

History of Park Head continued.

The first fraternal society organized was the Independent Order of Templars which flourished for fifteen or twenty years.

They met in a hall which was upstairs in a house now occupied by Mrs. Sarah Cox and reached by an outside stairway. In 1900 a society known as "Sons of Temperance of Ontario" was organized. This proved to be quite a social centre providing entertainment for the community with concerts, debates, etc.

The Independent Order of Foresters was organized about 1886. This society formed a joint stock company and built the first hall in the village.

The earliest industry was the making of square timber (rock elm) as early as 1863. These were floated down the Sauble River to the lake and were loaded on sailing boats for England, Quebec and Toronto. Sawmills were built, one on the Sauble River in 1862 by William Street, Another in 1882 by W. H. Leonard of Wiarton near the New Grand Trunk Railway, where lumber, slabs, cordwood and shingles were shipped by rail. A Sawmill was also built on Lot 10 Con. 7.

Harry Ross erected a chopping mill in the spring of 1913. This mill still does a thriving business with Mr. Ben Kocher as owner.

A blacksmith and carriage shop was built in the early 1880's by the Brookbank Brothers on Lot 1 Con. 5. This later was torn down.

The land on which it stood was taken over by the Highways Dept. for the widening of Highway 6. An interesting thing in connection with this shop, as recalled by some of our older residents, is that the first iron couplings such as are still in use in 1961 to couple the Railway cars together, were made in this shop. A Mr. John Bouey who lived on Lot 11 Con. 6 Amabel designed and whittled out of wood a coupling to couple Railway cars together, and then had an iron one made but he never had it patented, although the one which was used later by the Railway Companies and still in use, is almost identical.

The first store was built by M. S. Rourke on the site where H. E. White's store is still in operation. A second store was built across the road by Mr. Monkman which is now used as a residence.

A restaurant operated by the Cordingly family, a boarding house, a barber shop, a photograph gallery, were all thriving businesses at one time but now have all passed out.

The Railway Station was built in 1882 and stood until 1933 when it was burned. A Railway coach was used until passenger service was discontinued in 1959. In 1891 the Grand Trunk Branch from Park Head to Owen Sound was completed.

The first Rural Credit Union or Co-operative bank in Ontario was organized at Park Head on March 10, 1938 with T. A. Pringle as President and H. W. Robinson as Manager and treasurer. When Mr. Robinson moved from the community Mrs. W. A. Smith succeeded him.

This union disbanded in 1949.