

To: Mrs. Helen McCartney
R. R. 5
Wiarton, Ontario

From: Doran Dobson
R. R. 5
Wiarton, Ontario

A History of R. R. 5, Wiarton, from April 1, 1948 to Dec. 31, 1965

I took over the contract from Fred McVannel. At that time there were about 40 boxes on the mail route. The first stop was at Dalton Wright's and the last box was Clifford Gilbert's.

On the Cape Croker reserve, the route followed the main road down Coveney's hill to the Little Port Elgin section, around the shore past where Tom Jones' and Lennox Johnston's stores were. From there it went around the block past the Agent's house, the Catholic church and out to Sydney Bay, then across the 12th sideroad to the 10th to McCartney's and Gilbert's.

In the winter I was given permission to reverse the route because of the Sydney Bay hill.

At the time I took over the mail contract, the township roads were snowplowed but there was no plowing done on the Reserve. Fred Tuffnell was Indian agent at that time and he assured me that when winter came he would have the Cape roads plowed. But winter came and no snowplow, so I rented a horse and cutter from Dalton Wright and kept it at Jim McLean's. Between the agent and myself, we finally hired a snowplow to keep the main roads on the Reserve open.

The last day I used the horse, I was trying to get across the field to Clayton Urbshott's and the cutter caught on something and the horse walked through the harness. I had to go to Art Jones' to make repairs. The Reserve finally purchased a grader and plow with Joe Akiwenzie to operate it and from then on, conditions improved both winter and summer. The roads were narrower then and when it was snowing and blowing, visibility was nil at times with snow blowing over the high banks. My brother, Leonard, would ride with me on very bad days and he would walk ahead of the truck so I would know where the road was. What with blocked sections of road in winter and flooding in the spring, there was a lot of detouring and backtracking to do.

On June 15, 1960, an extension was added to the route, from the Village of Colpoy out the north shore of Colpoy's Bay. At that time, it was for only three months, now it is year round.

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