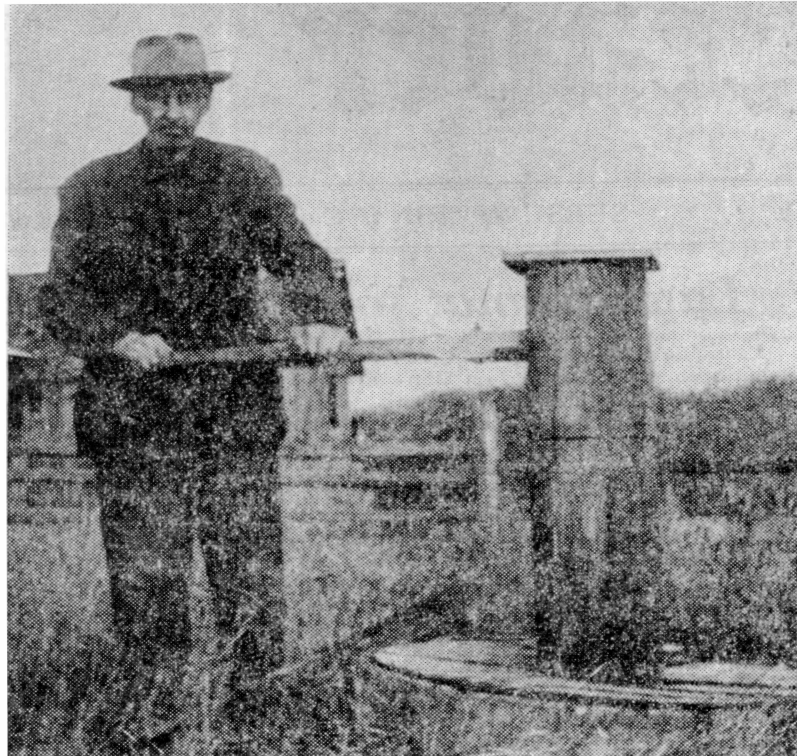


Once made 60 wooden pumps in a year



By WINNIE NUTE 1971

Albert McIntyre, who will be 90 next February, believes he has the only wooden pump in the district and he made it himself.

Mr. McIntyre lives about five miles east of Eganville, near Kelly's Corners, on the farm where he was born.

He hasn't made a pump for a long time but in his younger days he made as many as 60 in one year. It was just a sideline for him to farming. He learned the trade from his father and uncle and McIntyre pumps were known throughout a wide area.

In the early days tamarack from the swamps was used but this wood eventually became scarce. Then the pump heads were made from white pine because it lasted well. In the cylinder where the sucker worked, white birch was ideal as it could be bored out smoother than the pine. (The sucker is the part that actually "sucks" up the water).

A wooden pump can be made with a larger bore than metal, Mr. McIntyre says, thus raising a greater quantity of water.

At one time, horses were used to provide the power for boring and turning. Later, a gas engine was used.

The pumps were made in two sizes, the smaller being a 4" bore and suitable for an ordinary well 12' to 14' deep. They sold for \$5 at one time but by the time Mr. McIntyre gave up the trade the price had risen to \$15.

The other size, with a 5" bore,

Mr. McIntyre and his brother Selby, 73, live alone on the family farm. Neither man ever married.

The pump in the yard is still in working order but seldom used since a pressure system was installed in the house.

James McIntyre, grandfather of the two men, and his older brother John came to Canada from Ireland, probably in the 1840's. John had finished a five year stint at sea and he signed on as a member of the crew for the voyage over. His wages went to pay James' passage.

The two settled and cleared land on Mink Lake and suffered one serious setback when they lost their cabin and everything in it by fire. All they had left was the clothes they wore.

The day finally came when they had enough money put by to send for the rest of the family—their parents, four brothers and two sisters.

John walked to Ottawa to arrange for the passage but the word got back to James that his brother was spending money pretty freely down there. So James, in turn, trudged to Ottawa to check up on the suspected spendthrift.

However, the spending spree must have been a modest one as all the family left in Ireland subsequently arrived in Canada. Most settled in the Eganville and Renfrew area, married and raised families.

Mr. McIntyre's father, another James, was born in Wilberforce Township in 1852.

The sight of the wooden pump in the yard at the old farm is a