594.40 and Chatham and the surrounding district had, what was believed the greatest flood in its history. Just last week the merchants, whose stores back along the river had a scare when the water rose to 585 feet, 11 feet above level . . . Blasting on Friday last probably prevented a more serious flood but even at that the water did not reach the 1938 high of 590 . . . or, the 1943 high of 489 feet 2 inches.

ANNOUNCER—It's time now to welcome home those Kent County boys who returned from overseas this week. . . . But, before we do, we want to thank the good people in and around Dresden for their comments on last week's broadcast. Your remarks have been most encouraging, folks, and to those who have not asked for their copy of the program, we might say that the supply is dwindling fast . . . so get your name in early and we will be happy to send you a copy.

We also received letters from Blenheim and Bothwell asking us when we are going to broadcast their town . . . well, neighbors, we'll be dropping out your way soon . . . you can expect us anytime.

And now . . . Welcome Home to:

Trooper Raymond Arthur Authier, of Tilbury.
Corporal R. J. Brown, Laird Avenue, Chatham.

Private C. R. Piggott, 39 Inshes Avenue, Chatham.

Sergt. John McKenzie, 43 Pine Street, Chatham.

Pilot Officer Arthur Drohan, 208 Wellington Street West, Chatham.

Pilot Officer Sanderson, of Dresden, Ontario.

Also birthday greetings to some of Kent County's oldest citizens: Mr. James Best, Blenheim, who was 90 years last Friday . . . Mrs. Sarah Vandusen, 11th concession, Chatham Township, 84 years old last Saturday and Mrs. Zink, 15 Raleigh Street, Chatham, who was 93 years old one week ago today.

ANNOUNCER—We pause, at this time, for a musical interlude as we hear a piano selection "Memories," coming from our main studio just off the mezzanine floor in the William Pitt Hotel.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—And now, we continue our story of hundred years ago when Kent County was an unbroken wilderness . . . over which roamed bands of Indians who pursued their game through trackless forests or fished in its sluggish streams. History tells that in 1800, there were not more than 20 families in Kent but by 1812 the population of the entire province had grown to 75,000.

At the dawn of the 19th century, Kent County was heavily timbered with oak, walnut, white-wood, beech, maple, ash and elm. The walnut and whitewood were exported for building and furniture, and the oak was manufactured into staves and sent to the West Indies for casks in which were shipped from that country molasses, rum and sugar. The demand for forest products had an impetus to business in the farming community, and greatly accelerated the clearing of the land. A standard log of walnut containing 303 feet board measure sold for fifty cents back in 1846—it might be worth considering just what that log would be worth today.

SECOND ANNOUNCER—However, nothing retarded the progress of this great county of ours more than the lack of a drainage system, and even as late as 1860 the crops were generally inferior on this account. Narrow strips of land along the Sydenham and the Thames, and the land along what is known as Talbot Street, were the only parts of the county where farming could be profitably carried on . . . the intervening territory being covered by water a great part of the year, and travelled only by corduroy roads. These extensive swamps were generally impassable even on foot until late in the summer. There is no doubt that the first settlers arrived before the first surveyor, but they were few in number . . . and the country was practically in a virgin state when about 1800 Patrick McNiff, a pioneer surveyor, made his appearance. Here is what McNiff says in his first survey of that primitive land which has become the great agricultural centre of Ontario.

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FIRST ANNOUNCER—McNiff describes the conditions along the River LaTranche, now known as the Thames, as extensive meadows and marshes. He entered the river from Lake St. Clair and on each side for six miles up there were only a few scattered trees. These six miles, history records, would bring him to the Tilbury area. At eight miles, McNiff reports the first settlement, on the south side, commenced . . . and thence to the Forks (now Chatham at the junction of the Thames and McGregor's Creek). From the Forks on, up to the end of his survey, McNiff found the banks of the river 18 to 20 feet high, the lands of good quality and the timber black walnut, cherry and maple. He states there were no streams coming into the river to form a harbor for boats and no possibility of hauling boats over the land. Just how far he went with his survey, records do not say . . . but, it is believed he went about halfway across what is now Howard Township to a point opposite the present location of Thamesville.

SECOND ANNOUNCER—The next surveyor to appear was Abram Iredell, who laid out part of the Township of Chatham, an area of 600 acres (four hundred acres of Harwich and 200 acres of Raleigh). Iredell was then instructed to proceed with surveys of Harwich, Dover and Camden and was later joined by a William Hambly. Thomas Smith joined the surveying part in 1810. The Gore of Chatham, which was at one time part of Sombra Township, or "Shawanese" township, was completed by Smith in 1820. After the war of 1812, the work was taken up by M. Burwell, who in the years 1821 to 1831 surveyed parts of Tilbury East, Orford and Zone. The front portion of Orford seems to have been reserved for the Indians, the reserve extending the full length of the township (something over six miles) and reaching from the river to about the same distance. The reserve was afterwards cut down, and, about 1857, a surveyor named F. Lynch, surveyed the land adjoining the reserve as we have it today.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—It might be interesting to note the conditions of pioneer life in those days . . . for instance, the practice of mutual helpfulness that does not prevail to the same extent in older communities. In the first half of the last century only tallow candles were used for purpose of lighting. Every farm house had a spinning wheel and one can almost picture the women, by the light of the candle, spinning wool into yarn, which was woven into cloth on hand looms for the family wardrobe. There were logging bees, husking bees, and similar neighborly gatherings for mutual aid in the laborious work of the farm. All these conducive to friendly, social enjoyment that relieved the monotony of rural life. Houses were heated by open fire-

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places almost exclusively, and it must have been a pleasant sight to see, around its blazing brightness the farmer with his sons and daughters reading or singing during the long winter evenings . . . the women at their spinning wheels.

SECOND ANNOUNCER—But time marches on . . . by 1845, much of the work on the farm was done by oxen and the grain threshed by the hand flail or trodden out by horses on the barn floor. The first threshing machine seen in Kent was owned by William Partridge of Walkerville. It was not provided with any apparatus for blowing the chaff from the grain . . . this being done afterwards by a fanning mill not quite like we have today. The grain was reaped with the sickle, later by cradle and finally a reaping machine was introduced into the county by the late John Williams, who lived a mile east of Kent Bridge. That was in the year 1847.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—The amusements of a people are not unworthy of being recorded as indicative of their character. The ancient Greeks worshipped beauty and physical perfection and their amusements were all designed with this aim. And so, in the early days of Kent County there had to be amusements of a sort . . . Neighborly visits, social gatherings, dancing and music in which the violin was much in evidence . . . together with various athletic games,—were the chief pastimes, and served to relieve what would have otherwise been a life of much greater hardship and privation.

SECOND ANNOUNCER—But one of the greatest inconveniences of life in those early days was the lack of transportation and the transmission of news. This so isolated our pioneers from the rest of the world that life must have been deprived of much of its enjoyment. The news of the battle of Waterloo, which was fought on the 18th day of June in 1815, was not heard in Kent until late in September. A journey to any of the eastern towns was an important event in the life of the few who were able to travel so far. Mail was conveyed long distances on foot and even along the main lines of travel . . . as between Sandwich and Toronto. Lumbering coaches drawn by four horses were the only means of conveyance . . . and this took days.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—Earlier on this program, we spoke of the village of Chatham . . . but it might be interesting to note that on the site where Chatham now stands, the first house was built by Abraham Iredell, the surveyor we mentioned a few moments ago. That was in 1800. In 1801, two lots were granted to Alex and Charles Askin, and in 1802, twenty-six lots were granted to: John Martin, Gregor McGregor, James McGregor, John

Laughton . . . also two lots to Alex Harrow, John Sparkman, John Little, William Harper, George Ward, Antonine Pelletier, Matt Dolson, William Shepherd, and George Leitch. In 1830, where the Bank of Montreal now stands, a lot was granted to Stephen Brock and during the next years dozens of other settlers came in. But in spite of the fact these grants had been made earlier, the first real settlement in Chatham did not commence until 1826.

SECOND ANNOUNCER—The history of civilization shows that the birth and progress of literature . . . and of arts and sciences bear a direct ratio to the accumulation of wealth in a country. And so . . . the pioneers of Kent County by their courageous hearts and faithful toil compel our respect and enlist our sympathy and our gratitude. They toiled . . . and endured . . . until the wilderness was changed to a land of smiling beauty and made to bloom like the garden of the Hesperides.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—It's time now to hear Bob Claus again. Bob is going to sing an old favorite . . . "The Rose of Tralee." We dedicate this number to the venerable Saint Patrick, whom all good Irish, the world over, honors the day after tomorrow. Go ahead, Bob Claus.

MUSIC—"The Rose of Tralee."

ANNOUNCER—Before we close Chapter five tonight, here's something to bear in mind. The armed forces still need tires. Motorists, who are fortunate in having good tires should endeavor to get every yard of mileage out of them. The way we stop and start our cars is important and will help save tires. If the wheels spin when starting, drop an old sack or other material which will give sufficient traction to stop them from spinning. Apply your brakes easily only at the stopping point. Don't jam them on hard . . . on slippery streets this plays for safety. And remember those last famous words of one motorist: "If he won't dim his lights, I won't dim mine."

ANNOUNCER—The Smiths, the Jones and the Browns are all common names in anyone's city directory but apparently D. A. McLean, editor of the Alvinston Free Press doesn't think so. Says Editor McLean, and we quote —The Smiths may thrive in such places as Sarnia, but there aren't many of them in the Alvinston district. Editor McLean reached this conclusion after a study of the new telephone directory for Sarnia, Alvinston and the surrounding district.

Easily first in the Sarnia section are the Smiths, with 66 listings. In Alvinston . . . the names with the most listings are Camp-

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bell, McCallum and McLachlan. But . . . says Mr. McLean . . . there are only three Smiths in Alvinston.

THEME—(Fade and hold behind announcer).

ANNOUNCER—So ends another Chapter of Kent County Family Almanac, a program which will,—we hope,—grow richer in Kent County lore as your interest and participation continues. From you, and from our neighboring

counties, we'll appreciate receiving stories, legends and news for inclusion in future chapters. Right now, here's a thought for the day; Daniel Webster said:—When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers therefore are the founders of human civilization. —So long, friends and neighbors, and lots of good luck. Until Thursday, Keep Smiling!

THEME—(Up to End).

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**KENT COUNTY
FAMILY ALMANAC**

**EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.
OVER CFCO.
CHATHAM, ONTARIO**



*"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."*

**SOME
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- TOWN OF BLENHEIM.
- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- TOWN OF BOTHWELL
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN.
AND OTHERS.

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER SIX

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, March 22nd, 1945

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Time for KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC.

THEME—(In and hold back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—This is Kent County Family Almanac . . . wherein we glance briefly at current and past events, and sometimes take a look into the future. Like every Almanac full of family affairs . . . we avoid the headlines but give prominence to the little things that count so much in the life of a community. Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Tonight, Chapter Six of our Family Almanac salutes the farmers of Kent County. From it you will hear a man who knows hundreds of Kent County farmers as he talks with us about their crops and tells us why he believes Kent County has the best land in the world. You will also hear other items of interest to the man who tills the soil . . . and, we will Welcome Home several of our fighting sons from overseas. Our musical pages hold a treat tonight too, as you listen to one of Chatham's finest harmony trios and a talented accordion player whom you will like. So stay tuned in, neighbors . . . we believe you will find our program interesting.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—In our studio tonight are three young girls . . . They are going to sing for us . . . but, first, an introduction. Go ahead, girls, introduce yourself.

ARTISE—I am Artise . . . I sing alto.

NORMA—I am Norma . . . I sing the lead 1st soprano.

CAROL—I am Carol . . . I sing 2nd soprano.

ANNOUNCER—That's fine. I see your first number is "Serenade in Blue."

Ladies and gentlemen . . . The Shreve Sisters in person singing for you from our main studio in the William Pitt Hotel at Chatham.

SHREVE SISTERS singing.

ANNOUNCER—We shall hear from the Shreve Sisters again but right now it's time to Welcome Home several members of the armed forces who returned during the past week. All Kent County joins with Blenheim in extending a welcome to Lieut.-Col. G. B. Shillington, of the Canadian Dental Corps. Colonel Shillington has been overseas five years. He went to France in June of last year with the RCAF and eventually reached Holland from where he was given leave. Blenheim also welcomed back Fireman Cecil Kimball, who volunteered with the fire fighting service in Britain during the blitz.

Over at Wallaceburg, the folks there welcomed back two members of the forces. One was Corporal Edith Frost of the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Corporal Frost enlisted in 1942 and has been overseas two years . . . Also Private Charles Franklin, who served in Italy where he was wounded and spent considerable time in hospital. Both returned to Wallaceburg on Sunday.

At Cedar Springs, Sergt. Edward Miller of the RCAF and his bride of seven months were given a warm welcome. Incidentally the Miller family has made a notable contribution to the forces—five are now in uniform.

ANNOUNCER—And a welcome also to Seaman George Palmer, of Highgate; Private D. C. Haydon, of 2 Lorne Avenue, Chatham; Private V. J. Simpson, of 40 Princess Street, Chatham; also two brothers, who arrived home this afternoon—Sergt. Chas. Ellis and Corporal Tom Ellis of 83 Lansdowne Avenue.

Ladies and gentlemen . . . At this time we introduce Mrs. C. D. Kent, chairman of the house-to-house canvassing committee of the Red Cross in Chatham. Mrs. Kent:

MRS. KENT—At this time it is again my duty and privilege to address you briefly in connection with the Red Cross Campaign now in progress throughout this country.

That Red Cross, doing a magnificent work in administering to our sick and wounded soldiers, sailors and airmen, needs no argument. Something, too, of its work in feeding the hungry and alleviating distress in liberated and allied countries, is known to us all. To carry on these great humanitarian services needs a great deal of money, and we make no apology in asking you to do your share in meeting this dire need, and giving to the point of sacrifice. I know we deem it a privilege to have a share in this great enterprise.

I wish to thank at this time the ladies, who at some inconvenience to themselves, have made the house-to-house canvass in Chatham city. In their efforts to do a thorough job many have made repeated visits to the homes on the streets allocated to them. If you have not been asked for a contribution to Red Cross, will you please leave it at headquarters' office, Market Square. Your donation is urgently needed. If any lady canvasser has not completed her task, may we ask her to do so as soon as possible. We have only a few days left to complete this very important work.

May we also suggest that if any society, club, church or secular has been inadvertently overlooked, and not asked for a donation, it is not too late to make your gift. Leave your cheque at Red Cross Headquarters, or call Mr. W. N. Sexsmith.

We deeply appreciate the readiness and generosity with which so many organizations in city and country have responded to our appeal.

I wish to thank you again for your fine cooperation and assistance and to express with you the hope that we shall again go well over the top in this drive. We will do so only if all of us do our very best.

May I also thank Mr. Beardall and his staff for their kind courtesy . . . also the Kent County Family Almanac for making this time available on their interesting program.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Mrs. Kent. Musical moments once again find a place in our Family Almanac. This time produced by a pair of talented hands on one of the most versatile of instruments—the piano accordion . . . and the young man is:—

GOLD—Orville Gold is my name.

ANNOUNCER—Glad to meet you, Orv. . . Welcome to the Family Almanac. Just what is that instrument going to give out with tonight . . .

GOLD—I would like to play my own arrangement of "Tic-co."

Accordion Number

VOICE—Kent County . . . first in hog production.

ANNOUNCER—During 1944 . . . Kent County regained its standing as the Number 1 hog-producing county in Southern Ontario. Figures released by the statistical branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture reveal Kent's hog output for the past year was ALSO third highest for the 54 counties and districts.

The total hog population for Kent in 1944 at the end of December was 90,754. Perth County led the province with 99,740, while Grey was second with 92,184.

VOICE—Kent County . . . third in butter production.

ANNOUNCER—The same statistical report shows creamery butter production in Kent during February was the third highest for the 12 counties comprising Southern Ontario. Total production for the 12 counties increased 130,000 pounds as compared to the same month a year ago.

February's butter output in Kent totalled 159,816 pounds. Middlesex led the district with 229,235 pounds while Lambton was second with 174,860.

VOICE—More labor available for farm jobs.

ANNOUNCER—It was announced on Tuesday of this week that through a series of amendments to National Selective Service regulations . . . Selective Service officials will be given authority to direct any male 16 to 65 . . . whether employed or unemployed . . . to a job in agriculture.

The amendments also dealt with the seven days' separation notice "freezing" of employees, dismissals for misconduct, changes in appeal procedure and other regulations.

At the same time . . . the Ontario Department of Education has issued a circular in which it is provided that secondary school and entrance class pupils MAY leave school before the end of the term to engage in farm work. In other words, principals, teachers and High School entrance boards may . . . if the pupil has reached a standard . . . release him not earlier than April 9, in which case the requirements for a certificate are modified accordingly.

So . . . with the assurance of the Federal Government that more prisoners of war will be available this year . . . farmers everywhere may find their labor problems solved to a considerable extent.

VOICE—Farm Prices—Back in 1879.

ANNOUNCER—Making out income tax reports these days is a problem . . . and for the farmer it is no exception. As he struggles with sales, profits and depreciations, he sometimes pauses to think of the days "when he could scarcely make a living on the land." But he did . . . He cleared the land and raised a large family on prices received for farm products that today are almost unthinkable. Let us ponder for a moment as we glance at the prices he received back in 1897. Here are a few quotations taken from a market report in February of that year:— For fall wheat, he received 70 to 72 cents a bushel; oats, 15 to 17 cents; beans, 60 cents; corn 30; butter, he sold for 12 and 1-2 cents; eggs were 15 cents a dozen; onions 60 cents a bushel; hay sold from \$7 to \$8 a ton; live hogs were \$3.20 a hundredweight . . . and the wood he worked so hard to cut sold for \$2 to \$2.25 a cord.

True, he lives in a different age today. The farm has conveniences undreamed of in those days . . . when folks would trudge miles, or drive horse and buggy to nearby towns where they could get better prices. Today . . . prices are standardized.

ANNOUNCER—But the Shreve Sisters are approaching the mike for another number. This time it is "Easter Sunday With You." Go ahead, girls. Shreve Sisters singing.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Artise, Norma and Carol Shreve. We hope to have you on our program again soon.

ANNOUNCER—It's not often you meet a man in the city who knows many men from the country. He may know two or three, or have a speaking acquaintance with several, but your Almanac writer wanted to find a man who knows dozens, perhaps hundreds . . . He found just such a man in W. E. Herriman, Prince Arthur Street, Chatham. Mr. Herriman was wandering through the market, when your Almanac writer spotted him . . . He seemed to know his way around, greeting many with a shake of the hand and invariably calling them by their first name. Mr. Herriman was reluctant to talk when your Almanac writer introduced himself, but we finally persuaded him to drop into our studio tonight and tell us the names of a few farmers he is acquainted with in Kent County. Mr. Herriman, just how many farmers do you know?

HERRIMAN—That's quite a question. I guess I know several hundred, maybe more.

ANNOUNCER—How many are you able to call by their first names? Name a couple . . .

they might be tuned in and I'm sure they wouldn't mind their names being mentioned over the air.

HERRIMAN—Well, say, if you're going to put me on the spot, call me Bill. The boys will know who it is then—they know me better by that name.

ANNOUNCER—Alright, Bill. Go ahead.

HERRIMAN—There's Lawrence Kerr out in Harwich Township; Milt Smith in Harwich; Frank Vercoutern in Raleigh and Harold Scamac also in Raleigh. And there are plenty others.

ANNOUNCER—I hope those gentlemen you mentioned are listening . . . on our broadcast last week we said that back in 1841, the editors of Chatham's first newspaper claimed the soil in Kent County was not exceeded in any other part of the province. Would you back up that statement today?

HERRIMAN—I certainly do. I think we've got the richest soil right here in Kent . . . probably the best in the world.

ANNOUNCER—Well, how would you say the farmers in this district stack up with the farmers in Western Canada?

HERRIMAN—Miles ahead. I would say our poorest farmers are as good as the best in the West.

ANNOUNCER—Just a minute, Bill . . . I know some farmers out West. How do you figure the farmers here are that much better?

HERRIMAN—As I have said because of the soil in these parts. And, isn't it true that good farmers nine times out of ten wind up on the best land. Any agricultural expert will tell you the same thing.

ANNOUNCER—You talk as though you know something about farming. Were you raised on a farm?

HERRIMAN—You bet. On a farm down in Wentworth County. I don't actually farm now although I spend a great deal of my time with the farmer.

ANNOUNCER—These farmers you know. What do they grow? I mean what are their main crops?

HERRIMAN—A great many grow sugar beets. . . . Others grow tobacco and sugar beets. All kinds of crops for that matter.

ANNOUNCER—That's interesting. But Mr. Herriman, we've been talking here for some

time and you haven't given any indication why you are so interested in farms and the farmers.

HERRIMAN—I think it's because I am fond of the land. Most farmers and their sons are --even though they cuss it sometime.

ANNOUNCER—Probably so . . . But you say you are interested in the land but you don't tell why. Go ahead. If it's a plug you are afraid of . . . don't mind that . . . This is a Kent County program and everybody gets a plug here.

HERRIMAN—Well . . . I'm what is known as a field man for the Dominion Sugar Company. I discuss beet crops with the farmers.

ANNOUNCER—Oh, I see. No wonder you know so many farmers. By the way, is sugar beet growing a profitable crop?

HERRIMAN—I would say it is. More profitable than most crops. For instance, Lawrence Kerr, whom I mentioned a few moments ago, took 17 tons per acre off his 16-acre plot and received \$234 gross returns per acre. Roy Jenner in Harwich, had 14 tons per acre from his 16 acres and got \$185 gross returns per acre. Try to match that with any other crops you can think off.

ANNOUNCER—But suppose the war ends . . . Will there be a market?

HERRIMAN—There certainly will. The company take care of all beets this district can produce.

ANNOUNCER—What I really meant . . . when the war is over . . . will there still be a market for sugar itself?

HERRIMAN—Oh, I see . . . That's an interesting point. The beet grower is probably the only farmer who has a guaranteed market and a guaranteed floor price. The floor price is far above any others I know of in North America.

ANNOUNCER—Say . . . I'm not versed on these floor prices. In other words, you mean there's assured market for sugar and the beets themselves . . . Now that we are on this beet question, how does the floor price work regarding beets? I don't think the company will mind us discussing prices. It's not confidential, is it?

HERRIMAN—No. On the contrary the more people who learn about beet prices . . . the more sugar can be produced in this district. The idea is no matter how low the price of sugar may fall or how low the sugar content

of the beet may turn out to be . . . the grower is guaranteed a fair return.

ANNOUNCER—Would I be inquisitive if I asked . . . what if the sugar content goes up?

HERRIMAN—In that case, the grower gets a premium of 60 cents per ton for each 1 per cent of extra sugar content above 13.

ANNOUNCER—And how high does that go?

HERRIMAN—There is no limit. Last year there were lots of beets which tested over 20 per cent. The grower is paid accordingly.

ANNOUNCER—Well, how much would a 20 per cent beet be worth?

HERRIMAN—\$13.40 a ton.

ANNOUNCER—Supposing the price of sugar goes up . . . What happens then?

HERRIMAN—The price of sugar is controlled by the sugar administrator and comes under the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, which controls sugar as well as all other commodities.

ANNOUNCER—Mr. Herriman, would you mind telling me how much sugar can be produced in this district? Am I out of order on that one?

HERRIMAN—Not at all. In 1940, they produced 100,000,000 pounds.

ANNOUNCER—Whew . . . how many acres of beets does that call for?

HERRIMAN—Approximately 40,000 acres.

ANNOUNCER—And do you hope to get that much acreage this year?

HERRIMAN—I think we could, if the growers were sure of having enough labor.

ANNOUNCER—I was going to ask you about that. Labor is rather an important issue just now, isn't it?

HERRIMAN—There is a lot of labor needed in growing beets. Last year, there were 300 prisoners of war to help. This year, a great many more have been promised through joint action of the Dominion and Ontario governments.

ANNOUNCER—They have to have camps . . . where will the prisoners of war be located?

HERRIMAN—The Chatham camp will be operating again with more prisoners than they had last year, and in addition, the governments

have promised to locate two or three camps in other places.

ANNOUNCER—And did these prisoners of war do good work last year?

HERRIMAN—The best way I can answer that question is to tell you that there was always a demand for 100 more prisoners than the camp was able to supply.

ANNOUNCER—That sounds pretty good from a labor standpoint. Now, Bill, with prices for beets you mention and with labor prospects good . . . what else is there to worry about?

HERRIMAN—With these two factors under control I see no reason why there should not be a good acreage of beets this year. With the acreage planted everything would point to a good production. The sugar beet crop is a dependable crop.

ANNOUNCER—Well I wouldn't want to see another cut in the sugar ration. I understand there has been two cuts already this year in Canada and across the border.

HERRIMAN—Yes, and I see by the paper they

intend cutting the industrial sugar ration another 5 per cent in the States.

ANNOUNCER—I certainly hope they don't cut off any more of our sugar. Do you know, Bill, I'm beginning to miss my usual amount of sugar in my coffee and I DO miss those jams and preserves mother used to make.

ANNOUNCER—And there you are folks . . . Your Almanac writer sought a man to talk about farms . . . but when one talks of farms you eventually speak of the commodities of life . . .

And thus . . . having brought you Chapter Six, Kent County Family Almanac leaves the air to return again next Thursday, same time, when in addition to our salute to Blenheim and Harwich Township, we will bring you a special program of Easter music. Meanwhile . . . here's a thought for the day:—"TRUST MEN AND THEY WILL BE TRUE TO YOU; TREAT THEM GREATLY AND THEY WILL SHOW THEMSELVES GREAT."

So long, friends and neighbors . . . and lots of good luck. Until Thursday . . . keep smiling. Good night, all.

THEME—(Up to end).

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- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN.
- KENT COUNTY HOSPITALS
- TOWN OF TILBURY
- TOWN OF THAMESVILLE
' AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER SEVEN

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, March 29th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—(In and back of speaker)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities and our people. Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to the end.)

ANNOUNCER—Tonight . . . Chapter Seven . . . Kent County Family Almanac is divided into two parts. In keeping with the Easter spirit, part one will be devoted to special music and songs . . . and . . . you will hear an Easter message from our Kent County boys and girls overseas. The speaker is a man we all know and respect . . . his message will be inspiring . . . Part two will be a salute to the town of Blenheim, the heart of that prosperous farming community—Harwich Township. You will hear stories of its farms, its people and its activities. Join us in this half-hour of fine music and community gossip—designed to help you know your neighbor and your county better.

THEME—(Up to end)

ANNOUNCER—Our first number tonight is by a guest artist who appeared on this program two weeks ago . . . Robert Claus. Bob is going to sing an appropriate selection . . . "It was for me."

CLAUS—

IT WAS FOR ME

How do I know that Jesus is my Saviour,
That by my side He's walking all the day,
How do I know no matter where I'm
straying,
That lovingly, He's watching me alway?
Full well I know the ever wondrous story,
The story that is told o'er land and sea;
And when at last He calls me home to glory,
To be with Him will be happiness for me.

Chorus—

It was for me that Jesus came to suffer,
It was for me, He died upon the tree,
It was for me, that God's Heaven is my rest,
It was for me, ah yes, it was for me!

ANNOUNCER—That was Robert Claus . . . singing "It was for Me"—the first number on our Easter broadcast tonight.

ANNOUNCER—Miss Helen Pumfrey, of Chatham, and Private John Pierce, of London, now stationed at Number 12 Basic Training Centre here in Chatham, will sing "The Christ of the Cross."

MISS PUMFREY AND PRIVATE PIERCE—

On Calvary's brow there was planted a cross,
Which lifted a man up to shame,
But He on the cross was the dear Son of God,
Who died a lost world to reclaim.

Chorus—

The Christ of the cross is the theme of my song,
The wonderful Christ of the Cross,
He atonement has made, He my ransom has paid,
So I'll praise him,
The Christ of the Cross.

Let others, who will, praise the cross of the Christ.

The Christ of the cross is my theme;
For tho' we must cherish the old rugged cross,
'Tis only the Christ can redeem
creats if we could but hear their
Chorus—

The Christ of the Cross is the theme of my song,
The wonderful Christ of the cross,
He atonement has made, He my ransom has paid,
So I'll praise Him,
The Christ of the Cross.

ANNOUNCER—At this time, it is our pleasure to bring before the microphone, Captain the Reverend E. C. Wood, pastor of the Regular Baptist Church in Chatham. Captain Wood returned from overseas a few days ago and he brings you a message from our Kent County men and women serving in England and on the continent. Captain Wood:

CAPTAIN WOOD—Good evening friends! I am not only delighted to be back in Chatham again, but also to be able to bring Easter greetings to you in the name of the many Kent County men and women serving overseas. It has been my privilege to meet many from this county in the various battle areas, a few among whom were—Col. Hadley, Majors Foex, Carter and Steele; Nursing Sister Orr and Codley also Bill Hill, Fred St. John, Jack Boot, Alex Aikman, Bill Mulhearn, Frank Needham, the Iverson brothers, Bill Little, "Dutch" Scott, "Dinty" Moore, the Wilder boys and the Haggerty brothers of Wallaceburg, besides many others, whose names escape me just now.

On behalf of these and others from our county serving in the forces, I bring you the Easter message of "Life from Death" . . . which is the glorious truth of this season.

Life from Death! How paradoxical, but yet how true. "Except a kernel of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit," so says God's word and that is the law of Seedtime and Harvest with which we see so familiar." But it is also the principle which operates in the establishment and preservation of the institutions, privileges and liberty which we in Canada enjoy so bountifully. Men and women have given their lives to procure for us what we enjoy today, and many of the men who have gone from these parts have made the supreme sacrifice for you and me; some of these whose names I have mentioned, and many, many more have bravely given their all to preserve us and our privileges from the greedy grasp of the Hun. All that we enjoy of liberty and happiness has been brought through sacrifice; we are eternal debtors to those who have gone before us. Our life is assured by their death! . . .

What responsibility rests upon us! I firmly believe that those who have paid this great price would quickly tell us they have no regrets if we could but hear them speak.

Therefore, we must not, we DARE not, fail these heroes! Let us realize their sacrifice for us, and let us use the lives for the betterment and benefit of all. Let us not resort to selfish living, either now or when peace comes, but let us hand to those who follow us the privileges and benefits of our democratic way of life so dearly bought.

That is the message of Easter, for tomorrow we remember that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Christ died to pay our debt of sin and to bring us back to God that we might live in Him. He gave His life a ransom for our souls, made it possible for us to receive eternal life in all its fulness and privilege, by receiving Him into our hearts, and dedicating our lives to Him and His service. I know you will not forget the gallant sacrifice of our brave Kent County men, but will you also remember Christ's sacrifice for you? Receive Him as your Saviour and live for Him and others.

ANNOUNCER—And now we have a real treat. Roy Guymer, well-known Chatham violinist, is going to play the inspiring "Ave Maria."

GUYMER—Playing "Ave Maria."

ANNOUNCER—Part Two of our program tonight finds us in "The Heart of the Golden Acres" . . . that's the official slogan of the town of Blenheim, our subject for tonight. Your Almanac writer visited Blenheim the other day . . . a day most towns would say was an off-day as far as business was concerned . . . but he found it thriving and busy even in the early forenoon. He wondered what the town would be like on a Saturday night, the night most towns enjoy their largest business period. "The busiest Saturday night Town in Canada" was the answer and your Almanac writer could readily understand.

Standing by in our studio tonight is W. J. Baird, veteran post master who has held that position for 29 years. Mr. Baird is going to tell us something about Blenheim and its people.

ANNOUNCER—Now, Mr. Baird, you are postmaster at Blenheim—I don't suppose there is anyone more qualified to tell us when the first post office was opened in Blenheim or Rond Eau, as it was known in the early days.

BAIRD—The first postoffice was opened in 1849 and Orrin Gee was the first postmaster. In 1853, John Cavanaugh was appointed and when he died in 1856, J. K. Morris was appointed. He continued until 1916 when I received the appointment.

ANNOUNCER—Alright . . . now that we are off to a fine start, do you know how Blenheim got its name? We are always interested in those details.

BAIRD—Since you asked me . . . here is what have been told. It seems, one night in the early '70's, a party was held in Brundage's

log cabin, one of the first houses erected in the settlement. Mungo Sampson, father of the late Dr. Sampson, recited Robert Southey's poem, "The Battle of Blenheim." Sampson recited that poem so forcefully that the gathering decided then and there to name their village . . . Blenheim . . . after the famous victory of the War of the Spanish Succession which the Duke of Marlborough won over the French in 1704. It is an interesting fact that the seat of the Dukes of Marlborough, the family line of Winston Churchill is named Blenheim, having been established by the First Duke of Marlborough, one of the greatest British Generals of all time.

ANNOUNCER—Our Almanac writer tells us that the first settler in the area was a man by the name of Richard Chute, who built his cabin west of the Communication Road, opposite the site where the Cadillac now stands. Is he right?

BAIRD—Quite right. And that Brundage cabin, I mentioned a moment ago was built on the site now occupied by Knight Brothers' Garage where the old Vester House used to be. It might also be interesting to note that the first school in the district was built in 1843, on what is now the Dave Irving property in the east end of the town, before the townsite of Blenheim was laid out.

ANNOUNCER—Over a hundred years ago, rather interesting that . . . I wonder if anyone ever kept a record of the first pupils to attend that school.

BAIRD—Oh yes. In a paper prepared by Mr. Irving and our High School Principal, John Gilchrist,—which was presented before the Rotary Club recently—the first pupils are recorded as children of such pioneers as the Sampsons, the Pickerings, the Morrisons, the McGregors, and the Frasers. A man by the name of McQuarie was the first teacher. He used to board with the parents of his scholars and the more pupils sent by any one family—the longer the teacher stayed there. He only got a couple of dollars extra a month, you know.

ANNOUNCER—When did the first store open in the community, Mr. Baird?

BAIRD—The Pass brothers arrived about 1845, and started a pioneer trading concern. Their shop was located on the site later occupied by A. L. Bisonnett's store. Later Erastus Burke dealt in dry goods and groceries; . . . James English and James Fletcher were shoemakers . . . Joseph Meredith and James Wiley ran blacksmith shops; . . . E. W. Osborne dealt in furniture and William Mallory operated a stage to Chatham, as also did Let

Edmunds, a famous horseman in those days. As time went on . . . industries began to locate here . . . there was a foundry and factory owned by the Halls; . . . they made farm machinery and so on; George Morgan ran a saw and planing mill and sash and door factory, and Adoniram Lane operated a carriage and wagon shop. J. B. Coates had a stove mill, and Rutherfords ran a flour mill. The Flater's and Cox's were celebrated builders of buggies and farm implements.

ANNOUNCER—Well, Blenheim seems to have got off to a good start. How about churches?

BAIRD—In the days of the early settlers, religion was an important part of their lives. I have been told the first church services in the community were held in the old school I just mentioned. But in 1847, the Baptists became organized and held meetings in various homes. In 1855, the Wesleyan Methodist Church was built on the site of the former Methodist Church. It is now the Roman Catholic Church. The Presbyterians built their church in 1856 and the Anglicans also built about that same time. Those were the days when the ministers received their pay in pork, grain, beef and cheese donated by members of his congregation.

ANNOUNCER—Now, Mr. Baird, . . . Do you recall anyone, mentioning the names of some of these pioneers, . . . families who helped to make Blenheim and the Township of Harwich part of this great garden of Ontario?

BAIRD—Well—There were the McGuigans . . . the Hartfords . . . the Smiths . . . the Maynards . . . the Sterlings . . . the Steeles . . . the Craigs . . . the Shanks . . . the McPhersons . . . the Peggs . . . the McDougalls and the McGregors . . . The McGregors I might add have had five generations on the same farm.

ANNOUNCER—Back in the old days, every town had its unique characters. Persons who helped to keep things gay with their odd remarks and good natured nonsense. Did Blenheim ever have anybody like that?

BAIRD—(with a laugh)—Yes. Blenheim did have a number of characters back in the 70's. I remember such persons as Charlie Copland. Charlie kept a grocery store. His favorite mutterings were, "Poor Charlie. Poor Charlie. Poor enough, God knows."—Al Sam and Robert Crosby, Paddy Glenn. MI Dunn and Felix Gurney who were in a class by themselves with their Irish wit and humor. Then, there was Bidy Dunlop . . . the fortune teller and tailoress. No one . . . ever before or since . . . dressed as she did. The surveyor, Sherman Malcolm came to town and he WAS a character. He always was

a silk hat and frock coat and very seldom cut his hair. Us kids used to yell "Bats" at him and he would chase us for a block or two . . . much to our delight.

ANNOUNCER—How about doctors? These men always play a prominent part in the pioneer life of four towns.

BAIRD—W-e-l-l. Along in 1852, Dr. Charles Tosser opened a practice in Rond Eau, now Blenheim. He later had a partner, Dr. McCully. A little later, Dr. Van Velsor, Dr. Sampson began a practice. Dr. Sampson started the first newspaper in the district, called "The Rondeau News."

ANNOUNCER—Oh, yes, I was going to ask you about the town newspaper. Have you only the one paper in Blenheim?

BAIRD—Yes, The News-Tribune. Dr. Sampson and Joseph Ash started the News in 1874, but in 1888 it was changed to the Blenheim News when Andrew Denholm became its editor. Meanwhile another paper, The Tribune, was started by Theo Pickering. When J. M. Denholm acquired the News in 1902, he amalgamated with the Tribune. Leonard Pegg and R. G. Shearer took over the paper in 1938. Leonard is the editor today. His partner, Capt. Shearer returned from overseas where he served in Italy with the Canadian Army Service Corps.

ANNOUNCER—Mr. Baird . . . I've been told that Blenheim had quite a Lacrosse team in the old days. I believe you were mentioned as one of the team's foremost players.

BAIRD—Oh, I was just one of the players. There were others on the team better than I was. The Club in 1897 was known as the Kents, and we were district champions for some years.

ANNOUNCER—I think our listeners would be interested to know just who were on that team.

BAIRD—If I remember right those who played on that team were Billie Henry and Johnny Shillington as field captains; Art Cox, Ashton Upper, Jim Stokes, Sherman Wagner, Shyler Stowe, Reg. Crist, Don Stevenson, W. Labdoic, Bob Powell, A. G. Shillington, Frank Knights, and the three Burke boys, Jim, Alf and Sam.

ANNOUNCER—By the way! We've forgotten to mention when the town was incorporated? Do you happen to remember?

BAIRD—Let's see. The Municipality was incorporated as a police village in 1874 and the council held its first meeting January 4, 1875. A. L. Bisnett was the reeve. In 1885 Blenheim

was incorporated as a town. The first mayor was A. L. Bisnett, still serving as head of the council; the reeve was J. K. Morris, the postmaster and the council consisted of T. S. Bell, James Cox, W. Hammond, F. Cannaird (A. Lane and John Mulholland.

ANNOUNCER—What about the present day mayor and council?

BAIRD—Roy Warwick is our Mayor today; Gordon Knights is the reeve; and the councillors are W. G. Gordon, Alex Bowman, Peter Ryan, William Braithwaite, John Jenner and Dr. J. Graham. P. S. Shillington is our town clerk and has been since 1906. His family is one of the oldest in the district.

ANNOUNCER—And just what comprises the enterprising town of Blenheim? Your industries, I mean?

BAIRD—We have two large elevators, one of which is the largest in Kent County. They belong to W. G. Thompson, the present Minister of Lands and Forests; Warwick and Sons are general contractors and Canada's largest shippers of seed corn. S. Scoyne and Sons are cement Contractors and Manufacturers of cement vaults. There is the Malloy Hardware Products; the Glen Purvis Machine and Tool Company; T. Howard James Onion Storage; the Blenheim Cannery and the new Kent Fruit Growers' Co-operative with a 40,000 bushel storage. We also have Wm. Knights and Sons, drovers, who ship annually from this district an average of 30,000 hogs as well as many thousand cattle. And there is the Blenheim Creamery, one of the largest and best equipped plants in Ontario. It processes 2,500 quarts of milk per day and makes 300,000 pounds of butter per annum.

ANNOUNCER—What else makes up the town? You haven't mentioned the population.

BAIRD—The last census gave Blenheim the population of 1952. We also have five churches, a public school, a high school, two fine hotels—the Cadmac and the Blenheim; several garages, greenhouses and one of the finest Public Utilities Buildings in the country. Then there is the St. Francis Roman Catholic Monastery.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Mr. Baird. You folks out at Blenheim must be pretty proud of your town. We hope you have enjoyed this portion of our program, and if you would like a copy, write to the Family Almanac at CFCO, Chatham and one will be mailed. It is yours for the asking. Thank you again, Mr. Baird, and good night.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—And here is a message of particular interest to sugar-beet growers.

SECOND ANNOUNCER—I understand so many calls are being received from farmers anxious to contract for sugar-beets that field men of the sugar company cannot take care of them all immediately.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—Yes, I hear that with field labour promised by the time the beets are ready for thinning, more and more farmers are ready to contract and many have announced their intentions of increasing their sugar-beet acreage.

SECOND ANNOUNCER—Sugar-beet growers are therefore asked to be patient as the field men are making their rounds as quickly as possible and will be in your vicinity as soon as time permits.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—Growers tell us that the sugar-beet crop is most profitable because sugar-beets are a cash crop and return a high value per acre—in fact, excellent when compared with any other crop the farmer can grow.

SECOND ANNOUNCER—I am told the price for sugar-beets this year is the same as last year. In 1944, after paying for labour the farmer's return was over \$75.00 per acre.

The average price was \$12.52 per tons which means the gross return per acre was \$112.50 for factory delivered beets and \$105.75 at outside points. This, of course, was the average, and hundreds of farmers realized much more than this.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—Producing sugar-beets is like buying victory bonds—you help the war effort and your own pocket-book. (Pause) Most frequent remarks from last year's growers.

SECOND ANNOUNCER—I wish I had put in more sugar-beets. (Pause). Now the farmers are really doing it.

ANNOUNCER—And thus, having brought you Chapter Seven of the Kent County Family Almanac leaves the air to return again next Thursday, same time when we will salute the newspaper editors and authors of Kent and its surrounding counties. Meanwhile, here's a thought for the day . . . MOST MEN HAVE MORE COURAGE THAN THEY THEMSELVES THINK THEY HAVE.

So long, friends and neighbors. Lots of good luck and until Thursday, keep smiling. Good night, all.

THEME—(Up to end).

Listen to...

KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC

EVERY THURSDAY 9 TO 9:30 P.M. OVER CFCO.

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

"Get acquainted with your County and Your Neighbor."

SOME FUTURE BROADCASTS

- PIONEERS OF KENT
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- TOWN OF BOTHWELL
- KENT PERSONALITIES
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN
- KENT COUNTY HOSPITALS
- TOWN OF TILBURY
- TOWN OF THAMESVILLE

AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER EIGHT.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, April 5th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—(In and hold back of announcer.)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it comes Kent County Family Almanac... a program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities and our people. Anything and everything that happens in this rich-garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter Eight, Kent County Family Almanac. Tonight, we salute the weekly newspaper publishers of Southwestern Ontario and pay tribute to that band of men and women who are playing such an important part in the life of their community. The speaker is one of these newspaper publishers who will tell you why the weekly newspaper in your district is worthy of your support. We will also hear a talk on Kent County authors and poets, some of whom are scattered to the four corners of the earth. There will be fine music, and we will welcome home latest arrivals of our fighting sons from overseas.

THEME—Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Our first musical number tonight is a musical selection by that nimble-fingered artist, Orville Gold. Orville has his piano-accordion with him and... well, what's it going to be, Orv.:

GOLD—It's "Dark Eyes." I hope you like it.

ANNOUNCER—O.K. The mike's yours.

GOLD—Accordion number.

ANNOUNCER—And now let us welcome home a number of our young heroes who returned from overseas during the last week. Welcome home to L. S. Fred Fenton of 551

Queen Street, Chatham... Able bodied Seaman R. J. Kelly, 58 Murray Street, Chatham... Cpl. John Olliphant of Dresden... Pte. Charles McRitchie, Zone Township... Pte. Tom Jennings, of Bothwell... and L.A.C. J. E. Benedict, Concession Four, Chatham Gore.

ANNOUNCER—Another musical number is up now and Miss Corine Carron, a guest artist in our studio tonight is going to sing that lovely selection "Homing."

MISS CARRON—Singing.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Miss Carron... Tomorrow, April 6th the weekly newspaper publishers of Southwestern Ontario hold their annual convention in Chatham. Tonight, Kent County Family Almanac salutes this group of men and women who are playing such an important role in their community. We have in our studio tonight one of these publishers, Mr. Leonard Pegg, editor of the Blenheim News-Tribune. Mr. Pegg is vice-president of the Southwestern Weekly Newspapers' Association. He is going to tell us of the trials and tribulations of the Weekly Newspaper editors during wartime, and he has a message we know will be of interest to us all. Mr. Pegg:

PEGG—Good evening, ladies and gentlemen... It's a pleasure to have this opportunity of speaking to the radio audience on behalf of the publishers of weekly newspapers in Southwestern Ontario.

Those who leave these parts and go out into the world with the feeling that they can find greater self-satisfaction and happiness than they have here—must certainly suffer great disappointment. Many of them return after they have awakened from their dreams and discovered that their distant pastures only LOOKED green.

When the boys who are overseas write home and tell us how beautiful England, France and Belgium is but they still prefer Southwestern Ontario to anything they have seen... they're not kidding the folks back

home. There may be a little home-sickness involved, but when we have fellows from New Zealand tell us they think this part of Ontario is the nicest spot on earth outside their own home town . . . it is proof that we are not simply disillusioned.

Southwestern Ontario is indeed a grand place to call home . . . and each and every community in it is a grand place to live. Southwestern Ontario communities—and here I am speaking of the communities outside the cities—are lively centres. The people who live in them are progressive and interested in the better things of life. There is very little to stand in their way when they are in the pursuit of happiness.

We have no slums in these Southwestern Ontario communities . . . no juvenile delinquency to speak of . . .

We have instead, our good way of life with our churches, our service clubs . . . our lodges . . . our farm groups . . . our women's institutes and all those things which city dwellers are inclined to look upon as 'simple' . . . but which we know is really down-to-earth living . . . and which we would not trade for all the street cars and rush-rush, which after all, are about the main things city people have that we have not. We do not have to put up with stuffy city air and seek refuge from the strain of daily toil in an artificial park. We live in a veritable natural park all the time.

Our farmers of Southwestern Ontario are some of the most prosperous people on the face of this earth. Any farmer in any of our communities who does not think he is well off . . . needs but to look around himself, take a little stock of his well-being as well as that of his family and ask himself if he would trade places with anyone else. You can't beat farming in Southwestern Ontario.

Now, what makes our communities what they are? I have already mentioned our churches, service clubs, lodges and our farm groups . . . There is more behind this life outside the cities, however.

It is a fact that we all know our neighbors—that everyone knows Farmer Brown; who Mrs. Brown was before she was married, and the first names of all the little Browns. We sympathize with Mrs. Jones, the storekeeper's wife, who had to have an operation . . . and we wonder when the love affair between Jimmy O'Neill and Dot McIntosh will culminate in a new family taking its place in the life of our community. Now, this is where the weekly newspaper fits into the picture.

Your weekly newspaper is something the people of the community demands. Every person in the community reads the home town newspaper . . . everyone has a pet name for it . . . you've heard all of them . . . But everyone has a particular interest in it.

There is a certain amount of satisfaction in reading about your neighbor's doings . . . or even in reading about what you have been doing yourself. You read the reports of the Red Cross Drive . . . how many blood donors turned out for the last clinic . . . and how much money it will take to put the home town over the top in the Victory Loan Drive . . . You are interested in who the new officers of the Women's Missionary Society are, and you agree or disagree with what one of the columnists puts forth. You never miss the local news.

Then, of course, you never miss the want ads and you read the other ads to see what specials the stores have for the week . . . You keep up with what the Wartime Prices and Trade Board is doing . . . the Department of Labor and the Minister of Finance issues as a guidance to the public in their business of running a country at war. You read of the sugar shortage and see the advertisements of the Sugar Company which knows the situation and is doing all that is possible to provide sugar so essential in our daily life.

And the weekly newspaper is just as essential in the life of our communities as is the municipal council—even the mayor.

In one of the towns I am speaking about, the newspaper editor and the mayor are the same person . . . I refer to Phil Fader, editor of the Leamington Post and News . . . who is mayor of that busy town.

In nearly every town and village, the weekly newspaper publisher is a rather important man in the life of the community as well as being an outstanding contributor to the good of the community through his newspaper. You will find publishers heading the Red Cross branches . . . presidents of the service clubs, masters of the lodges, presidents of the baseball, hockey and golf clubs; . . . secretaries of all types of organizations, chairman of church boards and superintendents of Sunday Schools.

One of the weekly publishers in our district, Ernie Lashbrook, of the Rodney Mercury-Sun, has an outstanding record in municipal service, including the wardenship of Elgin County . . . and at present he is vice-president of the Ontario Motor League. Senator Lacasse, of Tecumseh, publisher of the Maple Leaf, or La Feuille D'ERable, an outstanding weekly paper, printed half in French and half in English, is one of our members. Our announcer has told you of the area covered

by the association I represent in this talk tonight. But let me add to that . . . weekly newspapers in Southwestern Ontario are playing a vital part in the life of such progressive centres as Amherstburg, Kingsville, Essex, Leamington, Tilbury, Wallaceburg, Petrolia, Dresden, Strathroy, Forest, Ridgetown, Blenheim, Watford, Glencoe, Alvinston, Rodney, West Lorne, Dutton, Thamesville, Highgate, Merlin, Wheatley, Comber and Bothwell.

I would like to mention the names of the Newspapers and their publishers in each place, but time does not permit and you people who live in these centres know them all. Weekly newspaper editors have their war-time problems, too. Anyone familiar with the staffs in your country weekly six years ago would notice vast changes now. Boys, who, used to operate linotypes and run presses are driving tanks or airplanes . . . helping in the job of preserving freedom of the press and freedom for all the people.

Many publishers themselves have gone into the services. I have in mind Charlie Ross, of the Dresden News; "Chick" Spence, of the Strathroy Age-Despatch and my own partner, Russ Shearer, of the Blenheim News-Tribune. Many publishers have sons or daughter in uniform.

Filling the places of those who went into the services has indeed been a big job for the publishers. Many have their wives and their daughters as regular members of the staff. Two women constitute the entire staff of one of the newspapers here in our district.

The weekly publisher will also be playing an important part in helping the boys who return from military service . . . when the war is over which we all hope will be soon.

And in conclusion . . . let me say that a good weekly newspaper is an asset to any community . . . the more co-operation the people of the community give the publisher in the form of subscriptions, advertising, and printing, the better will be the newspaper and the stronger will be the community. The weekly publisher is just like any other business man . . . he never gets rich from his newspaper . . . and he does deserve a good living in return for all he does for his town or district.

Yes, people living in towns and in the districts surrounding the towns should realize that the better they patronize their local merchants and support their local newspaper . . . the stronger and better will their community be . . . and the stronger the community . . . the richer life will be in it.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Mr. Pegg. One can readily realize the advantages of living in the homey atmosphere of our rural communities. After listening to your remarks tonight, I am almost convinced that if there were radio stations in some of your districts . . . even radio announcers would like the free and easy life of your towns and villages.

ANNOUNCER—Here are the Shreve Sisters . . . Artis . . . Norma . . . and Carol. You have heard them before on our program and tonight they have a number we think you will like. It's "Irish Lullaby."

Go ahead, girls.

SHREVE SISTERS—Sing.

MR. PEGG—This is Leonard Pegg again, ladies and gentlemen. I understand the next talk will be on Kent County authors and I have been asked to introduce the speaker. . . . Mr. Victor Lauriston. Mr. Lauriston is a modest man and may not mention himself during the course of his remarks. Let me say that Mr. Lauriston is one of the most capable writers and authors in the whole of Ontario. His books include a mystery novel "The Twenty-First Burr"—the volume on Arthur Stringer for the Makers of Canadian Literature series and its amusing little companion work—"Postscript to a Poet" and above all his great biographical novel "Inglorious Milton." He is one of the best informed men on Kent County history and I am sure what he has to say will be of great interest. Ladies and gentlemen . . . Mr. Lauriston.

MR. LAURISTON—Thank you Mr. Pegg. It's a pleasure to be introduced by the capable and eloquent editor of the Blenheim News-Tribune; just as it is also a pleasure to tell our hearers a few facts about some of the writers who have brought distinction to Kent County.

I am wondering if we could call Major John Richardson a Kent author? More than a century ago his "Wacousta," a romance of Pontiac's siege of Detroit, was a best seller in old London. As a boy of 16, Richardson retreated up the Thames with Procter and Tecumseh, and was taken prisoner at Moraviantown.

Richardson, I guess, is a border-line case. But Archibald Lampman definitely belongs to us. Born in 1861 in the Anglican rectory still standing on No. 21 highway just south of Morpeth, Lampman belonged to that brilliant group of early Canadian poets which included Roberts and Carmen.

Almost a contemporary of Lampman was Tom MacInnes. Born at Dresden in 1867,

at the age of five Tom's parents found him a stowaway on one of the small ocean-going craft that in those days still docked at Dresden. In later years, MacInnes fulfilled that early promise by becoming Canada's leading authority on the Orient. Lampman's poetry is delicate and formal; MacInnes' verse is robust and defies tradition. But the two poets have a curious bond; for in later years Lampman's daughter married a son of Tom MacInnes.

Robert Barr, a native of Glasgow, taught school in Raleigh. In 1876 he came back from Windsor to marry Eva Bennett, a Raleigh girl. The same year the Detroit Free Press sent Barr a cheque for a contribution and asked him to join its staff. Barr quit teaching to become famous as a humorist under the pen name of "Luke Sharp"; and under his own name as a novelist. A brother, James Barr, whose career did not touch Kent, was also a novelist.

The McKishnie's were another writing family. Jean McKishnie better known under her married name of Jean Blewett was a native of New Scotland, near Rondeau Park. She wrote a novel as long ago as 1885 and was on one occasion Kent's best paid poet. The Chicago Times-Herald offered a \$600. prize for the best poem on spring; and Jean Blewett of New Scotland, Kent County, won that prize. Her brother, Archie McKishnie, wrote his first novel "Gaff Linkum" in 1907. The Talbotville of "Gaff Linkum" is unquestionably Morpeth; and though his place names are fictitious, most of McKishnie's novels deal with Kent scenes and characters.

Three children of the late Venerable Archdeacon Sandys were writers. Edwyn W. Sandys became editor of Outing, the leading outdoor magazine of his day. His book "Trapper Jim," is a classic of outdoor life. A sister, Mrs. Grace E. Denison, was one of Canada's first women journalists; her contributions to Saturday Night under the pen-name of "Lady Gay" were familiar to readers of many years ago. A third member of the family, Lucy Sandys, who died in 1943, also wrote prose and verse.

Then there are the O'Hara boys. Geoff O'Hara's stuttering song about K-katy and the C-cowshed was a popular item of the last war; one of perhaps three hundred productions which include maybe 50 books. But few people remember that an elder brother, F. C. T. O'Hara, a tower of strength to the civil service at Ottawa, varied the tedium of official work by producing an amusing book, "Snapshots of Boy Life."

Forty years ago Charles Christopher Jenkins was a fellow reporter of mine on the News. Later, he was a rival reporter on the Planet.

In his Chatham days Jenkins, who had a gift for rapid-fire, melodramatic plot, produced about half the one-reel scenarios used in the early era of the silent films. News paper work at Fort William familiarized him with Northern Ontario, the scene of his two novels, "The Timber Pirate" and "The Reign of Brass"; but the latter novel starts in a town surprisingly like Chatham with a law firm alarmingly reminiscent of the once famous Stone, Gundy and Brackin.

To the earlier era belongs Augustus Bridle, who now, in his 70's, is musical critic of the Toronto Star. Bridle worked on a farm near Fletcher and graduated brilliantly from the C.C.I. and Toronto University. His biographical novel "Hansen" closely touches Kent and Chatham; his town of Plainsville is unquestionably Chatham and its folk our own people of the early 90's.

In 1883 the newly organized Macaulay Club gave its first banquet as a farewell to young Thomas O'Hagen, departing principal of St. Joseph's Separate School. Half a century later the distinguished Dr. Thomas O'Hagan came back as guest of honor at the fiftieth Club banquet. In the interval he had published a host of pleasant volumes of essays, travel and above all, poetry.

Most outstanding of Kent's writers is Arthur Stringer, born in a now shabby house on Colborne Street in 1874. In Chatham Stringer spent his boyhood, and indulged in the Thames River piracies depicted in his "Lonely O'Malley." In later years he made his summer home at Shadow Lawn on Lake Erie. His nostalgic longing for his old home town is betrayed by glancing at references and familiar names in many of his novels. In the greatest of these, "The Wine of Life," the Canadian scene is unmistakably Kent. Even if Stringer's prose works, fifty of them, had never been written, he would still on the strength of his poetry alone rank as Chatham's greatest son.

And—well, I have time left only to apologize to a host of other Kent writers whose good work really deserves but cannot receive mention. Some time, when the Kent County Family Almanac can give me a full evening, I'll be able to discuss them all.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Mr. Lauriston . . . Kent County Family Almanac has in mind just such an evening for you . . . in fact, we hope to hear from you several times during the next few months on your valuable store of Kent's historical events.

ANNOUNCER—So ends Chapter Eight, Kent County Family Almanac. We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday,

same time . . . when we will bring you a story of the life of Jack Miner, beloved Canadian Naturalist who, had he lived, would have celebrated his 80th birthday on April 10. Meanwhile, here's a thought for the day

IF YOU ONCE UNDERSTAND AN AU-

To the earlier one belongs A. . . who now, in his 70s, is . . . Toronto Star. Birds worked on . . . and graduated brilliantly from the . . . C. I. and Toronto University. The . . . cal novel "Hansel" closely touches . . . (Chatham; his town of . . . tionally (Chatham and its folk . . . ple of the early 90s . . . In 1883 the newly organized . . . gave his first daughter as a . . .

No. 16

THOR'S CHARACTER . . . THE COMPREHENSION OF HIS WRITINGS BECOMES EASY

So-long, friends and neighbors. Lots of luck until THURSDAY . . . Good night all.

THEME—(Up to end.)

It was a . . . school in . . . from Windsor to . . . left girl. The same . . . Press sent him a . . . and asked him to . . . teaching to become . . . under the pen name . . . under his own name . . . James Park, whose . . .

Listen to...

KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC

EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.

OVER CFCO.

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

"Get acquainted with your County and Your Neighbor."

work really describes . . . Some time when the . . . family Almanac can give . . . I'll be able to discuss . . .

ANNOUNCER—Thank you Mr. . . . Kent County Family Almanac . . . just such an evening for you . . . hope to hear from you several . . . the next few months on your . . . local . . .

ANNOUNCER—So ends Chapter . . . County Family Almanac. We . . . at this time to return again . . .

SOME

FUTURE BROADCASTS

- PIONEERS OF KENT
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- TOWN OF BOTHWELL
- KENT PERSONALITIES
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN
- KENT COUNTY HOSPITALS
- TOWN OF TILBURY
- TOWN OF THAMESVILLE

AND OTHERS

A sister, . . . of Canada's first . . . tributions to Saturday . . . name of " . . . eye of . . . to the family . . . also wrote . . . Then there are the . . . O'Hara's . . . the O-cowshed was . . . year; one of . . . those which . . . low people . . . the . . . civil service at . . . official work . . . " . . . Forty years ago . . . was a fellow . . . that he was . . .

Windsor Public Library

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER NINE

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, April 12th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—(In and hold back of announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities and our people . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich-garden land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

MUSIC—Organ . . . softly "Rock of Ages."

ANNOUNCER—This is Jack Miner Memorial Week in Canada . . . and tonight Kent County Family Almanac dedicates Chapter Nine to that beloved Canadian and friend of the birds, Jack Miner . . . Jack Miner was Canada's greatest naturalist and his name was known to kings and queens the world over . . . His acquaintances included presidents and diplomats . . . and . . . in addition he had a host of close personal friends who were proud of their association with Jack Miner. With us in the studio is one of those personal friends and we will hear from him later in the broadcast. The hymns played and sung tonight are all Jack Miner's favorites. They are dedicated to the man whom the poet Edgar Guest often referred as "The best loved Christian in America."

ORGAN—(Up to end.)

ANNOUNCER—Before we open our Jack Miner program tonight, let the Almanac welcome home from overseas several of our Chatham and Kent County boys who returned during the past few days . . . Welcome to Private Jack Autry of Dresden; Corporal Ken Wilde and Sergt. Earl Hornick, of Chatham; Lance-Corp. N. R. Cains and Private W. Fraser, Ridgetown; and Captain Robert Bradley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bradley, Dover Township.

Also birthday greetings to Mr. Harvey Jen-

ner, of Harwich Township, who on Friday last celebrated his 83rd birthday. A family gathering took place at the home of Mr. Jenner's son, Roy, on the 5th concession, Harwich, where the Jenner's have farmed for over 40 years. "We specialize in all crops," Mr. Jenner told your Almanac writer, "but one of our main crops this year will be sugar-beets—same as last year—20 acres."

Greetings to Mrs. Hanna Percy, who on the same day observed her 99th birthday. Born near Kent Bridge, Mrs. Percy's parents were farmers for years before Mrs. Percy came to Chatham to live.

And many happy returns of the day to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Edwards, of the River Road, Raleigh. Both are natives of Raleigh Township where Mr. Edwards was a councillor for 20 years.

ANNOUNCER—Last fall, as it must come to all men, death came to Jack Miner, of Kingsville, Ontario. At the age of 79, but with the vitality and energy of a youth, Jack Miner lived a life that should be an inspiration to us all. Everyone knows how he loved the old hymns and religious songs and as a tribute to him tonight, our tenor soloist, Robert Claus is going to sing the movement "Going Home," adapted from the largo of Drovack's celebrated symphony from "The New World."

Ladies and gentlemen, Robert Claus—

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—"Jesus Saviour Pilot Me," was written in 1880 by Edward Hooper, a Presbyterian clergyman, who presided over a mission to sailors in New York city as a means of providing inspiration to these men in their dangerous occupation. It was one of Jack Miner's favorite hymns and tonight the male quartette of the First Presbyterian Church in Chatham, are going to sing this number. The quartette, comprising Messrs. V. Riseborough, F. B. Burnie, D. M. Johnstone and

D. H. Rawlings are in our studio and at this time you will hear them sing Edward Hooper's "Jesus Saviour Pilot Me."

QUARTETTE—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—When Jack Miner's biography is written, the names of Dr. and Mrs. Bryce Kendrick of Chatham will be recorded as the first persons who took him out of his hometown at Kingsville to speak in public. Dr. and Mrs. Kendrick featured Jack Miner during a concert in Blenheim over 30 years ago and from then on, Jack Miner had a lecture career never equalled in Canada. Dr. Kendrick is going to tell us some of the personal incidents never told before in all that has been written on that great Canadian citizen. Ladies and gentlemen, Dr. Kendrick:

DR. KENDRICK—This week has been set aside to honour the work and life of Jack Miner. . . . I know that old and young alike all over Canada will join us in the pleasant office of being witness to his great worth to the world. I wish to thank the sponsors of this half-hour program for the privilege of being allowed to join with the radio audience in paying tribute to a name so justly renowned and honoured as that of Jack Miner—my very personal friend for many, many years.

Along with other great men in history his name has been written in the book of death, yet he still lives on and will continue to live on as long as a bird flies, as long as a flower blooms, and as long as a song is sung.

There has been thousands of words written about Jack Miner and you are as familiar with his splendid career and magnificent services to humanity as I am . . . I have been asked to-night to try and relate some incidents in his life that have not already been referred to, and I am sure that you all realize that is indeed a difficult task.

At the Jack Miner Testimonial Banquet held in Kingsville last year, Mr. John R. MacNicol, Federal member of Parliament for Toronto Davenport, was kind enough to say that I was the first person to suggest and encourage Jack Miner to commence his famous lecture work that took him across this continent many times. Mr. MacNicol's reference has a human interest story and brings out one thing that had much to do with Miner's great success in life—his sincere appreciation.

During the early years of his life Jack Miner was an entertainer of note—he sang well . . . had a fine sense of humor and was on many programmes in Kingsville district. During those years a young girl by the name of Pearl Simon was often associated with him on these programmes. That girl later became Mrs. Kendrick and a new reciprocation of programmes began.

In the early part of the century, Jack Miner proved that wild geese recognized friends . . . in man . . . as readily as enemies. He started his world-famous Bird Sanctuary which has been copied throughout the world. In 1909, he began banding birds, which carried the Miner name and the name of Kingsville to all parts of both North and South America. During his lifetime he banded over 50,000 ducks and 35,000 Canadian geese. Through Jack Miner's efforts, the water fowl population of North America increased 60 per cent in ten years.

About that time Mrs. Kendrick asked him to assist her on a program. I listened to him but a few minutes that evening when I realized that here was one of the great men of the world in the making. At one moment there would not be a dry eye in the auditorium—a minute later you could hear the peals of laughter a block away. He had complete control over that audience . . . never have I seen anything like it . . . before nor since. In my home after the program, I ventured the opinion that he would be world famous in fifteen years, and he laughed at me. And here is the interesting part of the story—fifteen years later to the day, I received a letter from him, written in New York City where he was speaking in the Waldorf Astoria . . . it ran like this . . . "Fifteen years ago to-night you said I would be world famous . . . I laughed . . . it has partly come true" . . . Jack Miner carried those words of encouragement all through those fifteen years and then showed me his appreciation by writing me one of the grandest letters I have ever read and one which I now have and prize very highly.

The ducks and the geese that came to Jack Miner's Sanctuary, really knew him. Many years ago I was driving in the vicinity of his place when I met him on the third concession of Gossfield Township about one mile from his home. I got out of the car to speak with him and just at that moment four geese appeared, . . . flying fairly high and headed towards Lake Erie. Jack said . . . "Doc, I guess I will bring them down." He gave a few honks . . . the geese turned and circled around to 20 feet above us as if to salute Miner. Then they winged their way towards the lake.

In 1922, I visited the Miner Sanctuary with a group of newspaper men. Miner wanted to demonstrate the flight of wild geese to these men and while talking to the reporters he picked up an ear of corn and threw it at the leader of a flock nearby. The leader gave a warning and prepared to fly . . . then looked and saw it was Miner. He stopped and the flock began to eat. That leader recognized Miner, and knew no harm would come to his flock when Miner was around.

Many wild geese came to him every year for care and attention when injured and not a few of them died on his very door step.

Miner had a wonderful sense of humor. A few years ago he had a mild nervous breakdown. About that time two Americans came to Kingsville, especially to meet him and see the Sanctuary. They asked a resident of Kingsville for direction to his place . . . and, after giving them the direction this person made the comment . . . "Oh yes, Jack was a great man but he is getting old and a little dotty." In due course, Jack met the visitors . . . showed them about the Sanctuary, entertaining them all the while with his homespun philosophy . . . Finally they parted company and the two men wandered along Jack's flower gardens until they came to the end of the Sanctuary. In the meantime, Jack had started to do some work among the evergreens in the same location and the visitors didn't see him. He heard one say to the other . . . "If that fellow is dotty, . . . God help the rest of us." Jack loved to tell that story on himself.

Uncle Jack, as he was frequently called by those in close touch with him, was honoured on many occasion. He was the only private citizen in Canada to be on the world-wide radio hook-up on the 25th Silver Jubilee of the late King George V. He received medals of merit from many organizations. In the King's birthday honour list in June, 1943, the Order of the British Empire was bestowed upon him.

Jack Miner was poor in pocket but rich in genius. He didn't inherit the Sanctuary . . . it represents a life of toil and travel, sleepless nights, tedious journeys and years of hard work. So when he bestowed this property to posterity it was not his wealth only but it was himself he gave.

Jack Miner lived a full life, one we all should try to emulate. He left a grand name for his family and brought honour not only to his home-town, Kingsville, but to all Canada. His widow, Mrs. Laona Miner, three sons, Jasper, Ted and Manly and two grand-children, John 3rd and Wilhelmina still reside in Kingsville.

Eddie Guest, well known Detroit poet, said, "that Jack Miner was the best-loved Christian in America." To me, he had the finest faith I have ever known. Three years ago when he was taken into the operating room in Ford Hospital for a major operation, he said to the chief surgeon—"Providence has been good to me and I would like to say a word of prayer." One of the surgeons said to me later, "I am sure it was one of the greatest prayers of all time and everyone

in that operating room was visibly affected." In closing, may I read Jack Miner's interpretation of the 23rd psalm . . .

"The Lord is my guide and teacher,
"I will not get lost,
"He makes my heart a receiving station for His wireless.
"He sits down beside me in the pathless woods and opens up his book of Knowledge.
"He turns the leaves very slowly so that my dimmed eyes may read His meaning.
"He makes the trees I plant grow and to arch my path with their fragrant beauty.
"Give me dominion over the fowls of the air as they have changed their migrating route to honk and sing their way to and from my home.

"Yea He has brought me up from a bare-footed, under-privileged boy to a man respected by millions of people and I give Him all the credit and praise, whenever, wherever, and forever."

And may I quote four lines that are so apt and fitting to his great life,
"Nothing can cover his fame but heaven,
No pyramids set off his memories,
But the eternal substance of his greatness
To which I leave Him."

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Dr. Kendrick. Your remarks are a wonderful tribute to a very remarkable man. As we speak to our radio audience our eyes wander to a picture hanging on the wall here in our studio at CFCO. It is an autographed photo of Jack Miner and his son, Manly . . . sent to Mr. Jack Beardall, president of CFCO.

And now Robert Claus is going to sing another of Jack Miner's favorite hymns "Sweet Hour of Prayer," written by William Bradbury.

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Here is an important announcement to farmers . . . No matter what surplus there may be in other crops, due to the sudden ending of the war . . . there can be no surplus of sugar beets and beet sugar . . . No matter when peace comes in Europe or the Pacific, the sugar ration will remain critical. . . . IN FACT, the end of the war will likely mean an increased demand in relation to the supply. Because of this shortage of sugar, production of sugar beets in Ontario should be extended to the limit.

You can't go wrong planting sugar beets . . . the one crop with an assured market and a guaranteed floor price. The plants will take care of every beet grown. Get into the sugar beet swing and lay out your field at once. Some farmers made over \$200. per acre last year. You can do it this year.

ANNOUNCER—Ladies and gentlemen . . . we have just been handed a message which we would like to read over the air. It comes from Kingsville, the home of Jack Miner. Here is the message . . . we quote—

"Kent County Family Almanac,
"CFCO, Chatham, Ontario.

"Am listening with great interest and pride to your program dedicated to the memory of my father—the late Jack Miner.

"I hope and pray that father was deserving of such unequalled tribute paid to him in your broadcast tonight and by our very dear friend, Dr. Bryce Kendrick. Truly your station and the Kent County Family Almanac is proving a great public service to a large field of listeners.

"On behalf of my mother, Mrs. Jack Miner and two brothers, Ted and Jasper, again thanks for this great and marvellous tribute to dear old Dad.

"(Signed) Manly F. Miner."

Thank you, Manly Miner. We are happy to have produced this program at this time in

honor of that beloved Canadian—Jack Miner—your father.

THEME—(In and low at first).

ANNOUNCER—And so having brought you Chapter Nine . . . Kent County Family Almanac leaves the air to return again next Thursday, same time . . . when we will bring you an important announcement and other interesting news pertaining to Kent and the surrounding counties . . . Meanwhile, here's your thought for the day . . .

"SOME MEN AMONG THEIR FELLOWS ARE KNOWN FOR WHAT THEY DO.

"THEIR NAMES ARE IN THE PAPERS, THEIR PICTURES PRINTED TOO?

"BUT MINER'S FAME IS DIFFERENT—'TIS SELDOM TOLD IN WORDS,

"HE'S ONE AMONG THE MILLIONS, WHO WAS HONORED BY THE BIRDS."

So long, friends and neighbors . . . until next Thursday . . . keep smiling, won't you?

THIS IS CFCO.

Listen to...

KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC

EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.

OVER CFCO.

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

"Get acquainted with your County and Your Neighbor."

SOME FUTURE BROADCASTS

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- TOWN OF BOTHWELL
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN.
- KENT COUNTY HOSPITALS
- TOWN OF TILBURY
- TOWN OF THAMESVILLE

AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER TEN

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, April 19th, 1945

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"FLORENTINE."
(In and fade back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it—comes **KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC** . . . A program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities and our people. Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up and continue—hold back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—This . . . is Chapter Ten, Kent County Family Almanac . . . Tonight, an important announcement will be made regarding the sponsorship of this program . . . We will also welcome back from overseas several Kent County boys and later in the program we are going to tune in on a roundtable discussion on the Eighth Victory Loan Drive . . . We have a man in our studio who knows the farm labor situation in Southwestern Ontario . . . he will have an important message for the farm audience . . . and there will be music suitable to the occasion by two of Chatham's talented young singers . . . so let's go folks, there's something interesting for all.

THEME—(Up to end.)

ANNOUNCER—Before we welcome home the boys who returned from overseas this week Bob Claus, our tenor soloist, is going to sing the intriguing and impressive number "When the Sun goes Down." You've heard it before but here it is with Bob's flavouring.

CLAUS—Bob singing "When the Sun goes down."

ANNOUNCER—And now welcome home to Private Raymond Dean; Private G. A. Barnes; Private A. Lamarsh, and Private M. Pinson-

neault, all of Chatham . . . Private G. A. Given, of R.R. 2, Northwood; Private A. J. Warner, of Blenheim . . . Corporal J. Patterson and Private R. J. Ivey, of Ridgetown . . . Quartermaster-Sergeant A. Walker of Thamesville . . . Private J. McMahon of Chatham . . . Private M. Cornelius, of Wallaceburg . . . Privates R. W. Draper and R. W. Mugridge, of Chatham . . . Lieut. Fred Sargeant, Chatham . . . Craftsman Glen Pearson, first Canadian soldier to step aboard a transport for overseas in this war . . . Nursing Sister Sue Patterson . . . first Kent County Nurse to return and Major Telford Steele, M.C., who stopped off at London, Ontario, for hospital treatment.

And a welcome to Kent County to the following war brides during the past week:—

Mrs. Sylvia Camp, wife of Private R. E. Camp, Selkirk Street, Chatham.

Mrs. Annie Shaw and her little daughter, family of Private J. C. Shaw, Wilson Avenue, Chatham.

Mrs. R. J. Stuart, wife of Private J. Stuart, Wallaceburg.

Mrs. Margaret Bristow, her son and daughter, wife of Company-Sergt-Major A. W. Bristow, Centre Street, Chatham.

Mrs. E. Douthwaite, wife of Private Douthwaite, Blenheim.

Mrs. Constance Cooney, wife of Trooper Gordon Cooney, Dresden.

And Mrs. Morley Card and two daughters, family of Private Morley Card, also of Dresden.

MISS CARON—(without introduction) singing.

ANNOUNCER—That was Miss Corine Caron singing "A Prayer for the members of the Armed Forces."

ANNOUNCER—For the past ten weeks Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you over this station at 9 o'clock every Thursday evening. During that time there

has been much speculation as to who were sponsoring the program. Practically all the suppositions, so far as we can judge, have been wrong. We have in our studio tonight, Mr. A. W. McIntyre, an official of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Limited. Mr. McIntyre will tell our listeners the story of the sponsorship of this program.

MR. McINTYRE—At the outset let me say that the sponsors of this program are and have been from the first the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Limited, of Chatham and Wallaceburg. It had not been our intention to shroud the broadcast in a veil of mystery. We felt we would like to do a service to the residents of Kent County and provide them with a program that would be both entertaining and educational. . . . In other words, a radio show in which you would get to know "Your County and Your Neighbor Better."

ANNOUNCER—That seems like a very worthy step, Mr. McIntyre. What else?

McINTYRE—The Sugar Company's plants at Wallaceburg and Chatham were constructed and have been operated all these years solely because of the agricultural development in Kent County and other nearby areas. We long have felt that the interests of the farmers hereabouts and the interests of the Sugar Company are identical, and those interests cannot be confined solely to sugar beets and beet sugar. Sugar beets are a most valuable crop in rotation, but we have other crops which contribute to the welfare and happiness of the community. It is in everyone's interest that our mental activities be broad and our physical activities varied. So, we accepted as a privilege the sponsorship of this program.

ANNOUNCER—Pardon me, Mr. McIntyre . . . We are a bit curious at this point. Has the program provided the interest and entertainment you thought it would?

MR. McINTYRE—The large number of telephone calls and letters received must be taken as an indication that the program has been widely accepted by the listening audience. As you know, Kent County Family Almanac went on the air February 15, with a salute to Wallaceburg. Then followed broadcasts on the Kent Historical Society, the Chatham-Kent Museum, the towns of Dresden and Blenheim. Requests for printed copies of the broadcast increased each week until the high so far was reached following last Thursday night's Jack Miner Memorial program.

ANNOUNCER—Well that's interesting. . . . But this mystery you mentioned. The Almanac writer declined to make the announcement

earlier despite the many speculations. Can you enlarge on that at all?

MR. McINTYRE—Well (laughing) I presume he wanted to know the reaction of the listening audience. Had the program been given an unfavorable reception, the policy would have been changed . . . but so many complimentary remarks have been received that it has been decided to continue along the same lines.

ANNOUNCER—And will the Almanac writer visit other towns and communities in Kent County?

MR. McINTYRE—Yes, many others . . . in the course of the next few weeks he will drop in on Thamesville, Highgate, Ridgetown, Bothwell, Rodney . . . in fact, any spot where some interesting story may be gleaned concerning Kent County and our citizens.

ANNOUNCER—That's fine. . . . But go ahead, Mr. McIntyre . . .

MR. McINTYRE—As I have said . . . the program will continue along the same lines under the authorship of the Almanac writer. He will select the musical numbers and compose the material for the broadcasts. . . . we want this program to be a program for the people . . . Your writer will welcome any suggestions the listeners may have to offer . . . constructive or otherwise. Don't be afraid to write. If you desire copies of these broadcasts, write to Kent County Family Almanac, care of this station, and one will be mailed. There are no strings attached. Good evening, all.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Mr. McIntyre. We are happy to be associated with a program which I am sure, is doing so much in the interests of Kent County and its surrounding areas. Right now, Corine Caron is going to sing again . . . this time a revised version of Irving Berlin's "God Bless America," made popular by Kate Smith, . . . the words changed to "God Bless Canada." . . . Miss Caron—

MISS CARON—Sings. (Up to end.)

ANNOUNCER—And here is Ray Struthers, field representative of the Sugar Company, who has something to say on the farm labor situation in southwestern Ontario. Mr. Struthers—

STRUTHERS—Good evening. What I have to say tonight is directed mainly to farmers in Southwestern Ontario. During the past week-end in company with James McKerrall, of Chatham, Fred Groombridge, Petrolia, Douglas Munro, Glencoe, and Homer Fletcher of the Sugar Company, I visited other parts of the province where labor in certain indus-

tries is slackening off. Many of these men who will soon be accepting work in other districts, are experienced and skilled farm workers. They expressed a desire to come to the sugar beet areas as soon as called upon . . . we signed up dozens of beet workers who will be available within the next few weeks. They also expressed the opinion that numerous others will be available within the next month.

My associates have been visiting these areas for a number of years in search of farm help and they say that the prospects for a large amount of farm labor are better this year than they have been for a long time. I was greatly impressed with the feeling of the men who appeared anxious to take part in sugar beet work.

Thus . . . with the skilled farm labor situation brighter and more prisoner-of-war help available for sudden calls, sugar beet growers should have little difficulty in securing the necessary help when their crops are ready for thinning and blocking. It should be remembered that some 500 prisoners-of-war will be available from three nearby camps in Kent County and more camps will be opened should the need arise. This should take care of all emergency needs.

Beet growers who have not yet made a deal for their beet labor should make their wants known to their field-man who in turn will get in touch with sugar beet workers. Thank you

ANNOUNCER—Thank you and Mr. Struthers. (Pause)

In a few minutes we are going to turn our mike over to five visitors who will discuss a matter of prominent importance at the present time . . . but, before we do . . . Bing Crosby, assisted by Harry James' orchestra, has a message of particular interest. Here it is:—

ENGINEER—Tune in Bing Crosby record.

ANNOUNCER— On Monday next the Eighth Victory Loan Campaign opens in Canada. The group you are about to hear are members of the Kent County Victory Loan organization . . . their round-table discussion is timely . . . Take it away . . .

BROWN—Hello, Kent County! This is your Victory Loan Reporter, speaking to you on the opening broadcast of the Eighth Victory Loan campaign. Through the kindness of the Kent County Family Almanac, we are able to bring you tonight a short round-table discussion of the history of Seven Victory Loans in this County of ours. Seated around our table are four representatives of the

Kent County Victory Loan organization. First is Mrs. Laurel Wilson, who has been County secretary in every campaign. Next is Mr. Clare Shillington, chairman of the Blenheim and district canvassing area. Then we have Mr. Donald Henry of Turnerville, a salesman in Chatham rural district, and Mr. William Dolamore, a member of the Chatham city sales staff. (pause).

Mrs. Wilson, suppose you start our discussion tonight, by telling our audience something of the comparison between the First Victory Loan campaign, and the one which is just beginning.

MRS. WILSON—The First Victory Loan campaign was in May and June, 1941—nearly four years ago. Looking back to that time, I remember well how new everything was. We had to build a recording and accounting system from the group up, and none of us at headquarters had had any previous experience in handling a campaign of this kind.

The whole sales staff was new, too. Of course, some of the men had sales experience, in insurance or other lines of work, but others had never sold anything in their lives. Then, too, the amount of money Kent County was asked to raise seemed very large indeed. The objective for General Sales was two million, one hundred thousand dollars, and that was a tremendous amount of money to us.

DOLAMORE—What was the result of that first Loan, Mrs. Wilson? Did the County reach its quota?

MRS. WILSON—Yes, indeed, Mr. Dolamore! Kent has subscribed more than its quota in every Victory Loan—although the committee and headquarters staff have had some very anxious moments at one time and another!

SHILLINGTON—Mrs. Wilson, how do the results of that first Victory Loan compare with the later campaigns?

MRS. WILSON—The amount subscribed in Kent County has increased every time, Mr. Shillington. For the Eighth Victory Loan, which opens next Monday, our objective for General Sales and Payroll Savings combined is four million, three hundred and sixty thousand dollars—more than double the quota set for us four years ago.

BROWN—That is certainly a large amount of money, Mrs. Wilson. Let's try to find out where it is going to come from. Mr. Shillington, you have been chairman for Blenheim and District in every Victory Loan. What would you say the outlook is for your district?

SHILLINGTON—I think we have a good many things in our favour, Mr. Brown. The purchases of Victory Bonds in Blenheim and District have grown greatly. In the first campaign, our total subscription was two hundred and thirty thousand dollars, but in the Seventh Loan the people of our community bought almost five hundred and eighty thousand dollars worth of Bonds.

HENRY—Mr. Shillington, what do you think is the most important reason for this increase?

SHILLINGTON—There are several reasons, Mr. Henry, but I believe the most important one is expressed in the slogan for the new campaign—"Invest in the Best." Over three million people in Canada have bought Victory Bonds, and they have found them good, in every way. From the purely business angle, the Bonds are good, because they pay double the bank rate of interest; they can be sold at any time if the holder needs the money, and they are the best security in the world for a bank loan. More than that, all the earlier Loans are worth a higher price than what the original buyer paid for them.

HENRY—Don't you agree, though, that there is a great deal more to investing in Victory Bonds than just the reason of sound business?

SHILLINGTON—Indeed I do, Mr. Henry. When we say "Invest in the best," it brings to mind the men and women in our navy, army and air force. Every Canadian is proud of them, and we all know they are the best in the world. I think we should always remember that every bond we buy is a direct investment in those men and women. The money we put into Victory Bonds buys ammunition, equipment, food, clothing and medical supplies for the armed forces, and will help to bring them home and re-establish them in normal life. In a very real sense, that is "Investing in the Best."

BROWN—Speaking of the armed forces, Mr. Shillington, one member of our group here tonight can give us a first-hand report. Our friend, Mr. Dolamore, only joined us last Fall. Before that time, he was Leading Seaman Dolamore, of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, and served with the Navy for almost two years. Mr. Dolamore, can you tell us what the armed forces think of Victory Bonds?

DOLAMORE—I was not at sea myself, Mr. Brown; my work was that of an instructor in basic training at Windsor and Toronto. We

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did have contact with the men actually serving at sea, though, and I do know that the great majority of them are buying all the Victory Bonds they can. You see, they know how great the need is for supplies for all the services. I don't think there is any question that the great victories that have been won recently are due, in a large measure, to the fact that our men have had a great superiority in arms and munitions—and if they had not had such a great supply of fighting equipment, the casualty list would have been much longer. It costs a lot of money to put on an artillery or naval barrage, or to drop thousands of tons of bombs on an enemy position, but it's a lot cheaper in terms of lives, and the men in all the services who are doing the fighting know that. That's one reason they buy Victory Bonds.

Then, too, I suppose every man has plans of one sort or another for the future. Many of the boys are planning to be married. Others want to build a home, or start a business, or buy a farm—there are all sorts of things they want to do, and all these things take money. Thousands of them are building up a nest-egg in Victory Bonds that will be mighty helpful when they come home.

SHILLINGTON—Mr. Dolamore, I'd be very interested to hear about your experiences, in your first campaign as a Victory Loan salesman.

DOLAMORE—I liked the work very much, Mr. Shillington. I met a great many very fine people, and there was quite a thrill in feeling that I was helping them to put the civilian part of the war effort over the top. I know I'm going to do everything I can to sell a large amount of Bonds this time. It does look as if the war in Europe may be over very soon, but we all know that the need for money will go on for a considerable time yet, and I would like to ask every one of our listeners to be ready when their Victory Loan salesman calls, with the very largest subscription they can possibly afford.

MRS. WILSON—I think that is a very important point, Mr. Dolamore. The reports that come in to headquarters show that, in a large number of cases, the salesman has to call back at one home several times before the people decide how much they can buy. This uses up a lot of the salesman's time, and as a result, he has to hurry over the last part of his territory, and perhaps even misses some calls entirely. It would be a big help if everyone would try to give their order on the first call.

Mr. Brown, there is still one member of our group who hasn't been formally introduced. We musn't overlook Mr. Henry.

BROWN—No indeed, Mrs. Wilson---thank you for reminding me.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Donald Henry is a very busy farmer—but he has been able to find time to sell Victory Bonds, in his portion of Chatham rural district, in every Loan. I think there are two reasons why he does this—his two boys, both in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Tom has just recently returned from three and a half years overseas as a radar officer, and Bill is at present stationed on Vancouver Island.

Mr. Henry, will you tell us a little of your thoughts about Victory Bonds?

HENRY—I think the people of our community buy Bonds largely from a sense of duty. They feel that they have a stake in Canada, and they want to do all they can to help. Community pride plays a part too, and I'm sure the people of Chatham rural district are going to try harder than ever this time to put our district up at the top of the County standing. In the last Loan, we were thirteenth out of fourteen districts in Kent. That's not a good picture on the bulletin board, or in the newspaper, and it's not becoming to the farmers. It's not equal to their possibilities, so this time we're looking for more and bigger subscriptions, to put Chatham rural a lot higher up the list.

DOLAMORE—In the city too, a sense of duty and a feeling of civic pride plays a large part in the campaign. We find also that many people buy Bonds now, so that they will be able to purchase other things when peacetime production is resumed. Does that apply to the rural districts as well, Mr. Henry?

HENRY—I am sure it does, Mr. Dolamore, and I think that even more of our people should consider this reason for buying Bonds. You see, it works in so many different ways. First of all, when our factories are converted to civilian production, many new and improved articles will be available—automobiles, furniture, farm implements, and scores of other things. People with money available will be able to get far greater value for that money later on. Then, when they buy these new articles, the money they spend will flow back to make more jobs for men and women returned from active service or released from war work. Wise saving now, in order to

spend later, will make an important contribution towards real prosperity for everyone in Canada—and the best way to save is to buy Victory Bonds right up to the limit.

BROWN—There you are, Kent County—that is the keynote of our whole campaign. "Invest in the Best"—right up to the limit!

Ladies and gentlemen, may I express our sincere thanks to the Kent County Family Almanac for making this broadcast possible. To you, Marion, Clare, Don and Bill, thanks a lot for your help.

This is John Brown, speaking on behalf of the National War Finance Committee, returning you now to your regular announcer.

ANNOUNCER—How was the word Almanac derived? ? ? We never stopped long enough to look up that information but your Almanac writer comes through with this one—he says that one day last week while having lunch at the William Pitt, a hand was laid on his shoulder and a voice murmured—

"I'll venture to say that you can't tell me how the word Almanac came about."

Your writer was floored for the moment and had to admit he could not.

"Well," the voice continued, "the word was derived in Scotland . . . hundreds of years ago. When the moon was full . . . the Scots used to call it "All Moon Nicht."

Get it folks . . . All moon Nicht" . . . (slowly) . . . Al-man-ac" . . . But . . . if you become a little groggy as we did trying to figure that one out . . . don't blame us . . . Bill Gray, the genial industrial commissioner here in Chatham started it.

THEME—(Up—then hold back of Announcer)

ANNOUNCER—And thus . . . having brought you Chapter Ten . . . Kent County Family Almanac leaves the air to return again next Thursday same time . . . when we will bring you a story from another of our thriving communities. Watch for it . . . it might be your town. Meanwhile, here's your thought for the day . . . Daniel Webster once said . . . "LET US NEVER FORGET THAT THE CULTIVATION OF THE EARTH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LABOR OF MAN."

So long, friends and neighbors, lots of good luck. Until next Thursday, keep smiling.

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Limited, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

Good night all.

THEME—(Up to end).

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER ELEVEN

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, April 26th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine."
(In and fade back of announcer.)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC . . . A program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities, and our people. Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up—then hold back as announcer continues.)

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter Eleven of the Kent County Family Almanac . . . Tonight . . . we bring you the dramatic story of those hectic days back in 1865 . . . when Bothwell was known as the oil town of Canada—and you will hear a talk by the curator of the University of Western Ontario on the beginning of excavations to locate the lost village of Fairfield . . . we welcome home a few of Kent County's fighting sons and from our musical album you will hear our tenor soloist—a special violin selection by a young Chatham artist—and a guest singer . . . So here it is, folks, if you like our program . . . write and tell us.

THEME—(Up to End.)

ANNOUNCER—Before we turn to our musical department tonight . . . let us welcome back those boys who returned from overseas during the past week . . . It's WELCOME HOME to:

Private A. Brackett, of Ridgetown;
Private W. J. Simmer, R.R. 2, Ridgetown;
Gunner E. Wittington, Thamesville;
Private A. G. Boswell, R.R. 5, Blenheim;
Rifeman C. R. Buschmeyer, 28 Alfred Street, Chatham;
Warrant Officer Caryle Chevalier, R.C.A.F., Tilbury;

Flying Officer Neil Winger and Private Wilfred De Cedar, both of Wallaceburg;
Lieut. G. K. Langford, of Chatham, in hospital at London and War Bride Mrs. Catherine Cadotte, wife of Flying Officer Wilfred Cadotte, Wood Street, Chatham. Flying Officer Cadotte is expected back in Canada shortly.

Congratulations are in order also . . . It's many happy returns to Mrs. Mary Ann Kerr, who lives in her own home on the farm of her son, William Kerr, near Wallaceburg. On Sunday next, April 29, Mrs. Kerr will observe her 90th birthday. Mrs. Kerr is Irish, so, it's appropriate that Bob Claus, our tenor soloist dedicates the opening number of our program to Mrs. Kerr. It's "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." Go ahead, Bob Claus—

CLAUS—Singing.

ANNOUNCER—Some day soon . . . Kent County Family Almanac is going to take its listeners by remote control to the old village of Fairfield . . . on the banks of the River Thames, near Thamesville . . . There excavations have been under way to bring to light details concerning the life of a lost band of Indians who occupied the village early in the 18th century.

Yesterday, April 25, Wilfrid Jury, curator of the museum at University of Western Ontario at London, was in Chatham where he addressed a meeting of the Kent Historical Society . . . Mr. Jury has been given the assignment of making these excavations . . . Your Almanac writer asked him to give us a brief description of the site on which he has been and will be working in the near future. Because Mr. Jury was returning to London immediately, his remarks on that subject were recorded . . . Here is what Mr. Jury said . . .

ENGINEER—(Cut in Jury recording).

JURY—Old Fairfield village, situated on the banks of the River Thames, a few miles east of Thamesville in Kent County, is the site upon which the faith, courage, and honest

endeavour of a few Moravian missionaries built up an industrious community unique in Canadian History. For twenty-one years these men led their flocks of Delaware Indians according to the teachings of the Christian faith. At Fairfield, they provide a refuge from the wars and troubles of the times; there they taught their Indians a new way of life at a time when the white man was taking from them their traditional manner of living.

Unitas Fratrum, the Unity of Brothers, had been an early name of the Moravian church, and outstanding in its belief was a faith in absolute peace and the brotherhood of all mankind. The sect originated in Bohemia in 1457 and may be traced to the teachings of John Hus. Through the centuries it suffered suppression and repeated exile, and though a vigorous revival came early in the eighteenth century in the Province of Moravia, escape from persecution again became necessary, and in 1722 a small group took refuge in Saxony with Count Zinzendorf, a religious-minded nobleman.

Troubles followed, however, even there and, at the invitation of the Georgia Trustees, a band of them migrated and set up their first American mission in Savannah, Georgia, in 1735.

From here settlements were made in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. They carried on extensive missionary work among the Indians. But were continually attacked and their villages destroyed by the wars, that swept America, in the eighteenth century.

Finally, to escape persecution, they came to Canada, in the spring of 1792. The journey from Detroit to the site of Fairfield in Upper Canada was a hazardous undertaking in the year owing to the swollen waters of the Thames River. Travelling in canoes, and noting the character of the lands through which their way led them, they finally came on May 8 and 9 to the site of Fairfield, which they, and we quote: "found better, on account of the plantations, which we shall have above and below us of both sides of the river, where we can be in the midst . . . it is such rich land as we have nowhere had, being like dung-heap, and very easily cleared," end quote . . . That evening Brother Sensemann held a meeting in the open air. Within a few days they cleared land, sowed garden seeds, and built rude huts. The brethren showed "real zeal, the land pleasing them, being the right sort for Indians, such as they like to have."

We all know the story of the destruction of the village in 1813. Since this time Fairfield dropped out of sight. Then in the autumn of 1941, Mr. John R. MacNicol, M.P., of Toronto, became interested in the search

44.
for the exact location of the lost village. Realizing the significance of the work carried on at this place and the unique contributions made by the Moravians not only to the Indians but to the early settlers of the district; wishing also to commemorate the first Protestant mission in Ontario, he engaged me to undertake excavations in order to establish the site . . . and to bring to light details concerning the life of its former inhabitants. This work was carried on in the spring of 1942 and in the autumn of 1943.

Local tradition had it that the site of Old Fairfield lay in the cultivated field to the north of Highway No. 2. On the map made in August, 1793, by Patrick McNiff, surveyor, the position of a little cemetery was noted, and Zeisberger in his diary stated, that the village extended no further west than the cemetery. He also mentioned the presence of a spring at the other end of the village. These clues provided a starting point for the search.

In the narrow strip of land which lay to the south, between the highway and the River Thames, a dense growth of berry bushes, ancient apple trees, and golden rod gave the appearance of a jungle. But it was in this tangled mass that the first clues were found, that led to the discovery of a foundation. A top soil of red sand covered the area while beneath this was a layer of clear white sand, an ideal building site. The one clear stream to the east, so essential to a settlement, is now polluted with oil. At the east end of the site a roadway wound down the bank to the edge of the river. This path was probably used not only by the Moravians, but by the Indians who had occupied the site long before their arrival. It was in this strip of land I found the charred remains of log houses.

ANNOUNCER—That was Wilfrid Jury, curator of the museum of the University of Western Ontario at London, Ontario. In the near future . . . we hope to broadcast Mr. Jury in action as he digs for relics on the site of the vanished Indian Village at Fairfield. And now . . . another musical number is coming up . . . Roy Guymer, Chatham violinist, is with us and Roy is going to play the enchanting "Wings of Song" by Mendelssohn. The accompanist for all musical numbers on this program is Mrs. Bryce Kendrick.

GUYMER—Violin Solo.

ANNOUNCER—And now . . . the story of Bothwell . . . that once thriving metropolis of the northeast corner of Kent County . . . Truly . . . Bothwell might be described as a town of the past . . . a town of fortunes, misfortunes and heartaches, for it was in that Western Ontario community that fortunes were made

and lost practically overnight. Back in the 1860's, oil had been struck at Petrolia and Oil Springs, but of all the oil booms . . . not one was as spectacular as the Bothwell oil boom of '66. The result of that strike was an influx of American oil prospectors . . . the industry was more or less, new then . . . and because the first discoveries . . . alike in Pennsylvania and Ontario—had been made along rivers and creeks, the belief was general, that the only place to drill was along a natural watercourse . . .

SECOND ANNOUNCER—The year after the American Civil War—1866—a man named John Lick, came from Ohio to Kent County. He brought with him a light drilling rig, with which he put down a series of shallow tests along the River Thames, some miles east of Chatham. After a number of failures in which Lick lost considerable money, he moved his drilling outfit back to an almost dry creek emptying into the Thames, not far from Bothwell. A joint stock company was formed, in which a number of early settlers became interested and instead of shallow drilling, Lick sunk his well deeper. At 370 feet, an abundance of highgrade oil was struck and the boom was on.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—And with the boom came the usual wild excitement . . . news of the discovery was flashed across Canada and armies of oil-mad speculators poured into the vicinity. Almost overnight a city of rough shacks and tents sprang up and the countryside became a forest of oil derricks . . . numerous frame hotels were hastily constructed to accommodate the rush of transient travel and in the midst of all this, the "sharppers" . . . posing as experts, appeared. These men drilled wells for wealthy persons, who were prepared to pay so much a foot and on this basis many wells went down past the productive oil vein into salt water . . . which drowned it out.

SECOND ANNOUNCER—But while fortunes were won and lost . . . oil kings arose . . . There was John Lick, the pioneer; B. T. Wells and a man named Reid from Hamilton . . . meanwhile . . . Bothwell continued to grow . . . banks, bars and stores did a thriving business and John Lick poured much of his oil wealth into many buildings and a huge hotel . . . the finest and best in the countryside. A magnificent public hall . . . called Gatling Hall, after the owner . . . a brother of the inventor of the once famous Gatling Gun, was built on George Street . . . and the population, close to 7,000, exceeded that of Chatham. Many believed Bothwell would become larger than London . . . perhaps bigger than Toronto and New York.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—Then came the Fenian Raid in 1866. Eager speculators became panic-stricken and a veritable stampede from Bothwell began. Drilling and pumping outfits were abandoned as they stood and the vast hotels and stores emptied rapidly. Almost over-night, Bothwell lapsed into its pristine quiet.

SECOND ANNOUNCER—In 1867 . . . as though one tragedy was not enough . . . a disastrous fire swept the town. It devastated the two main streets and wiped out the famous Gatling Hall and the Town's finest business blocks. John Lick's wealth slowly began to vanish but he could not quit. He drilled for a while without success near Thamesville, and later eked out a living selling fish for a London firm . . . vainly trying to save out of his dollar a day wage, enough to make another strike in the oil game.

FIRST ANNOUNCER—One wintry day, Lick died in his lonely lodgings at Bothwell. Victor Lauriston, one of the best informed writers on Kent County affairs, records that Dr. Frances Pope, who practiced in Bothwell during those hectic days, passed the hat and collected enough money for a plain coffin. John Lick, greatest and most spectacular of Canada's "Oil Kings", was buried in an unmarked grave in Potter's field at Bothwell. (Pause).

ANNOUNCER—But all this is history . . . Bothwell continued to live and today it is again a thriving little town surrounded by valuable farms. Oil drilling still goes on, in the vicinity, but not in the capacity of those older days. We have in our studio to-night . . . the Mayor of Bothwell, Delbert Johnston, who is going to speak to us; but before he does . . . we are going to hear from Bothwell in another way. It's Albert Abel, guest baritone, who is going to sing Wilfrid Sander-son's "Beyond the Dawn."

Welcome to our program, Mr. Abel.

ABEL—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Albert Abel, of Bothwell. And now, Mayor Johnston, let us continue the story of Bothwell. Our Almanac writer tells us that when he stepped off the train in your town, the other day, he was surprised at the cleanliness of your main street. He noticed it was different somehow, and discovered there were no wires of any kind strung along poles, as is the usual custom. Can you enlighten us on that point?

JOHNSTON—Many visitors to Bothwell have commented on that. The telephone, hydro

and telegraph wires, usually seen in the business sections of our Ontario towns, run along the lanes back of our streets. I believe Bothwell is the only town like that.

ANNOUNCER—These lanes you speak of . . . back of your streets, was that a modern step on the part of Bothwell to clean up its main thoroughfare?

JOHNSTON—No. The town was laid out with these lanes, by the Hon. George Brown, back in the 1860's. Brown, by the way, named the town Bothwell, after his own town in Scotland.

ANNOUNCER—You mentioned Brown. Was he the same man who became the editor of the old Toronto Globe?

JOHNSTON—That's right. He was one of Bothwell's first settlers and when the oil boom you mentioned came, he organized a company that operated extensively until the decline of the industry in Kent County.

ANNOUNCER—Speaking of settlers, Mr. Johnston, our listeners would like to hear the names of some of the early settlers around Bothwell, in those early days, we spoke of. Could you, by any chance, mention any of them?

JOHNSTON—Well, say, I'll have to recall names mentioned by Tom Boon. Tom is one of Bothwell's most respected citizens. He's 83 years old and today is still alert and as spry as a cricket. A son of Bothwell's first cabinet maker, I have heard Tom refer to the Gardners, the Allens, the McRoberts and the Swallows . . . and of course, we can't forget Oscar Adkin, who has conducted a grocery business in the town for 45 years.

ANNOUNCER—Just a minute, Mr. Johnston. Our Almanac writer tells us that at one time in Euphemia Township, there was once a spot known at the Johnston settlement. Are you one of those Johnstons?

JOHNSTON—Well, since you have mentioned it, I am. My grandfather, James Johnston settled there about 1830. He had three brothers . . . all eventually came to the community from Ireland. The McMasters arrived in Euphemia about the same time and helped to maintain what was the Johnston settlement.

ANNOUNCER—How long have you been Mayor of Bothwell, Mr. Johnston?

JOHNSTON—I am beginning my eighth term.

ANNOUNCER—And your council? Tell us their names.

JOHNSTON—Wes Ellwood, is our reeve and is the present warden of Kent County. Councillors are R. McCrie, Martin Burgess, J. A. McRitchie, Arnold Dolman, Art Lewis and Ralph Humphries.

ANNOUNCER—Do you happen to know who the first Mayor of Bothwell was?

JOHNSTON—I believe the first Mayor was a Captain John Taylor, who was secretary to the Hon. George Brown, back in 1865. And it might be interesting to your listeners to know that Bothwell was never known as a village.

ANNOUNCER—That IS odd. How did that come about?

JOHNSTON—When the oil boom came and the community grew so rapidly . . . Bothwell was incorporated as a town by special act of parliament in 1865. The population then was 3,700.

ANNOUNCER—Rather interesting . . . By the way . . . who edits the paper in your town?

JOHNSTON—The history of the press in Bothwell, has been one of success and failure. The Review and The Advance, both early weeklies, passed out because of adverse circumstances and their places were filled by The Times, which was established in 1876 by James Crate. W. C. Holland succeeded him until about 35 years ago, when Henry Jerome, bought the paper. He died several years ago and today Mrs. Jerome and her daughter, Mrs. J. A. McRitchie, edit the paper. In fact, they do all the work there is to be done on any weekly paper. I believe they are the only two women in Ontario who edit and print a newspaper without help of any kind.

ANNOUNCER—And there you are folks . . . a brief story of the Bothwell of long ago . . . We could tell you of its present day activities, its churches and its industries but time does not permit. Some day we hope to present another broadcast on Bothwell and tell

you of the loyal citizens of today, . . . who are living amidst memories of those hectic days of 1865.

ANNOUNCER—And thus . . . having brought you Chapter Eleven . . . Kent County Family Almanac leaves the air to return again next Thursday, same time with another interesting story . . . Meanwhile . . . here's your thought for the day . . . "WHEN YOU INVEST—INVEST IN THE BEST. BUY

VICTORY BONDS IN THE EIGHTH VICTORY LOAN."

So long, friends and neighbors, lots of good luck. UNTIL next Thursday, keep smiling.

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

This is Paul Hanover, your announcer, saying Good Night All. This is CFCO.

Listen to...

**KENT COUNTY
FAMILY ALMANAC**

**EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.
OVER CFCO.**

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

**"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."**

**SOME
FUTURE BROADCASTS**

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN.
- KENT COUNTY HOSPITALS
- TOWN OF TILBURY
- TOWN OF THAMESVILLE
AND OTHERS

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Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER TWELVE

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, May 3rd, 1945

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting “Kent County Family Almanac”.

THEME—“Florentine”
(In and fade back of announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . A program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities and our people . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich-garden land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up and continue — then hold back as announcer continues)

ANNOUNCER—This . . . is Chapter Twelve . . . Kent County Family Almanac . . . Tonight . . . we have a most varied program . . . which we hope you will enjoy . . . You will hear stories from nearby Kent county towns and an announcement will be made that is of great importance to us all . . . A Chatham Flying Officer and his bride from overseas . . . will be interviewed and you will hear songs, old and new . . . There will be musical numbers that you will like . . . so, . . . sing with our singers, neighbors, . . . keep time with our music . . . and after the broadcast drop us a card and tell us how you liked this particular program. . . . Let's go, everybody . . .

THEME—(Up to End)

ANNOUNCER— Bob Claus, young Chatham tenor, is going to open the musical pages on our program tonight . . . Bob, has his own interpretation to the favorite “Just a Cottage Small by a Waterfall” . . . O.K. Bob, its all yours . . .

CLAUS—Sings one verse and chorus.

ANNOUNCER—(at end of chorus) - - Thats great, Bob . . . Lets have that chorus over again . . . Our audience may like to sing it with you Everybody sing . . .

ANNOUNCER—Last week our County Family Almanac, welcomed to Kent County, among others from overseas, Mrs. Catherine Cadotte, At that time we mentioned that Flying Officer Wilfred Cadotte, was expected home shortly. Saturday he arrived in Chatham, just ten days after his pretty war bride And here they are neighbors Welcome home Flying Officer Cadotte.

F.O. CADOTTE—Thank you.

ANNOUNCER—And welcome to Chatham and Kent County, Mrs. Cadotte

MRS. CADOTTE—Thank you, very much.

ANNOUNCER—Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish we had television so that you might see the charming young lady standing before our microphone. She has a lovely smile. . . . but say, you're not nervous, are you, Mrs. Cadotte?

MRS. CADOTTE—Well, I don't know . . . I never was on the radio before.

ANNOUNCER—Now don't be nervous we're all friends here. How about a big hand for the lady folks.

Applause—10 seconds.

ANNOUNCER—And now, Mrs. Cadotte, you have probably been asked the question a dozen times or more, but . . . how do you like Kent County from what you have seen of it?

MRS. CADOTTE—It's a lovely country. I was just thinking how much it resembles Chatham in England . . . It's also in Kent County.

ANNOUNCER—Chatham in Kent County, England . . . Wonder how many of our audience knew that . . . But, Mrs. Cadotte, you don't come from that part of the Old Land, do you?

MRS. CADOTTE—Oh! no . . . I came from Edinburgh.

ANNOUNCER—Bonnie Scotland, . . . and is that where you met the man in blue here?

MRS. CADOTTE—Yes, Wilfred came to the hospital where I was stationed in Edinborough.

ANNOUNCER—That's right you are a nurse. Was he confined to hospital long?

MRS. CADOTTE—Well, the ward to which I was assigned, was a clinic for those under treatment for Ear, Throat and Nose trouble. Most of the officers and men stayed only two or three days, but he managed to stay around two weeks.

ANNOUNCER—Well, I can't blame him. Mrs. Cadotte, is it correct that you were the first state registered nurse to come from England to Canada, as a war bride?

MRS. CADOTTE—That's what I was told at the port I left in England, They said I was fortunate in being able to get away. And I was told the same thing on the ship coming over..

ANNOUNCER—Did you have a nice trip? No unusual incidents, I hope?

MRS. CADOTTE—No. . . . but I had a very pleasant experience. I became acquainted with a very lovely lady, Mrs. Irish Willwood, and her little boy who were going to Merlin. We talked all the way over, on the ship and on the train, coming from Halifax. It wasn't until we reached Chatham that I learned she was a distant relative of my husband by marriage.

ANNOUNCER—That just goes to show you how small this world really is. Take my uncle for instance, he went all the way to India, but the police caught up with him. . . . Thank you, very much, Mrs. Cadotte. Now how about a word from you Flying Officer Cadotte.

F.O. CADOTTE—I haven't much to say except to thank all my friends for their wonderful welcome But I have a message I would like to send out to Comber.

ANNOUNCER—That's fine who is it to?

F.O. CADOTTE—It's to Mrs. Breen, at Comber . . . Mrs. Breen, if you are listening, . . . I saw your son, Tommy, . . . as we call him, . . . just before I left England, last month. Tommy gave me this message . . . "My regards to the folks at Comber. Give Mother, my love . . . tell her I am well and not to worry."

ANNOUNCER—That's a wonderful message . . . We hope Mrs. Breen, was listening in . . . And have you another there? . . .

F.O. CADOTTE—If I may . . . It's to the relatives and family of F. O. Annan. I believe his home is in Chatham, or near by. I trained

with him and when I told him, in January, that I had been invalidated home, he asked me to tell the folks, he was getting along fine and keep, "Thumbs Up."

ANNOUNCER—We tried to locate F. O. Annan's folks, in Chatham, but could not do so, in time . . . Maybe, someone in our listening audience knows of their whereabouts and will pass the message along. Thank you both, Flying Officer Wilfred Cadotte, and Mrs. Cadotte. . . . its been a pleasure having you on our program.

ANNOUNCER—Also welcome back to . . . Private Charles Pumfrey, R.R. 6, Thamesville, Private George Anakin, 204 Selkirk Street, Chatham, and Private John Fairbanks, of Wallaceburg.

ANNOUNCER—Right now Corine Caron, contralto, is going to add her welcome to the boys from overseas Corine has selected the song "When A Boy Comes Home on leave" Most appropriate at this time on our program

MISS CARON— Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Letters from the boys overseas, found in weekly newspapers these days . . . are always interesting to the folks here at home Editor Leonard Pegg, at Blenheim, evidently has a host of friends in the armed forces, as each week, the News Tribune, carries several of these letters For instance . . . Albert Lindsay, a Blenheim boy, with the R. C. A. F. in India, tells Editor Pegg, that he enjoyed a week's sick leave, in Bombay, after spending three weeks in the hospital, recovering from one of the many tropical diseases, so prevalent to new-comers, in that country. He adds . . . that he met Art Shillington, in Cairo, but didn't think much of what he saw of Africa "Too much sand.,," says Albert.

Bill Bentley, of Blenheim, writes his letter on Gestapo stationery found in a captured house once used as enemy headquarters And Les, Babcock, from Dresden, writes Laurie Wells, of the Times, that he met Gerald Harper, Gordon Ball and Gordon Oliphant Les says of all the places he has been in "not one can touch our part of the country."

Yes folks, that's it "Go where they must, these boys and girls think Kent County, the best county, in the world." . . . And how they like to get the home town paper just like a letter from home, they all say.

ANNOUNCER—Out at Ridgetown . . . the folks along Main Street, miss the familiar figure of "Silver Chief." In case you don't know "Silver Chief," a part huskie and part timber wolf dog, was the constant companion of Charles Tye, chief constable, as he made his

daily rounds and nightly rounds through the town.

"Silver Chief," died recently and one and all, at Ridgetown, regret the loss of, as gentle and mild-mannered dog, as ever graced the canine world . . . "Unless" says Editor Bingham, of the Ridgetown Dominion, "you wanted to start something." . . . Considering his two feet or more height and his weight of some 200 pounds, one can realize that the presence of "Silver Chief," had a real effect of restoring peace when the other dogs started a fight or some person became a little unruly.

"Silver Chief," came originally from Northern Ontario, and was presented, as a pup, to Constable Tye, by his son Leonard. The "big dog" liked children and it was a familiar sight to see him scampering along behind his master, followed by a half a dozen playful youngsters. It is said, "A dog is a man's best friend," and "Silver Chief," was everybody's friend.

ANNOUNCER—Roy Guymer is before the mike now . . . What's on your mind, Roy?

GUYMER—In response to a number of requests. I would like to play "Lour-a-lour-a-lour" . . . one of the many feature numbers from Bing Crosby's picture "Going My Way" . . . I hope you like it.

ANNOUNCER—I'm sure we will.

GUYMER—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—Since it was announced that this program was sponsored as a community service by the Sugar Co. Your Almanac writer has been asked many questions about sugar rationing. Then came the sudden announcement from the United States that their sugar ration was again drastically cut this time by 25%. This increased the tempo of the questions coming in, all asking. Will the sugar ration be cut again in Canada? To answer these questions, we have in the studio tonight, Mr. A.W. McIntyre, an official of the Sugar Company. Mr. McIntyre, now that the sugar has again been reduced in the United States, will we suffer the same cut in Canada?

MR. McINTYRE—Actually that is a question to be answered by Government Officials, not the sugar producers, but Canada's sugar supply is tied in with those of the U. S. and the U.K. You will note that every cut in the U.S. sugar ration has been followed by a similar one in Canada.

ANNOUNCER—What conditions, Mr. McIntyre, do you accept as definitely affecting the question of sugar rationing?

MR. McINTYRE—It's simply a matter of knowing how much sugar is needed and then, how much is available to fill that need.

ANNOUNCER—Alright then, have we enough sugar to meet the requirements under present rationing?

MR. McINTYRE—NO, I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT THE WORLD'S SUGAR SUPPLY FOR this year is estimated as being fully 2 million tons short of the current minimum requirements.

ANNOUNCER—When you mention world's supply, does that figure include the sugar still to be produced this year?

MR. McINTYRE—Oh yes, that figure includes all the sugar to be produced this year, that is, the maximum expected production.

ANNOUNCER—Well that's clear enough Mr. McIntyre, and it is obvious that this shortage forced the O.P.A. in the United States to declare this further ration reduction. But I think our listeners would like to know, does this shortage effect Canada just as it does the United States?

MR. McINTYRE—Yes, we are all effected by the shortage of world sugar supply; as a matter of fact the release to the American papers of the story on the reduced sugar ration, was likely a result of a meeting now in progress in Washington. British and Canadian food missions are meeting with War Food Administration Officials and it is their responsibility to allocate food supplies. It is reasonable to assume that they have arranged to share the available sugar fairly, so Canada must have suffered a cut in her allotment the same as the United States or England. I think that shows clearly enough that Canada too, will receive less sugar than before.

ANNOUNCER—Another question Mr. McIntyre, what is causing this shortage? Is it increased military demands or increased amounts being shipped from the States as lend lease?

Mr. McIntyre—The shortage is caused first of all by poorer crop prospects in many sectors, caused in some places by wartime destruction and in others by unfavorable weather. Then too, there is an increased military demand, which of course must come first. As to the last part of your question regarding Lend-Lease, this matter is questioned from many quarters but actually, of all the shipments sent abroad last month, only 9% were marked for Lend-Lease. A cut in this already small percentage being shipped from the United States would be of little help to us in North America.

ANNOUNCER—If that is the case, surely something will have to be done in Canada, what do you think Mr. McIntyre?

MR. McINTYRE—I quite agree, something will have to be done in Canada. The sugar situation is at its most critical point since the war began and although we have already had three cuts in the Canadian sugar ration this year, I am afraid that announcements of short supply and increased military demands are being made to prepare Canadians for the shock of a further cut in the sugar ration.

ANNOUNCER—Well that answers our questions, Mr. McIntyre, though the answer is not too comforting.

MR. McINTYRE—I am sorry that I had to bring such a pessimistic account of the sugar situation and only wish it could have been more encouraging. The one bright spot, however, is that a larger sugar beet crop will help a lot.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you Mr. McIntyre. Our listeners, I am sure, will appreciate your information and accept it, even if it is bad news or not.

ANNOUNCER—Bob . . . whers's Bob Claus . . . Bob, during rehearsal you sang a little number about the moon. What is the name of that piece?

CLAUS—Its called "SILVER MOON", Paul.

ANNOUNCER—Alright Bob . . . you sing it in that silver tenor of yours . . . go ahead.

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—When the Almanac writer, mailed out copies of last week's program to the hundreds, on our mailing list, a return post card went with it. On the card, your writer asked that listeners and readers give any comments or suggestions, they might have regarding our program . . . The response has been most gratifying, friends.

In every mail dozens of cards come back . . . all telling us how they appreciated our humble efforts to provide them with a program that would be entertaining, as well as, educational. Practically every corner of the County, is represented, in the cards we have with us here, in the studio . . . We would like to read them all, but here are a few picked at random.

MRS. LEWIS MARSHALL, R.R.2,Merlin, School Section 14, Raleigh Township, writes . . .

LADY'S VOICE—"I am making a Kent County scrap book and use it in school work for Social Studies. I suggest that you continue, until all the County is completed . . . Our schools are in need of such local historical information.

ARTHUR POULTER, Sheriff of Kent County says.

MAN'S VOICE—"Saving to put into book form. Much appreciated"

ANNOUNCER—JEAN HUMPHRIES; of Wheatley, writes.

LADY'S VOICE—"I use them in school work. This information is useful to teachers from other counties, who do not know Kent. Your commendable undertaking is one which has long been needed to acquaint us with Kent."

ANNOUNCER—And J. WALTER COULTER, sends this

MAN'S VOICE—"Always give to out-of-town patients after reading. In my opinion very appropriate for city readers as well."

ANNOUNCER—. . . . We could go on, folks, reading dozens of these wonderful comments, but we haven't time. Next week we'll read more of them. And thanks a million . . . and to those who have, we feel, neglected to mail their card . . . please do so right away we like to hear from you.

ANNOUNCER—We've just been handed a telephone message . . . its from Mrs. Annan, mother of Flying Officer Annan, mentioned on our program a few moments ago. Mrs. Annan says, we quote . . . "I missed part of the broadcast but a friend has just called me. Please express my appreciation to Flying Officer Cadotte for his message from my son and thanks to the Almanac program." We have just time to extend congratulations to MR. and MRS. THOMAS CLARK, of 31 Landsdowne Avenue in Chatham. Mr. and Mrs. Clark were married 50 years ago tomorrow, May 4, at Petrolia, Mrs. Clark was born in Inneskillen Township . . . Mr. Clark came from Sussex, England.

THEME—(Hold back of Announcer)

ANNOUNCER—So ends Chapter Twelve . . . Kent County Family Almanac . . . We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday at 9 p.m. . . when we will bring you a story of Kent County Hospitals . . . Milton, the

poet, once said "PEACE HATH HER VICTORIES . . . NO LESS RENOWNED THAN WAR."

That's your thought for the day.

So . . . until next Thursday, neighbors, lots of good luck and keep smiling . . . The piano music heard on these broadcasts is played by

Mrs. Bryce Kendrick, accompanist for all artists on our program.

Kent.. County ..Family ..Almanac.. has.. been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Limited, Chatham and Wallaceburg. This is CFCO.

THEME—(Up to End)

Listen to...

KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC

EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.
OVER CFCO.
CHATHAM, ONTARIO

"Get acquainted with your County and Your Neighbor."

SOME FUTURE BROADCASTS

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN.
- KENT COUNTY HOSPITALS
- TOWN OF TILBURY
- TOWN OF THAMESVILLE AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, May 10th, 1945

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac".

THEME—"Florentine"
(In and Hold back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC . . . A program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities and our people. Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up—then hold back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter Thirteen . . . Kent County Family Almanac . . . Tonight . . . our spotlight rests on National Hospital Day observed in Canada on Saturday, May 12, . . . also we pay tribute to two great institutions of mercy serving Chatham and Kent County . . . we welcome back several of our fighting sons and extend a welcome to three war brides who will make their homes in our midst . . . our young tenor singer has two delightful numbers and our violinist adds his selection to the musical portion of our program . . . Our thanks to those men and women of mercy, friends, so join us . . . won't you?

THEME—(Up to End).

ANNOUNCER—Bob Claus opens our program tonight with an appropriate number, "Church Bells of England". You have heard it before, but here is how Bob sings it. The accompanist on the piano is Mrs. Bryce Kendrick.

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Our Welcome Home column holds the spotlight at this time, as we welcome back several members of the armed forces who returned from overseas this week. It's Welcome Home to:
Pilot Officer Roy Seney, of Raleigh Twp.;

Flying Officer Roger Carswell, Lowe Street, Chatham;

Private James Weston, Ridgetown;

Private Jack Salisbury, Selkirk St., Chatham;

Sergt. Jack Holmes, Forest St., Chatham;

Private A. E. Crawford of Electric;

Private W. D. Little, 361 Park St., Chatham;

and Private A. S. Rutherford, of Martin Court.

Also welcome to Kent County to the following war brides;

Mrs. Ivy Barry and two children, family of Sergt. Charles Barry, 30 Emma Street.

Mrs. C. Sands, who goes to her husband's home at Wallaceburg.

Mrs. A. Hone, who goes to Ridgetown.

ANNOUNCER—Among the many letters received last week from our listeners, is one from Spencer H. Dolsen, McKay Avenue, Windsor. Here is what Mr. Dolsen says:

VOICE—"Having been born in Chatham, I was much interested in hearing your Kent County Almanac program. Would appreciate receiving a copy; also one on the Chatham-Kent Museum.

"I would be interested in visiting the museum, if you would furnish information as to location and visiting hours".

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Mr. Dolsen of Windsor. Your letter has been turned over to the secretary of the museum, who will supply you with the information you request . . . And Miss R. Johnson, teacher, R. R. 3, Ridgetown, writes:

LADY'S VOICE—"Copies of broadcasts have been helpful in teaching pioneer history of Kent. We are keeping them for reference".

ANNOUNCER—The Principal of Central School, Wallaceburg, has this to say:

MAN'S VOICE—"We are keeping them for reference in our school library".

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, everybody, for these letters. There are many more we would like to read over the air, but time does not permit tonight. If you haven't received your card yet . . . write us anyway . . . We would like to have your comments and suggestions.

ANNOUNCER—Saturday, May 12, is National Hospital Day, and on that day the people salute the community hospitals of Canada. Tonight . . . Kent County Family Almanac, pauses to pay tribute to its two great institutions of mercy . . . The Public General Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital . . . both in Chatham.

So come with us to your Hospital, Kent County citizens, where hospital odors come faintly to the nostrils, and sounds come soft and low . . . Here in the corridor stands an anxious group, suddenly called from their work or vacation, by a distressing message . . . or an anxious husband or wife, awaits news of a loved one, as the angel of death hovers near . . . or maybe "Love—fear—and a baby's cry"—and life goes on.

The white clad workers of modern miracles . . . move quietly but quickly in and out, through it all,—bent on their errands of mercy. Theirs is no easy task, for steady are the hours around the clock . . .

Then . . . suddenly there is an organized hurrying and soft whispered instructions . . . There has been an accident . . . it's a serious emergency case . . . and now a quivering body lies under the glare of the operating lamp . . . perhaps delicate skill is displayed as pressure is relieved in a shattered skull.

This . . . is the picture familiar in most of our minds about our hospitals.

But did you ever stop to think of it in this manner . . .

A hotel that has a house count, in many cases of over 3,000 guests a year, unfortunately all of them ill . . . An administration that directs a staff of many executives and domestics . . .

A food controller operating on an almost unlimited budget . . . no modest housework through the year . . . say 20,000 room to clean and tidy and 35,000 beds to make . . . That . . . friends, is but a brief picture of your modern hospital today and it should be remembered that the hospital is for the people . . . "The people own the hospital. The people use the hospital . . . the people support the hospital". Ladies and Gentlemen . . . our narrator for the next few moments will be the Reverend Jeffrey Billingsley, rector of Holy Trinity

Anglican Church in Chatham. Mr. Billingsley is going to tell us of the days when medical science, nurses and efficiency were an almost unheard of thing in the care of the sick . . . Mr. Billingsley:

SPEAKER—Good evening . . . I have been asked to speak on this program dedicated to hospitals in Canada . . . particularly to the hospitals of Kent County.

In the great struggle that has just ended, the community hospital of Canada, has been a mighty weapon for victory. Behind the surgical aid stations . . . behind the evacuation hospitals, maintaining a stubborn foothold for humanity, in the rear of the advancing armies in Europe, the community hospital of Canada found a place. The doctors, nurses and technicians, saving the lives of our wounded fighting men, as well as those fighting for victory at home, are backed by training and experience gained in the community hospitals of Canada. With a fusion of scientific knowledge and tender mercy, your voluntary hospital, safeguards the health of your family and your neighbors . . . wherever they may be.

Research discloses that hospitals were founded about the year 641 . . . The first, believed to be the Hotel Dieu, opened by Saint Landry, Bishop of Paris . . . Of this hospital, Max Nordeau said, and may I quote . . . "In one bed of moderate width, lay four, five or six persons, ill . . . They lay beside each other, the feet of one to the head of another; children beside gray-haired men; and incredible, but true, men and women intermingled together . . . In the same bed, lay individuals affected with infectious diseases, beside others only slightly unwell . . . These patients often lacked the greatest necessities . . . The most miserable food was doled out to them in sufficient quantities and at irregular intervals".

And so down through the years . . . Only 35 years before the present century, . . . let us look at the state of cleanliness in the Mater-nite of Paris, as described by La Forte, after his visit there in 1864 . . . La Forte said of that hospital—"The principal ward contained a large number of beds, placed in alcoves, like English horse-stalls along each side. Ventilation was almost impossible . . . Floors and partitions were washed once a month . . . the ceilings showed that they had not been white-washed for years".

These are not hospitals of medieval times, I mention . . . but hospitals in the centre of culture and in years from which, some of the children born, might even be living today . . . For centuries these institutions were simply a refuge for the destitute sick . . . medical

care was not given. It is only in recent times . . . since modern medical treatment has been developed, that hospitals furnish proper care, as well as, refuge for the sick.

Under the precepts of The Great Healer . . . the sick and the weak were to be cared for by the strong and healthy. Thus the modern charity hospitals, foundling homes and the municipal care of the sick and infirm, have originated in Christian religion and have developed from their predecessors, of early Christian days.

The training of women, in the art of "helping the patient to live", which is the office of the nurse, began in the nineteenth century. Prior to that time, there were nurses in hospitals, but they were untrained.

The London Times, in the year 1857, describes the servant nurses in the London hospitals, in the following terms: "Lectured by committees scolded by matrons, sworn at by surgeons . . . these women were what any woman might be, in the same circumstances . . . they were, in fact . . . mostly dowdy-looking females, of drunken and dubious habits".

It was Florence Nightingale who made nursing a dignified profession and assisted in training, "The new-style Nurses" who "helped the patient to live".

Florence Nightingale did not know the part played by bacteria, in causing infection . . . but she did know that cleanliness, fresh air, pure water and sunlight, were necessary, in the proper care of the sick . . . Her attempts to supply these necessities to the wounded, during the Crimea War, were hindered by the bureaucratic army regulations. But her work was commended, by officers and men, and on her return to England . . . a fund of fifty thousand pounds was raised to be used in establishing a school for training women in the nursing profession. Within a few years, these nurses were in great demand and other schools established . . . until today, the christian people, beyond a doubt, are the healthiest in the world.

The reason for this . . . the nursing profession, as I just pointed out . . . and the fact that we have emerged from medical superstition, which for so long, in ages past . . . hampered the profession.

Think of the collective achievements of the medical profession, in our modern age. They have extended the life period of man from 28 to 60 years and have reduced the average hospitalization period from 20 days to 10 days . . . When we think of the medical profession of today, we think of that loyal body of men, constituting the staffs of our hospitals everywhere . . . splendid men . . . the vanguard of these staunch old medical pion-

eers, of days long past, in the early history of our hospitals.

What have we today? . . . Everywhere, throughout the world, in Canada . . . right here in Kent County, we have hospitals that are an instrument and a symbol. They are the means, by which the charitable and generous impulses of mankind, extend to the sick, the benefits of modern science, in their care.

It is good then, to recall that "Man has a right to life". Life as we know it, is sweet—a fragment of eternity. How terrible that in our time, tragedy should confront us on every side;

The world makes much of pomp and pride,
But hospitals leave sham outside;
And in the wheel chairs, great and low,
Each other better comes to know.
They find in pain's persistent grip,
Both brotherhood and fellowship.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you Mr. Billingsley. Before we proceed with our tribute to Kent County Hospitals, Roy Guymer, Chatham Violinist, is going to play Gounod's "Ave Maria".

GUYMER—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—here in our studio tonight . . . we have Milo J. Smith, vice-president of the Public General Hospital, and Father Rooney, representing St. Joseph's Hospital. We have invited these gentlemen here to tell us something about the hospitals, which are . . . and have been . . . serving the citizens of Kent County so well.

ANNOUNCER—Father Rooney, we would like to know a little about the hospitals that serve Kent County. Can you tell us something about St. Joseph's Hospital . . . who conducts it and when was it founded?

FATHER ROONEY—I might say that St. Joseph's is a voluntary hospital, conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph, of the Diocese of London.

I believe it was in October 1890, that the hospital commenced operation, in the barracks once used by the Salvation Army. But in the following year . . . suitable property was obtained on King Street, the site of the present building and the original unit was erected.

ANNOUNCER—It certainly has grown. What about the accommodation, Father Rooney?

FATHER ROONEY—There is accommodation for 150 patients . . . 117 beds are assigned to adults, 9 to children, with 24 bassinets.

ANNOUNCER—Mr. Smith . . . you are the vice-chairman of the Public General Hospital. When did that hospital begin operation?

MR. SMITH—The same year . . . 1890. The original building was a three-storey residence with accommodation for 20 patients. On October 21, 1891, the corner stone was laid for the present building, which accommodates 150 patients—adults and children.

ANNOUNCER—Is the Public General Hospital publically owned, Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH—The Public General Hospital Society of Chatham conducts the hospital. It is a group of public-minded citizens, who give their services to create and operate an essential public service.

ANNOUNCER—I presume it is operated by a board of Trustees and an administrator?

MR. SMITH—That's right. The board comprises of 12 elected members, plus representatives of the City, County and various hospital organizations. Mr. "Ted" Sulman, is chairman of the board this year.

ANNOUNCER—Now that we understand those angles . . . let's consider the School's of Nursing. They are a great auxiliary to any hospital. Have either of you any interesting figures on that point?

FATHER ROONEY—St. Joseph's School of Nurses was established in 1895. It's first class consisted of 2 students and the present student enrollment is 82.

MR. SMITH—80 is the number enrolled at the Public General. When their school began, they also had two student nurses.

ANNOUNCER—Hospitals are wonderful organizations of mercy.

Industries may shut down, business may close it's doors . . . but the hospital continues 24 hours a day, 365 days a year . . . always ready to meet every emergency. Sometimes the cost is high but I understand there are certain plans, under which anyone, who is ill, can be treated at a moderate cost to themselves.

MR. SMITH—That's right. There are several such plans, for hospital care. In other words, there are non-profit community services offered under the sponsorship of the Ontario Hospital Association.

FATHER ROONEY—Yes, and Chatham and Kent County were amongst the first centres, in the province, to consider the advantages of the plan. Its purpose is to provide the greatest amount of care for the largest number of people needing this hospitalization . . . and . . . at the smallest possible cost.

ANNOUNCER—Sounds like a good idea, Father Rooney, but it seems you have to be sick to take advantage of this offer. But it is always best in the long run, to have some protection. Thank you, Mr. Smith, and Father Rooney, for being with us tonight, and in giving us some information on our Kent County Hospitals.

VOICE—(Without introduction):
They call her Florence Nightingale in jest,
But there's an earnestness behind their eyes.
That she, high priestess, does not realize;
She only knows she does her simple best,
Performing grave mysterious rites aware
That often she has the power to fan the spark
Of life to glowing flame when it is dark
And quiet in the wards, and death stalks
there.

She seems so young to have upon her slim
Proud shoulders such a weight of grief and
pain;
She should be walking through a leafy lane,
Or dancing somewhere, where the lights are
dim,
Or should she—whom so many lips must
bless
With such profound and utter thankfulness?

ANNOUNCER—That was Helen Fitzgerald Daughter's tribute to "The Nurse".

ANNOUNCER—Sunday is Mother's Day and Bob Claus is going to contribute the next number on our Almanac pages to mothers everywhere. It's the old favorite "Mother Ma-chree".

CLAUS—Sings.

THEME—(Hold back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—And thus . . . having brought you Chapter Thirteen . . . Kent County Almanac leaves the air to return again next Thursday, same time, with another story from one of our Kent County towns. . . Watch for it . . . Meanwhile . . . your thought for the

day . . . PEACE IS THE HAPPY, NATURAL STATE OF MAN; WAR HIS CORRUPTION, HIS DISGRACE".

Piano music heard on these broadcasts is played by Mrs. Bryce Kendrick, accompanist for all artists on our program.

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Limited, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

This is CFCO.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac"

THEME—"Florentine" (Up and hold back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and life of this great agricultural county and those who live in it.

Listen to...

**KENT COUNTY
FAMILY ALMANAC**

EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.

OVER CFCO.

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

"Get acquainted with your County and Your Neighbor."

**SOME
FUTURE BROADCASTS**

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN.
- TOWN OF TILBURY
- TOWN OF THAMESVILLE
- VILLAGE OF MERLIN AND WHEATLEY
- TOWN OF HIGHGATE AND OTHERS

ANNOUNCER—That nimble fingered young artist, Neville Goddard, is standing by with the ever-popular "Ten for Two." Here he is all set and ready to play.

GOLD—Plays

ANNOUNCER—Our musical department still holds the spotlight as Corina Caron, our contralto singer, approaches the "Mike." Corina is going to sing "Do You Believe in Miracles?" accompanied by Mrs. Bryce Kendrick at the piano.

WAGNER—Sings

...who have supplied us, man-
...and food is abundance, our contribu-
...our part in the fight, producing still more
...sugar beets, thus helping to stave off further
...costs in the sugar valley and at the same
...time safeguarding the financial stability of
...our farms. Yes, in southwestern Ontario will
...be wise to GROW MORE SUGAR BEETS
...THIS YEAR.

And now it's Welcome Home to
Private G. Alex Earl, Foster St., Chatham;
Private Henry Giesler, of Tilbury;
Sergeant J. Kenneth Caron, Patterson Ave., Chatham.

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Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, May 17th, 1945

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting “Kent County Family Almanac.

THEME—“Florentine.”

(In and hold back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . A program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people. . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich-garden land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to end---continue second part and hold back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—This . . . is Chapter Fourteen . . . Kent County Family Almanac . . . Tonight, we bring you a story from Dover Township as we salute those sturdy pioneers of long ago. You will hear of their hardships and privations as they fought to make Dover one of the finest farming districts in the province . . . Three of our singers tonight are descendants of those pioneers . . . so listen with us as they contribute their portion to your Dover program . . . Our piano-accordionist adds his modern touch with a lively number. So, here we go, neighbors, a salute to Dover Township.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—That nimble-fingered young artist, Orville Gold, is standing by with the ever-popular “Tea for Two.” Here he is . . . all set and ready to play.

GOLD—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—Our musical department still holds the spotlight as Corine Caron, our contralto singer, approaches the “Mike.” Corine is going to ask musically, “Do You Believe In Dreams?” accompanied by Mrs. Bryce Kendrick at the piano.

CORINE—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Before we turn to our Welcome Home column . . . here is an important announcement . . . The past two weeks have been a period of strenuous excitement as one important event followed another. The highlight, of course, was that of the end of the war. No less important, however, were the warnings of greater responsibilities for the Canadian people.

We have been told time and time again by the great leaders of our time, that our task is not finished. We are warned of the huge responsibility we have to face in supplying food to friends and to the armed forces still fighting the Japanese.

Nevertheless . . . it came as a shock when we were told that our sugar ration was cut again . . . for the fourth time this year . . . This is serious . . . but, anxious to point out anything that might be helpful in avoiding further cuts in the sugar ration, your Almanac writer explains that right here in Southwestern Ontario, we have the facilities to produce **MORE THAN ENOUGH SUGAR** for the household ration of every man, woman and child in the province.

Mindful of the material prosperity of the farming communities, it is also reminded that fast changing war conditions are certain to adversely affect the demand for some of our crops, but **NOT SUGAR BEETS.**

Therefore, we who have supplied men, munitions and food in abundance, can continue our part in the fight, procuring still more sugar beets, thus helping to stave off further cuts in the sugar ration . . . and at the same time, safeguarding the financial stability of our farms. Yes . . . southwestern Ontario will be wise to **GROW MORE SUGAR BEETS THIS YEAR.**

And now it's Welcome Home to:
Private G. Alex Hill, Foster St., Chatham;
Private Henry Glasier, of Tilbury;
Sergt. J. Rennie Caren, Patteson Ave., Chatham.

Major Keith Crummer, Victoria Ave., Chatham;

Sergt. Norma Wright, R.C.A.F., (Women's Division), Wellington Street, Chatham.

ANNOUNCER—What's this . . . we have a little stranger in our midst . . . but she looks quite at home . . . Folks, you ought to see her . . . she just about reaches the microphone . . . What's your name, little girl?

MARILYN—Marilyn Stokes.

ANNOUNCER—It's ten - year - old Marilyn Stokes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Stokes, Dover Township. Everybody out there knows Marilyn. What are you going to sing, Marilyn?

MARILYN—"The Little Yellow Dog."

ANNOUNCER—Not your dog, is it?

MARILYN—No, my dog's name is "Skippy."

ANNOUNCER—Well, that's fine, you go ahead and tell us about that "Little Yellow Dog."

MARILYN—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Marilyn Stokes, of Dover Centre.

ANNOUNCER—And now for the story of Dover Township and the village of Pain Court . . . Records reveal that until 1790 . . . Dover Township had no more history than any other part of the country . . . Indians were the only inhabitants of those immense forests which covered the beautiful and fertile farms of today . . . In that year, 1790 . . . a man by the name of Parsons came from Pennsylvania and settled on the south side of the river Thames . . . Two years later, John Van Dolzen came from Holland and chose a tract of land on the north side of the river which is lot 16 today . . . These two men were the first white men to locate in the County of Kent.

But it was the Van Dolzen family who were really the pioneers of Dover Township . . . John Van Dolzen, who later took the name of Dolsen—D-o-l-s-e-n—was far advanced in years when he arrived . . . but his two sons, Matthew and Isaac, were in the vigor of manhood . . . Matthew chose a location on the north side of the river, on land that later became Dover . . . and Isaac located on the south side in what became Raleigh Township . . . which we hope to speak about in another broadcast soon.

But the centre of attraction along the River Front for many years . . . was the farm of Matthew Dolsen where he established several industries of considerable magnitude . . . One of his first ventures was a general trading post . . . which he supplied with goods brought from Buffalo and Detroit in vessels of his own construction. . . . said to have been the first on the River Thames . . . Later he built a distillery, a grist mill, a tannery, blacksmith shop and a cooperage . . . and in each of those places large staffs of men were employed . . . adding to the volume of trade and the dignity of the community . . . But, as years past, and the trade divided among other markets and industries, the spirit of commerce deserted the place and many of the younger generation left for parts unknown. . . . The Dolsens, however, remained. . . . John, son of Matthew (latter known as "Squire John") retained his residence on the old homestead . . . the other son, Isaac, moved to a home on the adjoining lot to the west . . . their father having drawn a 400-acre grant at that point.

Here in our studio tonight is Mr. Eugene King, a former reeve of Dover Township, and Mr. D. D. Gagner, township clerk for many years. We're going to ask them to take up the story from here on . . . Mr. King, after the Dolsen's arrived . . . who were the next group to reach the area which later became Dover.

MR. KING—Well, a great many people know the story of the Baldoon settlement . . . These immigrants began to arrive about 1804, settling on the Baldoon farm, which lay within the angle formed by the gore of Chatham base line, the Chenal Ecarte on the west and the Sydenham River on the south-west . . . They were brought to the New World by the Earl of Selkirk, a nobleman of great wealth, from the Highlands of Scotland. They arrived at Montreal in July, 1804, and were taken up the St. Lawrence to Kingston. From there they travelled to Niagara by sailing vessels . . . crossed to Fort Erie on-foot and from that point sailed again to the Detroit River and up through the Chenal Ecarte to their landing place.

ANNOUNCER—A long and tedious journey under conditions in those days . . . Do you happen to know from history the names of some of those first settlers?

KING—The first colony of Highlanders to arrive included many families bearing the name of McPherson, McCallum, McDougall and Stewart . . . The entire community consisted of about 1,000 acres and for some time the settlers . . . as their only means of support . . . drew from a common fund provided by the Earl . . . He spent considerable money on buildings, draining the land, etc., but grad-

ually his wealth grew less and he was not able to carry out his scheme in detail.

ANNOUNCER—If my memory serves me right, Mr. King, the generous Earl gave much of his wealth to the settlers who were unable to glean a living from the soil . . . I believe the reason for this . . . was the flooding of the territory . . . when dykes and levees broke and the waters of St. Clair and the Sydenham covered their land. Stories are told that harvest fields were flooded to a great depth and by 1839 . . . the former wheat fields were navigated by large vessels. It was a common sight, history relates, to see canoes carrying children to schools which were partly under water. As time went on . . . the settlers were forced to move from their inundated localities and the once scene of prosperous agriculture became a desolate waste.

MR. KING—That's quite right . . . But it should be remembered that when the Earl of Selkirk saw his resources at an end, asked for and was given release of his claim to the tract of land granted him. Then . . . gradually other settlers, mostly fishermen, began to move in . . . among them Robert Mitchell, who located at Mitchell's Bay . . . so named in his honor.

ANNOUNCER—Thanks for reminding us of that point in our story. Mr. King . . . Now, Mr. Gagner, you are the township clerk . . . What about the municipal affairs in Dover during those early days?

MR. GAGNER—The history of municipal affairs in Dover has not been wholly preserved . . . but on the introduction of the Municipal Act in 1850 . . . we find that such men as Robert Mitchell, St. Luke Emery, Adolphus Reaume, Andre Peltier and Alexis Urquhart were elected to the council board. Robert Mitchell became the first reeve and T. W. Smith was clerk . . . William Gordon was collector; William A. John and Robert Crowe were the assessors and Thomas, the treasurer.

ANNOUNCER—We will hear something about the present council later. Are there any villages of importance in Dover now, Mr. Gagner?

MR. GAGNER—Only a few post office villages but none of considerable importance . . . In the old days there was Baldoon and Oldfield. There is still Mitchell's Bay, Dover Centre, Bear Line and Electric and Pain Court, which is about seven miles from Chatham.

ANNOUNCER—That's right, Pain Court . . . Let's talk about Pain Court . . . I drove through the village last summer and I noticed a very fine Catholic Church. . . There

were also several up-to-date general stores, a couple of hotels, an elevator and other businesses that make up an enterprising village. . . . By the way, what's the population out there?

MR. GAGNER—About 1,300 in the Pain Court Parish.

ANNOUNCER—Can you give me any idea when Pain Court first became settled?

MR. GAGNER—Let me think . . . In the year 1815 . . . two French families named Baby and Paquette settled on the north side of the river . . . Later that year . . . five other French families settled in the part which is now known as the "Pain Court Block" . . . They were the Lauzons, the Peltiers, the Fauberts, the Primeaus and Louis Dezilia.

ANNOUNCER—We have been told how the Baldoon settlers got their land . . . Can you tell us how the people in the Pain Court block secured theirs?

MR. GAGNER—In order to avoid trouble in the future, these people, always cautions asked the Government to make a survey. A land-surveyor named Rankin surveyed the tract of land which extends from lot 1 to lot 16 . . . embracing 773 acres in all . . . This was the extent of Pain Court in 1815 . . . but at that time the name Pain Court was unknown.

ANNOUNCER—I have been going to ask you about that. How did the name Pain Court come about?

MR. GAGNER—I think Eugene here can answer that question just as well. How about it, Eugene?

MR. KING—In those days . . . there was no town or post office between London and Detroit and the neighbors were far apart. There were no grist mills and food was scarce, particularly bread . . . This state of affairs lasted for some time and the people of the district in expressing their distress used to say "le pain est court"—which mean the "bread is short." They became so used to saving everything . . . even words . . . that they simply said "pain court" or—"short bread." . . . The name spread so rapidly and so naturally that . . . when people spoke of a country in misery they used to give Pain Court as an example.

ANNOUNCER—That's most interesting. And look at the district today . . . One of the best agricultural areas in the province, I imagine. What brought this about, Mr. King?

MR. KING—Today . . . the farmers are able to grow any kind of crop they desire . . . but there is no doubt that the growing of sugar

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beets, always a profitable crop, has been a main factor for the past 35 years.

ANNOUNCER—Yes . . . and it has been said that no other country place has improved more than Pain Court in all that time . . . Can you tell us any other reason for this progress?

MR. KING—First, there was the telephone which everybody thought was a nuisance and now nobody wants to be without . . . Then in 1910 . . . the Gas Company began to supply the people with natural gas and in the same year . . . an electric railroad was built from Chatham to Pain Court . . . When motor cars and good roads came along . . . it was discontinued.

ANNOUNCER—Mr. Gagner . . . before you go . . . tell us the names of the council this year.

MR. GAGNER—Elmer Rose is our reeve . . . Sylva Letourneau is deputy-reeve . . . and the council consists of Ben Reaume, Richard Chinnick and Robert Isaac. The township auditor is Wilfrid Peltier . . . the treasurer, Francis Ouellette . . . and the assessor Delore Jarvis . . . Earle Montgomery is responsible for our good roads.

ANNOUNCER—Have you anything you would like to say to the residents of the township and Pain Court?

MR. KING—I would like to thank the Kent County Family Almanac for making this broadcast of our township possible and (in French) . . . This broadcast will be sent out in printed form. Anyone wanting a copy can have one by writing to Kent County Family Almanac in care of CFCO.

ANNOUNCER—(laughing) —Say, our knowledge of French is slight . . . What was that you said just now?

MR. KING—I told the people of Pain Court that they could have printed copies of this broadcast . . . simply by writing to the Family Almanac in care of CFCO.

ANNOUNCER—And that goes for everybody, folks . . . and if you want future copies of these broadcasts just add that to your card or letter . . . We'll see that you get them.

Thank you, gentlemen, for being with us . . . You have given us a wonderful story of the past in Dover Township.

ANNOUNCER—A few moments ago you heard Corine Caron sing . . . now as a special treat here is her sister, Evelyn . . . Evelyn is a guest singer on our program tonight and she

goes far afield for the number you are about to hear . . . It's Mexicala Rose."

EVELYN—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—This week . . . Kent County Family Almanac extends congratulations to several Kent County students who have won scholarships and prizes at the University of Western Ontario at London.

Among them is Miss Mary Lois Williams, of Eberts, who was awarded the Board of Governors Scholarship for study at the Trois Pistoles French summer school.

Harold Hall, of Ridgetown, won the William Wyatt scholarship for third year English languages and literature and Muriel Clarke, of Blenheim, won the elementary Sir Wilfrid Laurier memorial scholarship in French.

Prizes to be awarded in October go to John McCutcheon of Chatham; . . . Jean McNichol, of Rodney; . . . and Jean Sloan, of West Lorne.

Among the Bachelor of Arts awards . . . general course degrees . . . Rita Rivard, of Tilbury won Grade A.; Margaret Groome and Jean McNevin, of Chatham, and Edward Jacklin, of Blenheim, secured Grade B honors.

Public Health Nurse certificates have been awarded to Nina Bridgett of Blenheim, and Julienne Gagner, of Chatham.

THEME—(Hold back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—So ends Chapter Fourteen . . . Kent County Family Almanac . . . We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday at 9 p.m. with another interesting story . . . Meanwhile . . . here's your thought for the day . . . "Spring is a natural resurrection . . . it unbosoms every grace."

So until next Thursday, folks, this is Paul Hanover, your announcer saying . . . "lots of good luck and keep smiling . . . The piano music heard on these broadcasts is played by Mrs. Bryce Kendrick, accompanist for all artists on our program.

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

This is CFCO.

THEME—(Up to end.)

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, May 24th, 1945

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine."

(In and fade back of announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . A program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our cities and our people . . . Anything that happens in this rich-garden land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up and continue for 20 seconds—then hold back as announcer resumes).

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter Fifteen . . . Kent County Family Almanac . . . Tonight . . . our spotlight travels along number two highway and comes to rest at the little village of Kent Bridge from where you will hear another story of pioneers, their hardship and their problems . . . Be with us also as we welcome back several of our Kent County boys who will arrive from overseas this week . . . Our musical department tonight shifts from the thrilling band music heard throughout the day in many of our towns and villages . . . to a haunting and inspiring symphony . . . something new on our program . . . It's a half hour of fine music and community news, folks, so stay tuned in . . . you'll like it.

THEME—(Up to end)

ANNOUNCER—In Chatham and many other places throughout the county today . . . band music and parades were the order of the day. This afternoon in Tecumseh Park five bands took part in a huge musical festival and early this evening the Chatham Kiltie Band under Bandmaster Syd Chamberlain gave a special concert at the park.

At a recent concert, the Kilties played the ever-popular "On the Mull" . . . always a favorite with members of the armed forces

and civilians. And here it is complete with crowd noises to open the musical portion of our Almanac program tonight.

ENGINEER—Kilties playing "On the Mull."

ANNOUNCER—Our Almanac pages turn to our Welcome Home department and we welcome back from overseas Leading Aircraftsman Walter Stanski, of R.R. 1, Fletcher. Walter has three years' service to his credit . . . one and a half years of which were spent in Ceylon.

Also to the following . . . who will arrive at Military District Hospital Number 1 and eventually to their homes in Kent County:

Private J. B. Atkinson, Chatham;

Lance-Corp. F. T. Evers, R.R. 2, Blenheim;

Acting Corp. E. A. Garbutt, Jeannette's Creek;

Private H. B. Hatt, Wheatley;

Private D. W. Labadie, Sombra;

Trooper H. W. Leader, Ridgetown;

Private C. E. Newcombe, Blenheim;

Corp. J. H. Pratt (liberated prisoner of war) Chatham;

Private W. W. Rowe, Glencoe;

Private D. H. Stuart, Chatham;

Private Arthur Haney, Thamesville; and

Private Fred Wass, of Scane Street, Chatham, one of Canada's five-year men.

And here is a story of a North Buxton hero, one who has been in action on the western front since November of last year. He is Sergt. Edgar Shreve, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Shreve.

With his unit . . . the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, Edgar went into France late last fall and has taken part in some of the most terrific combats prior to the unconditional surrender of Germany.

Though he entered Germany as a private,

Sergt. Shreve received his third promotion not more than one month after he received his first. But it was on May 14 . . . that the most puzzling and interesting message arrived from Edgar. On that day, his mother received a cablegram . . . which read . . . Repatriated to England. Fit and well."

Having received no word of their son being reported a prisoner-of-war at any time, Mr. and Mrs. Shreve are now awaiting a letter of explanation of what might be a dramatic climax to Edgar's experiences in the European theatre of war.

ANNOUNCER—Music from the classics enters our program as we present the Classical Symphony in D Major, written by Sergei Prokofieff in 1916-1917, while the composer was in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad), Russia . . . it was dedicated to Boris Assafiew, one of the Russian literati and in 1919 was performed for the first time in St. Petersburg by the State Orchestra . . . Tonight, you will hear it played by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra with Vladimir Golschmann conducting.

Prokofieff in his creative attempts in this Classical Symphony, himself said that his idea "in writing the work was to catch the spirit of Mozart and to put down that which . . . if he were living today . . . Mozart might put into his scores . . . The work is reminiscent of Haydn, Mozart and their contemporaries, but occasional turns of phrase, wanderings of harmony and relatively sophisticated melodies reveal the brilliance of a clever modernist.

In the first movement which you will now hear . . . the strings introduce the various principal theme of the Allegro . . . immediately follows a transitional passage in which the flutes play a curiously novel and active part. In the second part of sonata form, the listener can identify the themes as they are elaborated and combined. The movement ends with a short coda.

ENGINEER—Recording of Movement 1.

ANNOUNCER—No more gracious a gavette has been written than this third movement of Prokofieff's Classical Symphony. The dance theme is given by the wood winds and strings; then follows a trio by the flutes and clarinets which continues over a tone sustained by the string section. With the repetition of the dance theme the movement ends. In this movement more than the others can be seen the modern tendencies of Prokofieff . . . the listener will hear the unexpected harmonic turns and clever use of musical devices such as the final pizzicati.

ENGINEER—Come in with Movement 3.

ANNOUNCER—And now the Finale which is molded after the sonata pattern. Against a background of the kettledrums . . . the strings announce the lively principal theme, the texture of the orchestration remains the same until the second subject is introduced by the wood winds. Development is fully extended and well sustained. Tempted not at all from the pattern . . . Prokofieff concludes his symphony with a true restatement of the recently heard principal themes.

ENGINEER—Come in with Movement 4.

ANNOUNCER—For the next few moments . . . let us look at the history of Kent Bridge . . . that quiet little village, on number 2 highway, half-way between Thamesville and Chatham.

The vicinity of Kent Bridge, in the early days, seemed to be a favoured location for both the Ojibway or Chippewa and Pottawat-tomie Indians, as several large camping grounds are known to have been in that locality.

At the start of the 19th century . . . The Thames River was known by the Indians, as the "Eskun-i-seeppi" . . . meaning Big Horn. But here too . . . as in all other places the Indian gradually gave way for the occupation of the white man.

A glance at your map of Kent County, shows Kent Bridge located at the adjoining corners of Howard, Harwich, Chatham and Camden Townships . . . but it was not until 1809, that these lands were surveyed by a Government official. At that time the place, was known as "Kelley's Corners." . . . because a man by the name of Kelley lived there.

Like all other communities in the early days, the pioneers had many hardships to contend with . . . for instance the settlers had to take their grain in canoes, to Fort Malden on the Detroit River, to have it ground.

About 1800, however, Christopher Arnold, one of the United Empire Loyalists settlers, built a flour and saw-mill, run by water power, on land which was the old Arnold Homestead, lot 4, in Howard . . . This farm was later occupied by Elmer Murphy and his family.

Roads, in those days, were all given roads. One of the first . . . was known as the Arnold Mill-road, which crossed the River Thames in Camden Township along the old Riseborough homestead. The crossing was made on a rudely constructed bridge, the road passing the mill and going through to Botany. A few years ago, a portion of the old mill-dam could be seen to the east of the present bridge, crossing Arnold Creek, on the river Road.

Other roads were opened upon both sides of the river and one of these . . . known as the Longwoods Road . . . was used as a stage road from London to Windsor. The road on the south side of the river still remains a given road . . . forty feet wide.

The first school and church was a frame building, that stood on the north corner of the intersection of the townline and Longwood's Road. It was a long structure divided in the centre . . . having a school at one end . . . the church at the other . . . with a fireplace in the end of each.

In 1842, a debating school was also held in this building, which carried on for many years. Many professional men from the locality received their first training in public speaking in this school.

Industry began to take shape in the community when . . . in the year 1843 . . . Chris. Arnold's son, Frederick, built the first foundry in the district. It was located on the river bank north-east of what later became Dan DeCow's Farm. About the same time, Thomas Lyon, opened the first store, on the east corner of the intersection.

Along in 1845, a man by the name of Gee, owned and operated a brick yard, on the north bank of the river, at Kelley's Corners, which later became Kent Bridge. Gee, also conducted a ferry at this point and the place for a while, was known as Gee's Ferry. Gee built the first brick hotel, on the east side, near Lyon's store. For a while the hotel was run by J. A. Langford. It was destroyed by fire about 30 years ago.

At this period, the citizens, decided a better bridge across the river was needed . . . and in 1854, an enclosed wooden structure was built . . . called Kent Bridge . . . from which the place derived its present name.

Seven years later, this bridge was replaced by a double arched wooden bridge, which became a toll bridge, until 1873 when tolls were removed. Then in 1875, the first span of the present bridge was built. The second span was not constructed until 1901.

It was not until September, 1889, that the smoke of the first construction train, building the Canadian Pacific Railroad, was seen in the west and in June, 1890, the first train to pass through Kent Bridge was a special to take an excursion to Guelph.

But there is one historical event, in the history of Kent Bridge, that cannot be passed by, without comment.

It was at Chris. Arnold's old mill house . . . that the great Indian Chieftain, Tecumseh ate his last breakfast . . . on the morning of the battle of Moraviantown, in which he fell . . . After his meal, Tecumseh waited to pilot

his band of Indians by the mill so they would not burn it.

After his army had passed the mill, Tecumseh stood with his beautiful white horse under a beech tree, near the corner of the lawn, on property now owned by the Goodreau family. He waited for a signal from Mr. Arnold, who was to throw three shovels of earth off the mill dam, into the air . . . when he saw the Americans coming over the hill, west of the mill . . . but when Arnold had given the signal and looked for Tecumseh, he found that the eagle eye of the great Chieftain had seen the enemy and was on his horse, speeding to join his army.

A few years ago, only the stump of that beech tree, under which Tecumseh stood, remained . . . a spot visited to-day by hundreds of passing motorists.

Of late years many changes have taken place in the community. . . Banks were opened . . . and stores changed hands frequently . . . but Kent Bridge continues to live on . . . rich in the historical events of its background.

ANNOUNCER—And now back to our musical column as we listen to the Chatham Kiltie Band again . . . this time playing the march "Chatham Kilties," written by Bandmaster Thiele of Waterloo.

ENGINEER—Come in with "Chatham Kilties."

ANNOUNCER—Here on the Almanac . . . We are convinced that very often the man who lives next door is more interesting than those you read about in the Sunday supplements. In our travels through Kent and its friendly neighboring counties, we have discovered a wealth of fascinating material for your stories . . . Did you know that Kent County citizens have panned for gold in the frozen north; some competed in Olympic Games; another talked with Hitler; many have been decorated for valour and some have some worldwide reputations as authors and artists. We have learned enough to assure us a fine series of 'Kent County' profiles . . . little word sketches of local personalities.

But you . . . our listeners . . . can help us add to that series by telling us what you know about your friends and neighbors. Do you know someone who has had an interesting life . . . someone with a hobby . . . someone we could write about and talk about here on our Almanac . . . If so, . . . drop us a note . . . We will do the rest.

In that way, we will all learn to know our neighbors better; and to know people is to like them, and to like them is to trust them. Perhaps Kent County . . . now widely known as one of Canada's wealthiest Counties . . . can win a reputation for friendliness and

community-mindedness beyond our fondest hopes.

ENGINEER—Come in with closing theme for 30 seconds.

ANNOUNCER—Farmers in Southwestern Ontario are taking advantage of the fine weather this week to catch up with their seeding . . . Seeding of sugar beets . . . and practically all crops for that matter . . . was held up during the early part of the month by wet weather. Much of the spring grains which were seeded before the heavy rains came will not survive and many fields will have to be replaced by later crops. May is the ideal month to plant sugar beet seed . . . Farmers tell us that they averaged well over \$100. per acre in the returns from the 1944 crop, more than a third of which was planted in the last half of May last year.

ENGINEER—Theme up for 10 seconds, then fade back as announcer continues.

ANNOUNCER—So ends Chapter Fifteen. We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday with another story from Kent County. Meanwhile, a thought for the day: "HE GIVES NOT BEST WHO GIVES MOST . . . BUT HE GIVES MOST WHO GIVES BEST."

So, until next Thursday, this is Paul Hanover, your announcer, saying . . . lots of good luck, neighbors, and keep smiling . . .

KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC has been brought to you through the courtesy of the **Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.**

This is CFCO.

THEME—(Up to end.)

Listen to...

KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC

EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.

OVER CFCO.

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

**"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."**

SOME FUTURE BROADCASTS

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN.
- TOWN OF TILBURY
- TOWN OF THAMESVILLE
- VILLAGE OF MERLIN
AND WHEATLEY
- TOWN OF HIGHGATE
AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, May 31st, 1945

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine."
(In and fade back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with vivid pictures, of our towns, our city and our people . . . Anything that happens in this rich-garden land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up—then fade back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter Sixteen . . . Kent County Family Almanac . . . Tonight . . . you will hear the story of Chatham Township from the days when it was a low marshland until it has become one of the best drained and fertile townships in Kent County . . . Two representatives from Chatham Township council are here to tell you that story . . . As usual we welcome home several of our returned heroes and you will hear other interesting items . . . Our tenor and contralto soloists are back with us again to bring you songs old and new . . . So here it is . . . our salute to Chatham Township.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Our tenor soloist . . . Bob Claus opens our program tonight with a request number . . . You've heard Bob sing it before but we have had so many requests for him to sing it again and here he is with the intriguing song, "My Dreams are Getting Better all the Time." Alright, Bob, take it away.

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—And here is Orville Gold, our piano-accordionist. Orville plays a popular and inspiring "Repang March".

GOLD—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—And now let us Welcome Home several of Kent County's heroes who arrived from overseas during the past week.

A welcome to Seaman Second Class Charles S. Garden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Garden, 177 Park Avenue West, Chatham. Seaman Garden served 19 months in the United States Navy in the South Pacific.

A welcome to Flying Officer Maurice Smyth, brother of Miss Beth Smyth of 194½ Queen Street.

Lance-Corporal James A. Chalmers, son of Mrs. W. B. Chalmers, 19 Wade Street, Chatham.

Flight-Sergt. W. H. Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Martin, 234 Inshes Avenue, Chatham.

Private W. E. Springer, brother of Mrs. George Maynard, 111 Sheldon Ave., Chatham.

Trooper R. V. Archibald, son of Mrs. Alex. Archibald, 236 Inshes Avenue, Chatham.

Sergt. Lyell M. Ryan, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Ryan of St. Clair Street.

FO. Lloyd Groombridge, Grand Avenue, W., Chatham, Ontario.

John Harlick, Erieau; Major Jack Peterson, D.S.O., Blenheim; Paratrooper Jack Thomas, Blenheim who was captured at Arnheim.

And welcome to Kent County to the following war brides:

Mrs. Clarissa St. Pierre, wife of Private Alfred St. Pierre, R.R. 3, Northwood.

Mrs. Alex. Pattison, wife of Sergt. Alex. Pattison, Queen Street, Dresden.

ANNOUNCER (continues)—Friends . . . Many of our Kent County veterans who returned from overseas recently, are not able to get around as well as they did before they went away. In hospitals, sanatoria, homes and many out-of-the-way places millions of people know all too well the meaning of the words "shut-ins."

To encourage more thought of these folk, the first Sunday of June is annually set aside

to remind the public of its obligation of visiting, or in other ways remembering those who are prevented through illness or other disability from enjoying the pleasures of the outside world.

Let us all make the lot of the "shut-ins" a happier one by planning to visit next Sunday, June 3, at least two persons . . . one a civilian and the other a disabled veteran. There is an old Scottish proverb that may well have been written by a "shut-in"; . . . "Nae man can be happy without a friend." So let's all do our bit Sunday, neighbors; if you know of a "shut-in" . . . visit him or her. A short car ride in the afternoon . . . for those who are able to enjoy one . . . would be appreciated.

ANNOUNCER—Wilfrid Sanderson, one of the most versatile song-writers of the day, is the author of the popular and impressive "Valley of Laughter," and here is Corine Caron, "the girl with a smile in her voice," to sing it for you.

CORINE—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—In our studio tonight are Ernest Campbell, Reeve of Chatham Township and Hilton Eagleson, the township's Clerk and Treasurer. We are going to talk with these gentlemen in a few minutes but before we do . . . let us look at a map of the Township and Gore of Chatham . . . We find that the township and Gore forms the largest territorial sub-division under one municipal government in the County of Kent.

The original Township of Chatham extended from the River Thames on the south to the base-line which bounded the original Indian grant on the north . . . the same line, forms the dividing line between the township and the gore. The western town line separates Chatham Township from Dover and the eastern from Camden Township.

Between the Thames and the base line of the Gore at the west side of the township . . . the distance is about sixteen and a half miles. The Gore of Chatham Township consists of four concessions of seven-eighths of a mile each . . . lying between the base line we just mentioned and the Lambton County boundary line . . . stretching from the Gore on the east to Lake St. Clair on the west.

One principle peculiarity noticed in the surface of Chatham Township is the absence of small living streams within its boundaries. . . . The Thames on the south and the Sydenham running through the Gore from east to west, are the only rivers . . . but . . . the township is intersected in different localities by depressions of about six feet deep below the general level. These creeks, . . . or they could be more properly dignified as canals

. . . were all built in pioneer days so that today the township is traversed by a perfect network of drains constructed under the Drainage Act. It is, without doubt, one of the best drained townships in the county.

At this point, we are going to ask Reeve Campbell to tell us something of the early pioneers in Chatham Township.

CAMPBELL—As far as can be learned, there is no authentic record of any settlement having been made within the bounds of the township prior to 1794 when William Baker was given a grant of land along the river front. Baker had been called by the government to superintend the construction of government ships at a shipyard on land which is now "Tecumseh Park" in the City of Chatham. The property was known as the Baker farm for many years and finally passed into the hands of Henry Eberts, whose father, Joseph Eberts, married Baker's eldest daughter.

ANNOUNCER—I suppose that after Baker arrived and started his shipyard, other settlers began to arrive.

CAMPBELL—Well . . . records show that the next man to follow Baker into the township was George Sicklesteale, who located on lot 9, River Front. A son, David, lived on the farm for many years and later built a hotel which was one of the township's landmarks for a long time. Our township clerk, Hilton Eagleson, might be able to give us the names of other settlers who arrived about that time.

EAGLESON—If my memory serves me right, history tells us that the influx of pioneers began shortly after 1798 . . . There were the Arnolds, the Everetts, the Blackburns, and the Frenchs. They were all U. E. Loyalists from Pennsylvania, and had to come to Canada because of their preference for the British flag. In mentioning the Arnolds, I might say there were several members of that family but Lewis and John remained in Chatham Township settling on lots 13 and 14.

CAMPBELL—That's right, Hilton . . . and the Everetts you mentioned settled on lot 15 near what is now Louisville. John Blackburn, when he arrived, had seven sons and all eventually took up land in various parts of the township . . . But go ahead, Hilton . . . I think the Jackmans and the Fishers arrived about that time too.

EAGLESON—Yes, . . . Peter was the head of the French family . . . He had distinguished himself in the War of 1812 . . . as did several of his sons . . . and when they arrived all

were given large tracts of land. Many of their descendants, in the last century, lived along the third and fourth concessions of the Prince Albert Road . . . and part of the township became known as the French settlement.

ANNOUNCER—You gentlemen seem to know your township pretty well . . . Mr. Eagleson, can you give us briefly a few more names of those early pioneers?

EAGLESON—As the reeve has said . . . there were the Jackmans and the Fishers . . . And of course, we can't forget the Weeses on whose land, I believe, the village of Louisville was established. Then there were the Merritts, the Johnsons, the McKerralls and a host of others . . . while up in the Gore there were the Simpsons, the Kerrs, the Pools and the Morrissions.

ANNOUNCER—A few moments ago we spoke of the drainage system you have in Chatham Township . . . What about the roads and highways . . . Have you any handy information on that question, Reeve Campbell?

CAMPBELL—For a great many years, road facilities were neither numerous nor elaborate . . . The River Road, now Number 2 Highway, had been cut along the windings of the river bank but nothing save the most primitive kind of cart tracks pierced the interior of the township up to the period of the rebellion . . . Later, the Prince Albert, the Caledonia and the Lindsley roads were built and these enabled more settlers to move farther into the interior. Incidentally, it was about 1809 that the name was bestowed upon Chatham Township, the style of its denomination having previously been . . . "the third township north of the River Thames."

ANNOUNCER—This Gore of Chatham . . . We're not quite clear on that. Can you tell us how that came into the picture, Mr. Eagleson?

EAGLESON—The dictionary defines "Gore" as a point or corner of land. This portion of the township originally belonged to Sombra in Lambton County . . . but for municipal purposes, because the county seat, Sarnia, was too far away . . . it was turned over and attached to Chatham township . . . It was possibly called the Gore of Chatham to distinguish it from the rest of the township because the concessions were numbered the same but ran in opposite directions.

ANNOUNCER—Have you some more information—for instance, what is the population now and the assessment?

EAGLESON—The population is around 6,300 . . . the assessment approximately five and a half millions.

ANNOUNCER—And . . . I suppose the farming district is about the same as in other parts of Kent?

EAGLESON—Oh, yes, we have in Chatham about 85,000 acres of the most diversified land in the country . . . practically all kinds of crops are grown . . . tobacco, tomatoes, beans, corn and sugar beets.

ANNOUNCER—Did the recent rains delay any of these crops?

EAGLESON—Some . . . but our farmers are taking advantage of the fine weather and rushing ahead with their seeding. Sugar beets were delayed a little but it is not too late for that crop and growers are still planting sugar beet seeds.

ANNOUNCER—Reeve Campbell . . . What about the early municipal councils? Have you any information to give us?

CAMPBELL (laughs)—That's more along Hill-ton's line . . . but I'll see if I can recall some. I believe it was in 1842 . . . the law establishing District Councils came into effect and Jacob Crowe was elected district councillor. . . . In 1850 . . . a more matured municipal system was introduced and the first council consisted of Messrs. Sam Arnold, John Blackburn, W. A. Everett, John W. Keating and John Shaw. At its first meeting Sam Arnold was chosen reeve . . . How's that for history, Mr. Clerk?

EAGLESON (laughs)—You ought to be a teacher, Mr. Reeve . . . But I think we ought to tell the folks that the first clerk and treasurer was Richard Houston. The assessor then was Duncan Campbell . . . and the collector was Duncan McVicar.

ANNOUNCER—You both seem pretty well up on the history of Chatham Township . . . How long have you been clerk, Mr. Eagleson?

EAGLESON—Seventeen years.

ANNOUNCER—Who are the members of your council this year?

EAGLESON—Ernest Campbell is our reeve. The deputy-reeve is Arthur L. Merritt . . . the councillors are Thomas Kilbride, John Jinks and Coll McNaughton . . . M. R. Parrish is our road superintendent and W. G. McGeorge is county engineer.

ANNOUNCER—The largest town in the township is Wallaceburg. What other villages are located in Chatham?

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EAGLESON—Kent Bridge can be considered the one important village and we have Louisville, Eberts, Turnerville and Tupperville.

ANNOUNCER—By the way, I almost forgot this . . . Are the Canadian Pacific and the Pere Marquette . . . the only railroads serving Chatham Township?

EAGLESON—That's right . . . we also have 224 miles of macadamized roads and provincial highways, 2 . . . 40 . . . and 78 as well as Wallaceburg, our lake port.

ANNOUNCER—Yes, Wallaceburg is what you call a lake port. In fact . . . it is Canada's only inland water port . . . Our first broadcast on the Kent County Family Almanac told about Wallaceburg and its many industries . . . We are planning to go there again soon . . . And now, gentlemen, our time is about up. Thank you for being with us. . . . We will hear from Chatham Township soon again . . . we hope.

CAMPBELL AND EAGLESON—Thank you.

ANNOUNCER—As our Almanac slowly turns, the spotlight drops on Raleigh Township where we meet Mr. Alfred H. Smith. Mr. Smith lives with a granddaughter, Mrs. Ted Russell, near Cedar Springs . . . He's a grand old man at 88 years and still continues to practice the Great Philosophy of Life . . . "that nothing really matters, except getting along well with folks."

This kindly old gentleman has one of those dispositions one cannot help but admire . . . and he still retains a sense of humor that make little children trust him and grown people marvel at his outlook on life in general.

Mr. Smith was a well driller in his earlier days and although he lost a hand in an accident many years ago, he carried on his job until recently. Even today he travels around on a three-wheeled bicycle and trailer he built himself—giving advice and assistance where wells are being drilled in the district.

Mr. Smith recalls the days when there were only a few houses in Chatham and a less number in Blenheim. And the roads were bad, too, . . . "It meant plenty of hardship getting around through the swampland," he adds. He remembers when wagons became mired on muddy roads everywhere and he thinks . . . "the paved highways today are wonderful." . . . Then his kindly old eyes twinkled as he chuckled . . . "But the mud didn't stop us from getting away on our honeymoon . . . We used a steer, a horse and a buggy."

Mr. Smith was blessed with 12 children, six of whom are living . . . But there are 40

grand-children, seven great grand-children and four great, great grand-children.

One of his greatest thrills as a child, he recalls, was when he went to Bothwell with his father, and climbed into a covered wagon where a photographer was taking pictures. He had his picture taken but "it didn't do me justice," says Mr. Smith with a laugh.

Yes, Mr. Smith is truly a grand old man . . . and what a wonderful world it would be if we all practiced his philosophy . . . "Nothing really matters, except getting along well with folks."

And now Orville Gold is before the "Mike." This time we are going to hear his version of the currently popular selection "Candy."

GOLD—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—Here is Bob Claus again . . . Bob, some weeks ago you sang "Silver Moon" on our program. Are you going to sing it again tonight?

CLAUS—Well . . . I would like to sing it for a very dear old lady, Mrs. Helen Lawton out in Dover Township . . . also for a number of patients at the Public General Hospital, who are listening in.

ANNOUNCER—That's fine. There's no reason why it shouldn't be repeated . . . It's a lovely song. Go ahead.

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—So ends Chapter Sixteen Kent County Family Almanac . . . We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday at 9 p.m. with the story of Tilbury. Meanwhile, here is your thought for the day . . . "GIVEN AUTHORITY MEANS YOU ARE TRUSTED . . . WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS EXERCISE."

So . . . until next Thursday, this is Paul Hanover, your announcer, saying, "lots of good luck and keep smiling."

Mrs. Bryce Kendrick was accompanist for all soloists heard on the program tonight.

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

This is CFCO.

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, June 7th, 1945

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting “Kent County Family Almanac.”

THEME—“Florentine.”
(In and fade back of announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our city and our people . . . Anything that happens in this rich-garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up—then fade back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—The Township of Tilbury East and the modern little town of Tilbury hold our attention tonight as our Almanac pages turn to Chapter Seventeen . . . You will hear the story of Tilbury’s development and the pioneers who were the backbone of the community . . . There is a long list of returned men to welcome home and you will hear music especially prepared by your Almanac entertainers . . . So here we are, folks, to pay our salute to Tilbury . . .

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—This week the Chatham artists who sing and play for you on our Family Almanac . . . have been highly honored. Naturally, . . . Corine Caron, Bob Claus, Roy Guymer and Orville Gold are feeling quite proud and happy . . . You will feel the same way when we tell you tonight, the numbers you hear played and sung on this program are to be recorded and the records flown overseas where they will be played for Canadian men and women in the armed forces in Great Britain and Germany . . .

Orville Gold is taking his piano-accordion on a little trip for the opening number tonight, as he offers the enchanting and popular “Sentimental Journey” for your approval.

GOLD—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—Bob Claus is before the “mike.” Bob will be accompanied in this number by Mrs. Bryce Kendrick, who is pianist for all the numbers on our program. His song is “Beautiful Dreamer.”

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—We turn now to our Welcome Home department where we find a large group of Kent County boys who have returned from overseas during the past week. A great many municipalities are represented in the list we are about to read, so listen closely . . . one of them might be from your town.

Welcome to **Robert Granville** of 69½ King Street West, Chatham. Robert is a member of the U.S. Naval Air Force and served in four theatres of war in the Pacific area.

LAC. Charles Carnahan, Merlin, after three and a half years in Britain and on the continent.

Don Hickson, of the RCAF, whose home is at Wheatley.

Private J. S. Trudall, Thamesville.

Trooper W. P. Moodie, Wallaceburg.

Sergt. O. G. Kelley, RCAF, Kent Manor, Chatham.

Sergt. Shirley Stacey, Grand Avenue West, Chatham.

Private J. I. Asher, Wellington Street, Chatham.

Pilot Officer Jack Burke, of Eriean.

Signalman Stewart Crawford, and **Corporal A. E. Atkinson**, both of Blenheim.

And the following five who returned to Ridgetown and vicinity . . .

LAC. Donald J. Moffat, Lance Corp. **Charles Smith**, Lance-Corp. **Charles Garton** and **Privates Harold Rushton** and **Harry Haddock**.

ANNOUNCER—We all admire the way our Canadian boys do things when the occasion arises. This was shown to advantage when they turned back the Nazi hordes in the European theatre of war. They always managed to get around any object that lay in their path . . . for instance, this Blenheim airman . . . and we'll keep his name secret for the time being. This lad sent the following message to his parents . . . "Second Epistle of John, Verse Twelve" . . . Jack.

Jack's parents were at first puzzled, but they got out the family Bible and this is what they read . . . "Having many things to write unto you I would not write with paper and ink, but I trust to come unto you and speak face-to-face, that our joy may be full."

And that brings to mind the story being told in Chatham this week by the wife of a man who expected to sail soon for Canada. Naturally, because it was against all rules to cable the date of sailing he sought a means of letting his wife know what time to expect him . . . he sent the following cable . . . "Blessed event expected some time this month."

Yes, these boys have a way of getting around even the little obstacles in life. We hope sometime soon to welcome these boys home on our Almanac program.

ANNOUNCER—Just so the boys over there will know who is waiting for them over here, Corine Caron is going to sing this next number especially for this particular program. She sang it before . . . you liked it . . . and here it is again, "When a boy comes home on leave."

CORINE—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—The Township of Tilbury East, and the town of Tilbury, hold the spotlight to-night, as we continue our stories of Kent County Municipalities. A glance at the map tells us that Tilbury East lies to the south of the River Thames, directly west of the Township of Raleigh . . . its western border being formed by Tilbury West in Essex County. It extends southerly to the Romney town line and a narrow strip stretches to the shore of Lake Erie . . . These limits embrace an area of 38,151 acres.

Few features of difference exist between the soil of Tilbury East and the others in the western portion of Kent County . . . a soil of loam, overlying a heavy clay, in the higher forest areas along with a thickness of vegetable mould in the lower areas . . . make up a degree of fertility in the soil of Tilbury, which is unexcelled elsewhere in the county. Tilbury East, we find, remained, until 1818, uninvaded by the pioneer except a few French families, who settled on the low lands bordering the Thames and Lake St. Clair.

There, they eked out a precarious living from the use of their fishing and trapping appliances. In the year just mentioned . . . 1811 . . . Peter Simpson, and Thomas Askew located on sections along Talbot Street and were followed by the Cofells, the McDonalds and the Badder families.

Although the highway was not cut through until after the MacKenzie Insurrection, what was known as the Middle Road did not receive its first settlers until August, 1832. They included the Smiths, the Martins and the Grahams, also the Stevensons.

To the south of the Middle Road, toward the Romney Town Line, no settlement was formed for many years after the location of those pioneers just mentioned . . . but when the tide of industry found its way in, it bore on its foremost swell James Gray and Samuel Sloan . . . whose son John Sloan, opened the first store, in the township west of Valetta. A brother, Daniel, later became county clerk and held that office for many years.

The first school in the township was located on lot 6, Concession 10, John Fletcher being the first teacher. Fletcher was an energetic municipal worker and donated several acres of land, for a railway depot. In his honour the railroad station, for the old Canada Southern Railway, was named.

Municipal institutions were introduced into Tilbury East as early as 1836 when at a meeting of pioneers, Robert Smith, presided and John Norxal acted as clerk. But with the inauguration of a more developed system in 1850, the first council was elected, comprising of John Smith, John Coutts, John Wilson, John Fletcher and Francis Wharram. John Smith was named reeve at the first official meeting.

The village of Merlin is situated on the town-line dividing Tilbury East from the Township of Raleigh. In 1877 . . . the Marshall family established extensive saw-mills at this point and the community grew until it has become the thriving hamlet of today. Someday soon, Merlin, now supervised by a board of trustees, hopes to be incorporated as a village with its own reeve and council.

ANNOUNCER—So much for Tilbury East . . . In a few moments we will hear from the Town of Tilbury. Right now we pause for a moment to congratulate Mrs. Frank Vanderbeken, Rural Route 1, Tilbury. Today . . . she is celebrating her 81st birthday and she has asked Bob Claus, our tenor soloist, to sing one of her favorite songs . . . Many happy returns of the day, Mrs. Vanderbeken and here is Bob to sing the number you ask . . . "Silver Threads among the Gold."

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—And now let us go into the story of Tilbury, that enterprising little town which has over five miles of concrete pavement and well-drained boulevard streets. Mayor T. C. Odette and Councillor Stanley Richardson were to have been our guests but a hurried council meeting called in Tilbury tonight prevented them from being with us. Tilbury, history tells us, came into existence in the year 1875, but the place was not known as Tilbury then.

VOICE—It was first known as Henderson Post Office . . . after David Henderson conducted a store and post office in a brick house just north of the Michigan Central Crossing. When the place was incorporated as a village in 1887 the name was changed to Tilbury Centre because of its relation to the Tilbury Townships.

ANNOUNCER—In the early 80's, the main street, which was the line between the counties of Essex and Kent, was the terminal of a tramway over which timber was hauled from the wilderness south known as the South Bush. White oak and elm predominated and it was a common sight to see thousands of cords of wood piled along the railroad tracks, for use as firewood on train engines plying to Detroit.

VOICE—A short time after its incorporation as a village, various wood industries were established . . . Three of the first being J. H. Still's handle-factory; Pike and Richardson's stave-mill and Wilson Brothers' saw-mill. As time passed, other buildings were erected and during the 80's and 90's, several brick blocks replaced the wooden buildings, many of which were the verandah-fronted type.

ANNOUNCER—Five hotels dotted Queen Street from its early days—all on the west . . . the Essex side of the street for the sufficient reason that the Scott Act was in force across the road in Kent County. Four were within the village limits and one a mile south at Tilbury Corners, the junction of the Middle Road with Queen Street.

VOICE—When the village was incorporated . . . the first reeve was J. S. Richardson, grandfather of Councillor Stephen Richardson. J. S. kept a store in those days just across the Michigan Central on what is now the provincial highway. The building is still standing. The Richardsons also ran a cement mill . . . Sam Mathews had a flour mill and the Balmoral Hotel was run by George Chalmers . . . Joseph Peltier and B. Ballard conducted the Hotel Empire.

ANNOUNCER—Mungo Stewart built the first brick house in the town of Tilbury over fifty years ago. It is still standing and in a good

state of repairs. He also built the first frame building on the corner where the Empire Hotel stands . . . Later, he moved to the brick block built by his brother James Stewart, who ran a general merchandise business. The Powell block on the opposite side of the street was built later.

VOICE—In 1910 . . . the village of Tilbury, . . . the "Centre" having been dropped some years before, was incorporated as a town . . . with W. C. Crawford as mayor. Arthur W. Wilson, then proprietor of a bookstore and conveyancer and notary public, was the first town clerk. Mr. Wilson gave valuable service to the town for many years.

ANNOUNCER—Early in the century financial institutions flourished in Tilbury like the proverbial green baytree. The Stewart bank was followed by the Kippen and Scarff bank . . . the James Foster brokerage firm and branches of several banks. James Foster added a creditable block to the west side of the street with modern apartments on the second floor.

VOICE—Meanwhile as the years went by . . . large strides in the business and residential sections of the town were noted. This was largely due to the discovery of oil and gas fields, which drew scores of drillers and operators to the town.

ANNOUNCER—Tilbury's main street . . . which is known as Queen Street, reached a building climax in 1912, when the fulfilment of an election promise brought the handsome post office and customs building, which occupies a cardinal position at the turn of Provincial Highway Number 2.

VOICE—Though not on the business thoroughfare, Tilbury's fine recreation ground, Memorial Park, once seen remains in the memory. Its present beauty was prepared when James Stewart, owner of the land south and east of the post-office, surveyed it, subdivided and named its streets. For some years part of this property had been used as a baseball diamond and became famous when the semi-pro team, "The Millionaires" put Tilbury on the baseball map.

ANNOUNCER—Some years ago, the town council purchased this tract of land which included at the time 14 acres. The ball park was improved and plans were drafted for a real beauty spot. Today, there are facilities for sports of all kinds, a special playground for the children as well as the park itself.

VOICE—On August 18, 1934, a fine large wading-pool, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Odette, was formally opened and presented to the town by its donors. The park is entered

through Memorial Gates, erected in remembrance of those Tilbury and district boys who gave their lives "for home and country" in 1914-1918.

ANNOUNCER—At the age of 14, Roy Guymmer, Chatham violinist, was acclaimed the best juvenile violinist in all Canada. He won many medals and awards in competitions held throughout the Dominion and since then he has played in some of the largest symphony orchestras in the United States.

Roy hasn't lost any of his touch and here he is tonight to play Felix Mendelshon's lovely "Spring Song" as his contribution to this special program.

GUYMER—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—Next Thursday evening, June 14, our Kent County Family Almanac program will come to you over the air . . . direct from the bandstand at Wheatley.

Arrangements are being made for an interesting half hour's entertainment before we go on the air at 9 o'clock with our usual program. Following the broadcast the program will continue.

Everybody is invited to come out to Wheatley next Thursday and see how a ra-

dio program goes out over the air. The show will take place in Wheatley's community park and if it rains the program will take place in the United Church.

So come over friends . . . Your Almanac gang would like to meet you in Wheatley next Thursday night.

Orville Gold is tinkering around with that piano accordion of his and we can see his fingers are itching to play again. So take it away, Orv., with "The Shiek."

ANNOUNCER—And so ends another chapter of your Kent County Family Almanac . . . We leave the air to return next Thursday, same time, when our program will come to you from the village of Wheatley.

Here's your thought for the day . . . "BE SILENT AND SAFE. SILENCE NEVER BETRAYS YOU."

So, until Thursday, this is Paul Hanover, your announcer, saying "Lots of good luck and keep smiling."

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

See you in Wheatley . . . This is CFCO.

Listen to...

KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC

**EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.
OVER CFCO.**

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

*"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."*

SOME FUTURE BROADCASTS

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN.
- TOWN OF THAMESVILLE
- VILLAGE OF MERLIN
AND WHEATLEY
- TOWN OF HIGHGATE
AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER 18

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, June 14th, 1945

From Wheatley, Ontario.

CHATHAM ANNOUNCER—CFCO. The Time 9 o'clock . . . We now transfer you to Wheatley from which point you will hear the next regular feature . . . Kent County Family Almanac.

CFCO ENGINEER.
AT WHEATLEY—Signal announcer

ANNOUNCER—Start applause and let run for five to eight seconds. Signal stop of applause.

ANNOUNCER—Good evening, Kent County . . . This is Chapter 18 Kent County Family Almanac, coming to you from the village of Wheatley.

We are broadcasting tonight from the bandstand in this enterprising little town on number 3 highway approximately one mile from the shore of Lake Erie. We have a wonderful crowd before us . . . The park in which the bandstand is situated is located in the centre of the village . . . one block from the main intersection of number 3 highway and the Tilbury Road.

Our audience is seated on benches in front of us—probably four hundred people, I would say. Standing around the edge of the park are several hundred others . . . And the cars the streets are packed . . . cars are parked on both sides of the Tilbury road and on the next street, while seated on verandahs of homes on the street opposite are hundreds listening to our broadcast through the public address system. It's a wonderful sight, ladies and gentlemen, and Wheatley is giving your Almanac broadcast a marvelous reception.

Tonight . . . our program will be on Romney Township and the village of Wheatley . . . and . . . as our story unfolds you will realize why Wheatley has become such an attraction for hundreds of summer residents from across the border.

We have an interesting interview with a Wheatley R.C.A.F. officer recently liberated from a German prison camp . . . and we also welcome home several other Kent County

heroes. Music on the program features Wheatley artists. It's a long and varied program, folks, so let's get off to a start as we call on a young Wheatley girl, Miss Alice Walker. Miss Walker is going to sing the ever popular number "The Bells of St. Marys." She will be accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Lyle Kennedy, who will play for all our singers tonight.

(Brief applause as Miss Walker goes to the mike.)

ANNOUNCER—It has been the custom of the Almanac, to welcome home on its Thursday night broadcasts, sons and daughters of Kent County, who have returned from overseas, during the previous weeks. As we turn to our Welcome Home pages, let us pause briefly, while we review the contributions made by the boys and girls from Wheatley, and the surrounding district.

In a store front . . . less than one hundred yards from where this broadcast is originating to-night . . . there is an entire window filled with pictures of those who went into uniform when the call came—a worthy display indeed. We were told that 184 were in the armed forces during the war . . . Fourteen had been reported killed in action . . . 77 are still overseas . . . Fourteen have returned and the rest are serving in all parts of the Dominion . . .

Those who returned, and to them may we say, "Welcome Home," on behalf of all Kent County, are: Clarence Julien, Don Wilson, Harry Derryshire, Berle Getty, (on leave from the Navy), Lorne Jackson, Lloyd Dundas, Ron Getty (who is on his way back to join his unit overseas), Alan Phillips, Walter Parneky, Morley Baldwin, Clare Ulich, Lloyd Gates and Kenneth Onich.

ANNOUNCER—The fourteenth man to return to his Wheatley home is standing beside us . . . and we would like to ask him a few questions regarding his experiences, after his escape from a German Prison Camp. He was liberated by the advancing British armies, and eventually made his way back to England. He is now back with wife and family

enjoying a well earned rest. And here he is Pilot Officer Don Hickson of the RCAF. (Allow for a few seconds of applause.)

ANNOUNCER—It's nice to be back in Wheatley again, eh Don?

DON—It surely is . . . but if you don't mind I would rather be down in front listening to your program.

ANNOUNCER—Well now . . . take it easy Don . . . You know all these folks out here in front . . . Just what happened when you fell into German hands.

DON—It happened in October, 1942, while fighting off Crete. Our plane exploded 20 feet above water and our four man crew was thrown into the sea. We drifted about in damaged dinghies, for eighteen hours and were finally picked up by a German Flying Boat. They took us to hospital, on the Isle of Crete, then on to Athens and eventually we were taken to a camp in Germany.

ANNOUNCER—How did things go there . . . food and care, for instance?

DON—The food at the camp wasn't too bad until after D-Day. But after that,—the rations were cut down next to nothing. If it hadn't been for the Red Cross parcels I don't know how we would have got along.

ANNOUNCER—Well, Don . . . we understand you escaped from the Nazi camp. Did you have any trouble getting away?

DON—None at all . . . We had information that the British Armoured Division were approaching and 12 others and myself decided to make a break. We hid in a barn, where some French people brought us food . . . we could have hid there for weeks, if necessary, but the British came along three days after we got away.

ANNOUNCER—I guess everything was more or less rosy after the British troops arrived. You were in Egypt prior to the Crete incident. Anything happen there?

DON—Yes . . . things were a little lively during Rommel's push at El Alemein . . . but after Montgomery turned him back it was a cinch.

ANNOUNCER—Folks, Don is modest. He doesn't tell us that during the Rommel drive . . . he was one of a group of airmen who volunteered to drive a truck, that helped to free a South African Squadron stranded at El Daha.

Thanks Don Hickson, for being with us on our program to-night. (Applause for three seconds.)

ANNOUNCER—And now a Welcome Home to several other boys who returned to their homes in Kent County this week . . .

- Private E. P. Reaume, Pain Court;
- Lance-Corp. C. B. Reynolds, Cedar Springs;
- Private E. R. Douglas, Courtright;
- Private S. A. Saunders, Dresden.

The following returned to Tilbury— Private A. P. Thibert, Private W. E. Glazier, and Private Edward G. Duplessie. Private Duplessie was released from a German prison camp.

Four returned to Wallaceburg. They are— Private John Blake, Warrant Officer Bill Guertin, Private George E. Garnett and Lance-Corp. C. Errey.

Also the following Chatham men— Sapper R. Hackett, Private H. J. Burd, Corp. G. W. Taylor, Private W. A. Heather and Warrant Officer George May of the RCAF.

ANNOUNCER—Wheatley has a 35-piece band, which is considered one of the best in Western Ontario . . . It has played before many audiences in the province including the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto where it won many prizes. We are pleased in having with us one of the band's fine young cornet players . . . 14-year-old Gordon Burke, who is going to play Vandercook's stirring "Polk Lilly." Gordon will be accompanied at the piano by Bandmaster Ivan Coulter.

GORDON BURKE—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—Tonight . . . we present first . . . a little biography of what transpired during the days when these sturdy pioneers fought their way through the wilderness and by their combined efforts, helped to make this country what it is today.

Romney Township is the smallest in territorial size, of any township in the county. Often referred to as the "flat-iron township" because of its triangular shape. Romney occupies a position in the south-western portion of the county . . . being bounded on the south and east by Tilbury East . . . south by Lake Erie . . . and west by the Township of Mersea, in the County of Essex. This area embraces 26,245 acres of some of the best land in south-western Ontario.

Travelling along the shore of Lake Erie, on what is now Number Three Highway, one notices that the highway skirts a ridge which forms a relief to the monotonous levels of the rest of the county. The characteristics of the soil in Romney includes a gravelly loam along the ridge and back of that, there is a general inclination to clay underlaid by a heavy clay subsoil.

But under this clay loam is a richness that was not developed until the beginning of the present century. To-day as you approach Wheatley, from the east, you can see hundreds of gas wells, dotted on some of the best kept farms in the country, including the famous Sylvan Farms, the pride of Romney Township.

History reveals that the Lake front was first settled in 1817 by families from the north of Ireland, England, the Maritime provinces, and the United States. The first two to locate, were Nathan Baldwin and James Stewart . . . they were followed by the Jacksons, who took up 600 acres near the eastern town-line.

In 1818, Robert Coatsworth came from England and located on lot 200, where he and his son Caleb lived for many years. Then followed the Heatheringtons, the Shanks, the Dawsons, and others and for years these families experienced their full share of hardships and difficulties.

How many of us know that their nearest trading post was Malden, now Amherstburg? Often they had to go to Detroit, for supplies. The nearest mill was on McGregor's Creek, Chatham, forty miles away; but sometime later . . . a mill was erected in the Township of Gosfield, in Essex County, which reduced the inconvenience of a trip through the woods to Chatham.

Farms in Romney and its adjoining township, Mersea, which is in Essex County . . . produce some of the greatest crops in the country. Corn, beans, tomatoes and sugar beets predominate. The recent rains have delayed seeding but farmers are still busy planting—many of them putting in sugar beet seed—a crop that is still not too late to plant.

ANNOUNCER—And here is another young Wheatley singer . . . who . . . everybody in this audience knows . . . She is Miss Edith Whittal who is going to sing an old favorite, "I Had a Little Talk with the Lord." Miss Whittal.

MISS WHITTAL—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Thirty-one years ago last month, Wheatley was incorporated as a village in the County of Kent. Prior to that, because it lay on the boundary line between Essex and Kent, its public affairs were controlled by the councils of Romney and Mersea Townships.

To-day, Wheatley, with its fine schools, its paved streets, natural gas, Hydro Electric service and excellent means of transportation, offers as good a centre for industry as can be found anywhere.

Many of Wheatley's businessmen have been long established in the community and we have selected one at random to tell us something about this enterprising little village. He is Hans G. Hanson, a name connected with the community for many years. How far back does Wheatley go in history, Mr. Hanson?

HANSON—That's a pretty tough question for a start; but I think the land around here was first surveyed in 1864 by Alexander Wilkinson, and a post office opened. Alexander Buchanan was the first postmaster.

ANNOUNCER—When the village was incorporated in May, 1914, Major T. M. Fox was the first reeve; R. W. Brown was treasurer and J. W. Kennedy the clerk. Are there any of these men active in municipal affairs to-day?

HANSON—Mr. Brown is our present reeve. He has held that office for the past eight years.

ANNOUNCER—This year's council . . . who are they?

HANSON—D. R. Coleman, F. W. Featherstone, R. A. Willett, and D. Getty, comprise the council. R. N. Epplett has been clerk and treasurer since his appointment in 1922.

ANNOUNCER—There is one thing we are interested in . . . and I am sure everybody in Kent County is also . . . and that is the fishing industry here at Wheatley. Tell us something about that.

HANSON—The fishing industry around here dates back 88 years when the McLeans established one of the first fisheries. The family has operated it ever since. Another outstanding fishery is the Omstead's, now run by Leonard and his brother. Then there is the Getty, the Bailey, the Cobby and the Kiddle fisheries—all doing a combined business of around a million dollars a year.

ANNOUNCER—That's a lot of fish . . . and where do all these fish go? Where are the buyers?

HANSON—Mostly across the lake for American consumption, although a great deal goes to the Canadian Market.

ANNOUNCER—This Community Club, for which Wheatley is noted, what was it intended to do? Why was it organized?

HANSON—It was organized in 1933 to take the place of service clubs. Every person interested in the community is a member. Even visitors or summer residents are entitled to

come to our club meetings and voice their opinions, in the way of promotion or goodwill. One of the outstanding features, we think, is the friendship between Wheatley and the summer residents, who are mostly visitors from across the border.

ANNOUNCER—Now we see why Wheatley is so popular down in this part of the country. These Saturday Night Concerts, we hear so much about . . . were they the outcome of the Community Club?

HANSON—That's so . . . John Dean started the concerts, first as an amateur program, but the Saturday Night Concerts developed and have continued every week since . . . drawing immense crowds each week.

ANNOUNCER—That's fine, Mr. Hanson You've done very well for one called on with such short notice. Thank you very much for helping us out tonight.

(Allow few seconds for applause).

ANNOUNCER—At this time . . . we would ask Mr. Arthur Poulter to step to the microphone. Although a resident of Chatham, Mr. Poulter really belongs to Wheatley where he served for many years on the council and was reeve for years. At present we know him as the sheriff of Kent County . . . Howdy Sheriff!

You have heard our remarks on Romney and Wheatley tonight . . . Have you anything you could add to our story.

POULTER—Begin talk.

MR POULTER—The Township of Romney and the village of Wheatley has furnished Kent County with four Wardens during the past thirty years in the personage of Bryon Robinson, Dr. Wilson, Thomas Heatherington, and Charles Edwards. The determination of such men as these is the reason today that the County enjoys a 'pay as you go' plan. We, in Wheatley, can thank Dr. Wilson for the drainage system in the village which was undertaken during his term as reeve, also our hydro system and our continuation School.

The paved streets and the waterworks came during the term served by Mr. McDonald and myself. A word of praise is due our local newspaper, 'The Journal,' under the able management of Epplott Brothers. For a long time and now edited by R. N. Epplott and son Ken, this paper has always had the progress of the community at heart and never lost an opportunity to proclaim what Wheat-

ley was doing. I would be shirking my duty if I neglected to mention our men of the water . . . those sturdy fishermen at our lake front under the able management of McLean Fisheries; the Omstead Fisheries, now managed by Leonard and Duand Omstead, also the fisheries operated by Harvey Getty, Frank Bailey and others. I can see these men today, carrying on where their fathers left off . . . they are born fishermen and know the lake like a book.

Now, of course, the secret of Wheatley and its communities success, is that this whole countryside has learned the lesson that nations should have learned years ago—to 'love thy neighbor'—There is ample proof of that statement in this program here tonight.

Here are a few things that Wheatley, with a population of seven hundred can be proud of—a waterworks system, costing ninety thousand dollars at its inception and has been added to since—a community that stood forth in every one of its Loan Drives—enterprising and thriving merchants and business men—a thirty-five piece band, under the able guidance of its leader, Ivan Coulter. This village has everything to offer that any industrial centre has. In closing, I think of the following names in connection with Wheatley and Romney Township—the Dawsons, the Shanks, the Robinsons, the Renwicks, the Heatheringtons, the Wilsons, the Mills, the Deans, the Kennedys, and the Crews. wrap them all together—this is Wheatley and Community.

ANNOUNCER—We now present Robert W. Brown, reeve of Wheatley who has a few words.

REEVE BROWN—On behalf of the people of Wheatley and the surrounding district, I wish to thank the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company for making this program possible here tonight.

It has been most interesting to many of us to see just how a radio program went out over the air and Wheatley has been honored in having its first radio show presented direct from the centre of our village.

I also want to thank those who appeared on this program . . . They have given us a fine class of entertainment . . . one that we will remember and we extend an invitation to the Family Almanac to come again. Thank you.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Reeve Brown. We can see that everybody is wondering just where Orville Gold is going to fit into the picture. If you haven't heard Orville tickle the ivories on his piano-accordion, you've

really missed something. He is always ready to roll out any kind of music and right now he is goin' to play "The Sharpshooter March."

LD—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—And thus ends Chapter Eighteen, Kent County Family Almanac brought to you tonight from Wheatley. We

leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday night with another interesting story from our studios in Chatham.

This is Paul Hanover saying "Lots of good luck and keep smiling."

We now transfer you back to our studio in Chatham. Good night all.

Listen to...

KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC

EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.

OVER CFCO.
CHATHAM, ONTARIO

"Get acquainted with your County and Your Neighbor."

It has been most interesting to many of us over the air and Wheatley has been honored in having its first radio show presented here from the centre of our villages.

I also want to thank those who supported this program. The first week we will discuss agriculture and we expect an illustration in the Family Almanac to come again. Thank you.

Wheatley, Ontario. Thank you for the picture. It was indeed a beautiful picture. We are now looking for more pictures which we can use in the Family Almanac.

SOME

FUTURE BROADCASTS

- PIONEERS OF KENT
 - CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
 - KENT PERSONALITIES
 - STORY OF RIDGETOWN
 - TOWN OF THAMESVILLE
 - VILLAGE OF MERLIN
 - TOWN OF HIGHGATE
- AND OTHERS

the program in the village which was undertaken during his term as reeve also our radio system and our continuation school.

the past week and the waterworks came during the term of Mr. McDonald and again. A word of praise is due our local newspaper, The Journal, under the able management of Joseph Brabant, for their time and space offered by E. N. McLeod and you for the paper has always had the progress of the community at heart and every

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER 19

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, June 21st, 1945

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine."
(In and fade back of announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people. . . Anything that happens in this rich garden land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(up—then fade back and continue as announcer proceeds).

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter nineteen . . . Kent County Family Almanac. Our spotlight tonight rests on the Township of Camden for a story of its pioneer days . . . We welcome back several of Kent County's fighting men and you will hear a letter to your Almanac writer from the Prime Minister of Great Britain . . . and, of course, there are musical pages. Let us know how you like it . . . So, let's be off for our salute to Camden Township.

THEME—(Up to end)

ANNOUNCER—Last week when we went to Wheatley to do our regular broadcast, we took with us Bob McNaughton and his guitar. Bob didn't appear on the broadcast but before and after our air program, he entertained the crowd of 1000 with his cowboy songs. He made such a hit that we invited him to come and play and sing for us tonight. But, Bob, I see you have company with you. Introduce your friends, won't you?

BOB—Sure will, Paul.

(This is Joe Creegan. (Creegan plays bar on violin.)

(This is Peggy McDonald. (Peggy strikes a few keys on the piano.)

Cliff Hardy. (Hardy strums the banjo).
And yours truly, Smiling Bob McNaughton, they calls me.

ANNOUNCER—And the handle fits, I see . . . Well, say, while your friends are getting set before the mike . . . how about you strumming off a few notes on that guitar of yours? What's it going to be?

BOB—How about "That Yellow Rose of Texas"?

ANNOUNCER—Alright, take it away.

BOB—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—And now friends, here is something we would like to share with all our listeners. Your Kent County Family Almanac has been honored twice during the past month. You will remember that two weeks ago, the songs and musical numbers played on our program were recorded and flown overseas to be played for the Canadian troops in Britain and Germany.

This week . . . the second honor came in the form of a letter from number 10 Downing Street, London, England, the home of Prime Minister Winston Churchill. On March 29, you may recall, our broadcast was on the town of Blenheim. On that broadcast, W. J. Baird, postmaster at Blenheim for 30 years said that the pioneers decided to name their settlement Blenheim, we quote . . . "after the famous victory of the war of the Spanish Succession which the Duke of Marlborough won over the French in 1704. It is an interesting fact that the seat of the Dukes of Marlborough, the family line of Winston Churchill is named Blenheim, having been established by the First Duke of Marlborough, one of the greatest British generals of all time." end quote.

Your Almanac writer was curious as to just how this would be accepted by the Prime Minister. There was only one way to find out. He boldly wrote Mr. Churchill, enclosing a printed copy of the broadcast and asked if the information therein could be accepted as correct.

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A reply came this week . . . and we take pleasure in passing it along to all our friends of the Almanac. It reads, quote:

VOICE—10 Downing Street, Whitehall,
The Author, Kent County Family Almanac,
CFCO, Chatham, Ontario, Canada.

Dear Sir—

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of the 18th of May to the Prime Minister, and to confirm the passage from your broadcast . . . The Prime Minister instructs me to say the passage you quoted on Blenheim Palace, is quite correct.

Yours truly,

E. S. Layton, Personal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.

ANNOUNCER—Humbly . . . we say "Thank You" to Mr. Winston Churchill.

(Pause).

Folks . . . what are you doing about these cards that have been sent to you with the printed copies of our broadcast . . . we have been greatly encouraged by the scores of replies received to date . . . But . . . we would like to get all your ideas on our program. Here for instance . . . is what Mrs. Reginald Wellwood, of Merlin, says:

LADY'S VOICE—"I am a war bride and I send it home to my parents in England. Your program is interesting and instructive, especially to a newcomer such as I."

ANNOUNCER—Edward Jacklin, Blenheim, writes this—

MAN'S VOICE—"The programs are discussed with the children. They are interesting and educational."

ANNOUNCER—And S. J. Darnforth, Thamesville Public School, says—"A collection of these Almanacs bound with a good cover would be a valuable source of information in Kent Schools."

These are just a few of the many we have received but we would like to have yours, too.

And to those who want a copy of this or future broadcasts . . . simply address a card to Kent County Family Almanac, CFCO, and one will be mailed.

And now, Bob McNaughton, . . . get those "Merry Makers" of yours together and let's hear "You Are My Sunshine."

ANNOUNCER—For our story tonight, let us turn to the map of Camden Township and the Gore of Camden . . . that oblong shaped

piece of territory to its north, stretching about twelve miles from east to west, and four miles north to south about Camden itself.

Camden Township, it can be seen, is bounded on the south by the River Thames and on the west by the Chatham Township Townline which runs to the Gore . . . Part of its northern boundary is Zone Township and the Gore which extends about half its length to the Chatham Township line. It's a curious shaped township . . . and one would be justified in the conclusion that in shaping and surveying Camden the fitness of things was almost disregarded . . . For . . . while the shape of the Gore is almost like any township . . . the balance of Camden is really a gore in shape . . . giving one the opinion that the bestowal of names might have been done by lot and things became reversed.

The surface of Camden Township is fairly representative of the general level which distinguishes the entire county. The Sydenham River flows diagonally through the Gore from east to west and the Thames traverses the southern border of the township itself. Lack of drainage prevented much utilization in the early days but today the land produces immense crops and many farmers have become successful through rotation and the planting of sugar beets . . . a profitable crop at all times.

Camden, in common with the townships to the west, received its first settlers about the start of the last century when the United Empire Loyalists began to arrive. Joshua Cornwall was the first pioneer. He located on lot 14 of the River Front and for years his descendants were prominent throughout the township. A son, Nathan, was the first white child born in Camden and from 1834 to 1841 was a member of the Canadian Assembly for Kent, as his father had been from 1812 to 1816.

Other early settlers were Absalom Shaw and Lemuel Sherman. The latter located on land where the town of Thamesville now stands. However, the most important settlement came in 1820 along the Sydenham River between what is now Dawn Mills and Florence. Among the families to locate there were John and William Tiffin, John Hall . . . and a man by the name of Boulton. They formed the first settlement at that time on the Sydenham between Strathroy and Wallaceburg to the east.

The locality of Dawn Mills was first settled in 1830, the pioneers being William Taylor and James Smith who built a grist mill on the bank of the Sydenham. Prior to the construction of that mill, the settlers were obliged to go to Detroit in canoes to have their chopping done . . . the only mills nearer that point being on the Thames to the south-

west and a dense pathless forest lay between. A village gradually clustered around the mills erected by Taylor and Smith and the place was named Dawn Mills. Another early resident of the locality was Charles Prangley, who acted as head miller in Taylor and Smith's Mill. He established a wide acquaintance among the residents of that region. A. B. Baxter, father of Lieut.-Col. Baxter of Chatham, was another pioneer. He was a partner in a store, the first in Camden, opened in 1836 with William Taylor as the other partner.

The banks of the Sydenham below Dawn Mills did not become settled until some time after the village became established. The Sharpe family were the earliest to locate on the south side while the Traxlers took up land opposite them on the north side. This spot was only a short distance from the present village of Dresden. Over on Concession three, John McDonald was one of the early residents closely followed by William Boyland.

Since those early days, Camden has forged ahead until it has become one of the finest agricultural townships in the county . . . well kept and prosperous farms can be seen everywhere. Two thriving towns are within the bounds of Camden . . . Dresden on the Sydenham, the subject of one of our recent broadcasts and Thamesville on the Thames, yet to be visited by the Almanac writer.

It can be said that Camden has one of the best informed clerks of any township in the county. He is M. S. Blackburn, who has just entered his 56th year as township clerk, having been appointed to that position before he was 21 years of age . . . Mr. Blackburn has never cast a municipal vote . . . His office and home is in Dresden and many officials often seek his advice on matters pertaining to municipal affairs. Fred Houston is reeve of the township.

There are many other stories that can be told of Camden Township . . . for instance . . . the "British American Institute" whose object was to care for the colored refugees from American slavery. Also the story of Rev. Josiah Henson, the "Uncle Tom" of Harriett Beecher Stowe's great novel. This was dealt with briefly in our broadcast of March 8, copies of which are still available and will be sent upon request. At some future date, we hope to enlarge more fully on the historical events in Camden Township.

"Smiling" Bob McNaughton is before the mike again. Bob has a little number "The Lost Letter" . . . he would like to sing for you.

BOB—Begins song.

ANNOUNCER—It's Welcome Time now on our Almanac and we have, in addition to our returned men, several war brides who go to various parts of Kent County.

Mrs. Marjorie Cuyllle, wife of Lance-Corp. H. Cuyllle of R.R. 6, Chatham and her young son.

Mrs. Helen Pickering and baby, who will reside for the present with her sister-in-law, Mrs. J. Peach, King Street, Chatham.

Mrs. A. Johnston and Mrs. C. Ivy who go to Ridgetown.

Mrs. P. Paine who will reside in Wheatley.

And a welcome back to these Kent County boys—

Corp. Bryce Reynolds, liberated from a German prison camp, who is visiting his wife and family at Cedar Springs; also with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Reynolds, of 110 Inshes Avenue, Chatham.

Private Pat Murphy, of Wallaceburg.

Lieut. W. L. Wilcox, 28 Dover Street, Chatham.

Corp. M. Hoerndel of Dresden.

Private C. L. Almas, Trooper S. S. Gray and Lieut. W. F. Prangley, all of Chatham.

ANNOUNCER—Orville Gold is preparing to add more harmony to our program as he adjusts his piano-accordion. Orv. is going to play the old but ever-popular number "My Blue Heaven."

GOLD—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—Yesterday morning, several thousand Canadian soldiers arrived at Halifax . . . there to entrain for their homes in various parts of Canada. 29 of these men headed for Kent County and in another 24 hours all Kent will be saying Welcome Home to these veterans—many with honors and years of service to their credit. Here is a list of medical walking cases and liberated prisoners of war, expected to arrive at London tomorrow morning at 11:42:

Private J. J. Attwood, R.R. 5, Thamesville;

Sergt. J. A. Blackburn, Dresden;

Corp. L. D. Caron, Wallaceburg;

Trooper A. M. Easton, R.R. 2, Ridgetown;

Private J. L. Lee, R.R. 3, Blenheim;

Private G. E. Maule, Wallaceburg;

Private N. Moir, 35 Llydican Ave., Chatham;

Private E. J. Mosey, R.R. 5, Blenheim;

Corp. W. Sinclair, 5 Park Lane, Chatham;

Sergt. G. Turner, Ridgetown;

Private C. E. Wood, Ridgetown;

Corp. Legue, R.R. 1, Morpeth;

Private G. R. Russell, Charing Cross;

Others who may arrive tomorrow or within the next few days are:—

Lieut. R. M. Grainger, 273 Grand Ave., Chatham;

Sapper J. A. Smith, Bothwell;

- Private T. A. Harrington, R.R. 3, Thamesville;
- Private W. E. Schramek, Tilbury;
- Private H. M. Young, Wallaceburg;
- Sergt. F. R. Shulver, 15 Forest, Chatham;
- Sergt.-Major A. W. Bristow, 65 Centre Street, Chatham;
- Private L. D. Chantier, Wallaceburg;
- Sergt. H. C. Gambriel, 48 Lorne Ave., Chatham;
- Private F. J. LaFramboise, R.R. 5, Bothwell;
- Private A. Lozon, 145 St. Clair St., Chatham;
- Sergt. C. W. Rylett, R.R. 5, Chatham;
- Rifleman J. M. Smith, Highgate;
- Private C. J. Doey, Blenheim;
- Lance Corp. H. G. Skipper, 23 Forest Street, Chatham.

ANNOUNCER—"Mary had a little Lamb." . . . But in this case it was "Mary had a little Fawn." . . . Two weeks ago while playing on their father's farm near Bothwell, children of William Pope, Jr., found in the underbrush a newly born fawn. Picking the tiny creature up, they carried it to their home where it was pronounced dead by adult members of the family. But a tremor in the little body revealed there was a spark of life left and a feeding-bottle, warm milk and blankets were hastily rounded up. Within a few hours the fawn showed signs of life and in a day or so began to wobble about on its tiny legs. Ten days later it was following the children everywhere, even to the family table. Now the children are quite concerned . . . they know that in a few days they must notify the game warden and their pet will probably spend its days in some quiet zoo or be released to become the prey of hunters and dogs.

And here's a story from the canine world. It comes from a village on the border of Kent County where a young lad owns a Cocker Spaniel. The Spaniel gave birth to nine puppies. Now nine is a large family for any mother to care for . . . so the family cat adopted two and seems to be making a good job of it . . . But the young master says he is going to keep all nine puppies . . . we all know what a time Dagwood is having with the five he has . . . so it would be interesting to know just how the lad is going to make out.

Right here the "Merry Makers" have another lively number so Joe, Peggy, Cliff and Bob are going to fiddle away the next few minutes with "Soldier's Joy."

GANG—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—And so ends Chapter Nineteen, . . . Kent County Family Almanac . . . We leave the air to return next Thursday, same time, with a story from Ridgetown. Meanwhile, your thought for the day . . . "THE MORE WE GIVE TO OTHERS, THE MORE ARE WE INCREASED." Remember this the next time you hear a plea for the Hospital for Sick Children.

So, until next Thursday, this is Paul Hanover, your announcer, saying, "Lots of luck and keep smiling."

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg. This is CFCO.

Listen to...

**KENT COUNTY
FAMILY ALMANAC**

EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.

**OVER CFCO.
CHATHAM, ONTARIO**

**"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."**

**SOME
FUTURE BROADCASTS**

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- STORY OF RIDGETOWN.
- TOWN OF THAMESVILLE
- VILLAGE OF MERLIN
- TOWN OF HIGHGATE

AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER 20

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, June 28th, 1945:

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine."

(Up and hold back of announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it—comes Kent County Family Almanac—a program that changes as the community changes; alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our city and our people. Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up and continue to end of first part—then hold back as announcer continues.)

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter Twenty, Kent County Family Almanac. Tonight, we bring you the story of Ridgetown and its early settlers and you will hear some of the experiences of Chatham's first member of the C.W.A.C. to go overseas. In addition to welcoming back several of our young heroes we will bring you a list of 20 who are expected home during the coming week-end. Listen for it... your boy may be included. . . . There is a guest singer on our program tonight in addition to our regular tenor soloist. They will bring you songs you will like . . . so here we are all ready to go . . .

THEME—(up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Our guest soloist is Don Hitch, of Ridgetown. Don's contribution to his hometown program is "Just a Prayer Away," by Kapp. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Bryce Kendrick, pianist for all numbers on our broadcast tonight.

HITCH—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—This week Chatham is in the midst of a \$10,000 drive for the establishment of a Community Y. A group of public-minded citizens believe the facilities the city has at present should be used to give oppor-

tunities to boys and girls . . . also to our returned service men and women, so they might develop themselves into valuable citizens to the community.

A recent survey reveals there are approximately 3,000 boys and girls from 10 to 19 years of age, the group that would benefit most from a Community Y. To this can be added many living outside of Chatham proper, who will be included in the program. Many of these young people have expressed a desire to belong to some association that would arrange and supervise constructive activities and it may be startling to know that three-quarters of the number indicated they had not been able to get out of the city to a camp where such work is carried on.

A temporary board of directors has been appointed to conduct activities during the campaign and when the fund is established, a new board will be named to carry on the work.

We have with us to-night, Mr. Fred Collins, in charge of city parks. He has had considerable experience in Young People's work, and we would like to ask him his opinion on the proposal of a Community Y. Mr. Collins, can you add anything further to our remarks?

COLLINS—From my knowledge, I am convinced that a well-organized and definite plan should be followed to give our boys and girls the training and leadership any parent could wish for his son or daughter.

ANNOUNCER—Just how would this work be conducted?

COLLINS—By a full-time trained leader, who is devoting his life to work amongst the boys and girls. He would use such facilities as are available in the community.

ANNOUNCER—Then the idea of the campaign is NOT for a building. Would the money that is being raised remain in Chatham?

COLLINS—Definitely, yes. The \$10,000 will be administered by a Board and spent only on

Boys' and girls' work.

The idea is to establish the work firmly and enable the secretary to provide a Community Y program.

ANNOUNCER—Will a boy or girl need to pay a membership fee?

COLLINS—That will be a matter to be determined by the local Board of Directors. Most Community Y's have a small fee because they believe if the boy pays a little towards the total cost he becomes a better member. No boy will be barred because he could not pay his small fee.

ANNOUNCER—That seems fair enough. But will the Community Y overlap with other organizations serving our boys, girls and young people?

COLLINS—Oh, no. The Community Y will cooperate with all agencies serving youth, help where possible and extend the services to all boys and young people... regardless of race, or creed. That is the idea of having a trained secretary. He knows the work and would be responsible for all the constructive activities for the good of the boy or girl.

ANNOUNCER—That seems to clear up a number of things that were not understood by many of our citizens. We are glad you dropped in to-night, Mr. Collins, and when the Community Y gets under way—come in again and tell us how it is functioning.

COLLINS—Thank you.

ANNOUNCER—Bob Claus, our tenor soloist, is before the mike, ready to sing the popular number "Sunrise and You."

CLAUS—Begins song.

ANNOUNCER—Tomorrow morning at seven o'clock 20 returned men from Chatham and Kent County will arrive at London by special C.N.R. train from Halifax, where they landed yesterday from overseas.

Half of the number are from Chatham and Thamesville and it is expected they will clear at London in time to arrive in the city on the 1:30 C.N.R. train tomorrow afternoon.

The men arriving at London in the morning are:

Private J. Wood, (a stretcher case), whose home is R.R. 1, Pain Court;

Private M. E. Haskell, whose wife lives on Charing Cross Road, Chatham.

These two men arrived on the hospital ship, "Lady Nelson."

Others returning on rotation duty or for other reasons are:

Craftsman F. J. Dowdell, 44 Barry Street, Chatham;

Gunner N. E. Deneau, 230 St. Clair Street, Chatham;

Private C. W. Bedell, of Dresden;

Act/Corp. W. H. Barton of Cedar Springs;

Private R. E. Camp, 244 Selkirk St., Chatham

Sapper C. E. Cole, 19 Park Avenue, Chatham;

Lance Corp. J. S. Cracknell, R.R. 4, Thamesville;

Corp. G. A. Morrison, brother of Mrs. J. Smith, Thamesville;

Private B. Stephens, Thamesville; Sapper S. Alexander, 28 Harvey St., Chatham;

Gunner W. C. Willder, Wallaceburg;

Private G. W. Dozois, 107 Delaware Avenue, Chatham;

Private B. D. Jones, R.R. 5, Thamesville;

Private B. C. Wilson, 26 Adelaide St., North Chatham;

Lance-Corp. T. H. Holman, Thamesville;

Sapper W. A. Graham, whose sister, Mrs. G. Shackleton lives at 8 Cornhill Ave., Chatham;

Gunner S. R. Coll, Wheatley;

ANNOUNCER (Continues)—In addition to those we named last week as returning on the liner Isle de France, the following officers and men have arrived at their homes in Chatham and Kent County and to them we say Welcome Back:

Pilot Officer Glen Owen Fleming, R.R. 1, Fletcher;

Warrant Officer George May, R.R. 4, Chatham;

Trooper Frank Gray, 681 Queen St., Chatham;

Flying Officer R. J. Robson, Wallaceburg;

Pilot Officer W. J. Nourse, Chatham;

Paratrooper Clayton Paten, Moraviantown;

LAC C. A. Clark, Highgate;

LAC E. J. Thompson, Wheatley;

Flight-Sergt. M. E. Russelo, Chatham;

Flying Officer Gordon Pritchard, Joseph St., Chatham;

LAC Bob Grant of 19 Ellwood Avenue who arrived in Canada last week with the Blue-nose Squadron;

And OC. Stan Reeve, who is spending a furlough with his parents at 32 Lacroix Street, Chatham, before proceeding to the Pacific area.

Don Hitch, our guest singer, has an appropriate and catchy number, just suited for this period in our program. If you know the words, you people out there sing it with him. It's Ten Little Soldiers on a Ten-day Leave." Go ahead, Don.

HITCH—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—And now for our story—Up until 1875, . . . when the municipality of Ridgetown was incorporated as a village, its affairs were administered by the council of Howard Township. It is our intention to give a broadcast on Howard Township, in the near future, but to-night let us deal only with Ridgetown. Perhaps no man is better able to furnish a composite history of the town than Mr. O. K. Watson and it is from his book, "Memories of Ridgetown," that this chapter of the Almanac is taken to-night.

The present site of Ridgetown, Mr. Watson, related, remained a forest, until the year 1823, when William Marsh, an Englishman, took up permanent abode on lot nine, tenth concession. He was followed by James Watson, Edmund Mitton, Levi Cornwall, and Thomas Scane.

Watson's farm is now the greater portion of ward one, in the Town of Ridgetown, and Mitton's land is what is known as ward four. An American, Ebenezer Colby from New York State, also entered the district about that time and his land afterwards became ward three, in the town.

The development of this section was not particularly rapid for some years, though the gradual expansion of the clearings and appearance of well-cultivated farms proclaimed industry and energy, were the order of the period, among the pioneers.

The first school house in Ridgetown, a log building on Levi Cornwall's place, served for meetings and a school for years. It was opened in 1828 under a teacher by the name of Gowdie, an Irishman, and a strict disciplinarian. Some of the pupils, who attended that school, and testified to his free use of the gad were the Marshes, the Scafes, the Carlises, and the Nashes.

Sophia Nash later became a teacher and taught in the old school. She married James Watson and became one of the district's most loyal and staunchest pioneers. The second school was built on what is now Main and Erie Streets and when the location became valuable for business purposes a new site was chosen. It served its purpose until 1872 when a wing was added and in 1882, the

present brick school on Jane Street was built. There were no stores in or near Ridgetown, as late as 1837, the nearest being at Morpeth and another at Antrim on the Lake Shore. About that time one of the Mitton family started a blacksmith shop and Malcolm McLean opened a store. For some years after the settlement of this locality . . . there was nothing to justify the name of a village on the site where now stands the busy and progressive town of which its citizens are so justly proud.

But . . . by 1864 . . . Ridgetown had a grist mill, one carding mill; one ashery; two harness shops; three blacksmiths; two wagon factories; four general stores; three hotels and six church congregations worshipped within its limits.

The early settlers around Ridgetown played their part well. Poverty was the lot of many. They fashioned implements out of wood to work the ground and made rude wooden sleighs on which to draw their produce, in summer, as well as winter. But out of the chaos of untravelled trails and forests these pioneers brought order and laid the foundation for one of the most progressive communities in the County of Kent.

ANNOUNCER—We will resume our story on Ridgetown in just a minute. Coming up now in our musical department, is a piano selection, "Echoes of Spring," by Frime, played by Mrs. Bryce Kendrick.

MRS. KENDRICK—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—We have, so far referred briefly to the early settlers of Ridgetown up until the fifties of the last century . . . and . . . although we cannot mention all names, there are a few that have come to our notice. For instance . . . there were the Reeders, the Kitchens, the Tyhursts, the Wilsons and Richard Phelps, always known as "Daddy" Phelps. This gentleman was a Methodist Minister, who acted as a magistrate, a doctor, a manufacturer and a farmer. He owned a shingle mill on the main street and it was there the first serious accident occurred in the community. The boiler blew up one day at noon and "Daddy" was injured severely.

We had hoped to have Mr. O. K. Watson with us to tell us part of this story, but Mr. Watson did not feel able to make the trip . . . however, his son, Carl, is here and, with him, is George M. Silcox, Mayor of Ridgetown. We are going to let these gentlemen reminisce for a few minutes and for a start, Carl, you might tell us when the first industry was located in your town.

WATSON—That was in 1855 . . . George Moody built a flour and grist mill, and in 1858 it

was enlarged when he took his son John into partnership. . . . In 1881, John and his son, John A., became partners in a still larger mill on Main Street. They later built the large brick mill which is still standing. There is no doubt that the Moody family were about the heaviest taxpayers along in the eighties . . . they built several stores and brick buildings and owned a large number of houses. The mill carried on for years and later was operated by the Howard Farmers' Co-operative Society. John Moody died in 1930, at the age of 97. His son, John A., died several years before him.

MAYOR SILCOX—After the Moody mills became established, many other plants followed . . . James Watt and Sons operated a foundry and machine shop, as did James and William McMaster, John T. Sales and the Middleditch family. There were carriage and wagon manufacturers, one being run by George Rockey; M. Cronk had a shoe factory; and there were several saw and planing mills.

WATSON—Yes, and the Ontario Casket Company and the Ridgetown Canning Company located in the town in later years.

ANNOUNCER—Mr. Mayor . . . at the beginning of our story, we said the village was incorporated in 1875. Can you enlarge a little on its municipal history?

MAYOR SILCOX—A year after the village was incorporated, an amendment was made, reducing the limits from what they were, in the original by-law. The population at that time was 1,027. When the council met for the first time, Jacob Smith was appointed reeve and Zenas Watson, Charles Scane, H. W. Wastland and David Watterworth were the councillors; John Law was named clerk and John A. Moody, the treasurer.

ANNOUNCER—When did its incorporation as a town take place?

MAYOR SILCOX—That came in 1881, when the population grew to 2,097. When the first town council sat on January 16, 1882, the mayor and reeve and three councillors from each of the four wards, were sworn in. The mayor was H. D. Cunningham and the reeve J. P. McKinaly. Jacob Smith, incidentally, who was reeve during its period as a village, became the first county warden from Ridgetown.

WATSON—I was just wondering, George, how many of our listeners remember Doctor S. N. Young. The doctor, a fine old gentleman, was born in Ridgetown, and before graduating in medicine taught in the old High School. In my father's book of "Memories,"

the doctor tells of the first brick building in Ridgetown, which in later years became a Chinese laundry. The doctor also mentions his first teacher, E. B. Harrison, who became county school inspector for Kent.

SILCOX—Speaking of old timers . . . one cannot pass up Mr. Phil Bowyer. Mr. Boyer always played a prominent part in Ridgetown and East Kent affairs and was editor of the Ridgetown Standard from 1880 to 1894 and of the Dominion from 1895 to 1917 when he sold the Dominion to E. V. Bingham, the present editor. He was elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1905 and 1908. Few public movements making for the growth and betterment of the town failed to receive his energetic support.

ANNOUNCER—Did Ridgetown ever receive any serious setbacks?

WATSON—We had two rather bad fires that practically wiped out our Main Street . . . one in May, 1882 . . . after that fire both sides of the street were re-built, with a series of buildings, known as the Union Block. But in October, 1899, another fire destroyed the north side of Main Street, taking all the fine three-storey blocks located there. These buildings were all promptly replaced, however.

MAYOR SILCOX—It was back in those days that Ridgetown had its famous lacrosse team. Now many of our listeners may remember that team, but I am told they used to trim everything as far east as Woodstock, and as far west as Detroit. Our bowling club used to be quite good too, and in fact they still are. . . . Ridgetown, you know, was honoured with having visits from a group of British bowlers, on two occasions . . . the only small town in Canada having that honour.

WATSON—That's right . . . and I have often heard my father speak of the O'Neill family . . . the town's best athletes. Billy was a runner and Mike was a star performer at all Caledonia games in the vicinity. Joe was the youngest and his hop-step-and-jump record for the district still stands unbeaten.

ANNOUNCER—Well, gentlemen, you seem to have done very well. There are a couple of other things around Ridgetown, that our Almanac writer intends to broadcast soon . . . such as the glassware display at Lee Simpson's and the agricultural farm. Thanks for being with us and drop in again.

ANNOUNCER—When the big liner Isle de France, arrived at Halifax last week, it

brought back several members of the armed forces from Kent County. With them was the first member of the Canadian Women's Army Corps to go overseas, from Chatham. She is Private Florence Shulver, back after two years and eight months' service in Britain and on the continent. We know she is glad to be back home again, so we won't ask that question, but what we would like to know . . . was your experience as a member of the CWAC interesting, Miss Shulver?

MISS SHULVER—It really was . . . one that I shall never forget, and I do think that those of us who were fortunate in getting overseas, can back up our boys when they say, "It was no picnic."

ANNOUNCER—We understand you reverted in rank to go to Belgium. When did you arrive there, Miss Shulver?

MISS SHULVER—I joined my unit the Second Echelon and landed in France last October, at what we learned later, was the new prefabricated harbour, floated over from England after D Day. We travelled through France by truck, passing such places as Caen, Falaise, Lille and Aemiens—battlefields made famous by our Canadian boys, in this and the last war.

ANNOUNCER—Were you in Belgium most of the time?

MISS SHULVER—Our headquarters were at Antwerp, but later we moved to Aalst. Life there was very quiet, nothing like the time spent at Antwerp.

ANNOUNCER—I see . . . you ran into something there? . . . Bombs, I suppose?

MISS SHULVER—Mostly bombs, the Germans were trying to clear the Estuary and Antwerp took an awful pounding. Fortunately, our damage was slight . . . A few of the CWAC's were hurt by flying glass, but no casualties resulted.

ANNOUNCER—Did you have similar experiences while in England?

MISS SHULVER—A little . . . when we arrived in England, we were billeted off the Strand. Buzz bombs landed frequently around us . . . several hit the embankment and bounced into the river. We were fortunate there, too, only one of our girls was hurt.

ANNOUNCER—Tell us, Miss Shulver . . . did you meet any Chatham or Kent County boys or girls in your travels?

MISS SHULVER—I can't recall any Kent girls. Lieut. Doug. Barlow and Sergt. Lloyd Spergin, both of Chatham, were with our unit. Oh, yes, I did meet Sergt. Evelyn Mickie, of Wallaceburg. The folks there will remember her as Evelyn Thorton. I also met Dorothy Rawlings, some months ago.

ANNOUNCER—Were you thrilled when told that you were returning to Canada?

MISS SHULVER—Indeed I was, but I would like to have seen the job through.

Our trip to England was quite interesting. We boarded a plane at Brussels and flew to a point in Germany to discharge army personnel.

At certain times the pilot took the plane down, in order that we might see some of the damage caused to the German cities, by our allied bombers. One month after I arrived back in England, I was on my way home.

ANNOUNCER—And glad to be here, I'll venture. Have you a word you would like to say to our listeners?

MISS SHULVER—Just thanks for the lovely parcels and gifts, sent to me while away. They were all appreciated.

ANNOUNCER—And thanks to you, Miss Shulver. You are the first member of the Canadian Women's Army Corps, to appear on our program, and we are glad to have you with us.

MISS SHULVER—Thank you . . . I am honoured.

ANNOUNCER—So ends Chapter Twenty . . . Kent County Family Almanac leaves the air to return next Thursday same time. Here is your thought for the day: "IN YOUTH WE LEARN, IN AGE WE UNDERSTAND." Until next Thursday, this is Paul Hanover, your announcer, saying, "lots of luck and keep smiling."

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Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER 21.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, July 5th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting “Kent County Family Almanac.”

THEME—“Florentine.”
(In and hold back of announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our city and our people . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich-garden land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up—then fade back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—Tonight . . . you will hear a story from Howard Township, as Chapter Twenty-one unfolds a drama of pioneer days . . . A young Chatham sailor, who has been in the service since 1940, tells of his many trips across the Atlantic, and, we will welcome back several Kent County heroes who returned to their homes this week . . . We have two guests in our studio who will bring you a variety of musical numbers . . . It's a truly hot weather program, folks, so stay tuned in . . . then drop us a card and tell us how you liked this particular Chapter of your Family Almanac.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Our Almanac group of entertainers are taking a rest this week and we have with us tonight two guests. First, we present 18-year-old Doug Hanley, student at the College Institute here in Chatham. Doug's piano artistry is acknowledged in the district as you will hear in his playing of “Viennese Waltz,” one of the popular light classics.

DOUG—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—That was Doug Hanley, guest pianist, playing Viennese Waltz.

ANNOUNCER—During our broadcast on Ridgetown, last Thursday night, we touched brief-

ly on early events in Howard Township. There, however, your Almanac writer, found such a wealth of material that this chapter can be regarded as a continuation of what we mentioned a week ago.

It was not until after the war of 1812, that the southern part of the township showed any signs of settlement. Here, as elsewhere, free grants of land were offered to settlers, seeking a new home, in a new country.

VOICE AS JAMES—Yes, and we out in Nova Scotia, certainly picked up our ears at that offer.

ANNOUNCER—Huh? . . . Say who are you?

JAMES—James Woods is my name. My dad and uncle, Joseph and Robert Woods were about the first settlers around these parts. Way back in 1816, when things were getting kinda tough out on the east coast, we folks heard about this rich land being offered to settlers, so up and packed and came out.

VOICE AS JOSEPH—Yes son, and the country was a tough one to travel through, from Toronto westwards. It was worth it when we spotted that stretch of land going down to the lake. Kind of made a lump come to your throat and talk about likely lookin' soil. Why—you could just feel its strength holdin' it in your hands.

VOICE AS ROBERT—My nephew there, cut the first trees in that country. I believe the town of Morpeth sprung up in later years right near that spot he cleared.

ANNOUNCER—And thus began the settlement of South Howard. However, with the approach of fall, the Woods returned to their homes in the East.

JOSEPH—We weren't givin' up. No, sir . . . Just went back to Nova Scotia to get the family and tell other folks about this wonderful part of the country.

JAMES—(Laughing) . . . Boy—how the Cull family stood around with their mouths hanging open, when they heard of the opportuni-

ties up here. They packed up their things and were ready to go with us before you could say Jack Robinson.

ROBERT—Kind of glad to have company, too. Come to think of it, Morpeth is situated right where they settled. We Woods had our land on what's now Talbot Street. That's progress for ya. Who woulda' thought?

JOSEPH—'Twasn't long before we had our first industry. Nick Cornwall built our first mill, and then John Desmond came. There's one fella that really went places too. Earl Desmond your present Member of Parliament, is a descendant.

ANNOUNCER—But along the "Ridge," further to the north, an earlier pioneer development was showing signs of life. Into that locality had moved, among others, the Palmers, the Watsons, and William Marsh,—long known as the pioneer of Ridge Road. William Marsh, who became known among the settlers, as "Daddy," had a wonderful imagination, another Baron Munchausen!

VOICE OF DADDY—I wouldn't say that now.

ANNOUNCER—Well, Hello, Daddy. Say, now, what brought you out to these parts in the first place?

VOICE AS DADDY—I climbed a tall tree, looked around and saw this land, and made straight for it.

LADY'S VOICE—Daddy, you're the worst old liar the Lord ever let live.

ANNOUNCER—And Mrs. Marsh, you have had plenty of opportunity to say that, from what we hear. Say, Daddy, how about a yarn, now that you're around, in this year of 1945?

DADDY—Did I ever tell you of the time me and a pal, crossed Lake Erie on the ice? It took us three days to do it. When we started all we had was enough food for a day and that's all. At night we built a fire and cooked our meal.

ANNOUNCER—Now . . . wait a minute . . . if you only had food, where did you get the wood, when you were in the middle of the lake?

DADDY—Now I might be mistaken there, but we did eat and made the trip all right.

ANNOUNCER—I might have known I couldn't throw you. What a swell couple Mr. and Mrs. Marsh must have made, folks. Mrs. Marsh, who lived to be 104 years old, was a wonderful old lady, and a true pioneer.

In those early days, there were no stores nearby, and often she used to do her shop-

ping in Toronto—a distance of 185 miles—carrying a load both ways. When she was 101 years old, the Town of Ridgeway and Howard Township honored her, at a special gathering where she was presented with medals and congratulations, by the government and King Edward V.

ANNOUNCER—Life in Howard Township was fast approaching, what might then be termed a modern stage. Kerosene lamps replaced tallow candles, and every farm house had a spinning wheel. The women spent much time spinning wool into yarn, which was made into cloth, on hand looms, for the family wardrobe.

Before open fireplaces in the crude log cabin, the farmer and his wife, with their sons and daughters, spent long winter evenings in singing or conversation. By chance, someone had a musical instrument of some sort, and neighbors came for miles around to spend an evening, as the musician sang and played.

McNAUGHTON (Your Part)—At the beginning of the paragraph "Before the open fireplaces"—you approach the mike playing softly, "Peek-a-Boo Waltz", and by the time you reach the mike increase your tune to natural playing.

Play until signal to stop.

ANNOUNCER—As time rolled on, the development of Southern Howard was NOT particularly rapid. One or two mills were erected by progressive settlers, who ground their wheat, and their neighbors' between heavy stones, made for just such a purpose. A few stores and blacksmith shops began to dot the locality and as the production of wheat grew larger, with the clearing of the forests, a number of small distilleries made their appearance. Their product sold for 25 cents a gallon.

VOICE (shaded)—"I was a blacksmith, back in the early 30's. I used to make bells, which the pioneers placed on their farmhouses to call in the men from the fields at meal-time. When the farmers bought these bells at my shop, they usually visited a nearby distillery and for want of a better vessel to hold the liquid in, they used the bells—carrying them by the "clapper"—the bells generally held about two gallons."

ANNOUNCER—The styles of wearing apparel, both in texture and design were then of a very primitive nature. The fabrics were spun and woven at home, probably from the sheep raised locally, whose wool when clipped, would be the occasion of a "carding bee."

MAN'S VOICE—"Say, Maw, now that you have that stuff made into cloth, what are you going to do with it?"

WOMAN'S VOICE—"Henry, you just run along, I'm going to dye it."

ANNOUNCER—And a few weeks later, Henry appeared in his Sunday best, a beautiful butternut brown--dyed in lye--and fashioned into a suit, by the womenfolk.

Many Scotch families settled in Howard. The first to arrive were the McKinlays, who took up land between the Ridge and Talbot Street. Then came the Campbells.

VOICE—The Camerons.

VOICE—The McDonalds.

VOICE—And the McGregors.

ANNOUNCER—And so the central portion of the township became rapidly and thickly settled. Further to the north in the vicinity of Botany, the McBrayne family settled in the Block Concession. They were followed by the McKerralls, the Simontons, and the Arnolds . . . Wolves and wild-cats roamed the woods, making travel by night hazardous and terrifying . . . Let Crowell Wilson, one of the old-timers, tell the story . . .

"It was a common thing, at night, to hear wolves howling near what is now, the most populous section of Ridgetown. Hogs and cattle were attacked in their pens and many settlers lost their only live stock in this way.

One year I had a job of building a house for Richard Boothroyd, on the sixth concession. I had a yoke of oxen with me and tied them outside the new house, that I was working on. I was alone and when the wolves came. I made as much noise as possible, trying to drive them off. They drew nearer, so I took the oxen inside and the wolves in rage and disappointment barked and howled around the shack until day-light." (pause).

ENGINEER—With the beginning of the sentence—"I was alone and . . ." start record—Wolves—and continue till "howled until day-light." . . .

ANNOUNCER—And then came 1875 . . . Ridgetown had grown and became incorporated as a village with a population of 1,027. The Canada Southern Railway was built through the district and the Township presented features which few others could boast, in those early days. With the extension of railroad facilities, there came a change in the spirit of those pioneers and their ambitions and aspirations grew anew. Other villages sprang into existence, and Morpeth and Ridgetown

bloomed into prosperous communities. True . . . they have had their set-backs but with a steady impulse their interests have moved forward to the high state of development, in which they are to-day. Through it all . . . new settlers continued to arrive and everywhere could be heard the appeal of the pioneer . . .

BOB McNAUGHTON—Comes in singing, one verse—"Give Me Land, Lots of Land."

ANNOUNCER—And so, neighbors, ends our little drama on early life in Howard Township. Music heard was played and sung by Smiling Bob McNaughton.

ANNOUNCER—It's time now for all our listeners, through the medium of your Almanac, to welcome back several Kent County boys who returned from overseas this week.

Welcome to—

Private C. J. Brown, Dresden;

Private F. P. Carron, Wallaceburg;

Private D. J. Galbraith, Ridgetown;

Private R. A. Moore, Dresden;

Private J. H. Osborne, Blenheim;

Private P. L. Peltier, Tilbury;

Private D. A. Maynard, 67 Bedford Street, Chatham;

Sapper I. J. Stewart, 221 Colborne Street, Chatham;

Corp. W. H. Penfold, Ridgetown;

Gunner A. E. Pletsch, 237 Park Street, Chatham;

Gunner H. J. Wilton, Bothwell;

Private A. W. Wright, Thamesville;

Flying Officer Lionel G. Sedgman, Chatham;

Lieut. Nursing Sister Flora Richards, Harwich Township;

And we have a visitor in our studio. He is Able Seaman Wilfred Trethaway, of Newbury. Come in, Wilfred, and say "hello" to the folks.

TRETHAWAY—"Hello" to all the folks around Newbury.

ANNOUNCER—Here is Leading Stoker Jack Turner, of the Royal Canadian Navy, back at his home, 213 Wellington Street, Chatham, on 58 days' leave prior to leaving for the Pacific. Welcome back, Jack . . . Tell us . . . how long have you been in the service?

TURNER—I enlisted soon after war broke in the Essex-Scottish but they kicked me out because I was too young . . . so I joined the Navy . . . in 1940.

ANNOUNCER—And on the go ever since. I suppose after you got your preliminary training (if that's what they call it in the navy) you were assigned to a ship. Did you make many crossings?

TURNER—21 trips . . . on convoy duty most of the time.

ANNOUNCER—Say . . . that sounds like a lot of sea. Have any trouble at any time?

TURNER—Oh, a little. A glider-bomb went clean through one of our ships . . . and a bomb dropped immediately aft while I was on another and shook everybody up but I got off without a scratch both times.

ANNOUNCER—You mentioned two ships. How many were you on?

TURNER—Three altogether. The one I am assigned to now (I won't tell you her name) . . . she is getting ready for the Pacific, the Lethbridge and the Athabasca.

ANNOUNCER—The Athabasca? Wasn't that one of the ships we lost?

TURNER—Yes . . . but I wasn't on her then . . . I had been assigned to one of the other ships sometime before.

ANNOUNCER—Jack . . . we are just a bit curious . . . I know what that one ribbon and clasp stands for . . . returned men are all wearing them . . . but what does the other ribbon and clasp mean?

TURNER—Service in the Mediterranean area.

ANNOUNCER—So . . . you were down there?

TURNER—For a while . . . that's where we ran into most of our trouble.

ANNOUNCER—What is there about the sea? Once a sailor always a sailor, they say.

TURNER—Guess it must be in the blood. I sailed the lakes as a kid out of Erieau for a while . . . so did my dad. He is still in the Navy, and he also served in the last war.

ANNOUNCER—Well, say . . . that's something. Tell the folks your Dad's name. Maybe somebody will know him.

TURNER—The folks around here know him as Bill Turner, aged 53.

ANNOUNCER—Where is he now Jack?

TURNER—In Belfast . . . getting ready to bring back a ship. He is going to the Pacific, too.

ANNOUNCER—You can't beat that, folks . . . When Canadians like Jack and his father, after all their service, set out for the Pacific . . . we-l-l . . . the war against the Japs will soon be over.

ANNOUNCER (continuing)—By the way, neighbors, Jack, here, was that good looking sailor you saw on the Family Almanac float in the parade in Chatham on Monday. With him were Pilot Officer Cliff Wright of Cedar Springs and 213 Wellington Street, and Corp. Paul Horton, 56 Dover Street. Both are employed at the Sugar Company . . . and Jack Turner is working there too, while on leave. (Laughing) Getting a little money to spend in the Pacific on those Philippino gals, Jack?

TURNER (Laughing back)—No thanks . . . I got a wife and one child.

ANNOUNCER—Oh, Oh, Good luck and good night, Jack.

TURNER—Good Night, Paul.

ANNOUNCER—Doug Hanley is seated before the piano ready to play the beautiful and delicate "Claire de Lune." Our guest artist plays this number with masterly skill . . . the soft melodius notes rising in volume and harmony under his clever touch. Here he is:

DOUG—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Doug.

ANNOUNCER—Did you know that rationing of new farm machinery and equipment is NOW limited to 25 items?

VOICE—The order went into effect July 1 . . . and is in keeping with the policy of the War-time Prices and Trade Board, to remove the restrictions as soon as the supply warrant it. The 25 articles still rationed are in short supply and permission of the regional farm officer must be obtained to purchase the items. The list includes corn pickers, tractor plows, tiller and harrow plows, hay loaders, potato sprayers, pressure water pumps and others.

ANNOUNCER—Canada's sugar situation.

VOICE—Only ten pounds of sugar will be allowed consumers for canning purposes this year. That's a drop of pounds from last year. Reductions effected to meet the decreased supply is being shared by civilian consumers, members of the armed forces, all industries and quota users. In order to meet this increase next year, sugar beet production must be greater, ration administration officials point out.

ANNOUNCER—Spring seeding delayed by hot weather.

VOICE—Heavy rainfalls, the farmers' most relentless enemy, proved to be a record this year. During the planting season—April 15 to June 15—a total of 11.49 inches of rain fell . . . This is almost one solid foot of water . . . more than two inches above the 9.38 of 1943. Our farmers hope it will never be equalled.

However, early reports have been very encouraging and latest survey indicate good crops in many districts. Truly . . . Kent County as well as being proud of her fighting sons . . . can boast of her fighting farmers as well.

ANNOUNCER—Bob McNaughton has something on his mind. It looks as though one of his cowboy songs is coming up. What is it to be, Bob?

BOB—How about "Back in the Saddle Again."

ANNOUNCER—Start a-strumming then.

BOB—Plays.

(At the end of his number) Bob says—

"I have another little number, Paul, maybe the folks would like to hear. It's a request number, "Pistol Packing Mama."

ANNOUNCER—Go right ahead . . . we have another couple of minutes.

BOB—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—So ends Chapter Twenty-one . . . Kent County Family Almanac . . . We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday at 9 p.m. with another interesting story. Meanwhile, your thought for the day . . . "THE STRENGTH OF A NATION BEGAN IN THE HOMES OF ITS PIONEERS." Thanks to Doug and Bob for being with us . . . and until next Thursday, this is Paul Hanover, your announcer, saying, "lots of good luck and keep smiling."

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

This is CFCO.

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EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.

OVER CFCO.

CHATHAM, ONTARIO



*"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."*

SOME FUTURE BROADCASTS

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- TOWN OF THAMESVILLE
- VILLAGE OF MERLIN
- TOWN OF HIGHGATE

AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER 22.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, July 12th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine"
(In and fade back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people. . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up then fade back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—It's Chapter 22 tonight, folks, and while our story does not pertain to Kent County, it is told by a Chatham nurse who has travelled far and wide in the Armed services . . . You will also hear from a young lady who is doing her share on the home front while the boys are away . . . There is a long list of Kent County boys who are returning home this week and some who have already arrived . . . Our music department brings you the old songs . . . the kind you like to hear . . . So sing them with us, neighbors, it's your program.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Corine Caron and Bob Claus are back again to sing for you . . . Corine opens the musical portion of our program with the lovely and always popular "Tosti's Serenade." Mrs. Bryce Kendrick will accompany her at the piano.

CORINE—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—And now Bob Claus . . . Bob goes sentimental on us as he asks . . . "Did You Happen to Find a Heart?"

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Tonight . . . we welcome back a large number of Kent County boys from over-

seas. When the big liner Queen Mary arrived at New York Wednesday she brought back some 5,000 Canadian troops. Special trains left immediately carrying the boys to their various homes in the Dominion. Included in the list were 40 men from various parts of the county who were expected to arrive in London between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. and at Chatham at 10:30 tonight.

ANNOUNCER—The following are returning to their homes on a 30-day leave prior to duty in the Pacific area:

Private H. L. Eskritt, Rural Route 3, Ridgetown;

Private W. S. Huff, Rural Route 3, Thamesville;

Private R. W. James, Rural Route 3, Merlin;

Private O. E. Jessop, Rural Route 7, Chatham;

Private D. J. Peacock, Thamesville;

Private M. Stonefish, Rural Route 3, Thamesville;

Sergt J. L. Seymour, 39 Emma Street, Chatham;

Sergt. K. S. Rantle, 40 Degge Street, Chatham;

Private M. L. Armstrong, Merlin;

Private W. J. Brooks, 47½ Pine Street, Chatham;

Private E. W. Carter, Pain Court;

Private C. E. Gibson, 18 Degge Street, Chatham;

Private S. Henry, Rural Route, Thamesville;

Private C. D. Livingston, Rural Route 3, Chatham;

Private N. A. Marchand, Lyon Avenue, Tilbury;

Corporal C. F. Peltier, 217 Fraser Street, Chatham;

Private L. Peters, Walpole Island;

Sapper J. R. Sinclair, 103 Poplar Street, Chatham;

Private D. H. Thompson, 203 Patteson Ave., Chatham;

Private E. E. Turner, 112 Van Allen Avenue, Chatham;

Private D. McDowell, Thamesville.

Included in the group are the following liberated prisoners of war:

Private J. D. Cyster, Tilbury;

Corporal T. G. Humphrey, Bothwell;

Corporal G. E. Labonte, Tilbury;

Private R. J. Mackenzie, Rural Route 4, Thamesville;

Corporal Clare D. Percy, 20 1/2 Lorne Avenue, Chatham;

Private M. F. Reid, Rural Route 1, Wheatley;

Corporal D. A. Henderson, 106 Patteson Ave., Chatham;

Private A. H. Lewis, 1025 Elizabeth Street, Wallaceburg;

Private H. W. Sherrah, Blenheim;

Corporal E. A. Toles, Wallaceburg;

Corporal L. B. Miller, 72 Princess Street, Chatham;

Sapper A. J. Willick, Bothwell;

Others returning for various duty or discharges:

Corporal J. Greene, Rodney;

Sapper D. A. Andrews, Ridgetown;

Craftsman R. E. Hunter, Wardsville;

Lieutenant J. R. McVeigh, 130 Park Avenue, Chatham;

Captain C. E. Stewart, Rural Route 3, Chatham;

Company Quartermaster Sergt. C. T. Boudreau, Wallaceburg;

Acting Captain J. E. Steinbuckly, Chatham;

Flight Lieut. Glen Gardiner, R.R. 4, Merlin;

Another ship, the Ile De France is expected to dock at Halifax on Saturday and a second group of Chatham and district servicemen will arrive. These men are not expected to reach London until early next week.

Among them are the following liberated prisoners of war:

Private H. L. Clark, 31 Lansdowne Avenue, Chatham;

Private J. H. Ellison, 193 Murray Street, Chatham;

Corporal M. Kish, Rural Route 4, Bothwell

Also the following who will spend a 30-day leave before leaving for duty in the Pacific:

Company Sergt.-Major W. R. Hudson, Rural Route 1, Chatham;

Sergt A. M. Pattison, Dresden;

Craftsman E. E. Barrette, 197 King Street, Chatham;

Corp. R. L. Beech, 551 Queen Street, Chatham;

Private J. M. Boyes, 184 1/2 Thames Street, Chatham;

Corp. C. L. Carrico, 15 Thelma Avenue, Chatham;

Private C. L. Cole, Wallaceburg;

Private C. De Maeyer, Rural Route 3, Tupperville;

Private E. Little, 301 St. Clair St., Chatham;

Private L. G. Phair, Rural Route 2, Tupperville;

Private J. D. Alderton, Bothwell; and Captain J. F. Richardson, Tilbury.

To all these men, Welcome Home . . . Kent County is waiting for you.

ANNOUNCER—We believe everybody is going to enjoy the next portion of our program . . . Greg Roberts, of Toronto, who plays a piano just for the fun of it, dropped into our studio just to look around . . . Now Greg doesn't pretend to play the classics . . . he just plays anything that comes into his mind. When we asked him to play for us he made up a medley of the old songs and we want you out there on the air to sing them. Remember these . . .

ROBERTS—Starts with "Daisy," "East Side West Side," "When You and I were Young Maggie," "I want a Girl."

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Greg Roberts of Toronto.

ANNOUNCER—And now our story— "Shangri-la" . . . that's the story-book land where there is no such thing as war . . . and where no one grows old . . . at least under 200 years. (Pause).

ENGINEER—At beginning of next paragraph by announcer . . . come in with sound effect of plane zooming . . . start faintly at beginning and increase tempo as announcer continues . . .

ANNOUNCER—Now . . . there may be no actual "Shangri-la" in this world but during the month of October last year, an airplane dipped out of the clouds over New Guinea's Hollarlandia mountain range . . . The pilot, a young American officer, was apparently manoeuvring his plane as though hunting for something hundreds of feet below. (Pause to allow time for sound effect--three seconds). Through the inter-communication system, the pilot spoke:

VOICE—"There lies the hidden valley . . . a 'Shangri-la,' I would say."

ANNOUNCER—And Mrs. Margaret Churchill of Chatham, Ontario, one of two nurses in the plane, exclaimed . . .

MRS. CHURCHILL—"Why . . . what a beautiful but terrifying place."

ENGINEER—Cut sound effect.

ANNOUNCER—And now that you are back in Chatham, Mrs. Churchill, we would like to hear more of this mysterious valley . . . Tell us . . . how did you come to be in the plane that flew over these mountains last October?

MRS. CHURCHILL—At the time, I was with an American hospital unit stationed at Bisk, off the Dutch New Guinea coast. We had heard about this valley and one day, a pilot, a co-pilot, another nurse and myself set out to find it. After flying for about two hours and a half, we came down through the clouds and there was the valley . . . a marvellous sight.

ANNOUNCER—Sounds mighty interesting . . . Now you just go ahead . . . tell us anything that you can remember of the trip.

MRS. CHURCHILL—The valley appeared to be about twenty miles long and possibly five miles wide. It was completely surrounded by mountains probably 17,000 feet high . . . at least, that is what the pilot said. We flew up and down the valley for half an hour taking pictures, before returning to our base. The land in the valley appeared to be very fertile and extensively tilled with large irrigation ditches running through it. When we came down out of the clouds to a height of possibly two thousand feet, the native appeared plenty scared. We could see them scampering off to their huts, which seemed to be made of straw.

ANNOUNCER—Well . . . what did these natives look like . . . A war-like sort of tribe?

MRS. CHURCHILL—I couldn't tell from the height we were flying. The men were carrying spears and seemed to be clothed only in a girdle or sort of apron. The women were

more of the Hawaiian type with long straight hair which is different from the kinky hair of the New Guinea natives. There were plenty of pigs about, probably their only source of meat supply.

ANNOUNCER—Mrs. Churchill, you saw the straw huts of these natives. Did you see any other buildings . . . or what might appear to have been buildings?

MRS. CHURCHILL—I forgot to mention that. As we flew deep into the valley we could see stone places that might have been amphitheatres. Our pilots said they were probably used by the natives for sports, for meetings or for worshipping purposes. The mountain slopes were terraced and fields could be seen on most of these terraces. I have heard since that the women do most of the manual labor.

ANNOUNCER—By the way . . . do you know who first discovered the valley?

MRS. CHURCHILL—We were told that a Dutch pilot discovered the valley by accident. He reported it to the United States forces and an American pilot flew over it to chart the location. The plane I was in that day was one of the first to enter the valley after that.

ENGINEER—(Come in with airplane effects on sentence starting "On May 13th.")

ANNOUNCER—Yes . . . and since you saw it, Mrs. Churchill, the valley has become known the world over. On May 13th of this year . . . another plane, a huge transport plane, flew into the valley. It carried 24 Army personnel, on a sight seeing trip. After flying over the valley, the plane tried to gain height to get over the mountain. Instead, it crashed into the jungles near the foot of one of those tremendous hills. (Pause).

ENGINEER—Cut sound effect—

ANNOUNCER—Nineteen in the plane were killed or died of injuries . . . three survived . . . a beautiful hazel-eyed WAC and two companions, a United States Lieutenant and an Army Sergeant. For thirty days the three lived among the natives who turned out to be a very friendly tribe although only sign language was used to convey their wants.

Then one day . . . paratroopers were dropped from the sky. They built long runways in the valley. After 47 days, the survivors were taken out by plane. The paratroopers followed a few days later by glider. The story is that when the planes and gliders landed to take out the survivors and the paratroopers, husky native chieftains wept when they saw their white friends leave.

But the stay in the valley was not without its humorous side of life. Here is what Alex Cunn, a newsreel photographer for the Netherlands Indies Government, said:-

VOICE—"Because male natives wear little or no clothes, the paratroopers and survivors were mistaken for women. The first day the paratroopers landed, the natives got a crush on one . . . a rather fine looking young fellow. A native put one arm around him and we could hear sweet nothings being whispered in his ear. We decided a showdown was necessary and the matter was straightened out as to who was who. I had parachuted into the valley after the accident to take films for my government.

ANNOUNCER—And that, folks, is our story . . . As we have said there may be actually no "Shangri-la" in this world but what you, Mrs. Churchill, have just told us is more like the story-book "Shangri-la" than anything else we have heard or read.

But, Mrs. Churchill, we can't let you go without hearing something about yourself. You are a Chatham girl . . . but where did you train for a nurse and when did you enlist?

MRS. CHURCHILL—I trained at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and enlisted as a nurse with the United States Army in '43. It was while I was stationed in New Guinea that I met my husband, Capt. Robert Winston Churchill.

ANNOUNCER—Winston Churchill, eh? Any relation to the Prime Minister???

MRS. CHURCHILL—Oh, no . . . the name is only a co-incident. My husband is a Doctor in the forces.

ANNOUNCER—Well, thank you very much, Mrs. Churchill, you have given us a real story and we are happy to have had the only Canadian woman with us who has seen this so-called "Shangri-la."

ANNOUNCER—Evelyn Caron, Corine's sister, sang on our program some weeks ago. Our listeners liked her and have asked to hear her again. So here she is with an old but popular number you all know.

EVELYN—Sings "When I Grow Too Old To Dream."

ANNOUNCER—She is not a WAC . . . Nor, is she a member of any branch of the armed forces but she IS DOING a job that is so essential in these days of war. You folks out on Rural Route No. 1, Thamesville, know her as the girl who brings the mail . . . for some . . . mail from your boys overseas.

Since last September when her father took ill and was unable to carry on . . . Sadie Pumphrey has been on the job in spite of all kinds of weather. Like all other posties Sadie's motto is "The mail must go through. Sadie . . . how old are you?

SADIE—I was 18 on March 17 last.

ANNOUNCER—St. Patrick's Day . . . You're not Irish by any chance?

SADIE—No . . . I am a Canadian.

ANNOUNCER—W-e-l-l, say, Canadians are tops these days and I can see you are tops, too . . . Now don't be nervous, Sadie . . . Tell us, how many miles do you travel each day and do you use a car?

SADIE—27 miles . . . making about 100 calls.

ANNOUNCER—Don't you have a helper . . . I could quit this announcing job, you know.

SADIE—Most of the time I go alone. My brother did help me last winter, when the snow was bad.

ANNOUNCER—S-A-Y . . . that must have been a tough job last winter.

SADIE—It was terrific . . . many times I felt like giving up . . . the snow was so deep. Generally . . . the trip takes about three hours but some days last winter it was eight to nine hours before I finished up.

ANNOUNCER—Ever get stuck in the snow-drifts?

SADIE—Occasionally. During the first week of January when everything became snow-bound, I stayed mostly on the highways and the folks from the concessions and town-lines used to meet me and get their mail. I didn't like that . . . my job is to get the mail through but they were all very kind and patient when I was late.

ANNOUNCER—Any other girls or women on the routes out there?

SADIE—Three others, Mrs. Ruth Jackman, Mrs. Nora Lunn and Mrs. Helen Farrell.

ANNOUNCER—And you are the youngest. By the way, has your family any more like you?

SADIE—I have two brothers . . . they are the youngest members of the family . . . And I have five sisters.

ANNOUNCER—That's right . . . I DO know Fern, Ila and Helen. And are they doing a job. I

should know because I eat at the Pitt, you know.

Well, thanks for being with us tonight . . . and don't forget if you ever need an assistant on that job I'll be right there. I'll even shovel the snow.

ANNOUNCER—Today . . . Mr. and Mrs. Justus Munn, of Blenheim, celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary. Married at Blenheim, both have been residents of Harwich Township since childhood. For them and as the closing number on our program Bob Claus sings the ever-popular "In the Gloaming."

CLAUS—Sings.

THEME—(Up and hold back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—And so ends Chapter 22 of your Almanac . . . if you have enjoyed it, write

for a free copy of this broadcast. We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday at 9 p.m.

Here's your thought for the day . . . A FRIEND TO EVERYBODY IS A FRIEND TO NOBODY."

So until next Thursday, this is Paul Hanover, your announcer, saying "Lots of good luck and keep smiling."

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

This is CFCO.

THEME—(Up to end).

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AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER 23.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, July 19th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting “Kent County Family Almanac.”

THEME—“Florentine.”
(In and hold back of announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our city and our people . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich-garden land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up---then fade back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—It's military night . . . and Chapter 23 of your Almanac brings you a brief story of the job your boys and girls have done in the great struggle just ended in Europe . . . Time will NOT allow us to mention all our Kent County heroes . . . and that's what they are, neighbors, heroes, every one . . . You will hear also from the officer commanding the First Kents when they organized in 1939 . . . Tenor soloist Bob Claus and Roy Guymer and his violin will bring you songs and music in close harmony with our picture tonight . . . There's action and drama, folks, as we take you through Italy, France and Belgium. . .

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—When V-Day came this year . . . everybody celebrated . . . Bands played and people sang or danced on the streets . . . In some places the lively “Victory Polka” was the most popular song of the day . . . and here is Bob Claus to sing it for you . . . his contribution to tonight's military program.

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Since your Family Almanac opened its chapters 23 weeks ago, we have

been happy to welcome home 317 fighting men and women from Kent County. We know we have not named all who have returned—perhaps you did not let us know when your boy or girl came back and we are only able to welcome those whose names come to our attention—whether we have named you or not.

On Sunday last, the hospital ship, the Letitia, docked at Halifax with several thousand more Canadians—On board the Letitia were six Kent County boys who may go into hospital at London and may not reach their homes for some days. Those to arrive were:

- Capt. G. W. Cornell, 8 West Street, Chatham.
- Private C. A. Hooper, whose father lives on Rural R. 2, Croton.
- Private W. D. Chute, of Wheatley.
- Private G. A. Gagner, Rural Route 1, Pain Court.
- Private R. E. Ryan, 36 Kendall Street, Chatham.
- Private S. R. Landuyt, a liberated prisoner of war, Rural Route 1, Tupperville.

Others to arrive during the week were:
Leading Wren Audrey Dow, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Nurse, King Street, Chatham.
And Flight Lieut. J. R. Hughes, D.F.C., and Bar, Kent Bridge.

And from the hospital ship, “E Mil” expected to dock at Halifax this week:

- Private E. M. Hull, Morpeth;
- Private E. G. Jones, Bothwell;
- and Corp. F. W. Whaley, Chatham.

The last three mentioned are stretcher cases. (Pause).

ENGINEER—Come in five seconds with bugle band (loud) then fade back.

ANNOUNCER—This is the story of Kent County's fighting sons and daughters—our tribute

to those boys and girls who have done a great job overseas—some are back, some are remaining to finish the job they started while others are going to the Pacific to clean up the Jap menace.

ENGINEER—Come in with "O Canada."

ANNOUNCER—(on signal)—Let us go back a few years—1938. Kent County basked in peaceful prosperity . . . her fields rich in crops so famous in this garden-land of Ontario. Like other peoples of the world, Kent County was watching the war clouds over Europe. Mussolini had, without provocation, sent his swaggering troops into Ethiopia and the hand of Fascism rested over all Italy. Hitler, the mad-man of Germany, was shouting defiance to all who opposed his Nazi ideas and preparing, as he hoped, to conquer the continent and eventually the world. Came 1939 . . . Hitler looked about for a place to strike. He wanted an early and easy victory to build up German morale. He chose Poland . . . and the world gasped with amazement as his motorized armies swept in to and over that unprepared country.

VOICE—But Britain was watching . . . knowing the inevitable was drawing nearer. She, too, was unprepared but she had to stand by her allegiance to Poland. A warning was sent to Hitler to cease his ravages on a weaker nation but the Austrian paper-hanger merely laughed. And then . . . on the morning of September 3, Neville Chamberlain announced to the world, "Great Britain is at war with Germany." (Pause).

ENGINEER—(Come in with bugle call three seconds.

ANNOUNCER—Immediately . . . the Dominions rallied to the call and to the fore in Canada came Kent County's fighting sons and daughters. From field, school and offices they came . . . Ridgetown . . . Thamesville . . . Blenheim . . . Highgate . . . Merlin . . . Bothwell . . . Wheatley. Wallaceburg's Company was under the command of Major Bill Poile. The First Kents, under Lieut.-Col. T. E. Codlin, recruited in record time and were followed immediately by the Second Kents under Lieut.-Col. Grant Thomson. The first Kents were ordered to Halifax, then to British Columbia and it was while at Halifax that they were inspected by their Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Kent, the only regiment to be inspected by the Duke when he visited Canada in 1941.

VOICE—Long and tedious training followed (pause for minute for drilling sound effect). Then came the first call. Military District No. 1 asked for two officers to proceed Overseas at once as reinforcement officers. Lieut. Jack Anderson and Capt. Jimmy Huff imme-

diately offered their services; it was the first break in the officers' ranks of the Kents; the 42 original officers of the First Kent 31 went overseas as drafts and other called for special duties dug deep into their ranks.

ANNOUNCER—England . . . and the battle of Britain in which the German Air Force was beaten out of skies . . . Dieppe . . . August 1942 . . . a test, some called it, of Hitler's European fortress. Canadians were to take the fore in that spectacular raid and among them were many of Kent County's fighting sons. Clare Percy stormed the beaches that day and with him were his two brothers, Keith and Lewis; also Max Robinson, Sergt. Charles Rylett and many other Kent County boys. . . . February of this year saw them, with five other Canadian prisoners, marching back across Germany as their guards attempted to keep them out of the hands of the advancing allied armies.

VOICE—Meanwhile, back in Kent County the citizens were carrying on a wonderful war effort. Florence Shulver was the first Chatham woman to go Overseas as a member of the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Frances Fields of Northwood and Florence Reynolds, Chatham, were among the first to go as nurses.

And . . . to the tune of many bugle bands hundreds of young men continued to flock to the recruiting offices.

ENGINEER—Bugle bands for one minute.

ANNOUNCER—1941 . . . Pearl Harbor . . . America was hurled into the war . . . North Africa . . . the Hun was driven into the sea and the Allied armies stood poised for invasion . . . where and when it was to come nobody knew. Suddenly Montgomery's Eighth Army . . . It was Sicily . . . then Italy . . . again Kent County boys were in the fight. At San Lorenzo . . . Corporal Jimmy shall took command of a platoon after other officers were wounded, . . . reorganized . . . took his objective and captured 10 prisoners. He was awarded the D.C.M. . . . Fighting his way through withering fire Trooper James Morris reached an arm car knocked out by enemy fire . . . repaired it, and brought back two of his comrades who received the Military Medal.

VOICE—Mickey McDade was seriously wounded . . . The Barlow brothers, Lieut. Doug. (Captain) and his brother Keith saw . . . Floyd Parrish, of Electric; Charles Tom Ellis, Ron Johnston and the other brothers, of Blenheim, are all members that campaign. At Lamone, Captain Angus, leading a platoon of the 48th Highlanders, crossed the river and routed the enemy machine posts. He then organ-

fighting patrol and 48 prisoners were captured. His award was the coveted Military Cross. Gradually, the Hun was pushed back and Italy capitulated. Kent County boys were ready to fight elsewhere.

ANNOUNCER—D-Day . . . the long looked for invasion. The Allied nations struck again . . . (Pause 15 seconds for bombardment). On the morning of June 6, 1944, British, Canadian and American troops poured onto the beaches of Normandy and . . . among them were Kent County's fighting sons.

Caen . . . Lieut. Bob Bradley fell with a leg wound. But Bob was not thinking of his wound. As his superior officer, Major Bill Burgess, of Wallaceburg rushed to his aid, Bradley remarked:

VOICE—"Have somebody look after the men; and, darn it, there goes my captaincy."

ANNOUNCER—But Bob Bradley recovered from his wound and later received his captaincy. Falaise . . . Lieut. W. S. McKeough worked his way forward with his troop sergeant and conveyed back information on enemy movements. He then engaged the Nazis inflicting casualties to vehicles and personnel. By his action, he helped to close the Falaise Gap and the French honored him with the Croix de Guerre. Major Telford Steele, M.C. was wounded on three occasions but refused to leave the lines. When finally he was carried to the rear severely wounded, Major Doug. McIntyre took over second in command of the regiment. For his skill and leadership, Major McIntyre was later awarded the D.S. O. By strange co-incidence, Captain Dou McIntyre was mentioned in dispatches the same day as his brother, although their engagements were hundreds of miles apart.

VOICE—On through France the victorious allies swept; and in the fighting that followed, Kent County boys were everywhere. Among them were Corporal Morrison and Corporal Cracknell, of Thamesville; Private D. Galbraith, Ridgetown; Gunner Wilton, Bothwell, and "Chuck" Brown, Dresden. The advancing armies met little opposition in Belgium except at Merxem where the Canadians stormed across the Leopold Canal using flame throwers to route the Germans from their advance posts. Sergt. Hugh Iveson watched that scrap as he left the lines to return to England and home. He had been in the fight since early in July, 1944.

ANNOUNCER—In Holland, the United armies paused as Field Marshal Montgomery strengthened his forces for the push into Germany—and when that day came, Kent County boys were ready again. Preparatory to the attack on Reichswald Forest in February of this year, Private Ernest Vermette,

of Tilbury, and a small patrol, provided protection for a party of engineers. Though wounded, Private Vermette continued to use his Bren gun and remained in position until assured all the wounded had been removed . . . The Military Medal was his award.

VOICE—In Germany . . . everything was chaos. The allied air force had struck tremendous blows (and the Germans became panicky as the Russians advanced from the east. Gradually, the pinchers closed and the circle around Berlin grew tighter. Final and definite victory was in sight and an anxious world waited for V-Day.

ANNOUNCER—Then it came . . . May 8, 1945 (pause ten seconds for cheers). The war as far as Germany was concerned was over. Today . . . Kent County boys and girls are returning to their beloved homes and country. We have not been able to include all their names but in every village and town they are awaited and we hope to welcome them all on our Almanac when they arrive. But . . . we haven't told all the story . . .

There is the story of the boys who fought in the air and the men who went to sea. Someday soon we will dedicate another chapter to those intrepid airmen and sailors from Kent County. If you have sons and daughters in the air force or navy, send us their names so we can include them.

ANNOUNCER—Veterans of the Great War of 1914-1918, as they watched their sons march across France in the struggle just ended, recall many songs sung in canteens and mess-halls. Probably none was so popular as the lovely "Roses of Picardy." . . . We asked Roy Guymer to play it for you in honor of those men who fought another battle for Freedom just 27 years ago. Mrs. Bryce Kendrick will accompany him at the piano.

GUYMER—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—But there were other songs, sung and played by the veterans of those days. Remember them played by the massed bands of the Aldershot Command.

ENGINEER—Come in with recording of massed bands.

ANNOUNCER—Colonel T. E. Codlin, O.B.E., officer commanding the Kents when they first mobilized, dropped into our studio tonight to hear the broadcast. We believe the Colonel could add a few remarks—some things perhaps we have missed. Would you like to say a few words, sir?

CODLIN—Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen—I have been deeply interested, as I am sure you all have, in listening to this story of

our Kent County boys and girls in action. Also some particulars about the Kent Regiment itself. As the past commanding officer of the First Kents, I welcome this opportunity of speaking to the people of Kent County, as I have done so many times in the past.

Although the regiment did not proceed overseas as a unit, the majority of the personnel did go as reinforcements to other units in the field. I should like to point out that it was not because of any inefficiency on the part of the personnel or the battalion, but the unit always occupied some strategic location in the Dominion which insured the safety of the country.

When our boys first enlisted, it was with a desire to go where ever they were required . . . but duties in Canada kept them here for a long time after mobilization. However, that did not dampen their enthusiasm or efficiency when they arrived in the field of action. They have all done a grand job and I am sure the people of Kent County will give them the credit they deserve when they all arrive home again.

I had the honor and privilege of commanding the Kents for nearly seven years, before and during mobilization and I always felt a great pride in them . . . But I am particularly proud of what they achieved overseas.

ANNOUNCER—That reminds me of something. We were unable to name all our Kent boys in our story. Are there any that might come to mind, you could mention?

CODLIN—There are dozens, yes hundreds but time does not permit. Off hand, I could mention the Butler boys, both fine chaps. Then there was Sergt. "Stew" Kirkland of Cedar Springs who won the D.C.M. and then turned down a company sergeant-major's job because he wanted to stay with his pals. Lieut. Jimmy Pope was another who did a swell job before he was wounded. Of the original officers, in addition to those you named tonight, Major H. E. Foex, our medical officer, and Major J. W. Duncan, our padre, both were honored with the O.B.E. and Majors I. Martin and W. Hemphill were mentioned in despatches. Captain Max Baker was promoted from the ranks and received the M.C. while serving with the British army and Lieut. Jack Hanley is still doing a job in Germany. Although not a Kent boy but well known here, Doug. McFarlane was awarded the M.B.E. for his great work in keeping the morale of the boys up with his

paper, The Maple Leaf; first in Italy and then in Germany. Doug. is a son-in-law of Doctor and Mrs. Kendrick.

And in closing . . . may I again express my appreciation and also that of the men for the splendid manner in which you supported us during the period of mobilization. I doubt if any battalion in the Canadian Army had the support we had and I can assure it was much appreciated . . . Also the citizens of Chatham who opened their homes to billet the men while we were mobilizing. I cannot thank you all too much for this splendid generosity for I know that it was done at some financial loss and in many cases great inconvenience.

But, ladies and gentlemen, that is what keeps this country of ours a great democratic state and makes us all true Canadians.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Colonel Codlin . . .

Yes, . . . we are all proud of the men and women who served so gallantly to rid the world of the Hun menace . . . and we are proud, too to live in this glorious land of freedom that has given us so much despite the hardships of the past five years. "We are all true Canadians" . . . that happens to be the title of the song Bob Claus is going to sing for us now.

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—And thus ends Chapter 23 of your Family Almanac. We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday at 9 p.m. Meanwhile, your thought for the day . . . WE CAN ALL BE HEROES IN OUR VIRTUES, IN OUR HOMES, AND OUR LIVES."

So until next Thursday, this is Paul Hanover, your announcer, saying "lots of good luck and keep smiling."

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

This is CFCO.

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER 24.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, July 26th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting “Kent County Family Almanac.”

THEME—“Florentine”
(In and fade back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people. . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up then fade back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter 24 . . . and your Almanac presents musical night . . . an all-request program in which your Almanac artists hold the spotlight . . . They are all here tonight except our accordion player, Orville Gold, who unfortunately is out of the city. . . There is a long list of heroes to welcome . . . practically every corner of Kent County is represented in the group . . . listen as we read their names . . . your son may be among them. We have a guest announcer who is pinch-hitting for our regular master of ceremonies now vacationing in parts unknown. There is not a dull moment in our program, folks, listen to our songs and music.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Good evening, ladies and gentlemen . . . This is your guest announcer speaking . . . It's a pleasure to be associated for the next two weeks with such an interesting program as the Kent County Family Almanac . . . But I see we have a long list of heroes to welcome back . . . 110 of them . . . all Kent County boys and girls who are returning to their homes this week. But before we begin let us hear from our soprano soloist, Corine Caron . . . Corine opens our musical night with an appropriate number “My Hero” from the “Chocolate Soldier.”

CORINE—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Miss Caron . . . And now our Welcome Home.

ENGINEER—Come in with bugle call.

ANNOUNCER—When the New Amsterdam docked at an eastern port this week . . . it brought back the largest single group to arrive home since V-E Day. The list includes the following Kent County men, members of the Canadian Far East force:

Trooper D. D. Ball, of Rural Route 6, Chatham;

Private J. H. Bedell, 84 Poplar Street, Chatham;

Craftsman D. D. Bolton, Rural Route 2, Florence;

Private J. C. Binga, Chatham;

Trooper J. Domanski, Wallaceburg;

Sapper G. Dalgleish, Comber;

Lance Bombardier R. T. Crowley, 179 Selkirk Street, Chatham;

Gunner A. Kiyosh, Walpole Island;

Trooper F. W. Mills, Wallaceburg;

Trooper D. D. McMillan, R.R. 1, Newbury;

Trooper C. S. O'Brien, Wallaceburg;

Craftsman G. W. Poole, Wheatley;

Lance Corporal E. A. Richardson, R.R. 1, Fletcher;

Lance Corporal G. H. Rogers, Wardsville;

Trooper L. J. Walker, 27 Prince Arthur Ave., Chatham;

Private L. A. Wallace, Dresden;

Acting Captain William F. Mackness, Dresden;

Private F. N. French, 30 Grand Avenue West, Chatham;

Corporal A. S. Kay, Thamesville;

Lance Corporal J. McDonald, Ridgetown;
 Lance Corporal A. F. Smart, 125 Gray Street,
 Chatham;
 Private J. Mitrovic, Turnerville;
 Lance Corporal W. R. Tait, Wheatley;
 Lance Sergeant R. C. Wellwood, Merlin;
 Private P. A. Vandenbosche, Wallaceburg;
 Private E. A. Thompson, 114 Robertson Ave.,
 Chatham.

But let us pause for a moment as we listen
 to Bob Claus singing one of the old favorites
 . . . Stephen Foster's ever-popular "Jeannie
 with the Light Brown Hair."

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—That was swell, Bob . . . But sup-
 pose you take over and announce the next
 few names . . . also the next musical num-
 ber . . . Go ahead . . .

CLAUS—Thanks, Frank . . . This is quite an hon-
 or . . . Here are more of our Kent County
 boys who are returning for overseas duty in
 the Pacific area:

(Pause).

ENGINEER—Come in with bugle call.

CLAUS—

Trooper N. L. Doan, R.R. 1, Ridgetown;
 Sapper G. M. Flint, 90 Barthe St., Chatham;
 Trooper V. Haskell, R.R. 3, Merlin;
 Trooper H. G. Julien, Wheatley;
 Lance Corporal E. A. Sovie, Wheatley;
 Trooper J. R. Wood, 137 Houston St., Chat-
 ham;
 Signalman V. H. Simpson, Dresden;
 Lieut. John K. Brown, 42 Emma St., Chat-
 ham;
 Craftsman L. A. Arnold, R.R. 1, Chatham;
 Sergt. W. R. Scott, Tilbury;
 Sergt. J. T. Tremblay, R.R. 4, Merlin;
 Trooper J. R. Bonyai, R.R. 3, Wheatley;
 Private L. G. Butler, Blenheim;
 Trooper K. G. Kibbley, Wheatley;
 Craftsman L. J. Hooper, Dresden;
 Trooper L. C. Laurie, 163 Wellington Street,
 Chatham;
 Trooper N. C. Maynard, 134 Elizabeth Street,
 Chatham;
 Private J. G. Pinder, Ridgetown;

Private J. L. Selby, 31 Princess, Chatham;
 Private S. J. Selis, 45 Richmond St., Chat-
 ham;
 Private J. E. Smith, R.R. 1, Wallaceburg;
 Private S. R. Smith, R.R. 2, Tilbury;
 Private A. G. Stoner, 27 Baxter Street, Chat-
 ham;

(Pause).

But more names later . . . By special request
 from a number of our listeners . . . Mrs.
 Bryce Kendrick, our pianist, is going to play
 the theme from Tchaikovsky's Concerto
 Number One, featured in "The Great Lie".

MRS. KENDRICK—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—And here are other men return-
 ing for special duties or discharge:
 (Pause).

ENGINEER—Come in with bugle call.

ANNOUNCER—

Private A. A. Thomson, Thamesville;
 Trooper E. Titus, 101 King Street, Chatham;
 Signalman A. F. Weaver, R.R. 1, Turner-
 ville;
 Sapper J. D. Willick, Bothwell;
 Sergt. M. D. Hartford, Ridgetown;
 Private J. E. Gillespie, R.R. 3, Merlin;
 Private I. J. Babcock, 177 Edgar Street, Chat-
 ham;
 Private H. R. Day, 36 Edgar St., Chatham;
 Private F. L. Demaeyer, Wallaceburg;
 Private J. E. Eves, R.R. 3, Blenheim;
 Acting Corporal E. J. Girrard, 125 Robertson
 Avenue, Chatham;
 Private J. D. Hamilton, Wallaceburg;
 Private L. G. Hill, 25 Kirk St., Chatham;
 Private J. Huff, R.R. 3, Thamesville;
 Private D. J. Lozon, 165 King St., Chatham;
 Private A. G. Mears, 199 Colborne Street,
 Chatham;
 Private J. F. Morrison, 84½ Sandys Street,
 Chatham;
 Private M. C. Munroe, 209 St. Clair Street,
 Chatham;
 Lance Corp. Norrie, 41 King Street West,
 Chatham;
 Private J. Raine, Ridgetown;
 Craftsman C. J. Robinson, Dresden;

Private W. Snake, Morpeth;
 Private B. F. Warner, 33 Scane Street, Chatham;
 Craftsman W. J. Anderson, Wallaceburg;
 Corp. F. S. Bowen, 177 Grand Avenue East, Chatham;
 Corp. W. A. Burke, 152 Wellington Street East, Chatham.

(Pause.)

Time now for another musical number . . . and we hear Evelyn Caron, Corine's sister, singing a lovely little ballet, "Love, Here is My Heart."

EVELYN CARON—Sings.

CLAUS—Bob Claus again, ladies and gentlemen, with more names of our boys arriving from overseas. (Pause)

ENGINEER—Come in with bugle call.

CLAUS—

Gunner L. E. Chesney, R.R. 1, Becher;
 Signalman W. J. Chivers, R.R. 1, Chatham;
 Trooper C. G. Cowell, R.R. 5, Thamesville;
 Sapper J. W. Doan, R.R. 4, Bothwell;
 Trooper W. J. Duquette, Tilbury;
 Private J. C. Huffman, Cedar Springs;
 Corporal T. G. Grover, Newbury;
 Private T. W. Kerlock, 60 Wood Street, Chatham;
 Signalman A. H. Baird, R.R. 6, Chatham;
 Corporal G. A. Miller, 188½ Park Street, Chatham;
 Guardsman D. A. O'Brien, Blenheim;
 Private E. G. Satchell, R.R. 2, Thamesville;
 Private R. C. Smith, Blenheim;
 Trooper G. F. Strasburg, R.R. 3, Merlin;
 And Nursing Sisters N. G. McDowell of Wardsville, and G. E. Simpson, Blenheim.

(Pause.)

Corine Caron is before the mike again and this time she will sing the enchanting and popular "An Hour Never Passes," by Kennedy.

CORINE—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—The following servicemen and members of the Air Force are also back:

Sapper D. A. Andrews, Ridgetown;
 Private A. McKenzie, Wallaceburg;

Private L. G. Phair, Dresden;
 Private R. E. Lammens, Turnerville;
 Private H. L. Clark, 31 Lansdowne Avenue, Chatham;
 Private H. J. Ellison, Chatham;
 Gunner R. J. Sparks, 87 Joseph Street, Chatham;
 Private R. J. Cornelius, Wallaceburg;
 Flying Officer John Dougherty, 29 Joseph Street, Chatham;
 Squadron Leader J. A. Narier and his wife Flying Officer Verral Marier to her home, 36 Edgar Street, Chatham.

And so we close our welcome home department for this week. We hope in the list we have just read, your boy's name was included . . . but more troops are arriving soon . . . 26,000 of them within the next two weeks . . . and we hope to have the privilege of welcoming him back. Let us know when he arrives, won't you.

A few years ago, Roy Guymer, Chatham violinist, was playing in some of the largest symphony orchestras in the United States. He returned to Canada to enter the Canadian Army but was later discharged for medical reasons. He is still acclaimed one of the best violinists in Ontario and tonight he is going to play for you and the boys, who are returning, Ethelbert Nevin's "Mighty Like a Rose", always a favorite with the servicemen.

GUYMER—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—Your Almanac program has a news column this week . . . Items of interest particularly at this time of the year. Take meat, for instance, which will be rationed again in the near future. No definite date has been fixed for rationing but Wartime Prices and Trade Board has announced a regulation which provides that coupons will be collected as meat is removed from cold storage lockers after the rationing is imposed . . . This is being done, they say, to eliminate the possibility of hoarding prior to the ration program.

Meanwhile . . . the production of food must go on . . . The suspension of call-up under National Selective Service regulations does NOT mean that men on postponement of military training may engage in any industry they might select. Farmers are still in urgent need of men to harvest such crops that may be ready . . . thin and block sugar beets, corn, also for haying . . . In view of the shortage of men, local employment officers have received instructions to direct back to the

AP

farm all those on postponement, until the farm labor situation is alleviated.

In Kent County and Southwestern Ontario, all fruits, except grapes and berries, received a set-back because of wet weather and low temperatures in the late spring. Raspberries and strawberries will be about the same as last year, while cherries, pears and plums are estimated to produce only a 50 per cent crop. Vegetables are about the same —tomatoes, peas and green beans will be less than 1944 in some areas and because corn planting was delayed to some extent, no immediate estimate of the crop is possible.

There was a slight increase in sugar beet acreage this year but the yield will not be large enough for the company's two factories to operate . . . which means that for the fourth successive year one factory will be idle.

Normally . . . the sugar beet crop is all thinned by the first week of July . . . but this year, due to adverse weather, sugar beet thinning is only now being completed. Second hoeing of the beets is just getting into

swing and will go on for some weeks. The new segmented seed was planted this year on about 12,000 acres and has proved to be a great help in thinning the crop. Notwithstanding the excessive rainfall this seed has stood up well, and is becoming more popular with sugar beet growers every year.

ANNOUNCER—So ends Chapter 24 of your Family Almanac . . . This has been an all-request program. If there is a particular number you would like to hear, let us know, and Bob, Corine, Evelyn or Roy will sing or play it for you on some future broadcast. We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday night when we will present "Children's Night," with some of our future artists taking part.

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you, through the courtesy of the **Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.**

Good night all.

This is CFCO.

SOME FUTURE BROADCASTS

- **PIONEERS OF KENT**
 - **CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT**
 - **KENT PERSONALITIES**
 - **TOWN OF THAMESVILLE**
 - **VILLAGE OF MERLIN**
 - **TOWN OF HIGHGATE**
- AND OTHERS**

Listen to...

KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC

EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.

OVER CFCO.

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

"Get acquainted with your County and Your Neighbor."

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER 25.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, Aug. 2nd, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting “Kent County Family Almanac.”

THEME—“Florentine.”
(In and fade back to announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our city and our people . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich-garden land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up—then fade back as announcer continues).

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter 25 in which your Almanac brings you a story of a Chatham girl who tells of meeting her father on his arrival from overseas . . . also the joy that came to that same soldier on meeting his mother whom he thought had died many years ago—The folks around Thamesville will be interested in our chapter tonight as we tell of its pioneers and its people of today . . . There is drama tonight friends . . . the kind that happens only once in a lifetime—listen to our story of four generations reunited.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Good evening, neighbors May we come in . . . Our story tonight is one that can happen only once in a lifetime. We haven't any particular name for it . . . we thought you, our listeners, might suggest some appropriate title. . . Bob Claus, our soloist, believes he has a suggestion and he is going to sing it for you now . . . but, after you have heard our story . . . maybe you can think of a title . . . Let us know, we'll name it on our next program.

CLAUS—Sings . . . “Memories of Mother.”

ANNOUNCER—And now for our story.

ANNOUNCER—Five years ago . . . Hiram Brown quit his job in Chatham and like many other men were doing in those days . . . enlisted in the Canadian Army.

As the train pulled away, carrying him and hundreds of other service men to an eastern port, Brown leaned from the window and waved goodbye to a tearful group of three standing on the station platform . . . his young wife, a chunky lad about ten years of age and a girl just 12.

A few weeks ago Hiram Brown returned to Chatham somewhat unexpectedly . . . Shortly after one o'clock on the night of May 24th a car stopped in front of a comfortable little home on Pine Street and, (Pause) . . . (Knock as if tapping on door).
Mrs. Brown answered:

MRS. BROWN—“Who is it?”

VOICE—“It's the Chatham police, Mrs. Brown, if you would like to meet your husband, we will drive you to the railway station, he is coming in on the next train.”

ANNOUNCER—Her husband was coming home . . . after five long years . . . Too excited to even reply, Mrs. Brown called to her son:

MRS. BROWN—“George, George, Dad is coming home, Hurry.”

ANNOUNCER—At the railway station a group of returned men stepped off the train and hurried into the arms of their families and friends . . . Almost overcome with joy, Brown embraced his wife and then gazed about as though looking for someone

VOICE—“Hi, Pop, don't you know me?”

ANNOUNCER—And Brown found himself confronted by a fine looking young man . . . taller than himself . . . his son.

But Kathleen Brown, the daughter he thought still a child, was not at the station to meet her Dad. She is here in the studio

tonight and we are going to ask her to tell the rest of the story:

"Just where were you, when your Dad came home that night, Kathleen?"

KATHLEEN—"We rather expected Pop would be coming home soon but didn't know the exact date. I had gone to Detroit to see my uncle and grandmother and that is where his second surprise came in."

ANNOUNCER—"Surprise? Just what do you mean by that?"

KATHLEEN—"Well, you see for 33 years Dad was under the impression all his folks had passed away. . . . When he was four years old, Dad went to live with relatives and the families became separated. He never found any trace of them. A few weeks before Dad came back, a man who turned out to be his brother, and my uncle, made enquiries and the police located us in Chatham. Naturally, I wanted to see my new relatives so I went down to Windsor and Detroit, that is where Dad found me."

ANNOUNCER—"Did you know him when he walked in on you down there? What did you say?"

KATHLEEN—"Did I know him? We couldn't say anything. I cried—everybody cried and I think Pop had a tear in his eye too."

ANNOUNCER—"And then he met his mother and brother. Is that right? Do you mind telling us their names?"

KATHLEEN—"My uncle in Windsor is Charles Brown and grandmother, who married a second time, is Mrs. Burtkey. She lives on Inkster Avenue, in Detroit."

ANNOUNCER—"Well . . . That WAS an occasion for a celebration. It sounds almost like a fairy tale. Is this gentleman here your father?"

KATHLEEN—"That's Pop. Mother is here too."

ANNOUNCER—"Welcome to you both, Mr. and Mrs. Brown. This must have been quite a thrill?"

BROWN—"It certainly was . . . but Kit hasn't told all . . . After I met my mother, I also located my grandfather whom I hadn't seen since I was a kid. He is 85 years old and works every day for the Red Cross in Windsor."

ANNOUNCER—"Let's get this straight. You found a grown-up family, located your mother and grandfather. That's four generations re-united . . . Am I right?"

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BROWN—"Right . . . And I still can't realize it's all true. Seems like a big dream."

ANNOUNCER—"I'm sure it must . . . But tell us something about yourself. In what unit did you enlist?"

BROWN—"The Ordnance Corps. We later became the Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers. I got into France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, and here I am."

ANNOUNCER—"And glad to be settled back into civilian life. Having any trouble doing that?"

BROWN—"Not at all. Within a week after meeting everybody I went into partnership in a service station and lunch-room business out on Queen Street."

ANNOUNCER—"You must have been born under a lucky star. All this, could happen only once in a life-time to one person. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, and Kathleen, you have given us a wonderful story."

Two little girls dropped into our studio tonight to hear our program . . . One is 13-year-old Norine O'Brien of 85 Cross Street, Chatham. Just before our broadcast Norine sang a little number and we asked her to repeat it. . . . Here she is with an Irish lullaby . . . "Tour-ra-lour-ly," . . . rather appropriate for this portion of our program. Go ahead, Norine.

NORINE—Sings.

ANNOUNCER (Claus)—Yes, friends, it's been home and mother . . . the two solid facts our boys have clung to through those awful months of war . . . To thousands of Canadian service men, "home" is the most moving word in our language . . . It means more than a house, or, clean sheets on a bed . . . or . . . good cooking. It's all tied up with love and laughter and tenderness . . . with little family jokes . . . with comfort after sorrow . . . with just about everything that makes life worth living . . . The day of their final homecoming is drawing nearer . . . we have welcomed many of our boys . . . we hope to welcome more and, to those who returned this week may we say, "A hearty welcome back." The following officers and men arrived this week at Quebec City on board the troopship Stratheden and by now will be at most of their homes:

Flying Officers Buchan and Gosnell, of Merlin . . . Flying Officer H. C. Milton and Sergt. A. J. Hughson, of Thamesville . . . LAC. A. L. Rice, of Fletcher . . . Sergt. Rainer and LAC. Stratton, of Wallaceburg . . . also . . . the following from Chatham . . . Sergt. W. G. Abraham . . . LAC. Brennan . . . LAC. Stover, of R.R. 1 . . . Sergt. W. Russell . . . Flight-

Lieut. R. Swainston . . . Sergt.-Major C F. Sadin and Private A J. Sellers.

And now . . . our guest soloist . . . 14-year-old Jackie Taylor sings a popular number . . . Chauncey Olcott's well-known lyric "My Wild Irish Rose." He will be accompanied by Mrs. Bryce Kendrick, our pianist for all our musical numbers.

TAYLOR—Sings.

ENGINEER—(Come in with locomotive and train whistle then fade behind announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Back in the 1850's . . . a long snake-like line of steel—The Great Western Railway—was making its way down through Kent County . . . By 1854, it had reached the village of Thamesville, known in earlier days as Tecumseh . . . and close to what had been the Cornwall settlement.

ENGINEER—(Fade out locomotive sound effect and come in with crowd cheers for three seconds).

ANNOUNCER—Inspired by the influence that followed the construction of the railway . . . citizens of the village decided to do something that would build up their little community. As the demand for land for commercial and residential purposes grew, David Sherman, a descendant of one of the first pioneers, surveyed a portion of his farm into village lots . . . and in a short time stores, hotels and other industries began to appear.

VOICE—Robert Adair manufactured boots and shoes in those days . . . John Madden operated a cabinet factory . . . John Bedford, John Crotty and James Duncan were general merchants. There were three hotels . . . the Mayhew Hotel run by William Mayhew . . . The Lawrence House by Fred Lawrence and the Western Hotel by William Watts.

ANNOUNCER—James Ferguson and Sons operated a saw-mill . . . H. P. Hoap, a wagon and carriage works . . . David Sherman, a flour and grist mill and a man by the name of Kendrick had a tannery.

VOICE—In addition to a school-house . . . there were two churches at that time . . . the Roman Catholic and the Episcopal Methodist . . . while the Presbyterians, the Wesleyan Methodist and the congregationalists met in the Episcopal Church.

ANNOUNCER—By 1870 . . . the community had grown to such an extent that the village was incorporated as an independent municipality . . . Robert Ferguson was elected the first reeve and Dr. George Tye, Geo. F. Spackman, Lem Sherman and F. J. Mayhew were named councillors. William Kinley, a barrister, was appointed clerk. But we have visitors from Thamesville in our studio tonight . . . Clare Skinner, the

present reeve and Angus Graham, the village clerk who has been a resident for 45 years. We are going to ask Mr. Graham if he has any information as to who settled first in the district. How about it, Mr. Graham?

MR. GRAHAM—As far as we know, Lemuel Sherman was the first pioneer. He is believed to have come to these parts about 1792 and then went back to Connecticut where he married Lydia Camp. Upon his return he took up land in 1805 on what is now the major part of the village. David Sherman, whom you just mentioned, was his son and Lemuel and Bill Sherman were sons of David. They became influential men in the district in later years.

ANNOUNCER—And then, I suppose, other settlers followed?

MR. GRAHAM—Oh, yes . . . There were the Cornwalls, the Jackmans, the Wallaces, the Shaws, Sandfords, Hubbells, the Fergusons, Watts, Mayhews and Duncans . . . Robert Ferguson, who was the first reeve, became a member of the provincial legislature and was still a member when he died in 1901 . . . History records that Nathan Cornwall kept a store and was the first postmaster when the village was known as Tecumseh. Later, when the post office was moved nearer to the river, he changed the name to Thamesville.

ANNOUNCER—Like all other settlements before highways and railroads were built, stage coaches were the only means of travel. I presume conditions like that existed in those days.

MR. GRAHAM—Well, that was before my time, of course, but someone has said that after the Longwoods road was built (now part of our present highway) a man by the name of Taylor had the contract for carrying mail by coach from London to Windsor . . . When the stage reached Thamesville it was changed at an old log schoolhouse on the Cornwall settlement. That spot became later the Harmer farm. Then Edward Watts came into the district. He was so impressed with the land, he obtained a farm and built a stage-house or hotel and carried mail from Thamesville to Wardsville. It was a common sight to see wolves come out of the bush, trail the coach for some miles and then disappear into the woods again. As long as the coach kept moving, the wolves never bothered and nobody was ever molested. History is repeating itself. This year wolves have also been seen in the Thamesville area.

ANNOUNCER—Well, Mr. Graham, the farms around Thamesville are looking swell these days. What are the principle crops in the district?

MR. GRAHAM—The country is really rich in fruit, grain, corn, sugar beets and dairy products. In other words, our farmers are "Monarchs of all they survey."

ANNOUNCER—One couldn't wish for more to make a prosperous community but I see Mr. Skinner, the reeve, is in our midst. The other day, your Almanac writer visited Thamesville and was impressed with your town hall. Is that a new building?

MR. SKINNER—We are very proud of our municipal building, but it isn't new, the last one was burned some years ago . . . and with it went one of the best toned bells one would want to hear. Some of the people say they will never forget the last clang of the old bell as it fell into the ruins. It was like a death toll.

ANNOUNCER—You have a nice ball park up there too.

MR. SKINNER—One of the best for a town of its size in the country. The land was donated for such purposes some years ago by the Ferguson Estate and is a wonderful picnic grounds as well. It took some years to get it into its present condition and it really is an asset to our town.

ANNOUNCER—By the way . . . who are your councillors up there this year?

MR. SKINNER—John Doherty, W. D. Houston, J. E. Martin and W. A. Perritt are members of our council and my friend Angus here has been clerk for thirteen years. But there is another thing we ought to mention . . . Thamesville, you know, is the only place in Canada where steel wool is manufactured. We are proud of that up there.

ANNOUNCER—And I think you should be. Thanks Reeve Skinner and Clerk Angus Graham for being with us tonight. There are a number of other interesting subjects around Thamesville we hope to broadcast soon . . . For instance, Tecumseh's last battle . . . which will be our program next week. Thanks again and good night.

ANNOUNCER—And here is Bob Claus to sing our closing number "Did You Happen to Find a Heart." It's an old favorite that you may have heard before.

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Marlyn Stokes, who is 10, is the other little girl we mentioned a few moments ago. Marlyn sang before on our Almanac program and . . . what's the name of that piece, Marlyn?

MARLYN—"I Can't forget you."

ANNOUNCER—Well, that's rather flattering, but go ahead.

MARLYN—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—And so ends Chapter 25 . . . Your Family Almanac leaves the air at this time to return again next Thursday with the story of Tecumseh.

Henry Ward Beecher once said . . . "A MOTHER IS A DISTINCT AND INDIVIDUAL CREATION." That . . . is your thought for the day.

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg. Good night all . . . This is CFCO.

Listen to...

**KENT COUNTY
FAMILY ALMANAC**

**EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.
OVER CFCO.
CHATHAM, ONTARIO**

*"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."*

**SOME
FUTURE BROADCASTS**

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
 - CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
 - KENT PERSONALITIES.
 - VILLAGE OF MERLIN
 - TOWN OF HIGHGATE
- AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER 26

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, Aug. 9th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Presenting "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine"
(In and fade back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people. . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up then fade back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—Tonight we are at the half-way mark in the first year of your Family Almanac . . . Yes . . . it's Chapter 26, neighbors . . . in which we bring you the dramatic story of Fairfield—the lost village . . . also a thrilling episode of the Battle of the Thames in 1812 . . . The pastor of the mission at Moraviantown will speak and you will hear music and songs by five residents of the Moravian-town Reserve . . . It's a story packed with thrills, folks, so don't miss a single word.

THEME—(Up to end.)

VOICE—The story of Fairfield and the Battle of the Thames.

ENGINEER—Come in with "Onward Christian Soldiers"—medium at first then fade softly.

ANNOUNCER—Two hundred and twenty-eight years before the tragedy of Munich and Neville Chamberlain's unsuccessful attempt to stamp out the sparks of war smoldering in Czechoslovakia, a small group of people, who also hated war, left the ancient province of Moravia, which is now part of that ill-fated land.

They travelled on a religious mission to America, bringing with them a message of peace and brotherly love into the wilderness of a new world.

While Canada has given little recognition in the past to the efforts of these earnest pioneers, the long trek of the Moravians is of

particular interest to Southwestern Ontario and particularly Kent County. Actually, 70 years after the beginning of the pilgrimage an entire colony of these people pushed up the Thames River, then known as la Trenche, and finally established a village, 21 miles east of Thamesville. They named it Schoenfeld . . . which in English means Fairfield.

VOICE—This then might be called the story of Fairfield and of those brave men, who left their stamp indelibly on life in the Thames valley and gave name to the present Indian settlement of Moraviantown. So little known is the history of this Czechoslovakian settlement that few persons associate the name of the Indian community in Kent County with the land of the Czechs.

Of the thousands of motorists who today speed along No. 2 Highway, between Bothwell and Thamesville, few know that near a deep ravine on the banks of the Thames, beneath the plowed fields and pastures, lie the ashes of a once flourishing village, where travellers long before them, received food and shelter on their tedious journey from Muddy York, now Toronto, to Detroit. Among them was the Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, who twice enjoyed Fairfield hospitality.

ANNOUNCER—Fairfield . . . or as it soon came to be called, Moraviantown, prospered. By 1813, it was a thriving village with a church, school, stores, shops and houses. It also became a religious centre where missionaries from the old land preached to the Delawares who sought peace from the troubled land further to the south.

We are fortunate in having with us tonight, Mr. F. J. Dobson, present missionary-teacher at Moraviantown. We are going to ask Mr. Dobson to tell us about the origin of the Moravian Mission where the red man and his white brothers worshipped together over 150 years ago.

MR. DOBSON—Thank you, ladies and gentlemen . . . When I was invited to take part in this program tonight, I thought it would be appropriate to bring with me some of my people. Before I begin the story your announcer has asked me to tell, may I introduce

five members of my congregation whom I have asked to sing for you. Here are Mrs. Russell Jacobs and Munro Pheasant who will sing for you one of our hymns, "The Old Dundee" in their native tongue.

MRS. JACOBS AND PHEASANT—Sing.

MR. DOBSON—You have just heard Munro Pheasant and Mrs. Jacobs singing in their native language. Pearl Jacobs, Mrs. Rita Huff and Gladys Noah are also here and you will hear from them later. But let me proceed.

It was in 1792 that David Zeisberger, one of the Moravian missionaries led his flock along what is now the Thames River and finally selected a site on its northern bank. It was here that Zeisberger built the first Protestant Church in Western Ontario and his three missionaries Sensenien, Jung and Edward administered to their people and the Indians of the community.

A few months later, approximately 40 homes and stores were built of logs, clay and stone on a street parallel to the river. Next to the church, Zeisberger built his house, while directly across the little street were the homes of the other missionaries. Eventually, the Moravians owned a tract of land six and three quarters miles wide along the river bank.

Life in the village for the most part ran smoothly. Then the even tenor of the days was broken more and more frequently as travel along the Longwoods trail, now Number 2 Highway, became heavier and visitors sought shelter during their travels west and south.

Zeisberger and Edward later returned to Ohio to establish another colony; then Sensemen died and Jung was joined by another missionary, John Achnall. In 1800, Christian Denke and his wife arrived and attempted to found a mission among the Chippewas on the Sydenham River. Failure drove them out and they returned to help with the work at Fairfield. But the golden age of the little community was nearing an end . . . The nemesis which had continuously followed the peace-loving Moravians was rapidly overtaking them. In July, 1812, the villagers were thrown into furore when news came that the United States and Britain were at war.

ANNOUNCER—Yes, and that brings us to another part of our story, Mr. Dobson. We will hear more of the Moravian mission but before we take up that portion of our story, I believe two of our guests, Miss Jacobs, Mrs. Rita Huff are ready to sing. Before the broadcast, we were told Miss Jacobs was attending at Highgate. They sing for us now

in English, the hymn "Have Thine Own Way."

MISS JACOBS AND MRS. HUFF—Sing.

ANNOUNCER—Miss Jacobs and Mrs. Huff were accompanied at the piano by Gladys Noah, recently discharged after 29 months' service in the Canadian Army Auxiliary Corps.

ANNOUNCER—Perhaps no person was better informed on the Battle of the Thames and the death of the great Chieftain, Tecumseh, than Thaddeus S. Arnold, grandfather of S. B. Arnold, Chatham barrister. For it was at the home of Captain Chris Arnold, grandfather of Thaddeus, that Tecumseh spent the night in consultation and ate his last meal before proceeding to lead his warriors against the invading Americans.

ENGINEER—Come in with Indian war drums, (and fade softly).

ANNOUNCER—Indian war drums were sounding through the woods on both sides of the River Thames on the night of October 4, 1812. They had been thumping for days before . . . but that night they were soft, slow and monotonous—like the beating of a heart that wants to live.

For days, the British under General Proctor and Tecumseh with his 600 Indians, had been retreating before the invader General Harrison, and the mounted Kentuckians, under Colonel Johnston. Malden and Fort Detroit had been left in flames and Proctor's army was becoming badly disorganized.

ENGINEER—Cut Indian war drums.

ANNOUNCER—A few days previous, on October 1, Tecumseh, who had given great assistance to Proctor in bringing about the surrender of Hull, urged the British general to make a stand at what is now Tecumseh Park in the heart of Chatham. Proctor at first agreed but with no enemy in sight made a hasty retreat along the Thames. Bitterly disappointed, Tecumseh and his men held the bridge at Chatham, till Harrison's guns drove them out and then hurried to join the retreating British army.

ENGINEER—Come in with Yankee Doodle drums and fade softly.

ANNOUNCER—Meanwhile, the Americans continued to advance. They burned McGregor's grist mill and above Arnold's Mills they captured two small gunboats with most of the British ammunition and supplies. By this time, the British had reached a spot two miles west of Moraviantown. It was here that Tecumseh insisted on a second stand and again Proctor agreed.

ENGINEER—Fade out Yankee Doodle sound effects.

ANNOUNCER—The day before the battle, about four o'clock in the afternoon, the family of a man named Fleming who lived nearby, were warned that the Americans were approaching and they had better make flight. Fleming put his wife and children into a canoe and let it drift down the river. In the gathering darkness, on coming near the mouth of Arnold's creek, he saw the American camp fires and kept close to the banks. Suddenly . . .

ENGINEER—Come in with sound effect of baby crying for five seconds then fade suddenly.

ANNOUNCER—The Fleming baby began to cry but Mrs. Fleming gagged it with her apron and they passed safely by the enemy and landed near Louisville. The baby later became County Treasurer Fleming of Kent County.

VOICE—Further up the road, the British and Canadians formed two lines of defence . . . Colonel Warburton in the van and Proctor with his staff behind the second line. Intermingled in the lines were Tecumseh's 600 braves . . . Meanwhile, the chieftain had been watching at Arnold's Mill for the fast approaching Americans, and when he sighted them sped on his great white horse to give the alarm.

ANNOUNCER—Then suddenly the enemy's bugle sounded. (Pause).

ENGINEER—Come in with bugle charge.

ANNOUNCER—The men from Kentucky swept down upon the red line. The British emptied many saddles but the cavalry rallied and the defenders, unable to reload, fell back. The second line fired a volley then the British ranks broke and fled. Proctor, himself already in flight, made no attempt to rally them.

VOICE—Tecumseh and his men fought stoutly. Seeking to distract the enemy, the Chief showed himself along the road and the Americans set off in pursuit. A stray bullet wounded Tecumseh in the thigh and he fell to the ground . . . another mortally wounded him in the chest.

ANNOUNCER—An American officer, much in advance of his men, saw Tecumseh on the ground and rushed forward for the kill but Tecumseh, raising himself on his elbow, hurled his tomahawk which struck the American between the eyes. Gradually, the defenders yielded and the Indians, bearing the body of their chief, sought shelter in the woods.

VOICE—Today . . . no one knows where the body of the famous Chief is buried. For days the tradition lingered that Tecumseh would return to again lead his people but the Chieftain vanished from sight amid a haze of mystery. General Harrison must have been

doubtful for in his despatches to Washington he never mentioned Tecumseh's death. Today . . . on the battlefield where he fell, citizens of Thamesville (once Tecumseh) have raised a simple monument but few of our present generation realize its significance.

ANNOUNCER—It was after the battle we have just narrated that the victorious Americans swept into the village of Fairfield, only a few miles away, where they applied the torch to the entire settlement . . . From their hiding places in the woods, the people of the community saw their homes destroyed and the result of years of labor wiped out. Discouraged, the fugitives fled east to the shores of Lake Ontario where they lived for two years and then returned to their ruined village. For a brief period they lived in improvised huts and then moved across the river and founded a new Fairfield.

We are going to ask Mr. Dobson to tell of the building of the second church and community but first let us pause for a few moments while we hear Miss Jacobs and Mrs. Huff again as they sing.

MISS JACOBS AND MRS. HUFF—Sing.

ANNOUNCER—and now, Mr. Dobson.

MR. DOBSON—After the destruction of Fairfield, the Moravians and their Indian charges scattered. When peace was signed in 1815, the missionaries returned to the site of their old village but the charred remains of what had been a thriving village depressed them so that they did not rebuild. Instead, they crossed to the south side of the river where they found a still more attractive location to build. They called it New Fairfield. Here amidst a lovely setting of ancient trees, within sight of their former homes, the Moravians and their Indian followers built a new church, mission house and school. For nearly a century this church and mission house continued to be the religious centre for the valley people but as the Thames basin became more thickly populated, . . . neighboring communities built their own churches and the Fairfield church gradually fell into disuse and neglected. In 1903, . . . the mission was merged with that of the Methodist church whose workers had been invited to the reserve 40 years earlier. It is now under supervision of the Canadian Government and the United church. Today. . . . the picturesque old buildings stand alone amidst gnarled old fruit trees. They are the only traces of what was once the busy and prosperous community of Fairfield.

Once a year, however, services are held in the old church. This year . . . the buildings are being painted and redecorated and in September we plan to observe the 153rd anniversary of the building of the first protestant church in Canada. All are invited

to be with us in Sept. to commemorate the memory of those men who labored so faithfully in that vineyard of God's work of other days.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you very much Mr. Dobson . . . Friends, we would like to say a word in respect to Mr. Dobson. He came to Chatham to take part in our program tonight under a great handicap. A few weeks ago he had the misfortune to fall from a ladder and injure the heel of his left foot and it is with great difficulty he is able to get around. Your Almanac writer did not realize the seriousness of his injury when he invited him to take part tonight . . . but like the faithful servant he is, Mr. Dobson was anxious to come particularly when he was told of the nature of this program.

Also to those who came with him tonight, may we say a hearty thank you.

And now, Mrs. Jacobs and Munro Pheasant are going to sing again in their native tongue, the hymn "Rockingham".

MRS. JACOBS AND PHEASANT—Sing.

ANNOUNCER—It's time now to welcome back to Kent County those boys who have . . . or are returning this week. Yes, folks, they are gradually coming home. One day soon the sun will shine fiercely and triumphantly and its heat will warm a world chilled by long months of war. One day . . . a blessed silence will descend upon the battlefields of the earth, and men who were boys a short time ago, will drop their guns and turn eager eyes toward the future which they so well deserve—a future in which war will be only a horrible memory . . . a nightmare that has come and gone. On that day there will be singing in the hearts of millions and there will be joy in the land. So it's Welcome Home to:

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Private R. D. Guyett of Wheatley; S. F. Cook, West Lorne; E. R. Couture, Tilbury; Sergt. C. F. McClellan, Morpeth; W. L. Jewell, Turnerville; . . . From Dresden . . . Sergt T. W. Carscallen; And from Chatham . . . W. D. Martin, 195 Adelaide Street; J. K. Lachine, R.R. 7; R. T. Haley, 27 Campbell Avenue; A. A. Dehoey, 42½ Raleigh Street; and Capt. Henry Peco, 262½ Victoria Avenue.

Also a welcome to the following members of the R.C.A.F., who arrived earlier: Flight-Lieut. R. M. Lanover and LAC. E. C. Bowyer, of Northwood; Warrant Officer T. K. Lumley, Charing Cross; LAC. D. F. Simpson, Glencoe; Flight-Lieut. G. R. Robinson, Wheatley; Flight-Lieut. N. L. Lancaster, Wardsville; and the following from Chatham: Flight-Lieut. J. R. Barr, 68 Inshes Avenue; Pilot Officer S. T. Emans, 202 St. George Street; Flight-Lieut. M. W. Brown, 241 Grand Avenue East; Warrant Officer G. C. Milley, 61 Edgar Street; and Pilot Officer H. Crosbie, 349 Queen Street.

And now by way of variation, Miss Noah is going to play one of the old favorites "The Indian Love Call."

MISS NOAH—Plays.

ENGINEER—Come in with closing theme.

ANNOUNCER—And thus we bring Chapter 26 to a close. Your Almanac leaves the air to return again next Thursday evening at 9 p.m. Here is your thought for the day . . . "THE WAY TO PRESERVE THE PEACE OF THE CHURCH IS TO PRESERVE THE PURITY OF IT."

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Good night all.

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- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- VILLAGE OF MERLIN
- TOWN OF HIGHGATE
AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

CHAPTER 27.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, August 16th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Canada and Dominion Sugar Co. presents "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine."
(In and fade back to announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with vivid pictures of our towns, our city and our people . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich-garden land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up—then fade back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter 27 in which your Family Almanac brings you a brief picture of the joy that came to Kent County when the long awaited news flashed around the world Tuesday night. You will hear a recording of the celebration that followed—the cheers, the bands and the fireworks. Listen also to our story of "Chatham and the River Thames, 100 years ago" and a prominent guest who will speak at the conclusion of our program. It's a thrilling and interesting half hour.

THEME—(Up to end).

ENGINEER—Immediately after opening come in with record "O Canada." (one verse).

VOICE B.C.—Within a few minutes after the news that Japan had surrendered, reached the city Tuesday night, the citizens went wild with joy. We had a recording made of the celebration and for the benefit of those who did not venture downtown and our friends out in the county, we want you to hear how Chatham celebrated.

ENGINEER—Come in with recording of V-J street noises. Run for three minutes and then fade out as announcer commences to talk.

ANNOUNCER—The war is over.

ENGINEER—Come in with Warsaw Concerto and fade behind announcer.

These simple words, so long the anguished hope of countless millions round the world, speak the relief and profound thanksgiving which overflows the human heart. The six years of darkness, which overshadowed the universe, has come to an end, and the lights are shining again all over the world.

It has been our custom on these broadcasts to welcome back to Kent County our fighting sons and daughters, those who arrived back from overseas during the week of our program . . . The list of arrivals this week is too long so to them we will just say "Welcome Home"—but these simple words go out from a grateful and sincere people.

It is to those who have made the supreme sacrifice and to the homes impoverished by their loss that we owe homage. We are as proud as any nation could be of their valor and devotion to the cause now won. But pride and the words which pride commands cannot express the gratitude they have earned.

This is a time for rejoicing. The greatest threat against free institutions and democratic government in the history of the world has been completely overwhelmed. It is a triumph for all things which the English speaking people have fought and stood for over the centuries.

ENGINEER—Come in without introduction—with "There'll Always be an England."

ANNOUNCER—A tribute to our cousins and allies across the border . . . Irvin Berlin's patriotic and stirring "God Bless America."

ENGINEER—Come in with record—"God Bless America."

ANNOUNCER—Chatham and the River Thames—100 years ago.

ENGINEER—Come in with recording "Faith of Our Fathers" for 20 seconds then fade out as announcer commences.

ANNOUNCER—Peace reigned over the Thames Valley early in the 1840's. After the war of 1812, a treaty had been signed between Britain and the United States and everywhere throughout Kent County thriving communities began to appear. On the south bank of the river a settlement was established which later became the site of our now prosperous city—Chatham.

William Chrysler . . . was perhaps the first permanent settler. In 1820 . . . he built a log house on the spot which later became the site of Dr. T. K. Holmes' residence . . . Old St. Paul's English church was erected the same year. In 1831 . . . the first public school was built on the site of the present Central School and by 1833 the population had grown to be 300. By 1842 . . . Chatham attained the dignity of a village and this is where our story commences tonight.

VOICE B.C.—It was in June, 104 years ago, that Charles Dolsen and Wm. Fulford brought to the village their printing presses and equipment . . . and, on Saturday, July 3, 1841, they issued the first newspaper to be published in the community. They called their paper . . . the Chatham Weekly Journal and set the subscription rate at 15 shillings per annum, postage included,—approximately \$3.75 in our money today.

ANNOUNCER—On a recent broadcast . . . we told of locating a file of these newspapers in the office of Sheriff Arthur Poulter at Harrison Hall and it is from these musty old papers, yellow with age, that we are able to bring you this chapter of your Family Almanac. In their first edition, Messrs. Dolsen and Fulford relate the progress of the community up to that time. They proudly acclaim that the village contained 812 inhabitants in addition to a military garrison of two companies . . . There were seven stores, a brewery, a distillery, a blacksmith shop and other small establishments . . . and adjoining the village there was a large grist mill—D. Forsyth and James Read dealt in dry goods, groceries and hardware.

VOICE B.C.—A. Currie and D. Frazer ran tailor shops.

ANNOUNCER—And apparently there were three hotels . . . The British Hotel ran by S. T. Probett . . . The Commercial by J. Taylor and the British North American operated by Charles Dauphin.

VOICE B.C.—L. Taylor was the village barber. He advertised in the Journal . . . "terms for shaving, haircutting and boot blacking are 12 shillings every three months and ladies' fancy curls and old ones are done over in the latest fashion." Remember folks, we are

reading from the Journal of those days. Taylor evidently dealt in music too, for during the long summer evenings could be heard the barber shop quartette.

ENGINEER—Come in with recording "Sweet Adeline". Run for 45 seconds and fade out.

ANNOUNCER—Business in the village increased. Mrs. A. D. Roberts announced that she was opening a millinery store . . . William Smith started a harness shop and Henry Verrall opened a butcher shop at King and Market Streets.

ANNOUNCER—Real estate also began to boom about that time. John G. Weir advertised "cheap for cash" . . . four hundred acres of wild land on McGregor's Creek in the Township of Harwich. A farm, comprising 100 acres of land with a log house and barn in Dover Township, was put up for sale and a two-storey house and lot on King Street in Chatham, was advertised for rent . . . But don't rush out for that one, folks, you're just a 100 years too late.

VOICE B.C.—In November, 1842, a serious fire threatened the village. One afternoon flames were discovered eating through the walls of the British Hotel . . . The Weekly Journal, in reporting the fire says, we quote from its columns . . . "the hook and ladder company—or more properly speaking—what remains of it . . . were on the job and gave every assistance in extinguishing the flames." The fire and lack of equipment must have roused the citizens . . . for . . . in the same edition, a fireman asks . . . "What has become of the officers of the Chatham hook and ladder company? . . . Where are the keys to the hook and ladder house? . . . And . . . where are the ropes, ladders and other equipment that were removed from the hall?"

ANNOUNCER—In answer to "Fireman's" questions, the editors of the Journal confess they knew nothing whatever of the subject, but they presume that . . . as the members and material for which the writer inquires, belong to a fire department, it would be natural to assume they had gone to "blazes." Which leaves us to believe that the editors in those days were both humorous and earnest in their endeavor to give the public their editorial opinions.

But Chatham was not out of the path of many prominent visitors 100 years ago. On June 23, Lord Morpeth arrived in the village rather unexpectedly . . . and the next night at the Hotel Royal Exchange, a gala party and dance was held in his honor.

ENGINEER—Come in with record . . . "Minute" for one minute loud and then gradually fade for 30 seconds.

VOICE B.C.—Navigation up and down the River Thames in those days was a paying business. Editor Dolsen in his Journal says the river was 15 to 20 feet deep and schooners of 140 tons burden were able to come up the river and load and unload their merchandise. Several steamboats of from 25 to 45 horsepower and schooners—such as “The Kent” (97 tons) and “The Ottawa” (87) tons were built at the Chatham shipyards. (pause).

ENGINEER—Come in with steamboat whistles.

ANNOUNCER—Two steamboats . . . The Brothers and the Western . . . left Chatham alternately each day for Windsor and Detroit carrying passengers and cargo to and from the Kent County capital. The Western was burned at Detroit on one of its downward trips in 1842 and the Journal does not say whether another ship replaced it. The only other means of travel in and out of Chatham in those days was the stage to Hamilton . . . a trip of 160 miles at a rate of two pence half penny a mile . . . five cents today in our money.

Meanwhile . . . business men and others were taking every advantage of the Thames as a waterway to the outside world . . . Here is what the Weekly Journal said on May 7, 1842 . . .

VOICE B.C.—“A large number of schooners are today lying at our wharves and along the banks of the river, taking on staves, wheat, and other produce for the Montreal market. It is a cheering sight to see the waters of our placid stream studded with masts bearing the colors of Old England at their tops. Several vessels have left but every day brings new arrivals . . . it augurs well for the rising importance of our village to see the number of ships required to carry away our surplus produce and it is gratifying to see them increase nearly two-fold annually.”

ENGINEER—Come in for 20 seconds with record “Faith of Our Fathers.”

ANNOUNCER—Yes, friends, our forefathers had faith in our country and our homes long ago. They had visions and hopes which for a while were realized, as you have just heard. Here is what they said of Chatham, in May, 1843:

VOICE B.C.—“From every point, the location of Chatham has a decided advantage, either in conveyance by land or water. In years to come this land of ours will become a fertile country, probably the granary of Upper Canada.

ANNOUNCER—And it has become a prosperous country—the garden-land of Ontario—and al-

though the schooners with their towering masts have disappeared . . . and the boat whistles that once echoed over the valley, are silent—Chatham has prospered in its own way and the sons of our pioneers are carrying on in a land that cannot be equalled anywhere in the world.

ANNOUNCER—Here is Mayor Ralph Steele, who has a word to say on the present day Chatham.

MAYOR STEELE—Those who founded Chatham and who participated in its early life and development would have great difficulty in recognizing their village to-day, if they were able to re-visit it. The industries, the mercantile establishments and the citizens of those days have all disappeared. To-day instead of a thriving village we have a prosperous and modern city, a city which provides a good standard of living for its citizens and is highly attractive to visitors from outside.

The history of Chatham has been one of steady progress. There has been nothing spectacular in our growth, but, on the other hand, setbacks have been few and relatively unimportant. Those who have contributed to our City's growth and have guided its destinies in past years have built well and on solid ground. All our advances have been made through the effort and initiative of our own citizens.

And here, perhaps, is the one characteristic of our City which has not changed in the past century. Buildings and enterprises have disappeared and been replaced. Citizens have answered the call which comes to everyone once, and have been succeeded by others. But during all these years the spirit of our citizens has remained the same. Those who had faith in a thriving village a century ago have their successors to-day in those who see a great future for our City. The faith of the pioneers has been justified. The location of their village and the wealth of the surrounding agricultural area have been used to bring about continuous growth and development. They will continue to be used for the same purpose in the future because our greatest asset, the spirit of our citizens, has not changed.

Now that World War II is over greater opportunities than ever before present themselves. We know that our ideals and our standards have been preserved. We know that along with all other communities in this Dominion we shall have opportunities to secure new comforts of life, new industrial and economic developments and new citizens. We know that our best citizens, those in the armed forces, will soon be back with us. Such circumstances present a challenge—a challenge which we are prepared to meet.

Long before now Chatham laid its plans to share in the expected post-war development in order that our citizens might be in the forefront in our national growth. We have made strenuous efforts to encourage those industries which we already have and to obtain new ones, and already those efforts are bringing results. As time goes on our efforts will be increased. We have laid plans for the growth of our City along orderly lines so that we may not suffer in future from lack of planning, and these plans will be elaborated from time to time as opportunity permits. We are confident of a great future in store for us.

Whatever may lie ahead is not now disclosed to us. We know from what we have, however, that an active, enthusiastic and public-spirited citizenry is our greatest asset. We know that that asset will mean much to us in the future. The faith of our pioneer forbears still continues in our city. Now that peace has returned we can devote our efforts whole-heartedly to civic improvement and development. The public spirit and the cooperation of our citizens must inevitably bring us an ever-growing and an ever-improving community.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Mayor Steele of Chatham.

ANNOUNCER—Bob Claus has revised a patriotic number well known in the United States . . . Here he is to sing you his version of "Your Land and Mine."

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Ladies and Gentlemen—Our National Anthem.

ENGINEER—Come in with "God Save Our King" (One verse).

ANNOUNCER—And so we close Chapter 27 of your Kent County Family Almanac brought to you each Thursday through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

Here is your thought for the day . . . "LIKE A RAINBOW, PEACE RESTS UPON THE EARTH . . . LIKE A REFLECTION OF THE ETERNAL SUN."

So until next Thursday, this is Paul Hanover saying, "lots of good luck and keep smiling."

YOUR STATION CFCO.

Listen to...

**KENT COUNTY
FAMILY ALMANAC**

**EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.
OVER CFCO.**

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

*"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."*

**SOME
FUTURE BROADCASTS**

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 - KENT PERSONALITIES.
 - VILLAGE OF MERLIN
 - TOWN OF HIGHGATE
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Kent County Family Almanac

Chapter No. 28

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, August 16th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Canada and Dominion Sugar Company presents "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine"
(In and fade back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people. . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up and fade back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—Tonight . . . we bring you Chapter 28 of your Almanac and in it you will hear a story of the thrill your boy received when orders came that he was to sail for home . . . You will hear also of the excitement that prevails in the camps . . . and in the repatriation centres in England . . . the joy and jubilation aboard the ships as they approach their homeland and the tremendous reception they receive enroute to their homes . . . Yes, friends, your boys are coming home as fast as ships and priorities will permit.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Music opens our program tonight and we hear William Nixon and his harmonica in a medley—"Old 97" and "Way Down Upon the Swanee River." Go ahead, Bill.

NIXON—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—Fine, Bill . . . Give us that military number of yours . . . I believe you call it the "R. C. R.'s".

NIXON—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—And now—the question of the hour—"Will our boys be home for Christmas?"

ENGINEER—Come in with record "Policeman's Holiday."
Now that the war is over, everywhere in Kent

County . . . Blenheim . . . Wallaceburg . . . Thamesville . . . Ridgetown . . . eager parents, wives, sweethearts and friends are asking: "When will Jack be home? . . . Will he be kept overseas with the occupation forces? . . . How long will it be before we see him?" These are hard questions for even government officials to answer . . . But it can be said that Canada, Britain and the United States are endeavoring to maintain the highest levels in an effort to find accommodation on North Atlantic ships to bring back more and more of our Canadian fighting men. Then why the delay, one asks? There is only one answer . . . ships. Remember the shipping losses the Allies suffered during the War . . . and how the war spread all over the oceans of the world.

To make the fairest use of shipping facilities, priorities must be arranged and Canada is guaranteed a minimum amount of shipping space. Who then goes home? Naturally, the sick and wounded . . . the fighting men who spent long years in prisoners-of-war camps . . . Then the men who have been overseas four and five years. They take precedence over the chaps who have been away from home only a year or so. Priorities for the return of all our boys are constantly under review. Here for instance is a picture of what happens when a unit in occupied Germany, gets the order to prepare for the trip back to Canada.

ENGINEER—Come in with "excited voices"—fade it behind announcer.

ANNOUNCER—The boys feel like kings . . . for they are going home at last . . . Morale is high with all the lads and when it is known that the gang is going home together . . . things really begin to hum.

ENGINEER—Up with "excited voices" for 10 seconds and then fade behind voices.

ANNOUNCER—Among them are boys from Kent County . . .

VOICE—Good old Highgate.

VOICE—Dresden is my town, chum.

VOICE—Boy, Chatham's gonna look mighty good to me.

VOICE—Tilbury is the best little town in Canada . . . say do you know . . .

McNAUGHTON—You guys are all wet. You ever hear of Bothwell. Now, there IS a town for you . . .

PAUL—Well, if you come from Bothwell, pal, let's hear how good it is. Give us something on that old ge-tar of yours. Let's go.

ENGINEER—Fade down "excited voices".

McNAUGHTON—Plays . . . "There's a New Moon over my Shoulder."

ENGINEER—At finish come in immediately with more excited voices behind voices in studio. Yeah, Boy; Good old moon; Keep it up chum.

PAUL—Hi fellos . . . how about a song . . . Anybody around here sing. How about you, fellow?

ENGINEER—Fade out excited voices.

CLAUS—Sings chorus "Let the Rest of the World Go By."

EVERYBODY—Sing last part of chorus with Claus leading.

ENGINEER—Come in with "Highland Fragrance," . . . fade behind announcer for 2 Sec.

ANNOUNCER—But it's not all a joy ride . . . not yet. Europe was ravaged by the Germans and there are practically no railways running in Holland.

So . . . the boys are due for a long ride in trucks until they reach the channel ports. Even at this point there are delays . . . Sometimes ships are diverted to carry food to the Channel Islands where the Germans dominated for four years and inflicted almost a starvation diet.

But the boys don't mind . . . They are on their way home and that's all that matters. England . . . and things look brighter. Fast trains meet the channel ships and they are taken to repatriation depots in southern England where so many Canadians were trained for the spearhead that ultimately brought victory. The men are checked in, given leave until a ship is ready to take them home. England is saying farewell to our Canadian boys and there is good food, movies, concerts and dances. And throughout the camps, you hear something like this.

ENGINEER—Come in with record Massed Bands ---"Pack up Your Troubles", play full record.

ANNOUNCER—Meanwhile, the boys from Kent County are waiting . . . Waiting for THE ship. The lad with the guitar, from Bothwell, is over in the corner and around him are crouched boys from Merlin, Paincourt, Highgate as he sings:

McNAUGHTON—Comes in singing "Maple on the Hill."

ENGINEER—Come in with excited voices and applause(two tables) for 5 seconds.

ANNOUNCER—Then comes the final parade in England and the units move off in trainloads to the great sea ports.

The boys are in good spirits. Each one has money in his pocket and cheques to be cashed in Canada. They are going home . . . The ship although crowded, is what they have been dreaming about ever since going overseas. It might not be the ocean voyage they will take their wives on when they go back to visit old scenes in years to come . . . but they want speed right now. They are going home.

The decks are jammed and the bunks are not like feather beds . . . and many sleep out on deck to keep cool. As the great ship plows through the night . . . from every corner of the vessel come excited voices, the tingle of the guitar or the sound of hilarity from the ship's saloon where a concert is in progress. An orchestra is playing and someone is singing.

ENGINEER—Come in with "Sing me Good-Night Sgt.-Major," (play all).

ANNOUNCER—And while the boys are crossing the ocean . . . army machinery is clicking to see that there are no delays when they arrive. Radios and newspapers spread the news and parents and friends are advised of the approximate time. The boys know this . . . they can hardly wait. The ship is doing 2 knots an hour . . . Why can't they make it 50 . . . The boys are going home.

ANNOUNCER—Our picture changes . . . A troopship is nearing Halifax.

ENGINEER—Steamboat whistle for five seconds.

ANNOUNCER—As it enters the harbor a great reception is waiting for it. Gaily decorated vessels steam out to meet the boys. Some have bands aboard, playing the soldiers' favorite tunes.

ENGINEER—Faintly at first with sirens and crowd cheers (two tables).

ANNOUNCER—All the ships in the harbor are sounding their sirens and the crowd is giving the boys a wonderful welcome.

ENGINEER—Sirens and crowd cheers loud for minute and fade (two tables).

ANNOUNCER—At the dock a reception committee is waiting. There is coffee, cigarettes, newspapers and fruit—and a man can telegraph home free.

The boys disembark as rapidly as possible and board special trains—probably 15 or 20 of them—and once on board the trains they really begin to believe they are home. Everything possible has been done for the comfort of the men returning after four or five years steel and hell. They doze and sleep as the train speeds on its way.

ENGINEER—Come in with speeding train.

ANNOUNCER—And at every stop committees and auxiliary services are waiting with more cigarettes and fruit.

ENGINEER—Cut train sound effects.

ANNOUNCER—As the train draws nearer to the reception center of their district depot, the boys grow nervous and perhaps a little jittery. They know word has been sent in advance and if at all possible, father, mother, wife or sweetheart will be there to meet him. It doesn't take him long to check in . . . get his leave and rush out to the special enclosure to greet his loved ones. It's true, some have arrived unexpectedly and by some mis-cue word has not reached the next of kin but all Kent is waiting for their boys and some day soon . . . all our returned men will be greeted at a monster celebration.

(Soft Music).

Yes, folks, that's just a brief picture of how our boys are coming home. Whether or not your special soldier boy will be home for Christmas depends on how long he has been overseas . . . how he fits into the priority scheme. Availability of shipping is the main thing in bringing the boys home, and that is constantly changing . . . usually for the good. BUT, say, who's that knocking at the door?

ANNOUNCER—It's Sergt. Mervin Russell, of Chatham . . . Welcome back, Sergeant . . . When did you arrive?

RUSSELL—I arrived in Chatham Friday night after clearance at the district depot in London.

ANNOUNCER—And needless to say, glad to get home . . . Sergeant, we have been telling our air audience of the experiences our boys go through on their way back to Canada . . . also the welcome they receive once they reach Canadian shores. Can you say something about that?

RUSSELL—It certainly is a great thrill when you board the ship coming home. Naturally . . . the boats are crowded but nobody minds that . . . In fact, nobody thinks about it . . . all they think about is home. Once on board everybody amuses themselves in their own way. There are always concerts and movies and the boys play all kinds of games. Bingo was the big game aboard our ship . . . the boys gave a certain percentage to the Red Cross and the Seaman's Fund.

ANNOUNCER—A nice gesture, I would say . . . Evidently, the boys realize the benefits they received from the Red Cross and the great work our Canadian seamen did during the war. What was it like when you saw Canadian shores again?

RUSSELL—Wonderful . . . We docked at Halifax and the reception we received there was mar-

velous. I think one of the prettiest sights I ever saw was just before we docked. The fire tugs came out to meet our ship . . . they threw dozens of streams of water high into the air and it surely made a pretty sight against the setting sun.

ANNOUNCER—And did the folks at Halifax give you a real welcome?

RUSSELL—I can't say too much about that. It was wonderful. It made you feel good to be a Canadian. The boys lacked nothing . . . fruit, coffee, and cigarettes were forced upon us at every turn. And it was the same all along the line . . . At Montreal, the Canadian Legion and their auxiliary services treated us marvelous . . . We got coffee and doughnuts there and boy . . . that really tasted good.

ANNOUNCER—How about the trains? How was the food and the accommodation?

RUSSELL—The railways are certainly doing a swell job in bringing the boys home. Every man had his own berth and it seemed rather odd not to make up your own bunk.

VOICE—Hi, Serge . . . Where was the officer of the day?

RUSSELL (laughs)—Our officers were swell coming home and at all times for that matter. Just like one of the boys.

ANNOUNCER—by the way, Sergeant . . . In what unit did you enlist with?

RUSSELL—I joined the 1st Division Royal Canadian Army Service Corps and later transferred to the Royal Canadian Regiment.

ANNOUNCER—When a man returns there are always many thrills but there is one that stands out most. What was yours?

RUSSELL—Meeting my wife and little girl . . . our little girl was only two months old when I left. She is going on three now and I can hardly realize it.

ANNOUNCER—And that's true for most of our men coming back. They find their families grown up . . . and it is then they realize what they have missed . . . Thanks for dropping in on us tonight, Sergt. Russell and again Welcome Home.

ANNOUNCER (B. C.)—Here are more of your boys who arrived back from overseas within the past week and to them we say WELCOME HOME . . . Trooper C. S. O'Brien . . . Private A. C. Deschamps and Trooper O. L. Vandevonne of Wallaceburg; Sergt.- Major E. T. Miller . . . Trooper J. H. Ferguson and Trooper J. R. Wise of Ridgetown; Private T. F. Roy, Paincourt; Corporal C. E. Miller, R.R. 3, Muirkirk; Lance Corp. K. G. Loop, Wheatley; Lieut. A. M. McPherson, Blenheim; and the following from Chatham . . . Sgt. M. D. Russell, 69½ King Street; Corp. H. R. Mc-

Kenzie, 484 King Street; Sergt. J. M. Huson, 71 West Street; Capt. Doug. Barlow, 142 Victoria Avenue; Major Harold Foex, O.B.E., 372 King Street West; and here are two more from Wallaceburg, Capt. James Causley, and Private C. R. McIntyre.

Also the following members of the RCAF . . . Flying Officer J. A. Gordon and Warrant Officer F. H. Poissant, Wallaceburg; Flying Officer D. A. Nudds, Blenheim; Warrant Officer C. G. Johnston, Ridgetown; and following from Chatham . . . Flying Officer G. E. Smith, 308 King Street; Flying Officer Richard Doyle, 205 Joseph Street; Sergt. W. D. Blackall, 494 Queen Street; LAC. C. R. Palmer, 17 Gray Street; Flying Officer J. A. Brodie, 93 Lydican Avenue; Flying Officer W. F. Norton, 251 Park Street; and LAC. R. F. Bailey, of 101 Wellington Street.

ANNOUNCER—DID YOU KNOW—(pause for bombardment of five guns).

ENGINEER—Come in with recording of guns, and let boom five times.

ANNOUNCER—That one salvo from five of those 16-inch guns uses the sugar produced by one acre of beets. The sugar, converted into alcohol, is used to make gunpowder to fire those guns.

AND DID YOU KNOW—(Pause 10 seconds for airplane sound).

ANNOUNCER—A high sugar diet is used by fliers to strengthen their ability to resist blackout during fast turns and dives in those

high-powered planes. This is because sugar helps keep the blood charged with carbonic acid gas.

DID YOU KNOW—(Pause 10 seconds for truck sound effects).

ENGINEER—Come in with army truck sound effects.

ANNOUNCER—That sugar furnished a large portion of the new synthetic tires that kept those army vehicles rolling. The alcohol, made from sugar, was converted into butadiene for the manufacture of tires. Yes, folks, these are some of the reasons why there is a sugar shortage in the world today. Last year, nearly one million tons of sugar was shipped to plants manufacturing war material. On the battlefield, sugar played an important role in rations to the fighting men. A diet containing sugar gave energy to our boys who fought to save us from a cruel and treacherous enemy.

ANNOUNCER—At this time we bring Chapter 28 to a close and leave you with this thought . . . "The atmosphere breathes rest and comfort, and the house seems full of welcome." Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg. So until next Thursday at 9 p.m., this is your announcer Paul Hanover wishing you "lots of good luck and keep smiling." Good night all.

This is CFCO.

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CHATHAM, ONTARIO



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Kent County Family Almanac

Chapter No. 29

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, Aug. 30th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Canada and Dominion Sugar Company presents "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine"
(In 15 seconds—then fade back of announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural centre and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people . . . anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to end of Florentine—cut hold Trumpet Call back of announcer.

ANNOUNCER—Your Almanac brings you Chapter 29 tonight . . . with a story of the many pleasant trips, perhaps you enjoyed on the Thames River many years ago . . . You will hear of the days when young and old flocked to the bridges to watch the boats come in and of the moonlight excursions down the picturesque Thames . . . Then we will visit scenes throughout the county where only ruins remain—ruins of once thriving villages long since vanished . . . we glance over Kent County weekly newspapers for items of interest and we hear the latest crops report . . . We call our Chapter . . . Reminiscing, and here is music in the mood.

ENGINEER—Come in with "Trieste," and follow immediately with music of '98, fading behind announcer.

ANNOUNCER—How many of our listeners recall the days of steamboat excursions on the Thames River—particularly the last one. It was in 1927 when Chatham observed the 60th anniversary of Confederation. In addition to an elaborate celebration, the Steamer Thousand Islander was brought back to the scene of its old haunts with the intention of running an old-time excursion from Detroit to Chatham with a Sunday School outing to Belle Isle on July 4th, but on its return trip,

the vessel swept . . .
There was one particularly happy . . .
a pair of youngsters . . .
ship to make a few . . .
trip to Lake St. Clair . . .
but a few of you may remember . . .

the first night, the vessel ran aground near Prairie Siding and the eastbound C.N.R. flyer had to be flagged to bring home some hundreds of tired and disgruntled passengers. It was the last steamship excursion on the Thames.

But let us go back forty years . . . to 1888 . . . In that year the "City of Chatham" was built in Toronto to replace a smaller vessel, the "C. H. Merritt" on the River Thames. Excursions had been running up and down the Thames for fifty years before that time but the vessels had become antiquated and newer craft were taking their place . . . the "Merritt" carried probably 350 passengers . . . the "Chatham" was advertised to carry 800 and her crew. But the new excursion steamer lived up to her name . . . Perhaps no other craft on the Thames in all its history was so closely linked with the life of Chatham . . .

Through nearly a quarter century the "City of Chatham" was somewhat of a local institution . . . as familiar to the citizens as the cedar block pavement on King Street or the old post office . . . The Park Street Sunday School excursion to Detroit was a recognized annual event and a favorite diversion of the young folk was to flock to the river bridges and the Rankin dock and watch the "Chatham" come in. There was always a musical instrument on hand and while they waited on the long summer evenings one might hear something like this:

ENGINEER—Come in with "The Evergreen Tree by the River."
ANNOUNCER—Yes, folks, those were the days. Throughout the seasons the "Chatham" made regular runs to Detroit. She carried Sunday School and other excursions to Belle Isle and Walpole Island . . . There were afternoon trips to the Thames Lighthouse, the Captain permitting his passengers to land and look around while the steamer went far enough out into Lake St. Clair to make the return for the trip back. Tickets for the afternoon excursion sometimes sold for 25 cents. As far as can be learned the City of Chatham never met with any serious accident. If the water was rough a crowd of joyous ex-

curSIONISTS became sea-sick about the time the vessel swept into Lake St. Clair . . . but they were mostly pleasant voyages and the little white craft went serenely on her way. There was one particularly happy night when a pair of wandering minstrels boarded the ship to make a few nickels on the moonlight trip to Lake St. Clair. That was in the '90's but a few of you may remember hearing:

ENGINEER—Come in with accordion record "Church Around the Corner."

ANNOUNCER—Toward the end of her career on the Thames, the owners, D. R. VanAllen and William Ball, stumbled onto an epoch-making discovery. They realized that Detroit was a bigger place than Chatham so why not bring Detroit people to Chatham. The runs were reversed and thereafter almost any summer afternoon, the "City" could be seen tying up at Rankin dock with a capacity crowd of holiday-makers from the border city. They drifted along King Street visiting stores or made their way to Tecumseh Park with their picnic-baskets.

About this time, the Thames began to fill. Sand bars hampered the voyage up and down the river and skilful navigation on the part of Captain Cornette was necessary to keep the vessel from running aground. When parliament resumed its session late in 1902, George Stevens, federal member for West Kent, rose from his seat in the House of Commons:

VOICE—"I claim this government is not keeping its election promise to dredge the River Thames. Chatham has a natural outlet by water in the Thames and I respectfully call upon the minister of public works to see that this work is put out at the earliest possible opportunity."

ANNOUNCER—The government did keep its promise. The troublesome sand bars were removed and the river channel was cleared up as far as Chatham. For a few years after that the river was full of craft of all sizes . . . many of which wintered within a stone's throw of the city's business section.

By this time the owners made another discovery. The excursionists from Detroit were offering limitless patronage and it was decided to put on a larger ship. The "City of Chatham" was sold and was succeeded by the "Ossifrage". Then came a still larger craft, the "Thousand Islander." After the "City of Chatham" this lofty vessel with her gleaming white hull was rather startling. The "Islander" could accommodate a possible 1,000 people and excursions again became the favorite past-time for the people of Kent County. Orchestras began to form and travel on the boats. The Chatham Kiltie Band

was on many of these excursions. Often on quiet moon-light nights as the big ship came round the bend, popular tunes of the day could be heard. Remember this one:

ENGINEER—Come in with "By the Light of the Silvery Moon." fade out at two minutes five seconds.

ANNOUNCER—(on fade) For a while these excursions continued to be popular but gradually the river began to fill again causing bigger boats to be grounded. The motor car was coming into its own, by this time, and motorists could make the trip to Detroit over newly-paved highways, in a couple of hours. A newer and hurrying age was coming into existence and not even the picturesque winding river could recompense them for the loss of time. Eventually the Chatham-Detroit steamboat service was abandoned—no longer a paying proposition.

A lot of water has flown under the Third and Fifth Street bridges since those days . . . and a lot of silt has been carried down the placid Thames . . . Navigation has become impossible and today only a few small motor launches make their way up the river to tie up near Tecumseh Park while their owners spent a pleasant hour's shopping along King Street.

In an address before the Rotary Club in Chatham a few weeks ago, Sheriff Arthur Poulter asked this:

VOICE—"What would some countries do with this natural inland waterway?"

ANNOUNCER—Mr. Poulter visioned such things as fertilizer plants, cereal plants, the present sugar beet factory operating in full swing, a government dock from where canned goods, grain and everything this county produces, would be exported to all markets of the world. He expressed the opinion that with flood control, now under consideration, the River Thames could become a great inland waterway—probably the greatest in the world.

ENGINEER—At sentence "He expressed the opinion" come in with Tschaiakowske's Piano Concerto Number 1, in B Flat Minor. Run for two minutes and fade on signal.

ANNOUNCER—And now let's reminisce in Kent County as we visit several thriving centres long since vanished. The Kent Gazer, in 1864, says that Clearville once had two hotels, a grist mill, a fulling carding and cloth factory, a cabinet factory, two stores, blacksmith shop and a fairly large school. The first postoffice was established at Clearville in 1832 with David Baldwin as postmaster . . . Today . . . as one drives through the southeast corner of Kent, only a couple of

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buildings and fallen stone walls of two others remind you of the little village of Clearville. Further north, and more important in those days, was Durat, which at that time (1864) had two steam saw-mills, two cabinet shops, two tailor shops, one saddle shop, four stores, two churches and two hotels. The Harwich and Orford agricultural fairs were held there in the old days but now only a church and a couple of buildings remain.

Troy, closely identified with the lost village of Fairfield, is another community that has disappeared. Troy with its stores, saw-mills, and cooper shop found a rival in McKay's Corners, a hamlet of the same size situated on the 12th concession of Harwich. It was here that Alexander McKay operated the famous and picturesque hotel which he called the Bird in Hand Inn.

There were others such as Edgeworth and Dealtown . . . but today all these pioneer settlements are not even named on the map. In the interval new centres have sprung up and have prospered to such an extent that they have become incorporated towns and villages . . . The summer resort communities of Erie Beach and Erieau . . . the village of Highgate, Merlin and Wheatley . . . and the now thriving village of Tilbury . . . none of these found mention in the County of Kent Gazetteer of 1864.

A musical number at this time brings back old memories as we hear a quartette singing:

ENGINEER—Come in with "The Little Brown Church in the Dell"—run for two minutes and then fade down as announcer continues.

ANNOUNCER—Our pages take on a modern tone as we look over weekly newspapers published in Kent County and vicinity. Here's an item from the Petrolia Advocate . . . It seems one morning, Mrs. William Smith, 12th line, Moore Township, went into her garden and found tomatoes growing on a couple of potato plants. A Sarnia man, Oliver LeNeve, says that it was the normal propagation of the potato and tomato plants which are brought about by bees. He explains a bee transmitted the seed from the tomato blossoms to the other plant. Thus . . . the freak potato . . . Over at Merlin, they have formed a dramatic society and the only stipulation to become a member is willingness to take part and be ready to take a role in any play when called upon by the director . . . The Marlin folks are planning to put on the first play early in October.

At Dresden, a movement is under way to form a branch of the Canadian Legion . . .

The Dresden veterans were told that servicemen from both wars are eligible to join and the idea is already gaining headway . . . Sid Markham is assisting in the organization. The author for this one remains anonymous but it was in last week's edition of the Tilbury Times we located it—It is entitled Darwin's mistake or The Monkey's Protest—

"Three monkeys sat in a cocoanut tree,
Discussing things, as they're said to be.
Said one to the other—"Now listen, you two,
There's a certain rumor that can't be true.
That man descended from our noble race—
The very idea is a sad disgrace.
All the world has been reading—perhaps
About the brutal Nazis and the cruel Japs.
Now—no ape . . . not even from Japan,
Would torture a woman or murder a man.
No monk about freedom would rave,
And then make his brother a lowly slave.
And . . . here's another thing a monk don't
do;

Go out at night and get on a stew,
Or use a gun, bomb or a knife
To take another monkey's life.
The Jap is sure a tricky cuss,
But brothers, he didn't descend from us.

Now, that's just a lot of monkey talk, folks,
but if you like this little poem . . . drop us a
card and we will send you a printed copy . . .
just for the asking.

Yes . . . peace has come and its moving day
in Japan. The United Nations are moving
in and the Japanese are moving back . . . All
the world is watching this great dramatic
move in Japan . . . a move, everyone hopes,
will bring eternal peace . . . to the world.
All of which brings to mind the Hoosier boys
and their Hot Shot number . . . "It's Moving
Day in the Jungle Town."

ENGINEER—Come in with "It's Moving Day in Jungle Town." (Play full).

THEME—Reverse side of Florentine.

ANNOUNCER—And so ends Chapter 29 of your Family Almanac. We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday at 9 p.m. when we will bring you the story of Morpeth. Meanwhile here's your thought for the day: Shakespeare once said—"I cannot but remember such things were, that were most pleasant to me."

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

This is your announcer Paul Hanover saying, "Lots of good luck and keep smiling."

Good night all.

This is CFCO.

Kent County Family Almanac

Chapter No. 30.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, Sept. 6th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Canada and Dominion Sugar Company presents "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine"
(In 15 seconds—then fade back of announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people. Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to end of Florentine—hold trumpet call back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—It's Chapter 30 on your Almanac half-hour tonight, folks, a chapter brimming over with mystery and drama . . . You will hear of Lake Erie's hidden treasure . . . \$100,000 in gold lost beneath its waves over 140 years ago . . . You will hear, too, the story of Morpeth . . . its rise and its fall as a new era came into existence . . . Miss Kent County will be interviewed and we have another treat in store for you—two guest artists whose music we know you will appreciate . . . You will be surprised when you hear them . . .

THEME—(Trumpet Call up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Seated at the piano in our studio tonight are two guests . . . Hugh Soper and Fred Harding of Windsor. These gentlemen are in Chatham this week on business and when we heard of their ability with the Ivories, we invited them to play on our broadcast. They agreed and here they are . . . in a piano duet . . . "When Day is Done."

SOPER and HARDING—Play.

ANNOUNCER—And now by way of variation . . . our guests will give you their version of the

lively "Beer Barrel Polka." It's all yours, gentlemen.

SOPER and HARDING—Play.

VOICE—Lake Erie's hidden treasure—only its waters know.

ANNOUNCER—Somewhere beyond the pier that was once the busy dock of Morpeth lies \$100,000 in gold—cargo from a British sailing vessel . . . There are two versions to the story but if details at hand can be accepted . . . the first (now legend) began early in the war of 1812.

It was late in the fall of that year, so the story goes, a small vessel laden with gold and other supplies was making its way west to Fort Malden . . . now Detroit.

ENGINEER—Come in with wind effects fading behind announcer.

ANNOUNCER—But near Port Stanley . . . the vessel encountered a terrific storm and the captain, in order to save his little craft, found it necessary to throw overboard many packages of food and barrels of wine and liquor.

ENGINEER—Fade out wind effects.

ANNOUNCER—Badly battered by the storm . . . the ship followed a course close to shore for the remainder of the voyage. But when in the vicinity of what is now Morpeth docks, the crew spotted an American ship also hugging the shore.

ENGINEER—Come in faintly with "Mumbled Voices" for 10 seconds.

ANNOUNCER—Excitement reigned for the moment and the officers and crew went into conference. Because the ship was short in supplies and ammunition, the captain decided to bluff his way through. He ordered all guns to be covered and the crew were to pretend they were fishermen. Then, fearful that the Americans would discover the gold—he had the men place it in a keg . . . attach it to a buoy and throw it overboard.

ENGINEER—Come in with "bell on buoy" sound effects and cut.

ANNOUNCER—The bell on the buoy clanged faintly as the British ship moved out to answer the challenge of the American frigate but the ruse, insofar as the British boat and crew were concerned, was successful. After a hurried inspection the Americans left.

Late that evening the British boat returned to recover the gold but apparently someone blundered in attaching the barrel to the buoy. The buoy was found but the barrel and gold were gone. That, folks, has been a long-accepted story but Mr. O. K. Watson, Ridgetown lawyer and a former president of the Kent Historical Society, has a different version. After some years of research work with Dr. Fred Hamil, of Wayne University, Detroit, Mr. Watson has come to this conclusion:—

VOICE—"I am convinced the story of the lost gold refers to the foundering of a military expedition that left Niagara in October, 1763. This expedition was proceeding to the relief of Fort Detroit then besieged by Pontiac, but was wrecked in a storm somewhere along the Lake Erie shore between Morpeth and Rondeau Point."

ANNOUNCER—To substantiate his story, Mr. Watson produced a copy of a letter found by Dr. Hamil in the manuscripts of the University of Michigan library at Ann Arbor. In part, the letter tells of the expedition of 300 men and officers and the storm which swept them on the beach near Morpeth. The survivors, it stated, made shore near what is now Patterson's Creek and there built a temporary fortification. It was from this point that the first letter—the one we refer to—was written in Kent County. It was carried by an Indian runner and delivered to Major Gladwin, officer in charge of the fort at Detroit. The writer, who signed himself T. Moncriefe, told of the storm on November 7th, 1763, when 65 men and two officers perished in the gale that wrecked two vessels and 18 small boats containing food, ammunition and a chest of gold. That gold, the letter stated, was to be used to pay the troops defending Fort Detroit,—which at that time was in British hands.

There is no doubt, concludes Mr. Watson, that this is the lost treasure which has been remembered throughout the years. No one has ever been able to locate it although several attempts have been made along the beaches—only the mermaids know but try and find a mermaid.

ANNOUNCER—For many months, prior to the end of the war, Hugh Soper played for the

troops in various army camps in Canada and the United States. One number he played was very popular with the servicemen and here he is now with Fred Harding to play it for you as a duet. It's the "Twelfth Street Rag." Let her go, boys.

SOPER and HARDING—Play.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, gentlemen. We are going to hear from our guests again but right now it's time for our story of Morpeth—the village that thrived when wagon traffic was heavy along Talbot Road.

ENGINEER—Come in with "Sonata Pathetique"—up 20 seconds and fade behind announcer.

ANNOUNCER—It was on May 21, 1803, when Colonel Thomas Talbot landed on the northern shores of Lake Erie and built a port he named Port Talbot. With him was a Colonel Bestwick . . . While Talbot moved inland to make a survey, Bestwick and a group of men blazed a trail along the lake shore.

ENGINEER—Cut record.

ANNOUNCER—The road became known as the Talbot Road and long before it was completed settlers began to flock into Howard and Orford townships. The Culls were among the first settlers around Morpeth. They were closely followed by the Garretts, the Lees, the Woods and the Desmonds. By 1830 . . . the little business centre called for a post office and Captain Wheatley was the first postmaster . . . Lord Morpeth had visited the community earlier and after he had donated a bell to the newly erected Trinity Church in 1844, it was decided to name the village Morpeth. There were several stores, hotels, cabinet factories, blacksmiths and carriage works, and the place was a hive of industry. There is an old tradition that Morpeth owed its existence in those days to the big hill immediately east of the village. The hill was much steeper then, and in pioneer days it was so steep and the roads so bad . . . that most of the wagons had to be repaired before they could go on. By 1866 . . . Morpeth had attained a population of 600, and the port of Antrium, 1½ miles away, was the village outlet for exports. A government dock had been built and lake craft of all descriptions called there. For years it was the main shipping point for farmers and business in general . . . and Morpeth continued to prosper.

In this era when horses were the chief means of transportation, the blacksmith did a thriving trade. At one time there were no less than five blacksmiths . . . William Lundy, Isaac Duck, Joseph Everitt, Jasper Furbull and a man named Lamont . . . And as for horse equipment, such as harness, the far-

mer didn't need to go to Buffalo, Windsor or Toronto . . . he could get what he wanted in the home town—Morpeth.

The village reached the zenith of its career in the late 70's and early 80's. Business hopes were built around the long expected railroad . . . planned to connect Niagara and Detroit. Originally, it was to follow the lake shore but for reasons unknown the Southern Railroad was surveyed and constructed several miles inland. The result was the building of new shipping points along the right of way and the decline of towns on the Talbot road. The lake ports, too, suffered and their trade declined . . . And with them went Antrim and Morpeth. Ridgetown had gained the railroad and was growing—merely the symptoms of a new era as lines of steel brought new means of transportation.

ENGINEER—Come in with record . . . The Church's One Foundation . . . fading it behind announcer until cut.

ANNOUNCER—But the one spot that remains dear to the heart of the pioneer and his descendants is Trinity Church which this month marks its hundredth anniversary. On Sunday last the congregation observed the first of special services on four successive Sundays with the rector, Rev. H. J. Jennings in charge.

Prior to the building of Trinity, a travelling missionary, Rev. James Stewart, held services in homes throughout the vicinity and when the good people of Morpeth decided to build a place of worship, Rev. F. W. Sandys, who in those days traversed a circuit along Lake Erie, was invited to become the first rector.

Many famous men have filled the pulpit at Trinity. Among them Rev. A. Lampman, father of the poet Archibald Lampman. It was at Trinity rectory that Archibald Lampman was born on November 17, 1861. The rector was 38 years of age when he came to Morpeth and he lived until 1895, dying only four years before his famous son.

Today, located on what is the highest point in Howard Township, with Lake Erie only a mile away, the slender spire of Trinity Church is a familiar sight to travellers along No. 3 highway—an outstanding memorial to those faithful pioneers of yesteryear.

ENGINEER—Up with "The Church's One Foundation" for 30 seconds and cut.

ANNOUNCER—In a few moments we are going to hear from a beautiful young lady . . . Miss Kent County . . . who is here in our studio. Meanwhile . . . our guest piano team grow sentimental as they ask you in music to "Linger A While."

SOPER and HARDING—Play.

ANNOUNCER—On Monday night at the conclusion of the big Labor Day celebration at Wallaceburg, 12 pretty girls paraded before 5,000 people in a beauty contest. When the judges finally announced their decision it was found that three had been awarded prizes and the title of "Miss Kent County" had gone to Miss Margaret Hart, of Port Lambton. Miss Blanche Bechard and Miss Cecil Francoeur, both of Wallaceburg, were a close second and third. We have Miss Hart in the studio tonight and we would like to ask her just what it is like to be "Miss Kent."

MISS HART—I must say I was surprised to say the least.

ANNOUNCER—Well, I don't know about that . . . from what we see, the judges were not far wrong . . . How old are you, Miss Hart?

MISS HART—Seventeen last July.

ANNOUNCER—Let's see . . . About five feet, four . . . blonde . . . dreamy blue eyes, lovely complexion . . . Folks, if we had television you would know what we mean . . . Were you born at Port Lambton?

MISS HART—No . . . right here in Chatham.

ANNOUNCER—Chalk one up for Chatham . . . although Port Lambton still gets the credit . . . Going to school there?

MISS HART—No . . . I graduated from Central High at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and when the holidays are over I plan to attend Michigan State College, East Lansing.

ANNOUNCER—Then your parents live at Port Lambton. Is that right?

MISS HART—Yes, on a farm one mile out.

ANNOUNCER—Take note, folks . . . Kent County farms not only raise excellent crops but good looking girls as well. By the way, Miss Hart . . . when did you decide to enter the Wallaceburg Contest?

MISS HART—On Sunday night—one day before the contest. . . .

ANNOUNCER—And you won the title. Good going, Miss Hart and thanks for coming in tonight . . . When you enter Michigan State, I am sure they will realize what a wonderful crop of peaches, we can raise in Kent County.

ANNOUNCER—Imagine yourself, folks, on this beautiful summer evening, seated with a lovely young lady on a wide open piazza near the beach as Tea for Two is served. Now that can't be, perhaps, but here are our guests to play it for you . . . Tea for Two.

SOPER and HARDING—Play.

ANNOUNCER—And so we conclude Chapter 30 of your Almanac and leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday at 9 p.m.

. . . Thanks to Hugh Soper and Ed. Harding,

and . . . We have . . . We would like to ask her . . . We would like to be Miss Kent.

MISS HART—I must say I was surprised to say . . . the last . . .

ANNOUNCER—Well I don't know about that . . . from what we see, the judges were not . . .

MISS HART— . . .

Listen to . . .

KENT COUNTY

FAMILY ALMANAC

EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.

OVER CFCO.

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

“Get acquainted with your County and Your Neighbor.”

ANNOUNCER—Take note, folks, in Kent County . . . not only raise excellent crops but good . . . looking trials as well. By the way, Miss Hart . . . when did you decide to enter the Wal- . . . Jacoburg Contest?

MISS HART—On Sunday night . . . one day before . . . the contest . . .

ANNOUNCER—And you won the title. Good go- . . . ing, Miss Hart and thanks for coming in to- . . . night . . . When you enter Michigan State, I . . . am sure they will realize what a wonderful . . . crop of berries we can raise in Kent . . . County.

of Windsor, for being with us, and we hope to have you around our way again soon.

Here is your thought for the day . . . “A things unrevealed belong to the kingdom of mystery.”

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

Good night all.

This is CFCO.

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SOME FUTURE BROADCASTS

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT.
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- VILLAGE OF MERLIN
- TOWN OF HIGHGATE
- AND OTHERS

.

Today, located on what is the highest point in Howard Township, with Lake Erie only a mile away, the slender spire of Trinity Church is a familiar sight to travelers along No. 8 highway—an outstanding memorial to those faithful pioneers of yesterday.

ENGINEER—Up with the Cannon's One Pound "bation" for 30 seconds and cut . . .

ANNOUNCER—In a few moments we are going to hear from a beautiful young lady . . . Miss Kent County . . . who is here in our studio. Meanwhile . . . our great piano team grow sentimental as they ask you in music to “Linger A While.”

Kent County Family Almanac

Chapter No. 31.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, September 13th, 1945

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Canada and Dominion Sugar Company presents, "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine."
(Up for fifteen seconds) then fade behind announcer.

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our Towns, our City and our people . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up and continue trumpet call behind announcer).

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter 31 of your Almanac, and to-night we bring you two stories . . . You will hear of the excitement that prevailed in our county when the skeleton of one of the world's largest animals—the Mastodon—was uncovered in Chatham Township . . . You will also hear of the origin for the names of many of our townships. . . . We have a long list of heroes to welcome back to Kent County, and you will hear our guest singer, a young Chatham boy, who appeared on a previous broadcast . . . It is an interesting chapter, and if you desire a copy, drop your Almanac a card or a letter—we'll send it.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Jackie Taylor, 14-year-old, is our guest singer tonight. Jackie appeared on one of our previous broadcasts and we received many requests for him to sing again. Here he is with the beautiful "Sylvia," by Oleo Speak. Mrs. Bryce Kendrick will accompany him in all his selections tonight.

JACKIE—Sings.

ENGINEER—On completion of Taylor's song, come in with recording "Teddy Bear's Pic-

nic." . . . Up for ten seconds and gradually fade out as announcer continues Jumbo story.

ANNOUNCER—This is the story of "Jumbo Out-Jumboed" and the days of excitement that followed the discovery of the skeleton of a mighty Mastodon in Kent County.

Jumbo, as many old timers will remember, was P. T. Barnum's famous elephant, killed in a railroad accident at St. Thomas—only two days after most of the Chatham folk had seen him in the circus. That was in 1885. The bones of what is believed to be those of the monarch of all American Mammals, were uncovered near Little Bear Creek two years later—1887.

Jumbo, living, was the king of all animals. . . . Jumbo dead, was relegated to second place. Naturalists agreed that the animal that had become mired in the ancient marsh around Bear Creek and died a natural death, —stood fourteen feet high and its trunk could reach 35 feet. Kent County in those days was a field for the naturalist . . . At several spots remains of Mastodons were unearthed . . . one near Troy . . . another on the Reycraft farm near Highgate . . . but the find that attracted the attention of Messrs. Edwin Jones and R. C. Burt, of Chatham, was the one in Chatham Township.

Edwin Jones was a civil engineer. Later he became waterworks superintendent and city engineer. The Jones' collection of Indian relics and other curios, will be seen at the Chatham-Kent museum when it is officially opened on October 4. R. C. Burt was a druggist and Chatham's official weatherman; he was also a naturalist, a taxidermist and archaeologist of sorts. Both gentlemen were members of the Chatham Scientific and Literary Society. And so it was when Little Bear Creek drain was being put through Chatham Township, bones of what was evidently a mastodon were thrown up with the excavation. The knowledge of the discovery came to the ears of the Chatham naturalists, and one morning early in August, 1887, armed with shovels and probing irons they went to the scene. Working hard all day they

returned home with valuable trophies in the shape of huge bones of a Mastodon Giganteus . . . All that was needed was a tusk to complete one of the biggest finds in the line of archaeological research.

A few days later another trip was made and their efforts were successful . . . They found the envied tusk complete . . . It measured 93 inches in length and 23 inches at its greatest circumference—probably the largest ever found in America. Among other bones found was one humerus, or the fore-leg measuring 3 feet, 1 inch long and 19 inches at its smallest circumference and 27 inches around the knee joint. Four portions of rib bones were found . . . also one shoulder blade . . . much larger and heavier than that of Jumbo. Calculating upon proportions of Jumbo in flesh and skeleton this mastodon weighed 20 tons . . . a veritable mountain of flesh and bone . . . he measured at least six feet over all around the knee. And so, on September 8, 1887, citizens of Kent County and all Canada were startled by the report in the Chatham Weekly Planet of the greatest find in natural history. Some time soon, on a future broadcast, your Family Almanac will bring you another story in which we will tell of the resting place of those bones of the Mighty Monarch that roamed Kent County long before Columbus landed on the American continent.

ANNOUNCER—Some orchestras have a knack of changing our musical numbers all around. They jazz up the popular songs and they change the rhythm of the old-time pieces. Take for instance . . . "Turkey in the Straw" . . . The New Light Symphony Orchestra has revised it and you hear this:

ENGINEER—Come in with recording "Turkey in the Straw" . . . Play all. At end, come in (unannounced) with recording . . . "There's An Old-fashioned Town" . . . Up for 25 seconds and fade behind announcer all through story of English names of county townships.

ANNOUNCER—We go to England for the second portion of our broadcast to-night in order that we may learn the origin for the names of some of our Kent County townships. When Kent was first surveyed in 1792 and its boundaries laid out in 1800, it included the adjoining county of Essex. This status caused many English Essex names to be in Kent County and many Kentish names in what is now Essex. For instance, Raleigh Township suggests a parish of similar designation to be found on the maps of Essex, England. It was the location of a peculiar mediaeval institution known as the Lawless Court. Here tenants were bound, so legend says,—to appear once

each year at the first crowing of the cock, and for some reason all the business was conducted in whispers. A claim has been made that the township was named after Sir Walter Raleigh, that adventurous explorer to America and favorite of Queen Elizabeth. He who laid his cloak over a puddle and might well have said—"Step on it, Bess."

When Tilbury Fort was born in old England, King Henry VIII (he of the many wives) sat upon the throne. Around Tilbury Fort are still to be found traces of a camp formed to repel the threat of the Spanish Armada. Fate decreed that it should be born again hundreds of years later in Upper Canada as Tilbury Township. Harwich, third township from the British Essex, is Saxon in meaning . . . "hare" . . . an army and "Wick" a stormy place. Today, in England, Harwich has its naval fortifications and ship-building . . . Its population is about 13,000. Harwich in Kent County is one of our most prosperous townships.

Howard Township is indebted for its name to Thomas Howard, then the Earl Effingham. His daughter, Lady Mary, was married in 1772 to Sir Guy Carleton, Governor-General of Canada, when the township was surveyed and named.

Camden, West Township, likewise shows the personality in preference to a place-name. He was Charles Bratt, Earl of Camden, famous in English Law and Government.

Orford Township was called after the Town of Orford in Suffolk. It used to be an important place but the sea choked the harbour with sand bars and prevented vessels from docking there. Sir Robert Walpole was made Earl of Orford in 1742.

Governor Simcoe had a lot to do with the naming of Chatham and Chatham Township. In 1793 he proposed London as the seat of the Government for Upper Canada. He also chose a place to be known as Oxford (now Woodstock) as a likely town . . . and another with good possibilities of becoming the capital of the lower district, called Chatham. The situation of these three places on the Thames River in Ontario is similar to those in England, and may have been the motive behind his selection.

And did you know that Chatham's leading hotel, was named after William Pitt, the first Earl of Chatham in Kent County, England?

ANNOUNCER—It's time now to hear Jackie Taylor again and for his next selection, he has chosen that popular "On Wings of Song", by Mendelssohn.

JACKIE—Sings:

ENGINEER—At conclusion of song, two seconds pause and then come in with recording . . . "Entry of the Gladiators." Up for 15 seconds and fade low as announcer reads names of those arriving from overseas.

ANNOUNCER—More than 18,000 servicemen, including 2,000 personnel of the RCAF, returned to Canada over the week-end and were given the traditional noisy welcome at Halifax and Quebec. Here in Kent County . . . anxious parents, wives and sweethearts waited patiently and on Tuesday and Wednesday as they arrived . . . happy scenes took place in many homes.

Here are the names of your boys who returned this week:

All Kent County joins Wallaceburg in welcoming back Private H. T. Simpson . . . Sapper H. J. Hofmans . . . Sergt. O. Haggerty . . . Sergt W. Collins . . . Private P. J. Thompson . . . Private L. Raymond . . . Sapper E. Emery . . . Corp. J. F. Downes . . . Capt. M. L. Booth . . . Private M. R. Bird . . . Private G. A. Better . . . Private W. Campbell . . .

And a welcome back to the following who arrived at Blenheim:

Gunner B. Maynard . . . Gunner H. A. Boswell
Gunner F. McLean . . . Gunner N. G. McGuigan . . . Staff Sergt. E. J. Cayless . . . Sapper C. M. Griffin, R.R. 1 . . . and Sergt. W. J. Simpson.

Those who arrived at Dresden:

Sergt. A. E. Bishop . . . Craftsman R. F. Gonerman . . . Sergt. R. R. Markham.

Bothwell welcomed:

Gunner W. R. Johnston and Lance-Corp. H. H. Humphrey.

At Thamesville, the following were welcomed:

Craftsman G. D. Wilson, of R.R. 3 . . . Craftsman R. Northcott, of R.R. 3 . . . Private D. Watson . . . Sapper C. Jacques.

Those arriving at Tilbury were:

Private J. Moynahan . . . Corp. B. J. Mailloux . . . Corp. L. L. Parker . . . Corp. V. L. Peltier.

VOICE—Wheatley Welcomed . . . Private R. J. Bickford; Sombra, Corp. R. F. Hazzard; Paincourt, Private, L. B. Gervais; Electric, Sergt. C. R. Lebrun, of R.R. 1; Ridgetown, Pte. D. Gammage; Cedar Springs, Sergt. S. B. Kirkland; Florence, Gunner E. M. Waucaush; Northwood, Private F. N. Arnold; Courtright, Private J. M. Phair.

ANNOUNCER—And here is a long list of Chatham men:

Sapper A. J. Cook . . . Gunner H. E. Foster . . . Gunner G. L. Boswell . . . Private P. H. Cornfield . . . Gunner T. A. Wilder . . . Sergt.

L. B. Cross . . . Private M. N. Smith . . . Private W. D. Edwards . . . Corp. J. Ireland . . . Sergt. K. Crawford of R.R. 5 . . . Sergt. W. Downie . . . Sergt. A. R. Hustwick . . . Sergt. G. E. Eves . . . Private L. L. McCart . . . A. R. Langford . . . Quarter-Master-Sergt. A. L. Barks . . . Lance-Corp. R. D. Fisher . . . Lieut. J. A. Fellows . . . Staff Sergt J. W. Miller . . . Private D. H. Betts . . . Corp. W. C. Shepley . . . Sergt. I. McDonald . . . Private W. D. Land . . . Private W. G. Graham . . . Sapper H. G. Mason . . . Company Sergt. Major G. A. McDonald . . . Corp. E. D. Flynn . . . Private A. Johnston . . . Craftsman J. R. Higgins . . . Private J. Mullaby.

VOICE—Air Force personnel included the following from Kent County:

LAC. E. D. Newman, Highgate . . . LAC. J. L. Leatherdale, Ridgetown . . . LAC. J. E. Johnston, R.R. 1, Turnerville . . . LAC. D. M. Harrett . . . LAC. J. Lashmore . . . LAC. F. T. Welsh and Corp. L. B. Poper of Wallaceburg . . . LAC. J. T. Hughes . . . Corp. J. H. Herd . . . Corpl. L. B. Poper and Sergt. W. D. Kennan of the RCAF Accounting staff, all of Chatham.

ENGINEER—Half way through reading of RCAF names . . . at LAC. F. T. Walsh . . . come in faintly with recording . . . "Lords of the Air" . . . and on conclusion of the names UP and continue to end of record.

ALMANAC WRITER—Ladies and gentlemen . . . this is your Almanac writer speaking . . . It has been my policy not to speak at length on any of our programs but tonight I am breaking the rule I made at the start of our broadcast . . . because of a special reason . . . Since the inauguration of this program, your master of ceremonies has been Paul Hanover . . . Tonight, after 31 broadcasts . . . Paul leaves our program and the station for fields anew . . . While still remaining in the announcing business, he plans to continue his education and possibly attend university.

Paul has made a lot of friends on our program and I as well as our Almanac listeners will be sorry to see him go . . . but as the saying goes you can't keep a young man down . . . Paul, by the way, how old are you?

PAUL—Well, George, I was nineteen years old last February.

WRITER—Huh . . . did you crawl out of the cradle to start in this business?

PAUL (laughs)—Not exactly . . . I began announcing at Sault Ste. Marie shortly after graduation from high school. That was two and a half years ago.

WRITER—Well, say . . . just what is there that drives a young man into a field like radio announcing.

PAUL—There are as many reasons as there are different types of people . . . Speaking for myself . . . I had done a little dramatic work at school and liked it . . . so . . . in planning what profession to follow I decided radio work was the easiest way of making a living.

WRITER—So you followed the easiest line of resistance . . . Now, honestly, has it been as easy as you figured it would be?

PAUL—Outside of having nervous prostration before and during broadcasts . . . worrying about pronunciations and the timing of programs and being razed by all and sundry for trying to sell everything from lead pencils to motor cars . . . it hasn't been so bad. . . . But I DO want to say that working on this program has given me more pleasure than anything I have run across yet . . . in radio, of course.

WRITER—Well . . . thanks Paul, it has been nice working with you. And don't forget, if you are ever down this way on a Thursday night . . . drop in and say hello to the folks on the air.

PAUL—It will be a pleasure . . . but let me introduce your new announcer . . . He is John Size of Hamilton . . . the city, by the way . . . I am going to . . . Come in John, and say hello to your new friends.

J. SIZE—Good evening all . . . It's an honor to be assigned to work on the Family Almanac

. . . and I am looking forward to a long stay with you . . . It will be swell reviewing the history of Kent County and at the same time learning all about this wonderful county of yours.

WRITER—And there you are, folks . . . It's good-bye, Paul, and welcome John, who next Thursday evening takes over as master of ceremonies on our program.

ANNOUNCER—Seated at the piano now is one who has entertained us several times, so recognizing his ability with the ivories, we asked him to play for us tonight. Here he is, King Tyrrell, of Chatham, to play for you a medley of your popular songs.

TYRRELL—Plays until 9:29 p.m.

THEME—Up and fade behind announcer.

ANNOUNCER—And so Chapter 31 comes to a close and we leave the air now to return next Thursday at 9 p.m. History teaches everything . . . Henry Ward Beecher once said . . . "THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY IS AN INSOLUBLE PROBLEM". . . . That's your thought for the day.

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

This is Paul Hanover saying good luck, good night but not good-bye . . . just au revoir. Your station CFCO.

THEME—(Up to end).

Listen to...

**KENT COUNTY
FAMILY ALMANAC**

**EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.
OVER CFCO.**

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

**"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor!"**

**SOME
FUTURE BROADCASTS**

- PIONEERS OF KENT
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- VILLAGE OF MERLIN
- TOWN OF HIGHGATE

AND OTHERS

ANNOUNCER—A list of Chatham men:
Sapper A. J. Cook . . . Gunner H. E. Foster
Gunner C. I. Bock . . . Private P. M.
Cornfield . . . Gunner . . . A. B. . . . Sergeant

Kent County Family Almanac

Chapter No. 32.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, Sept. 20th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Canada and Dominion Sugar Company presents "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine"
(In 15 seconds--then fade back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it... comes Kent County Family Almanac... a program that changes as the community changes... alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people. Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to end of Florentine--hold trumpet call back of announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Good evening, ladies and gentlemen... This is Chapter 32 of your Family Almanac... Tonight, we bring you two stories... episodes of those pioneer days that made history in this great county of ours. You will hear of wealth buried in the River Thames and of the days when Chatham's King Street was only a muddy trail. We have a few heroes to welcome back and your Almanac tenor adds his contribution—one of the new songs that is fast becoming popular. ... And thanks for those letters, folks, we appreciate your comments on our program. Keep writing, we acknowledge all letters.

THEME—(Up to end).

MRS. KENDRICK—On conclusion of Theme, play first bars of "If I Loved You," then continue softly while announcer introduces Bob Claus and the song.

ANNOUNCER—Here is Bob Claus, ready to sing a number that is fast gaining popularity. It's "If I Loved You." Mrs. Bryce Kendrick is at the piano.

BOB CLAUS—Sings.

VOICE—And now our story—

ANNOUNCER—In the sandy bed of the River Thames lies untold wealth... in the form of sunken logs, water-soaked but still valuable if they could only be brought to market. Old timers estimate that one collection of these logs—mostly walnut—buried in the river near Thamesville is worth \$40,000—perhaps more.

ENGINEER—Come in with "Maria My Own"—Up 15 seconds then low as announcer continues.

ANNOUNCER—One summer evening in the early '80's, so our story goes, a group of pioneers from near Glencoe came down the river with an unusually large raft of logs. In its course near Thamesville, the river takes an "S" turn... and in flood tide it was a ticklish job to get the big rafts around the bend. The river carried more water than it does now, and the rafts had to go around the turn at extreme flood... and at considerable speed... If it missed the turn at that psychological moment... it was just too bad.

On the day in question when the lumberman reached the "S" turn, the river was not high enough to get their raft over the sand-bar... they decided to wait for the next heavy rainfall. The gang, probably 12 in all, put up at a large rooming house nearby and waited. Four days past and still no rain.

Now meat was not rationed in those days—but beef was scarce and the proprietor fed the men chicken. But after chicken, three times a day for several days, the men were in a mood to welcome any alternative... In their idle moments they cast hungry eyes at a large patch of strawberries in the proprietor's garden. They wondered why berries never appeared on the dining-room table.

On the sixth night of their stay they decided to raid the patch... and when darkness settled over the tiny community they crept cautiously toward the garden. As they were about to feast themselves upon the luscious red berries, they gasped in amazement. A ghostly... figure... in a... long... white night-shirt, carrying a lantern and a basket loomed before them. They thought they re-

cognized the proprietor picking his own berries.

The men beat a hasty retreat. And when berries did not appear on the table the next day they determined to try again. But that night as they were about to venture out, the men found themselves locked in their rooms. Somewhat annoyed, they retired for the night still hungry for a feed of strawberries. Then . . . shortly before midnight the rain came.

ENGINEER—Come in with sound effect of wind and rain—let it run behind announcer.

ANNOUNCER—It was an unusually heavy down-pour . . . just what the lumbermen were waiting for . . . NOW WAS THE TIME to get their logs over the sand-bar and around the treacherous turn. They pounded the doors and pleaded . . . but no amount of persuasion could induce the landlord to free his prisoners. With the rush of the June freshet . . . the sand-bar shifted burying a large number of the logs.

ENGINEER—Cut rain effect.

The next morning . . . the men gazed gloomily at the surging river . . . but tradition does not tell us what took place between the lumbermen and the rooming house proprietor. Such is the story of the walnut Golconda at the "S" turn near Thamesville . . . But all the way down-stream, according to oldtimers . . . timber, waterlogged and heavy but still worth money . . . is buried in the sands.

As late as 1914 . . . another timber Golconda was discovered in the river channel near Prairie Siding . . . It was dredged out and found to consist of logs that had been buried in the river bed for untold years. Logs will keep hundreds of years, if under water, and his find contained 8,700 feet of saleable lumber.

Along about 1915, a company was organized to retrieve the lost timber in the river . . . but the promoters, it is said, became more interested in selling stock than in raising logs and the venture flopped.

Today, an occasional log, routed from its resting place by spring floods, floats aimlessly down the river . . . going no place in particular, probably coming to rest at some lonely spot along the bank . . . there to be buried again by sand-bars that have stopped all navigation along a once busy waterway.

Now let us pause briefly as we hear Al Donahue and his orchestra playing that lively but friendly number "Hi Neighbor."

ENGINEER—Come in with recording "Hi Neighbor."

VOICE—When I was eight years old I used to stand and gaze with childish awe at an old-fashioned clock that stood in the narrow hallway of my grand-father's ancient home. It was one of those tall clocks . . . probably six and a half feet in height and I was entrigued with its weights hanging down in open style . . . its big round pendulum covered with brass and its musical gong that struck every quarter of an hour.

Grandfather's clock, they called it and if ever a man watched so lovingly over anything, grandfather watched over that clock. . . . It was his one and only time-piece and it seemed as if it was ticking away life.

ENGINEER—In above—at words "It was his one and only time-piece" come in with sound effect of house clock striking and let it strike EIGHT—then stop.

VOICE—Every night at the stroke of eight, grandfather would rise from his chair before the fireplace, wind the clock and then as though hating to leave, retire to bed.

As I grew older and travelled, I discovered that in three Ontario homes there are three such clocks . . . all identical. These clocks had been purchased in England by three men . . . Dayman, Lemen and Clement who had come to a new world seeking new fortunes. Only the works of these clocks had been brought over on the sailing vessels that carried them to America and on their arrival individual cases were made . . . and the clocks eventually became installed in three different homes throughout the wilderness of Upper Canada.

Today . . . one of those clocks is in the Clement home near Troy . . . another, in a home near Lynden on the Governor's Road . . . and the third, near Drumbo in Oxford County. These clocks have watched over pioneer days since 1832 and information reveals their fine state of preservation indicates they will serve for years to come.

But to get back to my grandfather's clock . . . one night, the old man got up from his chair as usual but to the amazement of everyone in the house he did not wind the clock. Slowly as though very tired he went quietly to his room. An hour later, he died and when someone next looked at the clock they found it had stopped. Although his son was a clock-maker by trade, he never attempted to fix it and the clock stood for years a silent memorial to the old man who had watched over it for a lifetime.

BOB CLAUS and MRS. KENDRICK—On signal from speaker, Mrs. Kendrick will play first bars of "Grandfather's Clock" and on completion of speaker, Bob Claus will sing.

ANNOUNCER—The singer you just heard was Bob Claus. Your narrator was your Almanac Writer.

ANNOUNCER—We turn now to our second story tonight . . . a story of early Chatham—of the days when King street was a street of stumps . . . and frame buildings were a novelty.

ENGINEER—Come in with recording "Minuet in G"—Up and fade behind announcer.

ANNOUNCER—When James Soutar published the Kent County Gazetteer in 1886, some interesting glimpses were furnished in an historical sketch of the little community that later became the city of Chatham . . . The appearance of the village in those days was not very enticing. King, the principal street, was nothing better than a decent trail, full of bog-holes that was barely passable to stage-coaches and wagons. Within the limits of the village, there were little clearings and along the river bank as far east as Fourth street, the land was under cultivation. Between Fourth and Fifth streets, there was a sugar bush with occasional stores and log houses. The square on the north which comprises King, Wellington, Fourth and Fifth was nothing more than a common. The military ground, now Tecumseh Park, was a field of hay, having been cleared since 1812.

Those were the days that followed the arrival of such pioneers as Michael Lenover . . . David Pratt in 1831 . . . Thomas McCrae and Daniel Forsyth in 1832 . . . Joseph Northwood in 1833 . . . and in later years Henry Van Allen, the Bakers, William Eberts, James Reed, the Verralls, the Orrs, the Dolsens and the Cosgraves.

Henry Chrysler had previously arrived and had built a blacksmithing shop near the corner of King and Third streets. Dr. McMullen, who later became Grown-Lands Agent, erected a log building on the site now occupied by the William Pitt Hotel. He later sold his building to Israel Evans, who added an addition and carried on a tavern under the name of "The Cross Keyes." In after years, it became the Farmers' Exchange under the management of Billy Dolsen of the River View Farm in Raleigh Township.

There was one church . . . St. Paul's on Goal street, now Stanley Avenue but there was no established pastor. Rev. Mr. Morley, a missionary, used to make occasional visits and later was stationed here permanently.

It was about this time, that a very important ceremony took place . . . an event, no doubt, that was a pink day in the calendar of early Chatham womanhood. It was the marriage of Harry Chrysler, the pioneer's son, to Miss

Lenover. A similar event of importance took place soon after the village became incorporated in 1842, when William Dolsen was married to Nancy Evans, sister of Israel Evans, then license inspector. From these unions descended many of our oldest and most respected citizens.

Many of the landmarks to which Soutar made reference to in his Gazetteer of 1866 have long since vanished or acquired new identity. The Merchant's Bank on the site of Stephen Brock's store, is now the Bank of Montreal . . . the old town hall is now the market front . . . and oldtimers identify the site of Claude Cartier's pioneer tavern as the north side of King street just west of the Rankin block.

ENGINEER—At 20 words from end (above) come in with recording "The Bogey March" faintly, and then up to end of recording.

ANNOUNCER—You have just heard "The Bogey March" as played by the London Concert Orchestra.

ANNOUNCER—Before we welcome home those who arrived this week from overseas, your Almanac extends greetings and many happy returns to Mr. and Mrs. "Mac" McDonald, of Wabash, who on Tuesday observed their golden wedding anniversary. Many friends and relatives gathered at the home of their son, Angus McDonald, R.R. 1, Thamesville, to wish these sturdy pioneers of Kent county a long and happy life. And now our Welcome Home—

Blenheim welcomed Private H. L. Partridge and Private C. R. Turner.

Dresden—Sergt. C. T. Mason.

Ridgetown—Corporal W. B. Johnson . . . and Private D. Burham.

Thamesville—Sergt. A. E. Tobias and Private H. J. Labelle.

Merlin—Private A. A. Cryp.

Wheatley—Bombardier E. B. Hyatt.

Wallaceburg—Lieut. J. W. Marshall and Private F. L. Charron.

And those who arrived at Chatham were Corp. A. Aikman, Private H. R. Holland, Private R. J. Mullaly, Sergt. W. J. McKellar, Sergt. L. F. Spurgeon, Sergt. J. Tasker, Private G. E. Debacker, Private R. H. Johnston, Private W. A. Parker, Private S. E. Gallerno, Warrant Officer R. J. Weldon, Sergt. C. P. Barry.

The following Kent County airmen will also arrive when the liner Pasteur docks at Quebec Friday—

Warrant Officer W. B. Roszell goes to Jeanettes Creek; Corp. J. T. McVean to Dresden; LAC. W. D. Orme to Wallaceburg and F/S C. L. Brennan, Corp. A. M. Bristol and Corp. G. Lovell to Chatham.

ENGINEER—Immediately on conclusion of 'Welcome Home' names, begin record "Somewhere a Voice is Calling,"—play behind speakers all through poetry and if time required play full until end.

ANNOUNCER and G.R.S.—Begin reading.

VOICE—What did you see, soldier? What did you see at war?

ANNOUNCER—I saw such glory and horror as I've never seen before.
I saw men's hearts bled and burn in agonies of pain;
I saw such Godlike courage as I'll never see again.

VOICE—What did you hear, soldier? What did you hear at war?

ANNOUNCER—I heard the prayers on the lips of men who had never prayed before.
I heard men tell their very souls, confessing each dark stain;
I heard men speak the sacred things, they will not speak again.

VOICE—What did you learn, soldier? What did you learn at war?

ANNOUNCER—I learned that we must learn some time what was not learned before.
That victories won on battlefields are victories won in vain.

Unless in peace we kill the germs that bred new wars again.

VOICE—What did you pray, soldier? What did you pray at war?

ANNOUNCER—I prayed that we might do such things we have not done before.
That we might mobilize for peace, nor mobilize in vain,
Lest Christ and man be forced to climb stark Calvary again.

THEME—Reverse side of "Florentine."

ANNOUNCER—And so ends Chapter 32 of your Family Almanac... we leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday at 9 p.m.

Horace Walpole gives us our thought for the day—"The world is a comedy to those who think; a tragedy to those who feel."
Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

This is your announcer saying "Lots of good luck and keep smiling."

Good Night All.

Your Station CFCO.

THEME—Up to end.

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CHATHAM, ONTARIO

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Henry Chrysler had previously arrived and had built a blacksmithing shop near the corner of King and Third streets.

- SOME
FUTURE BROADCASTS**
- PIONEERS OF KENT.
 - CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
 - KENT PERSONALITIES.
 - VILLAGE OF MERLIN
 - TOWN OF HIGHGATE

AND OTHERS

It was about this time that a very important ceremony took place... in the calendar of early Chatham County history...

Kent County Family Almanac

Chapter No. 34.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, October 4th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Canada and Dominion Sugar Company presents "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine"
(In 15 seconds---then fade back of announcer)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(to end of Florentine---then hold trumpet call back as announcer continues).

ANNOUNCER—This is Chapter 34 of your Almanac, folks . . . a chapter full of music . . . old-time favorites that you will like . . . Listen to our guest pianist . . . who . . . despite his great handicap . . . plays the pieces you sang in days gone by . . . Our speakers are two . . . who officiated today at the opening of the Chatham-Kent Museum . . . There is a long list of returned men to welcome back to Kent County and listen closely, ladies, there is a special announcement later in the program . . . something that will interest everyone.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, we have a half-hour of real entertainment for you tonight . . . lots of fun and music . . . but before we get under way . . . a word to the ladies. Later in this program we are going to make a special announcement to all the ladies in our radio audience so wait for it and keep a pencil handy . . . we want you to copy down an address.

Right now it's music time . . . Our program tonight is entirely unrehearsed but you, our listening audience can help make it up . . . Seated at the piano here in our studio is Frank Temperton, of Windsor. Now Mr.

Temperton had the misfortune a few years ago to lose his left hand in an accident but . . . as the saying goes . . . he can play a piano like nobody's business . . . Frank says he can play any of the old favorites you might select so we are going to put him on the spot. You folks out there on the air can help us. Go to your telephone right now and call CFCO, 2626, Chatham, and give us the name of the piece you would like to hear. Just give the person who answers the telephone, the name of the selections you want, your name and where you live . . . Dover Township, Raleigh, Chatham, Thamesville or wherever it may be and Frank will play it for you. NOW please don't phone in requests for boogey-woogie or jive numbers . . . Remember Mr. Temperton only has one hand and it is difficult for him to manipulate the bass notes . . . just your favorite old-time selections.

There are a number of people who knew Frank was going to play for us tonight and they have already sent in their requests. Frank doesn't know just what songs they are going to be . . . he has no music in front of him so we'll get off to a start with "Tonight We Love" . . . for Mrs. Jefferies, and "Mighty Like a Rose" for H. Wood, both of Chatham.

TEMPERTON—Plays above selections.

ANNOUNCER—And now while you folks are telephoning in your favorite selections . . . here's our special announcement . . . the announcement you have been waiting for . . .

The sponsors of this program, The Canada and Dominion Sugar Company will give \$5 for the best recipe for a sponge layer cake, in which sugar is used. Here is all you have to do . . . simply write your recipe on a piece of paper, giving the name of the cake . . . all the ingredients including the portion of sugar you use and mail it to FAMILY ALMANAC RECIPES, care CFCO, on or before midnight, October 15 . . . The name of the winner of the five dollars will be announced on the ALMANAC program October 18.

Now don't think for a moment those recipes are going to be judged by anyone at CFCO or any member of the SUGAR COMPANY staff . . . All recipes will be taken to a prominent nutrition expert or chef and he or she will judge them. WE don't know who that person may be just now but the name of the judge will be announced at the time the winner is announced. We repeat . . . send your recipe to FAMILY ALMANAC RECIPES, CFCO, Chatham.

VOICE—Now that doesn't mean, ladies, that you are to send the actual product although our announcer and control engineer always take the cake . . . All that is required is the recipe be plainly written on a piece of paper with your name and address. Send it in tonight, if you can . . . the sooner the better . . .

ANNOUNCER—And that isn't all, ladies . . . Next week on this broadcast there will be another special announcement . . . Listen for it . . . you will have another chance to win another cash amount . . . And be sure to send your letters to FAMILY ALMANAC RECIPES, care of CFCO, Chatham.

And now let's get back to Frank Temperton and more music.

ANNOUNCER—Well . . . it hasn't taken you folks long to get to your telephones and it looks as though Frank here is going to be a busy man . . . Here is one for Dover Centre . . . "I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover" for Mrs. Sherman Brown . . . and for Mrs. Gordon Dick, R.R. 3, Chatham . . . "I'll Be Seeing You" . . . C. W. Fallis, Petrolia, is right on the job . . . He wants to hear "Always." How about it Mr. Temperton?

TEMPERTON—Plays three selections as called.

ANNOUNCER—As we told you before this program has not been rehearsed so if you hear someone talking in the studio it's your Almanac writer taking down your telephone calls relayed from the studio upstairs . . . For Mrs. H. Markham, Dresden, "Mother McCree" . . . and for Eunice Stacey, R.R. 5, Chatham, "Tour-ra-lour-a-ly." . . . And Provincial Constable Jack Bain wants to hear "My Buddy."

TEMPERTON—Plays selections named.

ANNOUNCER—History was made in Kent County today when the Chatham-Kent County Museum was formally opened to the public. A brief and simple ceremony marked the opening of the building on William Street, which was the former home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Milner.

Today's ceremony marked the realization of many years' effort on the part of a group of loyal citizens to establish a home in which

the traditions and relics of this historical county might be preserved.

Two speakers who addressed the gathering this afternoon are to be heard at this moment . . . The first, Professor Fred Landon, librarian, University of Western Ontario. He has a few words to say on what the museum will mean to Chatham and Kent County . . . Professor Landon.

ENGINEER—Come in with recording of Prof. Landon.

PROF. LANDON—It was a privilege today to be able to attend and have a small part in the opening of the new Chatham-Kent County Museum. Some months ago, when in Chatham, I saw the museum in its beginnings and today find those beginnings carried to a successful culmination in the inauguration of what will prove an important factor in the educational system of this city. It is very proper that Chatham should have come to this stage of recognition of its past, for Kent County is one of the historic counties of Ontario. I recall that away back in the month of February, 1793, John Graves Simcoe, the first lieutenant-governor of this province, passed this way on his way to visit the garrison at Detroit where the British flag was still flying. He was here again in 1794 and it was his intention that this should be the naval station for his capital which he thought of placing at London. Chatham, in his plans, went much further than London, for nothing happened as a result of his visit to the forks of the Thames but Chatham did become a center for early naval shipbuilding.

I think, too, of the events of the war of 1812 which transpired in this area, of the daring little action at the McCrea House, for example, which, coming at a dark hour in the events of the war, did so much to arouse renewed and fresh energy in the defence of the country against invaders.

There are a host of things connected with the earlier days of Kent County that the boys and girls of today, passing through our schools, should know, and their elders, too, for that matter, for sometimes it is the boys and girls who show the greater interest in the history of their community.

Not alone domestic matters but at times international matters have come into the picture. So it was, when away back in 1858, old Ossawaotimie John Brown held his convention in Chatham, an event that became the prelude to the attack on Harper's Ferry, and Harper's Ferry was the prelude to the great American Civil War.

Our Canadian communities are coming of age. It is striking how many institutions are

today arriving at the centenary stage. We see it in churches and schools and in many other institutions. These hundred year observances impress us that we are no longer in the pioneer era. That has long since passed away. But the memory of it must not be allowed to fade away, and it is fortunate that in communities such as Chatham, and in counties such as Kent, we find people who are giving their time and interest to developing a public interest in the past.

Chatham as a city and Kent as a county are to be congratulated on possessing in this, the county town, such a beautiful and well equipped building as that which was so happily opened today. There will be a deep debt owing in days ahead to the Milner family who presented the building, to those who planned its work and to those who have enriched its collections by their contributions. It is an example to other cities and counties who have yet to achieve the possession of a public civic museum.

ANNOUNCER—Thank you, Professor Landon. And here is Mr. Wilfrid Jury, curator, of the University of Western Ontario, who spoke this afternoon. Mr. Jury spoke on one of our recent programs and we asked him to say a few words over the air tonight. He is here now and we would like to have his version of the work of a museum and what the one opened today may mean to Kent County.

MR. JURY—The people of Chatham and Kent County this afternoon made history when they formally opened the old Milner residence on William Street for museum purposes. It is in just such archives that the traditions of the community are treasured and the relics of our forefathers are preserved. Museums should be considered an educational centre where present and future generations may acquire knowledge of what has gone before, and the story of the past may be illustrated and depicted for posterity.

ANNOUNCER—Mr. Jury, we understand you have been doing some excavating at Fairfield, site of the ancient village of the Moravians, destroyed by the Americans during their invasion in 1813. Just what are you trying to find there?

MR. JURY—Because of the faith and courage of those Moravians, we are trying to find out, through our discoveries, just how they lived and what they used in those days. So far, we have been able to locate the sites of many of their buildings, including the church.

ANNOUNCER—And are there any other important discoveries?

MR. JURY—Well, I located the bed-log that marked or indicated the site of their church

built in 1792 . . . I had been unable to locate it because the highway ran directly over the site of the church and the log was finally found at the edge of the grade just outside the old fence line. The highway at that particular spot is right on the corner of the site of the church.

ANNOUNCER—What else did you find there, Mr. Jury?

MR. JURY—We found the sites of most of the buildings or log houses that were there at the time Patrick McNiff made his survey in 1793 . . . also the sites as far as the highway cuts through.

ANNOUNCER—What about relics of any kind?

MR. JURY—We found dishes . . . cups minus handles, portions of vases, tin cups . . . remnants of crockery, gun barrels, stocks, carpenters' tools, such as blades and axes . . . We also found buttons . . . presumably off clerical garments, coins and various kinds of pipes . . . A spinning wheel, needles and scissors. Also quite a bit of Indian material such as hatchets and bows and arrows. Oh, yes, and we also found a very old sun-dial still in working condition.

ANNOUNCER—How long have you been getting at this work? Mr. Jury.

MR. JURY—It took us two months to get where we are today. I expect to finish this week for the rest of the year at least.

ANNOUNCER—It looks as though a wonderful work is going on up there. Thank you, Mr. Jury for giving so much of your valuable time to our program tonight. I am sure all our listeners have been deeply interested.

ANNOUNCER—Here is a call from Audrey French for "There's a Long Long Trail A-winding" and for Mr. and Mrs. Adey, it's "Take Me Home Again Kathleen." Temperton plays.

Elizabeth Brown wants "Roaming in The Gloaming" and Theodore Greenwood . . . "Two Little Girls in Blue"—Temperton plays.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Ford, of Detroit, where Mr. Ford is president of the Michigan Alkaline Company, are visiting friends in Chatham. It so happens today is their 25th wedding anniversary, so for them Frank Temperton plays, "When You and I Were Young, Maggie."

Folks, we are not going to get all these calls played but Frank will do what he can. There are numbers requested by Donna Reid, Wilfrid Richie, Ann Colby and Sue Sulman; Alvin Myers and Loretta, both of Harwich; Mrs. D. Primeau, Chatham; Jimmie Robin-

son, Chatham; R. J. Smith, Bear Line; Mrs. Orval Jones, Bothwell and Miss Baird, Chatham.

Some of the numbers requested have already been played, but Frank will continue until our time is up.

TEMPERTON—Ends playing.

ANNOUNCER—Here is an important message to sugar beet growers. The Canada and Dominion Sugar Company announce that weigh scales at the Chatham and Wallaceburg plants, will open Wednesday, October 10 at 7 a.m. and weigh in scales each day at 5:30 p.m. (Repeat).

THEME—(Up for 15 seconds—then fade behind announcer).

MR. JURY—It looks like two months to you, but we are today. I expect to be in the rest of the world.

ANNOUNCER—How long have you been getting the work done?

Listen to...

KENT COUNTY FAMILY ALMANAC

EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M. OVER CFCO. CHATHAM, ONTARIO

"Get acquainted with your County and Your Neighbor,"

ANNOUNCER—And so we end Chapter 34 of your Family Almanac with a hearty thank you to Frank Temperton, also all you folks who have phoned in requests for your favorite musical selection.

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

Don't forget to send in those recipes, ladies, you may win that lucky five dollars.

This is your announcer, John Size, saying lots of luck and be sure to tune in again next Thursday at nine p.m. for another important announcement. Good night all.

This is CFCO. We have planned its collection by their collection. It is an excellent idea and one who has a lot to offer to the public.

And here is Mr. Willard, secretary of the University of Western Ontario, who spoke at the dinner. He says that the purpose of the fund is to help the needy and to provide for the work of a fund which will be one of the best things that we can do.

SOME FUTURE BROADCASTS

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- VILLAGE OF MERLIN
- TOWN OF HIGHGATE AND OTHERS

1915
60
1855

Kent County Family Almanac

Chapter 35.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, October 11th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Canada and Dominion Sugar Company presents Kent County Family Almanac.

THEME—"Florentine"
Up for fifteen seconds—(then fade behind announcer).

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it... comes Kent County Family Almanac... a program that changes as the community changes... alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people. Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to end of "Florentine" then fade trumpet call as announcer continues.)

ANNOUNCER—To-night we bring you Chapter 35 of your Family Almanac... a chapter in which we honor one of the earliest pioneer families of Kent County... a family with a sea-loving tradition... but you will hear more of that later... We have another special message to the ladies and there are a number of returned heroes to welcome home.

Our tenor soloist has prepared special selections for this program and we have a surprise for you at the end of the broadcast.

Listen for it.

ENGINEER—Come in with recording "Carry"... Up 5 seconds, then back of announcer.

ANNOUNCER—A Beacon In the Night.

ENGINEER—Up 3 seconds, then fade back of announcer.

ANNOUNCER—Your Almanac's tribute to the Cartier family.

ENGINEER—Up 3 seconds, then fade back of announcer.

ANNOUNCER—Keepers of the light at the mouth of the River Thames for 133 years.

ENGINEER—Up 10 seconds, then fade back of announcer.

ANNOUNCER—At the southeast corner of Lake St. Clair near the mouth of the River Thames stands a lighthouse that is closely linked with the French and British regimes in Canadian history. From the top of the tall stone column, which many of you have seen, its light shines out over the lake sixty feet above the water level and can be seen for a distance of 10 to 12 miles.

The responsibilities of that light... which has been burning since before the war of 1812... are heavy... for on stormy nights, when the shore-line is lost in darkness, its guiding rays may mean the difference between safe navigation and shelter or the loss of ships and men. Missing the harbor mouth might mean stranding on the shoals that infest the shallow beaches.

For over 133 years the beacon has been trimmed and kept burning by a descendant of that famous Frenchman, Cartier, who discovered Upper Canada. Its present keeper is William "Dick" Cartier, whose ancestors first settled along the St. Lawrence, then migrated to the shores of Lake Erie and then to the Thames River. The sea has always been in their blood and the sailing tradition is maintained in the family. So does light-keeping... the fixed light of the sailor.

ENGINEER—Fade out recording.

Proceedings of the Land Board for 1792 reveal that one Jacques Cartier was an early settler in the district and it was a descendant of his who became the first keeper of the light at the mouth of the Thames.

ANNOUNCER—But the beacon at the mouth of the Thames has not always been atop the familiar white building you see to-day. As far back as the reign of George III, the Government established a light at this point... the first being two lanterns on tall poles. Now poles were not difficult to get in those days but lanterns were, and so was the necessary oil... hence the need that light-keeping be a government project.

Only on one known occasion has the light at the Thames Estuary failed. That was in 1813, after the Battle of Lake Erie. Proc-

tor had begun his famous retreat up the Thames by boat and the weary oarsmen in the heavy flat-bottomed boats must have hailed the lights of the Thames with delight, pursued as they were by Perry and his forces in lighter craft.

The British felt that once in the shelter of the river they could land in the woods and build defences. Furthermore, after they had all passed, the lights were extinguished, which made it difficult for the Americans to find the mouth of the river after dark. Tradition has it that the light-keeper joined Proctor's army taking the lanterns and oil with him so the equipment could not fall into the hands of the enemy.

Later . . . when peace was signed, the light was replaced . . . and in the years that followed it guided many sailing vessels into and through the shallow estuary. In the days of the passenger excursions up and down the Thames the light was ever there, a constant beacon to such veteran sailors as Captain William Eberts, long familiar with the Chatham-Detroit run.

ENGINEER—Come in with record "King Lear" —at chalk line fade behind announcer.

ANNOUNCER—To this day, from spring break-up until winter's freeze-up some member of the Cartier family, or his assistant, climbs the circular ladder early in the evening to the tower where the flame burns constantly for 16 hours out of every twenty-four.

ENGINEER—Up 15 seconds then fade again behind announcer.

ANNOUNCER—The lamp itself is fueled by a special long burning kerosene. To some it may seem old-fashioned to use a kerosene lamp, when electric current is available . . . but when storms arise, and the light is needed most there is always the possibility that the power may fail and the light would be extinguished.

That . . . would tarnish the reputation that has been built up by the Cartiers for over 133 years—that the light has never failed.

ENGINEER—Up with recording to end.

ANNOUNCER—When the song "Danny Boy" came into prominence shortly after the last war, it was voted one of the most popular selections of its time. We have received many requests during the past months for Bob Claus to sing it and here he is, accompanied by Mrs. Bryce Kendrick at the piano.

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Thanks Bob . . . "Danny Boy" is a favorite that I am sure will live for a long time.

ANNOUNCER—On a recent broadcast we told you of the unique picture gallery in Chatham's city council chambers. We received two letters asking us to describe the portrait of the three unidentified mayors in the collection.

We want to read one of these letters and then tell you the results . . . Here's the letter:

Chatham, Sept. 29.

The Writer,
Kent County Family Almanac.

Dear Sir:—

Your story of Chatham's three unidentified mayors was most interesting. Has anyone been able to tell you, since the broadcast, who they are . . .

Maybe if you described them some listener would be able to find their names. Can you describe them over the air? I'll bet they all had long beards.

Yours Truly . . . Samuel Parker,
Chatham Township.

You are absolutely right, Mr. Parker . . . Two of them have beards and the third is very faded . . . But they are all fine, intelligent looking man and appear quite capable of filling the high honor to which they were elected or chosen. You see, folks, this is what happened . . . When G. W. Sulman established the picture precedent and left his picture at the council chamber after he was mayor in 1901 and '2, friends and relatives began bringing in pictures of former mayors, some as far back as 1859 and up to the present century. The pictures referred to look as though they might have been taken during that period.

Number one is a very jovial looking man, full beard, wore glasses and has a mass of hair; we couldn't tell whether it was grey or black; . . . number two, has side-burns, partially bald and might have been a small man; . . . number three picture was one of those old fashioned tin-types, badly faded out it was quite evident he wore a beard . . . probably grey. There you are, Mr. Parker; . . . that's about the best description we can give you and if you think you can identify any of the three men . . . just give your Almanac a call.

ENGINEER—At end of picture gallery story (above) come in unannounced with recording "Ivory Tactics"—play minute and 15 seconds to where chalked, then cut.

ANNOUNCER—The good people up at Petrolia, in the neighboring county of Lambton, are enterprising and progressive and municipalities; interested in reconversion, can well take a lesson from what happened recently. Fifteen years ago, the Canadian National Railways decided to close their station in

which was a large waiting room. For years the building stood idle.

Finally, the Lambton County Library Association took it over and a library was installed. A short time ago, the town council and the library board reached a new agreement. The citizens wanted a museum . . . so now they have both. From railway station to library, then a museum is the feat the folks at Petrolia have accomplished with only an old building to work with.

Ladies . . . this message is for you . . . Last week, the sponsors of this program . . . the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company announced they would pay five dollars for the best recipe submitted for a sponge layer cake . . . The response has been generous but there is still time for you to send in YOUR recipe . . . Just write it on a piece of paper, giving all the ingredients, and mail it to Family Almanac Recipes before midnight, October 15 . . . that is next Monday . . . The winner of the five dollars will be announced on our program on Thursday, October 18 . . . An experienced chef or nutrition expert will judge the recipes . . . Remember just your recipe for a sponge layer cake.

ANNOUNCER—Chopin's Polinaise rocketed to popularity with the motion picture "A Song to Remember." From it, came the song "Tie the end of Time" arranged by Buddy Kaye and Ted Mossman and here is Bob Claus to sing it.

CLAUS—Sings.

ENGINEER—Come in with recording "To a Wild Rose" fade behind announced and cut at 1 minute 55 seconds.

VOICE—Friends, our boys are coming back. All through Kent County . . . mothers, dads, wives and sweethearts are welcoming their men from overseas. You see them on the streets every day now . . . some in uniform awaiting their discharge, some back in civies . . . eager, keen-eyed boys ready to make good.

Before they got back . . . we heard it on every hand . . . that gloomy prediction that they would never be the same . . . they would be bitter, some said, restless, lazy for a while at least . . . Well, perhaps, you say, they have a right to be like that after all they had gone through.

But what do we find . . . we find sturdy manly fellows anxious to make good at the jobs they left in the city or on the farms with dad and the younger brother . . . we find men instead of the boys who left us years ago, men, more tolerant than ever before . . . They are back now . . . back to set an example to the rest of us.

And as Mrs. Wynne Bunning said in a recent issue of the Blenheim News-Tribune, "You're tooting right, our boys have changed. They're BETTER."

ENGINEER—Cut recording.

ANNOUNCER—And so let's welcome back this week to Tilbury, Corp G. J. Escott; Gunner P. E. Thibert and Colonel D. N. Cooke.

THAMESVILLE welcomed Sergt J. R. Harlick; . . . Private J. I. Bitter . . . Private R. T. Campbell.

BLENHEIM . . . Sergt. J. J. Hutcheson . . . Sergt O. E. Stirling and Private D. Donnell. Private A. R. Mortier went to FLETCHER.

RIDGETOWN welcomed Sapper D. T. Somerville . . . Staff-Sergt. D. L. Kennedy. Private G. D. Shannon was welcomed at

JEANNETTE'S CREEK and Trooper G. R. Richards to DRESDEN.

TUPPERVILLE welcomed Trooper A. A. Morrison and BOTHWELL, Trooper L. J. Campbell.

Gunner C. D. Stoliker went to MERLIN and WALLACEBURG welcomed Trooper I. L. McCallum . . . Gunner R. J. Lucier and Private R. J. Brill.

And those who arrived in Chatham were . . . Capt. W. G. Chatterton, Willomac Ave.; . . . Lieut. J. A. Howe, Charing Cross Road; Lieut. G. A. McCutcheon; . . . Lieut. I. E. Jones, Patteson Ave.; . . . Corp. A. A. Bechard, Stanley Ave.; . . . Private H. L. Brown, Cross Street; . . . Corp. Grocott, Inshes Ave.; Private J. H. Pickering, Adelaide Street . . . Corp. J. P. Reddick, Gray Street; . . . Gunner R. A. River, Taylor Ave.; . . . Corp. C. H. Stewart, King Street; Sapper G. T. McNaughton, Harvey Street; . . . Corp. L. Sinclair, Lorne Ave.; . . . Sapper T. Petrie, Harvey Street; . . . Sergt. F. W. Taylor, Harvey Street; . . . Gunner H. V. Crosby, Degge Street; . . . Gunner R. James, Lansdowne Ave.; Capt. K. F. Caren, Harvey Street; . . . Trooper L. W. Hooker, Grant Street . . . Trooper W. Kalistock, Grand Ave. West . . . Corp. S. W. Haydon, Harvey Street and Capt. Bill Angus, Wellington Street.

ANNOUNCER—Bob Claus has a number you have heard before. We have had several requests for him to sing again "Did You Happen to Find a Heart?"

CLAUS—Sings.

ANNOUNCER—Folks, a visitor wandered into our studio a few moments ago . . . A queer looking duck I would say. We're going to ask him to introduce himself . . . Come over here and say hello.

BUNGLE DUCK—'Lo Folks.

ANNOUNCER—It's Bungle Duck, folks, and Bungle looks a little out of place. This is a radio program Bungle and everybody who comes in here must do something on the show. What can you do?

BUNGLE—Me, I can't do nothing.

ANNOUNCER—You can't do anything. Well, now you are an intelligent looking duck, how about singing.

BUNGLE—G-r-r-r-.

ANNOUNCER—Well, supposing Mrs. Kendrick plays a few notes on the piano. What about "Daisy, Daisy" Mrs. Kendrick, and you sing, Bungle.

ANNOUNCER—Go ahead, Bungle.

BUNGLE (without music)—"Daisy, Daisy, give me your promise true, I'm half crazy over the love of you."—Oh, p-h-o-o-e! 'Lo Toots.

ANNOUNCER—Now listen, Bungle, you can't say anything like that to any of our guests in the studio. By the way, how do you like our show?

BUNGLE—It . . .

ANNOUNCER—Ah, Ah, No, perhaps you had better not say it. But that reminds me . . . we just had a phone call from a very nice

girl . . . she wants you to come up for dinner tonight.

BUNGLE—G-R-R-R-R-R.

ANNOUNCER—And she says for you to come prepared. She is going to have roast duck.

BUNGLE—Oh, Oh, let me out of here here—Swish and door closes.

ANNOUNCER—There he goes, folks, he seems to be in a hurry. Wonder what next we will have on this Almanac program. We just have time now to hear another musical selection "Croquettes."

ENGINEER—Come in with above recording and play until 28.30 then fade out for announcer to come in with closing.

THEME—(Up and fade behind announcer).

ANNOUNCER—And so we bring Chapter 35 to a close and we leave the air at this time to return next Thursday when we will bring you our program from the Auditorium of the Chatham Vocational School.

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

This is your announcer John Size, saying lot of good luck and keep smiling. Good night all.

This is CFCO.

Listen to...

**KENT COUNTY
FAMILY ALMANAC**

**EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.
OVER CFCO**

CHATHAM, ONTARIO

**"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."**

**SOME
FUTURE BROADCASTS**

- PIONEERS OF KENT.
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES.
- VILLAGE OF MERLIN
- TOWN OF HIGHGATE
AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

(Chapter 36)

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, October 18th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—On signal from operator—From the auditorium of the Vocational School in Chatham, the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company—brings you Kent County Family Almanac.

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

(Signal for applause—10 seconds then fade it out.)

Tonight's broadcast is Chapter 36 of your Family Almanac and this half hour has been donated by our sponsors to the National War Finance Committee. Here in this lovely auditorium are some 400 people who have just witnessed the first motion picture on this big Victory Loan show. But there is a young man here I want you to meet . . . He is Ron McAllister, who will be your master of ceremonies on this special broadcast. Come in, Ron . . . It's yours from now on.

McALLISTER—Thank you, John and good evening, friends. It's an honor and a pleasure to be here in Chatham to take part in this great show for Victory . . . a peace we hope will bring happiness and prosperity to all the world. . . as John has just told you, we have witnessed the first of three pictures to be shown tonight . . . and we wish you folks out there on the air could be here with us. But I see we have a full program tonight, folks. Three former members of the armed forces are to be interviewed and that should be an interesting story. So we're away to a good start as we hear Norman Fish, of Wallaceburg, sing the popular selection "If I Loved You" . . . Norm is accompanied at the piano by Ray Stevens, organist and choir leader of Knox Church at Wallaceburg.

FISH—Sings.

McALLISTER—We now hear a short message from Major G. Grant McKeough, County Chairman of the National War Finance Committee. Major McKeough.

McKEOUGH—Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great pleasure to welcome both our audience here in the auditorium, and our radio listeners, to the Kent County Victory Loan Show.

First of all, I want to thank all the good people of our County for the fine support they have given every Victory Loan in the past. Kent has a fine record—every one of our eight Victory Loans has gone over the top—and each time the amount subscribed has increased. All through the war, we at home have never let our boys and girls in the armed forces down—our job on the financial front has been done to the best of our ability.

Now the fighting has stopped. Many of our young people are home again, and more are arriving every day. Some of us are perhaps wondering "Why another Victory Loan, now that Victory has been won? Why is still more money needed?"

The answer is really very simple, ladies and gentlemen. The shooting is over—for which we are all deeply thankful—but paying for the war cannot be stopped so quickly.

First of all, there are our troops still overseas. They must be paid, and fed, and maintained. Just as soon as possible, they must be brought home. These expenses are still going on, and they require a lot of money. Then, there are the liberated people of Europe. Many of them suffered under German occupation for four or five years. They must be fed this winter, or hundreds of thousands will starve. They can be very good customers of ours, once they are on their feet—but in the meantime, we must help them. This takes more money.

Finally, there are the men and women of our own communities who have returned from the war. They have given years of their lives to fight for our safety. Some of them have suffered disabilities which require long hospital treatment. All are entitled to the

best chance we can possibly give them, to re-establish themselves as useful, happy citizens in civil life. The dependents of those who gave their lives in the war must be looked after.

All these things are our solemn obligation as Canadians. It is an obligation that we assume gladly, in gratitude for the victory for which they fought.

These are some of the reasons why we are having another Victory Loan. I think we will all agree that they are good reasons.

Our Ninth Victory Loan objective in Kent is higher than ever before — our general sales quota alone is four million, three hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. This means that to reach our objective, we must all increase our purchases. That's not really as hard as it sounds, though—because this time we have twelve months to pay for our Bonds, instead of six—which means that by simply saving the same amount each week or month as we have been doing in the past, we can buy twice as many Bonds.

Remember, Victory Bonds are the finest investment in the world—so, when you are asked to buy this time, sign your name to Victory. Do your part to make this "Canada's Greatest Victory Loan."
Thank you very much.

McALLISTER—Thank you, Major McKeough. Corine Caron, whom I am told is a regular member of the Almanac cast, is here to add her portion to this Victory Loan show. Corine is going to sing "Homing" . . . one of the most popular semi-classics of the day. Mrs. Bryce Kendrick is at the piano.

CORINE—Sings.

McALLISTER—One of the most important reasons for the Ninth Victory Loan is to raise the money needed for Canada's rehabilitation programme. Perhaps some of us are not quite clear as to just what is meant by "rehabilitation." Tonight we're going to learn something about it. On our stage are three former members of the armed forces, and each one has something to tell us on this important subject. I will now turn the microphone over to Colonel W. G. Thomson, one of the Kent County organizers for the Ninth Victory Loan, who will interview our guests for us. Colonel Thomson.

THOMSON—Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Our first guest tonight is William Cleveland, of Chatham. Mr. Cleveland, were you born in this part of the country?

CLEVELAND—Yes, I was born at Cedar Springs, just about twelve miles from here. My grandfather was one of the earliest settlers

there—in fact he helped to nail up the horns from which the community got its old name of "Buckhorn."

THOMSON—When did you enlist and in what branch of the armed forces?

CLEVELAND—I joined the First Kents in October, 1940, and I was in the first draft from the Kents to go overseas.

THOMSON—When was that?

CLEVELAND—In September, 1941. I was in England until just after D-Day and landed in France on June 18th, 1944. I was through the campaigns in France, Holland and Belgium.

THOMSON—When did you return to Canada?

CLEVELAND—I landed in Canada on February 16th of this year, and after being in hospital for a period, I was discharged in April.

THOMSON—What line of work did you do before joining the army?

CLEVELAND—I worked with my father in his sand and gravel business, and also worked for a local construction company.

THOMSON—And what are you doing now?

CLEVELAND—My gratuity and re-establishment credit helped to buy two trucks, and I am now operating my own sand and gravel trucking business—and I'm glad to say it's going fine.

THOMSON—Congratulations, Mr. Cleveland, and good luck! Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Cleveland has illustrated for us one phase of Canada's rehabilitation plan — the use of gratuities and re-establishment credits to start our returned personnel on the road to financial independence.

THOMSON—The next speaker is Miss Donna Pickering, also of Chatham. Miss Pickering, in what branch of the armed forces did you serve?

MISS PICKERING—I enlisted in the Women's Division of the R.C.A.F. in 1943, Colonel Thomson.

THOMSON—And where were you stationed?

MISS PICKERING—I enlisted from Chatham, and qualified as a wireless operator. At different times, I was stationed at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, at Montreal, and at Hagersville.

THOMSON—Were any other members of your family in the services?

MISS PICKERING—Yes, I have a brother in the Navy and my father and another brother are in the army.

THOMSON—That's certainly a fine record for your family, Miss Pickering. Now, tell us a little more about yourself. Where did you work before joining the Air Force?

MISS PICKERING—I was employed at the Chatham Malleable and Steel, on war work. It seems to me though, that with the war over, a person with some kind of special training will have a lot better chance to get on in the world than one who hasn't any particular qualifications.

THOMSON—And what are you doing in the way of training?

MISS PICKERING—I am taking an eight-month course in stenography, at the Canada Business College here in Chatham.

THOMSON—Is the rehabilitation program helping you in doing this?

MISS PICKERING—Yes, indeed; you see, I am using my credit to provide my books and tuition, and a living allowance while I'm taking the course.

THOMSON—That's splendid, Miss Pickering—and I'm sure you'll have no difficulty in finding a good position when you graduate. Good luck to you, and thank you very much.

THOMSON—And so we see another phase of the rehabilitation plan—the provision of educational opportunities for our armed forces personnel. A great many others are following Miss Pickering's example, taking business, high school and university courses, as well as training in all sorts of skilled trades. The third guest on our programme is Charles Newcombe. Where is your home, Mr. Newcombe?

NEWCOMBE—I am living with my parents on Rural Route four, Blenheim.

THOMSON—Which was your branch of the services?

NEWCOMBE—I enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps in 1941, and went overseas in November of 1943.

THOMSON—And when did you first see action?

NEWCOMBE—We landed in France two weeks after D-Day, in July, 1944, and I was in the campaigns through the period that followed.

THOMSON—When did you leave the front?

NEWCOMBE—On March 5th, this year, we were about thirty miles from Cleves, in Germany. One of my comrades went through a mine field and stepped on a mine. The officer asked for two volunteers to go in and bring

him out, and I was one of the volunteers. We got the lad on the stretcher and were proceeding back when I stopped on a mine myself.

THOMSON—When did you get back to Canada?

NEWCOMBE—After about two months in hospital in England, I returned to Canada on May 20th. I was discharged from the army on October 9th, although I'm still taking treatment at Westminster Hospital, London—in fact, I just got back yesterday from a couple of days there.

THOMSON—While you were in hospital, you no doubt saw a great deal of work that is being done for the boys who are wounded?

NEWCOMBE—I certainly did, Colonel, and I can tell you that it's wonderful to see how the lads who have lost limbs, or have been badly shot up in other ways, are enabled to become useful, happy citizens again. Their courage in the long months of rebuilding is marvellous, too. If our audience tonight could see how their Victory Bond dollars help in this work, I'm sure they would be glad to buy more and more Bonds.

THOMSON—There's no question about that, Mr. Newcombe. Tell me, what are your own plans for the future?

NEWCOMBE—Well, Colonel Thomson, I've always been interested in cars and trucks and I hope soon to be able to open my own automobile agency in Blenheim.

THOMSON—And I'm sure you'll do very well! Thanks a lot, for your help, Mr. Newcombe. Ladies and gentlemen, there is another, and a most important branch of Canada's rehabilitation plan—the restoring to health of wounded men from our armed forces. Financial re-establishment, education, healing—all these are reasons why Canada needs our money in this Ninth Victory Loan. It is our privilege to do everything we can to support this work, and I know the people of Kent County will be eager to do their full share.

McALLISTER—Before Sergt. Harold Neal joined the forces, he studied music in Toronto and for four years played with the Toronto Conservatory Symphony. He is now with the 4th Infantry Battalion here in Chatham, where he has taken part in many entertainments at the camp. And here he is to play for us tonight, Borowski's "Adoration." Mrs. Neal accompanies him at the piano.

NEAL—Plays.

McALLISTER—It is now our pleasure to present a man already well-known in Chatham and Kent County. He is Captain E. C. Wood.

Captain Wood served in the first great war, and was awarded the Military Medal. In this war, he has been overseas as a padre, and has seen service in England, France, and Belgium. Captain Wood's home is in Chatham, and since returning to Canada in March of this year he has been stationed at Number 4 Canadian Infantry Battalion here. On Sunday next he is taking up his former duties as pastor of the Chatham Regular Baptist Church. Ladies and gentlemen—Captain Wood.

WOOD—Friends—The rehabilitation of our Forces is, I believe, the paramount issue of the moment. It is essential that our heroes be enabled to fit themselves for the battle of peace, less bloody than the battle-fronts of Europe, but a real, life-long struggle to do the best for themselves and their fellows. You have had concrete examples of three ways in which our united dollars are helping to re-establish our returning forces, and such cases can be multiplied by thousands. In addition, thousands of modest homes will arise throughout our fair Dominion to provide work for labourers in many industries, and a measure of security for the men who fought so well, and did so much for us in the preservation of our liberties and privileges—these men and their families **MUST** be secure!

We must buy more bonds, too, to care for those who are still paying for our freedom—some of them will still pay as long as they live! The maimed, the blind, and the mentally unbalanced are your responsibility and mine as long as we live. Dollars cannot compensate for suffering, but they must provide every care.

Then, too, we must look after the welfare of the families of those who gave their all on our behalf. We may well be proud of all those who fought so well, and triumphed so gloriously, in our Army, Navy, and Air Force, for, I believe, there are no better soldiers, sailors, and air-men in the world, and few as good. We can be proud of them all. (I speak not of myself as I was in the rear areas), but how shall we thank those who have made the Supreme Sacrifice? While overseas, I have seen our airmen shot down in flames into a watery grave; it has been my duty to inter the decomposed bodies of our sailors and seamen washed up on the beaches of Normandy, and I have buried our brave soldiers—they gave everything! Shall their children, or loved ones, suffer because they no longer have someone to provide for them? **NO!** A grateful people must assume the responsibility!

While overseas, the men and women of our Forces have their eyes turned longingly back home; their thoughts are full of the day when they can take their place on "Civvy Street." They want to pull their weight in

peace, as they have done in war, and they have earned the right to have a fair chance to re-establish themselves and their families.

God has led us through the world's most awful conflict out into Victory. Let us thank Him; gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to those who have fought for us, and give ourselves, and our dollars to enrich our heritage in our great Dominion. Buy bonds till it hurts!

McALLISTER—Friends, we have a treat for you at this portion of our program . . . Norman Fish, whom you heard a few moments ago is going to sing a number that has never been heard on the air before. It's "The Touch Of Your Hand" . . . written and composed by Reg Stevens who accompanies Norm at the piano. I see the two gentlemen from Wallaceburg are ready, so here it is—"The Touch Of Your Hand."

FISH—Sings.

McALLISTER—To close our broadcast, we will have a few words from J. S. Brown, Public Relations Organizer for Kent County's Ninth Victory Loan.

BROWN—First of all, I should like to express the thanks of the National War Finance Committee, to the sponsors of this programme, the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Limited, for their kindness in making this broadcast possible.

We are also very grateful to the artists and speakers for giving so generously of their talents this evening.

Ladies and gentlemen, from the actual personal experiences we have heard on this programme, I believe we must all realize the absolute necessity for the success of the Ninth Victory Loan. That success can only be assured if each one of us does his or her part, whether it be large or small. The important thing is that we should do all we can.

See your Victory Loan salesman, or your banker, early next week—and sign your name to Victory, with the biggest purchase of Victory Bonds you have ever made.

But now I see our time is almost up, so I will turn you back to your announcer.

ANNOUNCER—Before we sign off, here is a message to the ladies. Mrs. Carrie Jenkinson, R.R. 1, Charing Cross, wins the \$5 for what

Kent County Family Almanac

Chapter 37.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, October 25th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Canada and Dominion Sugar Company presents "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine." **Up for fifteen seconds,—then fade behind announcer.**

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac and a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to end of "Florentine" then fade trumpet call as announcer continues.)

ANNOUNCER—It's Chapter 37 on your Family Almanac and our stories, tonight, are exciting and interesting. You will hear of the Chatham Fire Department . . . 65 years in its fine headquarters on Sixth Street . . . You will also hear the life story of a Tilbury pioneer, a man still active despite his ninety years . . . Our Welcome Home column includes the names of 40 heroes who returned from overseas this week, and we are sure our guest pianist will please you. You have heard him before, so be ready for a thrill . . . it's your half hour.

THEME—(Up to end).

ANNOUNCER—A few weeks ago, we had with us a guest pianist, Frank Temperton, of Windsor. You will recall that at that time, we told you Frank only had one hand and he played the bass notes with his artificial left hand. We had so many requests for Frank to play that night that he could not get them all in, so here he is now with "Red Sails in the Sunset," for Donna Reid and "Nola," for James Green. Go ahead, Frank.

TEMPERTON—Plays above numbers.

ANNOUNCER—Thanks, Frank. We have a few more numbers but we will hear them later on. And now . . .

ENGINEER—Come in with sound effects of fire sirens and trucks (No. 1) and run 30 seconds. Cut.

ANNOUNCER—Fire . . . the cry that strikes terror into the heart of a'l mankind . . . the most devastating thing man has to fight other than war.

On the evening of November 8, 1929, shortly after 8 o'clock a short-circuit started a fire in the kitchen of the old Garner House in Chatham. Within a minute, the room was ablaze and the flames were eating through the frame partitions. Because of the structure of the building with its 8 to 10-inch spaces between floors and walls, the flames swept with almost unbelievable speed and within ten minutes the building was doomed. Thirty minutes later, all that remained of the Garner House was a pile of smoking ruins.

But out of those ruins rose the William Pitt, acclaimed by the travelling public today as one of the most modern hotels in the province.

ENGINEER—Repeat sound effects of fire sirens and trucks (No. 1).

ANNOUNCER—March 16, 1931 . . . the monster struck again . . . this time at the corner of King and Sixth streets where the Sulman's had operated a stationery store for years. The interior of the three-storey block was totally destroyed but firemen managed to save the building. It was later re-modelled and today a drug store occupies the main floor with the Sulman business on Sixth street and the two upper floors.

The next day . . . even before the hose at the fire-hall was dry, the call came again . . . this time to the Old Kent Mills across the river . . . It was what firemen call the "hottest" fire in years and is remembered by Chatham citizens as the most spectacular. Nothing could save the dust-filled elevator and mill despite valiant work by firemen. It fell in ruins in a very short time and was never rebuilt.

Today . . . Chatham has one of the most up-to-date departments in any town or city of its size in Canada. It's pumper and trucks are modern in every respect . . . its men efficient under Fire Chief John Graham.

But it is a far cry to the days when Chathams' only fire protection was the bucket brigade . . . That was back in the 1840's . . . This brigade consisted of two lines of men, reaching from the fire to the river bank . . . Buckets of water were passed along the line from the river to the fire, the empty buckets returning by the other line to be refilled.

In 1851, two hand pumpers were secured and two volunteer brigades formed. No. 1 company had its headquarters in the old market building . . . No. 2 was located across the river just north of the Fifth street bridge. Volunteer firemen in those days were very enthusiastic in their duties . . . As they lived at home, great haste in dressing was necessary and on retiring for the night, wearing apparel was left ready for instant use. The uniforms were rather picturesque, consisting as they did of big leather helmets, red jackets and bright buttons. Even with all their excitement and anxiety to reach the fire, the volunteers possessed the usual human vanity and they just had to get into those brilliant uniforms before dashing out, pulling with the others, the rope that drew the hand-pumper. In 1880, the first paid fire department was formed in the city, and the next year, 1881, the department moved into its present headquarters. Numbers 1 and 2 volunteer companies were disbanded and the equipment taken to the new building.

When the steam pumpers came into being they were pulled by horses . . . and horses were also used to pull the hose and ladder wagons. Later when motors came, horses were still used on the hose wagons and it was a thrilling sight to see the spirited animals dashing along the street, driven by such veterans as Alex. Johnston, "Sandy" Holmes, the present chief, John Graham, and George Forsythe, now fire captain.

ANNOUNCER—But the story of Chatham's fire department would not be complete without a word from Fire Chief Graham. The Chief insists he is not much of a talker but we would like to ask him a few questions. For instance, how long have you been with the department, Chief?

GRAHAM—All told 38 years. I was on call before I joined the force permanently.

ANNOUNCER—On call . . . does that mean you would be called out if the firemen needed extra help?

GRAHAM—No, we were called to every fire . . . There were five permanent firemen at the

hall all the time and probably 10 to 12 callmen, who were called from their various jobs or homes. They slept at the fire-hall every night.

ANNOUNCER—I see . . . and now you have two platoons or 20 men on the department. Are you the oldest man on the department, I mean in years of service?

GRAHAM—Captain George Forsythe started before I did, but he was away nine years. He has been with us ever since.

ANNOUNCER—There's something else we are interested in . . . that tower atop the firehall . . . Is it right it was used as a watchtower at one time?

GRAHAM—Yes, as a hose and watch tower . . . Back in the days when there were no alarm boxes, a watchman used to sit up there and keep an eye out for anything that looked like a fire. Bob Coyle used to be the regular watchman but we all took turns on his night off.

ANNOUNCER—Rather a lonely sort of job, wasn't it?

GRAHAM—It certainly was. All alone up there amongst the stars. Quite peaceful too . . . except during a wind storm and then it became a little rocky although safe in every respect.

ANNOUNCER—A while ago we mentioned three fires . . . I suppose there were others of a similar nature?

GRAHAM—Oh, yes . . . there was the Wanless Hardware fire . . . Cowan's and a few others that might be called bad, but I think we have been rather lucky.

ANNOUNCER—Yes, and I am sure you will be with the splendid equipment you have now. . . . You took over from Fire Chief Pritchard, who was appointed in 1900. Is that right?

GRAHAM—That's right.

ANNOUNCER—Let's sum that up . . . When the paid department was started in 1880, W. E. White was chief; . . . then Warren Lambert, Alex. Jacques, Richard Pritchard and yourself. Five chiefs in 65 years . . . two of them in 45 years . . . That constitutes a wonderful record for any fire department.

Thank you, Chief Graham . . . It's been grand having you over. And now for the boys at the fire-hall, Frank Temperton is going to play "Just a Wee Jock 'en Doris".

ANNOUNCER—When the Ile de France docked at Halifax Sunday morning, it brought back 10,000 servicemen and women who were hur-

ried immediately to their various military centres and then home. Forty or more were Chatham and Kent County men . . . Some are already at their homes . . . others will arrive within the next few days.

Those who returned to Chatham this week were . . . P. R. Goudbreaux, King St. W.; . . . Lieut. B. E. Easton, Gray St.; . . . Capt. G. M. Hayes, Murray St.; . . . Capt. J. G. McCubbin, Joseph St.; . . . Private D. J. Jacques, Colborne St.; . . . J. F. P. Rondeau, Elizabeth St.; . . . Lieut.-Col. W. L. Dutton, King St. W.; . . . C. K. Rowland, Robertson Ave.; . . . M. H. Carr, Thames St.; . . . E. Mawley, Park St.; Sergt. G. L. Verrall, Emma St.; . . . K. R. Smith, Joseph St.; . . . O. B. Garrod, King St. E.; . . . F. R. Nichols, King St. W.; . . . Major J. R. Carter, Murray St.; . . . Sergt. B. French, St. George St.; G. F. Burrows, Thames St.; . . . R. Hicklin, Fourth St.; . . . C. A. Grande, Queen St.; . . . J. A. McCoig, Duluth St.; . . . W. A. F. Beening, Spencer St.; . . . R. F. Cartier, St. Clair St.; . . . I. H. Kelley, Delaware Ave.; G. P. Moore, Wilson Ave.; . . . F. M. Park, R.R. 5; . . . J. A. Sexton, Harvey St.; . . . and C. J. Zimmer, Grand Ave. E.

And a welcome back also to J. A. Knight, E. D. Burroughs, and W. R. Whitson of Dresden. Wallaceburg welcomed L. J. Brown, E. Goudreau, V. M. Wade, A. Davis, N. Phenix, S. L. Stout and B. E. Denning.

A member of the C.W.A.C., H. W. Labelle went to Thamesville, also C. E. Lewis, L. Huff and E. J. Birkin.

Blenheim welcomed J. S. Bonnett, and A. M. Marlatt.

Bothwell . . . D. West, . . . Croton . . . R. A. Van sickle, and R. H. Labadie and L. M. St. Jean went to Tilbury.

Those men returned this week and to them we say . . . "Welcome back, chum, and thanks for a job well done."

F. TEMPERTON—At the beginning of Blenheim names in Welcome Home, come in softly "It's a long way to Tipperary." When names complete, play full and continue with "Home On the Range."

ANNOUNCER—Ladies, . . . this message is for you . . . Last week, you will remember, we announced that Mrs. Carrie Jenkinson, Charing Cross, had been awarded the \$5 for her recipe for a sponge layer cake. Many recipes came to our attention and the pastry expert who judged them had a difficult task.

Here is another chance for you to win \$5. . . with fall house-cleaning in our midst, screens are coming down and storm windows are being put up in their place. Naturally, windows have to be cleaned and the dust and dirt that

has accumulated around the sills removed. Walls have to be washed . . . also woodwork. Now here is all you do . . . write down on a slip of paper your suggestion of cleaning windows and sills, washing the walls . . . just some idea that will help to make this household task a little easier . . . For instance, do you scrape away the dirt or do you use vinegar with water to cut the dirt or some other solution of your own. It's quite simple . . .

Send in your suggestion to the Family Almanac, care CFCO, Chatham by next Thursday morning. We repeat . . . Family Almanac care CFCO. The winner of the \$5 will be announced on our next program.

ANNOUNCER—For a party in progress on La-croix street, our guest pianist is going to play "I'll be Seeing You" and "It's Three O'clock in the Morning" . . . and we didn't say "at".

TEMPERTON—Plays.

ANNOUNCER (G.R.S.)—This is the story of a Tilbury pioneer—the story of a man, who has hewed his way through the forest and is still hale and hearty although in his 90th year. He is Thomas C. Vickerman, who when asked the other day when he retired from business activities, replied quite firmly, "I haven't retired. Why should I?" Truly a pioneer of Tilbury North, Thomas Vickerman was born on the Middle Road. His parents, Robert and Ann Vickerman were natives of St. Remi, Quebec, whose fore-fathers were Yorkshire, England, stock.

One of his earliest recollections, Mr. Vickerman recalls, was the bush around his father's 50-acre farm which was later traded for another farm on Big Creek in the same township. There was no bridge across the Creek until the Canada Southern Railway (now the New York Central) was built. To cross the creek, neighbors had to "walk the logs" and in this, young Tommy Vickerman became quite adapt. When the railway went through, Thomas, then 17, helped with the "grading" . . . a job he still talks of with pride.

About that time, his father went into the saw-mill business with his son as assistant. But after a few years operation the mill burned and Thomas turned to "framing" . . . This was a method of barn-building in which 8 and 11 inch square timber was used. By the time he was 30 years of age, he had acquired a farm of his own and took unto himself a bride, Teresa Kingsmill, daughter of the neighbors just across the creek.

After farming for some years he operated a planing mill at Comber and later returned to Tilbury where he managed the town electric-light plant until the utility was taken over by the provincial government in 1915.

Today . . . Mr. Vickerman still plies his skill at carpentry and electrical work. He has two hobbies, gardening and motoring. Any summer day you might see the old gentleman driving casually through the country for he became familiar with cars early in the motor era.

Mrs. Vickerman, his life partner, is still in good health and takes a great interest in her garden. They have a family . . . you folks around Tilbury know them well; . . . W. H., is C. P. R. agent at Sedgwick, Alberta, and Glenn is the customs officer. Mrs. W. E. Lumley and Miss Ada Vickerman are the daughters . . . Loyalty to their country is more than a by-word with the Vickerman family. Six grandsons served in the war just ended and W. H. and Glenn were in the First World War. If you were to ask Mr. Vickerman his prescription for a long and vigorous life, his reply would be—"a wise division of work and play, temperate habits, and a "good-neighbor outlook."

To these sturdy pioneers of Tilbury North and Kent County, may we say "Good health for many years and God bless you both."

ANNOUNCER—And here is Frank Temperton to play for Mr. and Mrs. Vickerman, of Tilbury,

"Love's Old Sweet Song" and "The Old Oaken Bucket."

TEMPERTON—Plays.

ANNOUNCER—When Colonel and Mrs. Brennan left Chatham this afternoon for their home in Michigan, the Colonel said he would be listening to our program tonight. At the same time he mentioned that "Believe Me all those Endearing Young Charms," was his favorite song. So here is Frank to play it for Colonel Brennan in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

TEMPERTON—Plays.

THEME—(Up 10 seconds and fade behind announcer).

ANNOUNCER—And so ends Chapter 37 of Kent County Family Almanac brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday at 9 p.m. Meanwhile, Sign Your Name to Victory; Buy Ninth Victory Loan Bonds.

This is John Size saying thanks to Frank Temperton and keep smiling everybody.

This is CFCO.

Listen to...
**KENT COUNTY
FAMILY ALMANAC
EVERY THURSDAY—9 TO 9:30 P.M.**

**OVER CFCO,
CHATHAM, ONTARIO**

**"Get acquainted with your County
and Your Neighbor."**

**SOME
FUTURE BROADCASTS**

- PIONEERS OF KENT
- CALEDONIA SETTLEMENT
- KENT PERSONALITIES
- VILLAGE OF MERLIN
- TOWN OF HIGHGATE AND OTHERS

Kent County Family Almanac

(Chapter 38)

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, November 1st, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Before we present our next program, let us look in on a well kept farm somewhere in Kent County. In the living room of the modern home is a boy, probably 12 years of age. Father, just finished with the chores, is reading one of the evening papers. Mother is busy with her kitchen duties. The boy is doing his homework and at the moment is somewhat perplexed. He looks up and says:

BOY—Dad, what do you know about Raleigh Township?

DAD—I'm afraid not very much, son. You see we only moved here 10 years ago. Why do you ask?

BOY—Teacher wants us to do a composition on pioneer life in Raleigh and I haven't got all the details.

DAD—Well, say, I just saw here in the paper that the Family Almanac had something on the radio tonight about Raleigh. Why don't you tune it in. Maybe you can get some information from it.

BOY—That's an idea. . . . That program on Kent County life generally goes back many years.

Here it is now.

ANNOUNCER (J. S.)—Canada and Dominion Sugar Company presents "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine."
(Up 15 seconds—then fade behind announcer.)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it . . . comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our people. . . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—(Up to end of Florentine—then fade behind announcer.)

ANNOUNCER—Here we are again, friends, with Chapter 38 of your Family Almanac. . . . A Chapter that will interest the folks out in Raleigh Township. . . . You will hear of the privations and hardships those pioneers suffered over 100 years ago, when there was only bush and not even a trail to follow. We have another 55 returned men to welcome back and our guest pianist and orchestra leader will please you. You are well acquainted with our soloist, so, without further preliminaries, let's get started on a half hour of stories, music and song.

THEME—(Up to end.)

ANNOUNCER (J. S.)—Introducing our guest for this evening . . . LEW MACK.

MACK—Plays few bars on the piano.

ANNOUNCER—Pianist and orchestra leader of London and Windsor.

ANNOUNCER—Lew Mack has led several dance bands down around the border city and when he arrived in town the other day we invited him to play for us tonight. Lew is a natural when seated in front of a piano and here he is to give us his version of "My Buddy" and "Dian."

MACK—Plays.

ANNOUNCER (J. S.)—Here's a little number that has become quite popular in the past few months. . . . "It's Only a Paper Moon." . . . Corine Caron, our soloist, sings it for you with her sister, Jean, at the piano.

CORINE—Sings.

ANNOUNCER (J. S.)—And now . . . Raleigh Township, one hundred years ago.

ENGINEER—Come in with recording "Give Me Your Heart"—Up five seconds and fade behind announcer.

SPEAKER (E. P.)—When the little daughter of John Powell, a Raleigh Township pioneer, became lost in that unsurveyed portion of Kent County over a hundred years ago, probably the first "Vigilance Committee" was formed in what is now Western Ontario. The child and her father had been visiting neighbors some miles away, and Powell, after directing the child how to find her way home, proceeded to the Lake Shore on further business. But finding her way through the bush was not an easy task for the little girl and she became lost. For five long days and nights she wandered aimlessly through the dense forest, living only on berries and a brace of pigeons her father had shot a few minutes before he left.

At the end of the fifth frantic day, settlers who had formed a search party, finally found the girl exhausted and frightened . . . miles from the home of her pioneer parents.

Some years later, the same girl became the wife of Samuel Hall, Junior, and their descendants still reside in and around the village of Merlin.

That incident was only one of the many dangers the early settlers had to face . . . There were no roads or landmarks in those days and it was not unusual for adults to lose their way . . . let alone children who were allowed to wander far from their homes in the brush.

ENGINEER—Cut recording.

SPEAKER (G. R. S.)—It was from the vanguard of civilization which moved up the Thames in 1792 that Raleigh first received its pioneers. Unfortunately, no information touching the events have been preserved, and some confusion prevails as to the accuracy of the dates. But it appears certain that the first to arrive were the McCraes, the Reaumes, the Pecks, the Jacobs, the Dolsens, the Parsons and the Tolls. Edward Parsons, son of the pioneer Parsons, is said to have been the first white child born in the district . . . He later became an influential citizen in the community.

By 1817, the Thames settlement in Raleigh had increased to promising proportions. There were about 30 inhabited farms tenanted by 198 residents and over on the Lake Shore or Talbot Street settlement, there were 25 farms and approximately 75 inhabitants . . . There was no church in either locality, but there was one school where meetings were held . . . two small grist mills and a brickyard, the first in Western Ontario . . . It was from this yard that Thomas McCrae obtained the brick to build the first brick house in Kent County. The McCraes, it might be noted, were among the early Parliamentary representatives of the county,

William, son of Thomas, being member of Parliament from 1834 until the union of the provinces in 1866.

SPEAKER (E. P.)—The settlement of Talbot Street was formed under the supervision of Col. Talbot, who allotted pioneers their locations and exercised a general superintendence over their performance of settlement duties. Among the first to locate was John Sovereign who was given lot 135 . . . then followed Mangus Crawford, Sam Watson, the Wedges, the Shepleys, David Quick, the Pardos and W. S. Stripp, who conducted a store and farmed a portion of land which later became Buckhorn, now called Cedar Springs.

When Colonel Burwell, Talbot's second in command, surveyed the land left uncompleted by those pioneer surveyors Iredell and McNiff, the region of the "Middle Road" became available for settlers and William White was the first pioneer along this road. White, who came from Pennsylvania after migrating from Kent County in England, invaded the forests of Raleigh with his sons and a son-in-law, Thomas Williams. With them they brought 14 cattle, one horse and the team of oxen which hauled the family possessions. On leaving the Talbot road at a point where Blenheim now stands, they had to cut a road through the trees to reach their new home site. Next to reach the Middle Road was John Powell, whom we already mentioned . . . Powell locating near Merlin . . . Sam Hall, father of the man who married Powell's daughter was next, and an Englishman named Cook followed . . . It was from this man that Cook's Corners (now Charing Cross) received its name.

SPEAKER (G. R. S.)—The only means of travel was oxen and on foot through a bush that was marked only by lines of "blazed" trees. But there were other difficulties and privations . . . Shoes could hardly be purchased even by those who had money and while lacking these potential commodities, many persons were compelled to swaddle their feet in cloth, this being the prevailing style for winter . . . Crops were sown on partially cleared land and hoes were used in place of harrows to cover the seed.

ENGINEER—Come in softly with "Onward Christian Soldiers."

In clearing the land, women fired by a zeal for forest conquests, were none so delicate to shoulder the axe, often displaying a degree of skill in chopping trees that would shame some of our young men of the present day. And as they worked they sang, and the music of the axe was accompanied by spiritual songs as the women labored shoulder to shoulder with their men . . . this combination of industry and diety displaying a degree of

Christianity in these days of new struggles and strife.

ENGINEER—Fade out recording.

SPEAKER (E. P.)—(Pause five seconds).

Meanwhile villages began to spring up . . . Charing Cross prospered with the arrival of the New York Central and its connection with Chatham. At one time that village boasted of saw mills, two hotels, stores, churches and shops of all varieties.

Merlin grew from a crossroads point to become a thriving centre, particularly after the Marshalls established mills there. R. W. Marshall is the young, energetic editor of the Standard, long edited by this family. R. W. is also a member of the board of police trustees.

Cedar Springs, earlier known as Buckhorn, is an enterprising four corners and business section for summer residents of the beach, only a mile and a half away.

Fletcher and Buxton are nearby, both busy little post-office villages.

ENGINEER—Repeat faintly recording "Give Me Your Heart."

Today . . . the high development of her agricultural interests and the prosperity of her people, make Raleigh one of the wealthiest townships in the county. Its public affairs are well administered . . . its schools up-to-date . . . and its farms well drained, thus making it truly a great part of this rich garden-land of Ontario.

It will be interesting to the residents of Raleigh to know that today work began on a new \$50,000 project in the township. We refer to the building of a new transmitter house and three large steel towers to be used by CFCO for broadcasting purposes. This land is part of the Roselle Farm on No. 2 highway, six and one half miles west of Chatham.

ENGINEER—Up with recording for 10 seconds then fade out.

ANNOUNCER (J. S.)—Roy Guymer needs no introduction as a violinist. He has played before many audiences in Western Ontario and you have heard him before on our programs. Tonight, he has selected the Irish number, "Londonderry Air", and here he is with Miss Jean Caron as accompanist.

GUYMER—Plays.

ENGINEER—Come in with recording "Just A Little Love---A Little Kiss." . . . Play up for one minute and 15 seconds and fade when speaker begins.

SPEAKER (G. R. S.)—Canada . . . a land of hundred dreams to thousands of our boys and girls returning from overseas. Recently, when a troopship docked at an eastern port, a stalwart Canadian soldier strode down the gang-plank, and, kneeling in reverence, kissed the earth beneath his feet. There was nothing wrong in that . . . it was his earth, the land he had fought and bled for during five long years . . . but he was only putting into action what was in the hearts of thousands of others as they stepped ashore their native land.

This week, another 12,000 Canadians returned to their homes on the big liner Queen Elizabeth and Kent County said Welcome Home to another 35 of her native sons. They returned to the four corners of the county and everywhere there were joyous and happy reunion.

ENGINEER—Up with recording to end.

ANNOUNCER—Wallaceburg welcomed — Corp. M. A. Bechard, Sergt. W. F. Bunda, Sergt. L. Lapierre, Private S. J. Ott, R. C. Slater, Sergt. E. C. Haggerty, Corp. O. R. Lalonde, Private D. N. Peats, Private W. H. Schram, Trooper C. D. Young.

Blenheim welcomed—Private G. C. Doan and Gunner T. Maynard.

Wheatley welcomed—Trooper W. F. Houston, J. Konrad, L. Adams.

Bothwell—Gunner N. V. Kelley . . . Northwood . . . Private W. Arnold. . . Tilbury welcomed Private A. B. Daziel. Thamesville welcomed Corp. J. P. Tasker; . . . Private F. Ricica went to Morpeth and Private L. W. Degraw went to Ridgetown.

SPEAKER (G. R. S.)—Those who returned to Chatham were—Lieut. Thomas Harris; C. J. Cross, Princess Street; Sergt. H. H. Geroux, Forest Street and Private H. J. Geroux, Dover Street; C. M. Monsen, Pine Street; J. S. Murphy, Raleigh Street; J. L. Reid, Jeffrey Street; Capt. T. E. Coatsworth, Selkirk Street; Capt. W. H. McLaren, Stone Avenue; E. J. Bohannon, Adelaide Street; J. C. Brock, Prince Street; Trooper H. Denkers, Park Avenue; P. J. Doddy, Scane Street; J. Dunlop, William Street; J. J. Kembly, Lacroix Street; Sergt. C. D. Luff, Thames Street; C. A. Pryor, Wellington Street; C. M. Smith, Wellington Street; J. C. Moyaert, William Street South; J. R. Willmore, Richmond Street; R. A. Schram, Joseph Street.

ANNOUNCER (J. S.)—Corine Caron steps before the "Mike," this time to sing an old favorite . . . "Sweet Dreams, Sweetheart." All right, Corine . . . If you sing it as well as you did during rehearsal I know we are all going to like it.

Kent County Family Almanac

Chapter 39.

REPRINT OF BROADCAST OVER CFCO

Thursday, November 8th, 1945.

Chatham, Ontario

ANNOUNCER—Canada and Dominion Sugar Company presents "Kent County Family Almanac."

THEME—"Florentine."
Up 15 seconds then fade behind announcer.)

ANNOUNCER—Reflecting the rhythm and flow of this great agricultural county and those surrounding it comes Kent County Family Almanac . . . a program that changes as the community changes . . . alive with pictures of our towns, our city and our community. . . Anything and everything that happens in this rich garden-land of Ontario is grist for the mill of the Almanac.

THEME—Up to end then fade trumpet call behind announcer.

ANNOUNCER—Good evening, neighbors . . . It is Thursday night again and here we are with Chapter 39 of your Family Almanac. To-night, we are going to talk to you about hobbies . . . maybe you have one . . . we will also tell you of mechanization in the beet field . . . something that happened successfully last week in Kent County. . . We have a story of once thriving villages, long since vanished and there is a welcome home message for you. Our guest pianist is back again, you heard him last week and liked his music . . . So here we are, the next half hour is yours.

THEME—(Up to end.)

LEW MACK—On completion of theme and on signal from announcer, commence playing—up for 30 seconds, then softly as announcer speaks.

ANNOUNCER—Lew Mack, pianist and orchestra leader from London and Windsor is back with us again this week. For his opening selections, he is going to play those two popular numbers, "For You" and "I Only Have Eyes For You."

LEW MACK—Plays above numbers.

SPEAKER (G. R. S.)—I wonder how many of our listeners have a hobby. You know, it's quite the thing these days. Some garden, and they will spend hours, if you let them, telling you of the flowers and wonderful things they can grow. Some motor as a hobby. Some collect stamps, coins, signatures and even buttons. Some fill their homes full of furniture of antique description . . . others have canaries, fish, dogs and cats. And, it is not unusual to see a stern business man in his recreation room in the evenings, running miniature trains or making small airplanes.

I know a young lady who collects match-folders, those little things you and I throw away every day. And I have an editor friend right here in Western Ontario whose hobby is small fire-arms. He has the greatest collection of revolvers and guns one would want to see. We'll talk about those some day one of our future programs.

But the hobby or collection I want to speak about tonight is glass . . . The other day I stopped at Ridgetown for lunch. While waiting to be served, I became interested in a small piece of glassware that was on the table . . . I think it was a butter dish or probably could have been used for pickles. I was remarking on its unique style when a voice behind me said, "Do you want to see something." It was Lee Simpson, former reeve of Ridgetown and proprietor of the restaurant where I was dining. Mr. Simpson invited me to a back room and I don't think I ever saw so much glass in one room before. There were glass dishes and vases of all descriptions . . . rare glass dishes . . . You would wonder where they all came from. "A hobby," I remarked as I gazed over the room. "Yes, and it really has hit me hard," said Lee. "I read all the books I can find on old glass. Now take a look at this" . . . And Lee was off on one of his famous descriptions which he does so well.

To most men, glass is just glass but to some women that collection would have been a paradise . . . There were glass holders of all kinds; glass bowls, glass dolls and those

little glass nick-nacks that ladies use to keep pins and needles in.

One section of the collection that intrigued me was the many different kinds of coal-oil lamps . . . you know, the kind our grand-parents used long, long ago. Well, he had a lot of tiny lamps, not more than three or four inches in height, which Mr. Simpson called "sparkling lamps" . . . They were used, said Lee, back in the gay '40's when a young man went calling on his girl friend in the evening. "You can put so much oil in these tiny lamps and when it burned out, the young man was supposed to go home. I guess there are parents today who wish that old custom was back," he said.

My soup was cold when I returned to the table but Mr. Simpson gave me another serving . . . this time in a glass bowl he said was a hundred and fifty years old. I didn't attempt to ask him where he got it . . . I was glassy-eyed when I left the place and started for home.

Mr. Simpson said that when he suffered from wartime shortages and had little merchandise for his window display, he put in some glassware, "just to fill the window up," he said. Then he added thoughtfully, "More people stopped to look at that glass than they did when I had the window filled with tempting pies or a big juicy roast." Yes, it's nice to have a hobby . . . It might mean a little extra work to make it something you would be proud of . . . as proud as Lee Simpson is of his glass collection at Ridgetown.

ANNOUNCER (J. S.)—Remember Sylvia . . . One of the numbers that soared to popularity over a decade ago. Here is John Charles Thomas to sing it for you as only that great tenor can.

ENGINEER—In above . . . at the words "One of the numbers" come in faintly with recording "Sylvia" and then up.

ANNOUNCER (E.P.)—Here on the Almanac, we like to record history . . . especially personal history of men and women . . . towns and villages . . . that have made their contribution to early days. It's true that city streets grow from country lanes . . . and that the lanes themselves were merely paths of human enterprise. Who walked here first . . .? who passed this way when the going wasn't easy? We believe . . . that if names recorded on the parching paper of our splendid country weekly records, could come alive . . . we'd have an almanac story that would rival any novel!

Wallaceburg . . . Dresden . . . Bothwell . . . Thamesville . . . Chatham! Names that are now familiar . . . once were dreams only . . . in the minds of our pioneers.

But we are soberly aware that scores of other towns, villages and hamlets have stories that clamour for re-telling. We want to record on Almanac pages the story of Kent Bridge . . . a hive of industry in 1866 . . . where, as the Gazetteer of that day tells, colossal quantities of square timbers, staves and sawlogs were shipped by hardy pioneers. Even in those days printer's ink immortalized such family names as Richard Elgin . . . Van Duzer . . . and scores and scores of others. Nathan Roe, who collected tolls on Kent Bridge across the Thames; Elgin, the inn-keeper . . . these are stories that cry to be told! Here lies a fertile field for local historians! Louisville . . . which well might have rivaled our large and thriving cities! The men who established the timber trade there! Read down the columns where early editors named them! James Smith, who, in 1866 handled postmaster and general store duties at Tilbury East. Alec Wands, brawny village smithy and wagon builder at close-by Valetta. These were important names! Wands . . . Smith . . . Richardson . . . Van-Duzer . . . Elgin . . . and many others! While geographic and other factors sometimes meant that towns and cities they so bravely built yielded their growth to other centers . . . their family names and enterprising spirit remain to inspire us. Names like Edgeworth . . . a post office on the Middle Road . . . about 21 miles from Chatham or Dealtown . . . may no longer command large type on maps of our county . . . but the spirit of the men who built those towns remains alive!

In more ways than in the field of trade and commerce those brave men paved the way for us who followed. The clergy, enduring all pioneering difficulties, were there to travel from town to town . . . homestead to homestead, caring for the cultural and moral needs of the people.

One minister, the Reverend W. L. King, laid out the town of Buxton in 1849. It became extremely prosperous. In the late 70's it had a steam grist mill . . . sawmill . . . two potash factories . . . shoe shops . . . general stores . . . a cooper shop . . . and the ever-present wagon shop!

They were not easy days . . . No shiny automobiles connected city with city. No airplanes connected them with the trade routes of the world. Even the trusty postman called only twice a week . . . and in the hinterlands seldom, if at all. There was no radio to fill the air with news of neighbors in other counties . . . or in other worlds!

But they were not short on courage . . . or of faith in one another. Those who could lead and build were shoved ahead by their neighbors. Many people in Kent and neighboring counties proudly recall that they bear the family names of men and women who pioneered this land.

Yes . . . these are stories for future almanacs! They are important stories, for it is our belief that a close identification with our counties and with the people who laboured here in the longever ago . . . is a contribution to good citizenship. We've a proud heritage.

Tonight the Almanac again pays well-earned tribute to the men and women of the Historical Society who so ardently seek out the human factors in our early history here in these storied Ontario counties! Sometimes an old family album . . . a grandmother's scrap-book, or an attic trunk reveal material which makes such names as we've mentioned come alive again.

Perhaps some listener tonight knows the story of the Rondeau, named in the Gazetteer of 1866 . . . and now probably the harbor portion of the present Erieau . . . before that area became a summer resort where many an Ontario citizen soaks up the sun at vacation time. Such stories will be welcome here on the pages of the Almanac.

Meantime, a tribute to those of the Historical Society, who, through their efforts, help us to know and understand our past . . . our present . . . and our NEIGHBORS . . . better!

ENGINEER—Come in with "To a Wild Rose" up 25 seconds and fade behind speaker.

SPEAKER—Now that victory is ours, it is easy to work for peace because there is such a dramatic positiveness about it. But peace is not just the end of fighting . . . It is a world made safe, made generous, made whole again by the boys who are coming back after long months of struggle and strife. What they have fought for is ours, and theirs, and it is all too easy to assume that our obligation to them is satisfactory and complete. To those who have returned and are yet to come back, we owe our all and our welcome to the lads who are left over there to finish the job must not be dampened by any less enthusiasm when they return. Some of the boys can't come back just yet. They are not able to be moved and they are in hospital but gradually they will all be home, and nursed to health again in their native Canada where they want to be. Two such cases arrived this week aboard the Hospital Ship "Lady Nelson" . . . One is Private F. L. Chapple of Wallaceburg . . . the other, Private R. E. McClure is a Chatham man. Both stretcher cases they were detained at Military Hospital in London for a few days and arrived at their homes this afternoon. When lads such as these come back, don't speak to them of their wounds . . . they don't want sympathy . . . all they want is a real Welcome Home.

ENGINEER—Up with recording to end.

ANNOUNCER (J. S.)—Yes, a great many of our boys coming back today are returning to homes, wives and sweethearts . . . It's home to them no matter whether it's farm, a city palace or just a little cottage. And that happens to be the title of our next number played by Jay Wilbur and his orchestra . . . "Just a Little Cottage."

ENGINEER—In above, at beginning of words "It's home to them, come in faintly with recording "Just a Little Cottage," and then up.

ANNOUNCER (G. R. S.)—For the next few moments we want to talk to you about something that happened last week in Kent County . . . something of particular interest to sugar beet growers. We refer to the mechanical sugar beet loader which went into successful operation for the first time in this part of Ontario. Now we're not going to tell you about this loader ourselves . . . Standing beside me is Will DeKoning, of Raleigh Township, on whose farm the loader worked. We'll let him tell you about this machine himself. Mr. DeKoning how many acres of beets did you have . . . and how many tons did you get off your field this year?

DeKONING—An average crop . . . 178 tons of beets off 14 acres.

ANNOUNCER—I am told that you were pleased with this new loader. Is that right?

DeKONING—Pleased is not the word. It's a revelation in the sugar beet industry. One has got to see it in operation to realize that all the hard work has been taken out of sugar beet growing.

ANNOUNCER—That's interesting . . . I didn't see the loader in operation but tell me, how fast can it load beets?

DeKONING—The loader, pulled by a tractor, can pour beets into a truck at the rate of one ton a minute but the day it worked at my place the boys didn't overwork themselves. They loaded an average of six tons every 12 minutes.

ANNOUNCER—Pretty fast loading, I would say. Now . . . how long would it take to load those trucks by hand?

DeKONING—It generally took two men using beet forks, three hours to load and deliver a six-ton truck and they would be working pretty steady at that.

ANNOUNCER—Let's see . . . a load every three hours . . . Now if you used only one truck you would take to the factory three loads, possibly four a day. How many truck-loads could you when the loader is used?

DeKONING—Well for example . . . Take my father's nine acres over on the highway. When they were working there last Friday they took in 11 loads, using only one truck. You could not do that if the beets were loaded by hand, unless you employed more men and used more trucks.

ANNOUNCER—You just mentioned your father Anymore of the DeKoning family on farms?

DeKONING—I have three brothers . . . John, Pete and Harry . . . We have 660 acres altogether.

ANNOUNCER—Say, that's a lot of land . . . Going to grow sugar beets again next year?

DeKONING—Our family is definitely sold on this loader . . . and if loaders are available next year, we intend to grow beets . . . in fact many acres of them.

ANNOUNCER—Well, I'm sure there will be loaders available but we have a representative of the Sugar Company right here in the studio. Let's ask him what the prospects are for next years as far as loaders are concerned. Come in Will Herriman. I believe you are a field representative of the Sugar Company. Have you anything you can say on this?

HERRIMAN—With restrictions coming off and priorities lifted, the company has been assured that a number of these loaders will be available for the sugar beet area in southwestern Ontario. As can be seen from what Mr. DeKoning says, this mechanization reduces by one third the entire job of harvesting beets. Also, it will not be necessary for the grower to hire men to load beets nor for the farmer to cart them to the factory. For instance, trucking companies with six or eight trucks could contract for the beets right on the ground—providing, of course, they had a loader. For the farmer who has one himself, the important thing is to get his beets off by using as many trucks as he can, and then pass on the loader to the next farmer.

ANNOUNCER—Does that answer your question, Mr. DeKoning?

DeKONING—Yes, and I hope to have one of those loaders myself next year. It strikes me that

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sugar beets is one of the crops a farmer can't grow to much of. And I would like to say a word with respect to the help and suggestions I received from the experimental department of the Company this year, especially Mr. Homer Fletcher. His co-operation was wonderful and I am sure all farmers will find it the same.

ANNOUNCER—Well say, I am sure Mr. Fletcher would like to hear that. Thanks for coming in tonight, Mr. DeKoning and telling about this revelation in sugar beet growing and thank you Mr. Herriman for the information you revealed.

SPEAKER (G. R. S.)—This is for the ladies . . . We received a great many suggestions for a liquid solution to be used around windowsills and on walls during housecleaning time. They were all good, in fact so good our judge tried out many of them. Several contained commercial solutions which had to be added, thus taking away the economical point of value. The one that was decided on by our judge was submitted by Miss Ercell Heward, R.R. 1, Coatsworth, Ontario. Miss Heward's cheque is in the mail.

Thanks everybody for joining in our contest . . . Some day soon we'll have another for you. Listen in for it, won't you?

ANNOUNCER (J. S.)—Our guest pianist, Lew Mack, known to many down around Windsor as a versatile orchestra leader, turns to the semi-classics, as he plays the concluding number, "I Surrender Dear."

LEW MACK—Plays.

ANNOUNCER (J. S.)—And with the playing of our theme, we close Chapter 39 of your Family Almanac. We leave the air at this time to return again next Thursday at 9 p.m.

Kent County Family Almanac has been brought to you through the courtesy of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company, Chatham and Wallaceburg.

Meanwhile, we have only a few more days left . . . "Sign your name to Victory. Buy 9th Victory Loan Bonds.

This is John Size, your announcer, saying "Good night everybody and lots of good luck."

This is CFCO.

