



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4T1
www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca

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January - February 2007

ESQUESING TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURE

Esquesing Township was surveyed in 1818 and opened for settlement the following year. The survey was completed in 1819 and we find the new settlers coming in immediately, some from the Niagara District and many from the British Isles, predominately Scotch. In fact the south westerly part of Esquesing was named the Scotch Block and it is said that they were very clannish and resented intruders coming in who were “beyond the law”.

The first political meeting for Esquesing Township was on New Year’s Day, 1821 at the home of Joseph Standish. It is stated in the minutes that the population of the township at that time was 424. At that meeting James Fraser was chosen Town Clerk, Joseph Standish and Thomas Barbour, Assessors; Thomas Fyfe, Collector; and Charles Kennedy and John Stewart, Town Wardens. As soon as a tavern opened, subsequent meetings were held there on the 7th Line. The business consisted chiefly of defining the proportions of a lawful fence, what animals should be allowed to run at large, the appointing of pathmasters and the registration of cattle marks, each settler having a distinctive mark. We notice that the favourite mark was a “half-penny” cut out of either of the ears of the beast, while sometimes the more barbarous device of entirely cutting off an ear was resorted to. After the more serious business of the day was disposed of, the custom was to spend a convivial time over the liquors of the host.

The only other great day was “Training Day” on the 4th of June (birthday of King George III) when every male above the age of 18 was required to present himself for drill. This day generally ended for many in carousal, and frequently one or more fights, especially after the Rebellion, when the population was divided into two distinct parties as antagonistic to each other as can well be imagined.

-Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton , 1877

FENCE VIEWERS.



Dairy of Joseph Walmsley Ward
Canada 1904 - 1905

April 9th - Dan has been trying to sow some grass seed, but was too windy. I have been cleaning out several of the pens and Bob sleighed the manure into the fields to a big heap there. Wright put a bran poultice onto a horse's foot which is cracked. He has [turned] it once since, today. Wrote home.

April 10th - Have today been doing a little wood chopping along with Bob and Mr. Wright. I am not sure whether I feel a twinge of rheumatism in my left hip or not.

April 14th - Frosty, snowy. I am intensely longing for some news from home.

April 16th - Ordinary routine and a little wood chopping.

April 24th - Sunday. School and chapel, as usual. The proceedings were just of the ordinary type.

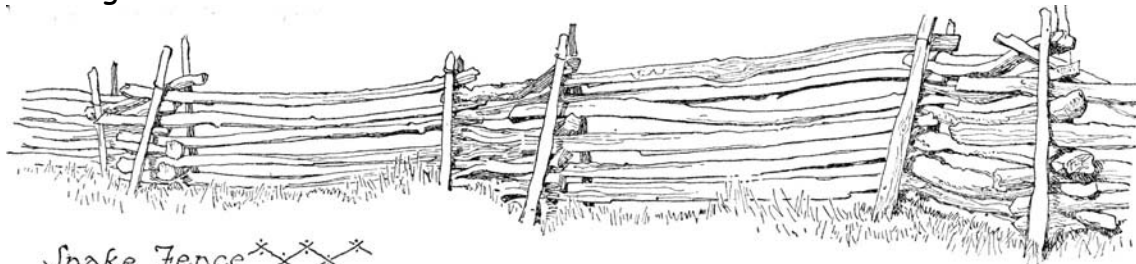
April 25th - Went altogether (almost) alone through the 55 cattle at the lower place. Their feed is as follows: - 7 very fat steers which will be sent to England in a couple of weeks - 1st meal, a barley fork full of silo and straw chaff (1 part silo to 2 parts straw, by measure) and a large measure, holding about 3 pints, of a meal composed of pea meal, oats, and barley; 2nd meal - fork full of straw and silo, a full measure of meal and half a shovel full of turnips, well stirred together; 3rd meal - just a wisp of hay; 4th meal - a fair armful of clover hay.

April 26th - Bob has been cultivating a field today. Mr. Wright intends to sow Barley in it tomorrow. Dan has been ploughing and harrowing; and I have been at the lower place and splitting wood.

April 30th - Bob has sowed some Timothy seed today. The ground is very wet and we have had little wind.

Saturday, May 14th - Wrote home. Sent away to Dr. Stuart for medicine, enclosing \$5 bill. During the last week Dan & Bob have been busy on the land; amongst others sowing oats, turnips, marigolds, and a little barley. The weather we are having at present is typical spring weather, without frost altogether. The wheat and grass are coming on splendidly.

May 18th - The heavy work is beginning to affect my hands for the bad in my fiddling.



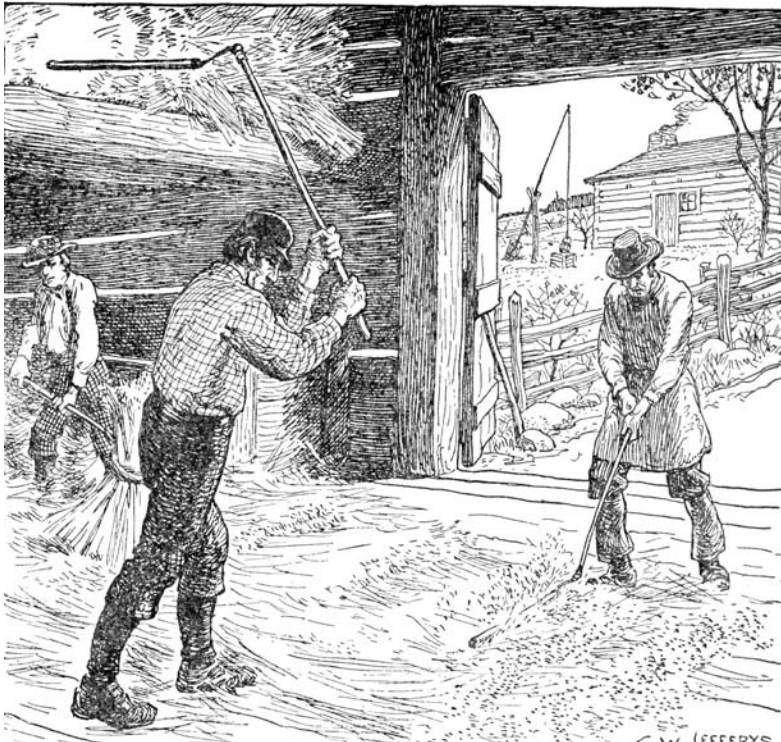
Snake Fence

DAIRY OF JOSEPH WALMSLEY WARD

Joseph W. Ward was born in Darwen, England, January 15, 1883, and died in Morecambe, England, July 14, 1944. Joseph's son, A.W.H. Ward of Morecambe sent a photocopy of his father's diary to the Burlington Library in 2002. Burlington sent it on to the Halton Hills Library. The diary covers Joseph Ward's time in Ashgrove in 1904, his winter and spring employment in Toronto 1904-1905 and then the remainder of his time in Canada spent working on a farm in the Burlington area. Also included in the diary is the description of his return trip home to England in December 1905.

Comments on the Diary of Joseph W. Ward, 1904-1905, by Betty Brownridge, November, 2006

Joseph appears to have come to Georgetown by train from the employment office and Mr. Graham brought him down to work for John Wright. Mr. Graham would be Richard Holton Graham, father of R.J. Graham. They farmed at Lot 12, Conc. 7 on today's Trafalgar Rd. Mr. Wright farmed at Lot 9, Conc. 8 on the east side of Trafalgar Rd. He owned 150 acres at that location. He had bought it from George Wrigglesworth in 1880. Ashgrove Methodist, later United, church was out of the west corner. Ashgrove school grounds was partly out of the south corner. John Wright also owned what was referred to as "the lower place", 100 acres at Lot 7, Conc. 9W, later owned by John Barnes and then his son Frank. It was sold to Mr. Snobolen.



John Wright exchanged threshing and corn bees (or silo fillings) with quite a few farmers since he had properties a distance apart - Richard Graham, who I referred to before; Hugh Morrison, Lot 11, Conc. 7 on the west corner of the village of Ashgrove; Walter Thompson, Lot 10, Conc. 7, on the south corner; Samuel Ruddell on Lot 9, Conc. 7, across from Wrights; Ed Nixon's father, James H. Nixon owned Lot 8,

Conc. 7, E 1/2 , where Jeff Nurse farms today; George Wilson farmed Lot 10, Conc. 8, W 1/2 and his brother, Henry Wilson farmed Lot 10, Conc. 8, N.W. 1/2 (This is the farm that Ashgrove, south corner, is out of. The Wright farm is next.); John Wrigglesworth lived at Lot 8, Conc. 8 (Ashgrove School, S.S. #3 Esquesing, came out of Lot 8 and 9; Hunters farmed behind Wright.

John Brown, referred to, owned Lot 6, Conc. 8, W 1/2, 100 acres at that time, and John Wiggins owned Lot 6, Conc. 8, E 1/2. I don't know where the Burtons lived but they may have rented property. Snows referred to at the last had owned a house on Ten Sideroad and rented fifty acres on the Tenth Line.

Bob Wright married Florence Ruddell, daughter of Sam (S.K.) and Minerva (Howson) Ruddell and sister of Arthur. He was known to our family as Rob. They farmed "the home farm". Rob was struck and killed by a train on the track west of Georgetown, during a snow storm, February 06, 1914. Florence moved back home. They had been married less than two years.



SS#3 Ashgrove (EHSp12486)

Dan and Mrs. Wright moved over from "the lower place" to "the home place". Dan married Eva McPhail of Trafalgar Twp. They had no family. They sold the farm to Jack Ruddell in 1939 and retired to Maple Avenue, Georgetown.

Mrs. John Wright was Jane Howden, an aunt of Arthur Ruddell's wife, Floella Howden. Rob and Dan were Floella's first cousins.

AGRICULTURE IN ESQUESING TOPIC OF JANUARY MEETING

Rob Burnett and Ray Denny have pooled their family histories to put together a presentation on aspects of the agricultural history of Esquesing Township. Although urban sprawl seems to be the only thing that's growing in Esquesing these days, it wasn't very long ago when the crops and prize-winning animals raised here were respected across the province.



Join the Esquesing Historical Society on January 10th at Knox Church, Georgetown to enjoy a talk about our agrarian past. Refreshments are served at 7 p.m. and EHS publications will be available.

EHS p10289



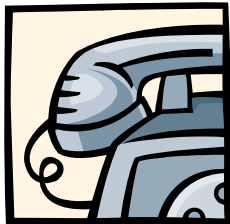
ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2007

- Wed. 10 Jan. 2007 **Agriculture in Esquesing** – Stewarttown native Rob Burnett and Acton resident Ray Denny and have teamed up to explore life on the family farm in Esquesing Township from the days of oxen to tractors.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main Street, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 14 Feb. 2007 **Historic Downtown Georgetown** - Dawn Livingstone will present slides discussing the changes evident on Main Street over the years. This presentation will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main Street, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 14 March 07 **TBA**
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main Street, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 11 April 07 **Collecting Ephemera** – Barbara Rusch has returned to share her passion for collecting ephemera with the Society. Find out what is collectable and perhaps bring an interesting sample yourself!
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main Street, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE!

Refreshments served from 7:00 p.m.

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



Stephen Blake	905 877-8251	President
Karen Hunter	905 838-2109	Treasurer
Dawn Livingstone	905 877-6506	Secretary
Sherry Westfahl	905 873-7145	Past - President
J. Mark Rowe	905 877-9510	Archivist
Jan Raymond	905 877-9172	Publications
Marj Allan	905 877-9985	Membership
Cathy Hunt		Social

Consider serving on the executive of the Esquesing Historical Society for 2007!

Memberships are renewable starting 1 February. Renew now by post or at the January meeting.

Society Notes

INTERNET CONNECTIONS

The Esquesing Historical Society has an official web site on the World Wide Web. <www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca>

Send your e-mail to mrowe6@cogeco.ca or dlvngstn@sympatico.ca

EHS NEWSLETTER

John Mark Rowe prepared this newsletter with assistance from Karen Hunter and Dawn Livingstone. Submissions welcome.

MEMBERSHIP

Our 2006 paid memberships stands at 107. The individual rate is \$10. The family or institution rate is \$12. Cheques payable to the Society can be mailed to our post box. Marj Allen, membership secretary, will now accept your 2007 fee at the meetings. Our membership year runs from February.

ARCHIVES

With the busy pace of book sales over the past two months, we have not achieved a great deal in the management of our Archives. Karen has been processing a shelf of miscellaneous donations which included the diary of Joseph W. Ward, part of which appears in this issue. Dawn chased up some donation signatures, while Mark collected a donation of material from Acton.

ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

77 Grenville Street, Toronto 416-327-1600
www.archives.gov.on.ca

HALTON-PEEL OGS

Chinguacousy Branch Library, Lower Level, 150 Central Park Drive, Bramalea.
Call Betty Cameron at 905-792-0907
Rob Leverty, Ontario Historical Society.
Topic - Ontario's Cemeteries - The Struggle for the Public Interest. Sunday, January 28, 2007 @2:00 p.m.

STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

The Society meets the 2nd Thursday of the month (Feb, Apr, Oct, Dec), 8:00pm, at Streetsville Village Hall, 271 Queen Street South. Call the BIA at 905.858.5974.

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

The Society meets at Heart Lake Presbyterian Church, 25 Ruth Ave. at 7:15

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society meets at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street at 8p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

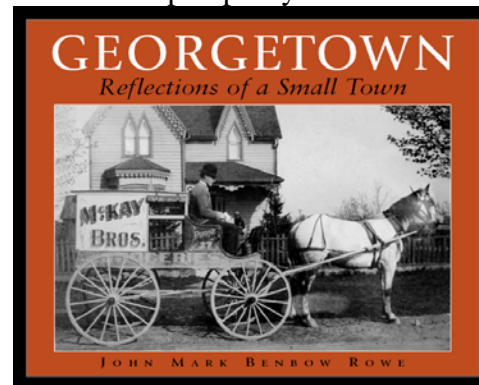
Admission Free * Donations Welcome
For information about the Oakville Historical Society and the collection, please telephone (905) 844-2695.

MINISTRY GRANT

The Ontario Ministry of Culture has sent \$378 to the Esquesing Historical Society as a Heritage Organization Development grant. This is the same level of funding as last year, designed to assist us in meeting speakers and venue rental costs.

DEVEREAUX HOUSE FUNDED

Ann Lawlor of The Devereaux House restoration group announced that the group has received \$100 000 in funding recently to work towards restoring the property. The grant came from the Trillium Foundation. This is very good news for this brick farmhouse which represents the many Esquesing township farming families who ensured the prosperity of this township.



GEORGETOWN BOOK SELLS WELL OVER CHRISTMAS

Georgetown: Reflections of a Small Town was quite a Christmas-time best seller in this corner of the universe. Author John Mark Rowe had three very busy book signings at

The Freckled Lion, Coles Books and St. Alban's Church bazaar. The book was also sold at the Knox Church bazaar and is now available at both branches of the Halton Hills Libraries. The Acton store, My Country Dream, also carries the publication as well as the Acton book.

Many EHS members purchased books at the November meeting using their members discount to stock up.

ACTON'S EARLY DAYS RE-PUBLISHED BY DAVE DILLS

After years of work, an indexed, updated version of *Acton's Early Days*, which included modern house numbers, has been published by Dills Printing & Publishing. On December 2nd, the Dills family launched the book – three generations took part in the book launch reception.



Dave thanked his wife Kay for her insistence and major help in completing the project. He also thanks Hartley Coles, Kerwin McPhail, Grant Allan, June McHugh, George Elliott and Gord McCutcheon. The 1939 book published a weekly series of columns entitled "The Old Man of the Big Clock Tower". The old man was actually the combined thoughts of H. P. Moore and G. A. Dills as they travelled street by street and house by house through the village of Acton recalling names and events associated with each property.

GEORGETOWN HOMECOMING 2007

Friday, Saturday, Sunday July 27- 28 -29 2007 – Georgetown High School!

The EHS has booked the library display case at Georgetown for July and August of 2007 and will mount a display of archival items related to GDHS.

Contact:

Chair: David Smallwood 905-877-7466
djsmallwood@sympatico.ca

Co-Chair: Neil Cotton
cottonneil@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Maggie Eby
maeby2001@hotmail.com

<http://www.gtol-georgetown-online.com>



DEATH OF DOT HILL

It is with regret that the EHS executive announces the death of Dorothy (McNiven) Hill on 7 December at Norview Lodge, Simcoe. Dot was the wife of the late Elmer Hill, also a supporter of the work of the Esquesing Historical Society. The funeral was held Dec. 9th at Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown, with a Spring internment in Glen Williams Cemetery.

DEATH OF HARVEY KIRKWOOD

On 14 December Harvey Cole Kirkwood died at 88 years of age at Brampton Hospital. Harvey was a member of the Esquesing Historical Society and enjoyed our meetings. The funeral was on 19th December and he was interred at Greenwood Cemetery, Georgetown.

My Introduction to Georgetown – by train

When my mother and father came home one night in the early summer to say they had bought a house in Georgetown, I thought I would die. Therefore, my last few days in Willowdale were very depressive ones. When the fatal day arrived, I was very thankful I was on my holidays, for I thought I couldn't bare a last look at our poor old empty house.

When my brother and I stepped off the train, I was momentarily blinded by the bright sun. As I gazed up and down the platform of the station the sight which met my eyes was very impressive. From the hurry and scurry across the tracks at the paper mills, I gathered that the town was a very industrious one. But, as I turned the other way, my eyes met with a small dirty red water tower. I thought to myself, "If this is the water tower supplying the inhabitants of Georgetown with their water, it must be a very small town."

At this point my father rushed up to us with a big smile on his face. He had only lived here one week, but he said he found it to be a wonderful little town. We debated whether to walk home down the tracks or take the long way around. Although the track way would have been much shorter, we decided to go the other way, in order to get quickly acquainted with Georgetown. As we turned from one street onto another, my brother and I could scarcely wait to see if our house was yet in view. We had not seen our house before in actuality, but we had seen photographs of it. Then we finally reached our home and were greeted by my mother and a delicious breakfast.

The next day being Monday, we went downtown. Although there are only a few stores, you are able to purchase nearly anything you would want. On bicycling around town I discovered they had a fairly large public library and a post office with well kept grounds. Although there is only one theatre, it is large enough to accommodate a fair sized crowd. Then school began, and I was broken hearted to discover that I had to attend the old school. But now that I am an affiliated pupil, I would much sooner go here than to the new school. Chapel Street School seems to have a more homey atmosphere. Shortly after school begins it's fall fair time. I personally think that the fall fair is almost as exciting as the Toronto Exhibition.

When winter comes there are plenty of sports to keep one busy. We are lucky to have an arena where we can skate or curl, two or three times a week. The golf course serves its purpose doubly, because in the summer it is, of course, used as a



golf course, but in the winter it serves as a perfect place to toboggan or ski. The bowling alley is open to anyone on Friday and Saturday nights. Besides these few recreations I have mentioned are many others including clubs of many different kinds. Mr. Biehn is the editor of the Georgetown Herald which serves various districts in Esquesing Township.

Christmas time was when I really had my eyes opened. Everything and everybody were so friendly. It seemed as if Georgetown was just one big happy family, and now it is the beginning of a new year, and I wonder what it will bring. I know that for no reason in the world would I move from Georgetown.

Dawn Fiebig... from The Junior Herald, published by the grade 8 class, Chapel Street Public School March 2, 1955

CHANGES ON MAIN STREET

Georgetown Herald 11 January 1950

Since Mr. Hyman Silver's retirement, his clothing store has been operated by his son Sidney, and a new addition built into it. Simpson's Order Office, another newcomer to town moved last year from its original location in McClure's Store to what was Lee Sing's laundry when we moved to town. After Lee Sing's death, the building was empty for a while, then was used as an electrical store by Cal Clark who sold to Jesse Wardlaw. Miss Margery Evans is manager of the store. After Howard Lillico's death, Mrs. Lillico sold their beauty parlor business to Mrs. Donna Marchment who in turn sold it to the present proprietor, Bruno Scissizzi. After William Long's death his restaurant and bus depot was conducted by the family for some time, then sold to Bob Caldwell who last year sold it to Steamboat Emmerson. Robert Erwin retired from business, his meat market now being conducted by his son-in-law, Harry Goldham. When Joseph Gibbons was appointed town assessor, he sold his barber business to Edward Depew. The Dominion Store has seen several managers come and go, including Jack Watson, Miss Ethel Ellis and Roy Barker. Norman Smith is the present manager. The bake shop in the McGibbon block has changed ownership from Norm Brown to J. F. Baird and then to Fred Webb. Since the death of Sam McGibbon the corner hotel has been operated by Jack McGibbon and his sister Gladys.

David Brill sold his clothing store to Jack Cotton and next door Roy Macloughlen sold out to Harold Hutchinson who operates the tobacco store and pool room while Merv Cook runs the barber shop. "Mac" still lends a hand on Saturdays. William King's meat market is now operated by Roy Bradley, who has been associated with his brother, the late Clayton Bradley and another brother Clifford, who now has a business of his own in Acton. Georgetown Furniture Sales was established by Stan Grabb in a remodelled store beside ready's and sold last fall to Harold McClure who is operating the two stores at present. Another new store was created from part of the Golden Gate Cafe premises for Simmons Jewellers which is managed by Cecil McNamara. The Golden Gate Cafe, formerly operated by Harry Chu, had Sammy Fong as its proprietor before the present man, Fred Lee. The millinery shop of the Misses Claridge above the Herald Office has been converted into an apartment.

Branching off Main Street proper we find as many changes in businesses in other parts of town. Up Wesleyan Street Mr. I. Rachlin sold his cleaning and pressing businesses to Don Barrager who added a plant which he built behind Steamer's Inn. Lincoln Auto Body was established by Al Zeravlev and a building remodelled beside the Oddfellows Hall (for the benefit of old time readers out of town, the Oddfellows Hall used to be the theatre many years ago). Alex Hume sold his Massey-Harris agency to Jim Taylor who recently sold the business to Doug

Swackhamer and is establishing Kelmscott Implements near Milton. Down Mill Street George Muckart expanded his store space, M.H. Moyer opened his new motor licence bureau in part of Freeman Kersey's office and across the street Tom Hewson occupies the former Ken McMillan building and the new liquor store is to open in part of this premises soon. The Legion expanded their quarters to take in what was once a barber shop operated by the late Frank Golden. The veterinary office of the late Dr. R. Learmonth was later used by Dr. Stewart Magwood and Dr.



The corner of Mill and Main Streets, Georgetown. EHSp237

W.C. Stiles and has now been converted into an apartment.

Mrs. C. J. Buck is conducting the meat and grocery business since her husband's death a few years ago. Howard Graff has an insurance and real estate office in what was once Richard Marchment's store and across the road Walter T. Evans built

an attractive log cabin for his real estate and insurance business. Ken McMillan has his International Harvester implement business now in what was at one time the Arnold Glove Factory on the highway which stood empty for many years.

A new store farther up the highway built by Cal Clark is now operated as a grocery store by Kay Bludd. Norman Hill built a new building across from his former store on King Street where he conducts his grocery business and a new building was also erected by Jack Saunders for his grocery store in College View Albert Simson has an upstairs photo studio on Main Street above Steamer's Inn. The new Mackenzie building on Mill Street houses Georgetown 5c to \$1.00 Store operated by Charles Wray and the Georgetown Bakery, established by the Kemshead Brothers, then sold to the Pries Brothers and now operated by Jack Stockton and Ronald Borg. The Lucky Strike Bowling Club is in the basement. Odeon Theatres bought the theatre from R. L. Gregory, and Ernie Crawford replaced Jack Polly last year as manager.