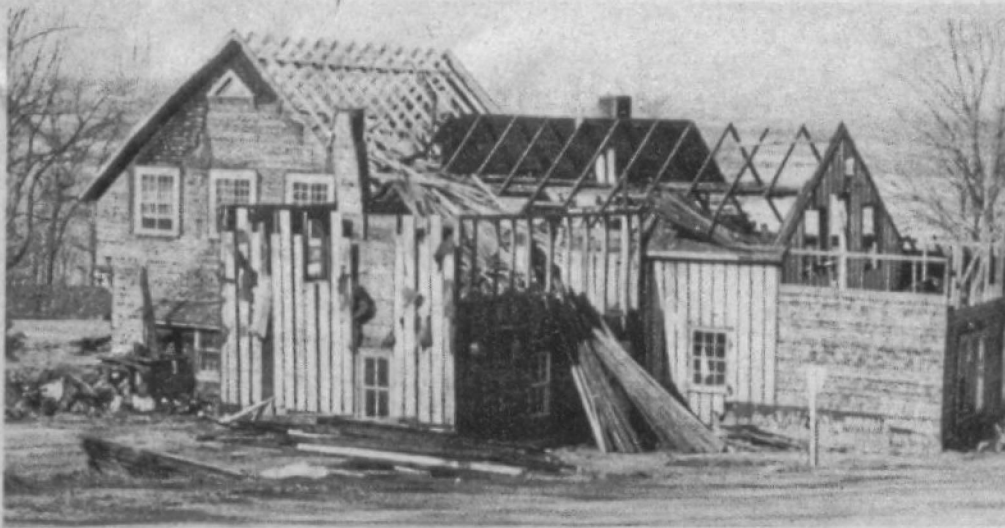


Vacant Lot Where Once Was An Inn



WINTER'S JUST FADING as this photo was taken of the Braeside Inn as demolition was

commenced by Gerald Desjardins.(GUIDEVIEW)



DEMOLITION HAS GONE ON for a few weeks of the Braeside Inn and this photo was taken up the Braeside hill. The skeleton building

shows the various sections as they were built on over the years. This corner lot in Braeside is now entirely levelled.(GUIDEVIEW)

The big lot in Braeside at the top of the lower river road has been cleared by demolition of the landmark, Braeside Inn.

Where the Inn has stood since 1888, with three additions, there is now unfamiliar level ground said to be owned by John Gillies who has not stated his future plans re the property.

The Inn's function was as a boarding house for Gillies Bros. mill workers who came from a distance for the Summer working season.

The cedar-shingled inn operated under a company contract at a rental plus some shared costs, with the rent dropping in the off-mill season.

The Inn boarders were "repeaters" in that many of them came back year after year and were satisfied patrons of the accommodation and the meals.

In its heyday, Inn charges were \$1.50 per day for bed and board, and at maximum 67 boarders could be served, along with a 15-room bunkhouse that was built later and back of the Inn.

The Inn's operators started their day at about 4 a.m. when husky breakfast was prepared for the men who were served from 5.45 to 6.30, so that they could climb aboard the dinky cars that carried them down the back road to the mill for 7 o'clock.

Also prepared in the early morning were packed lunches for the men, who would not come back until evening.

But--when they did they brought knowing appetites that were satisfied with the staples (in quantity) of meat and potatoes and pots of cooked beans and the dessert pleasure of home-made pies.

Many people can remember the evening scenes on the Inn's verandah, amid warm weather when the boarders would cluster outside in brief undershirts and suspended pants.

However, pay nights were different when the favourite course was down to Armprior for a bit of a bash to cele-

brate.

Pay day also meant that the Inn's operators every two weeks received their boarders' charges that the Gillies office deducted from the pay envelopes. In this way there was no way of anyone not paying.

It was customary at the Inn also for many of the Gillies office staff to take their noon day meal.

The Inn, built in 1888, had additions, and when being demolished recently it was noted on the east side that a timber was inscribed by the carpenter Allan Gilmour, and dated January 28, 1907.

The Inn was made of three layers of lumber with no insulation and it is remembered that it was difficult to heat with big wood stoves.

Some fine timbers were taken out of the demolition by Gerry Desjardins who had the removal contract.

The building eventually had 52 windows.

The western section for many years served as a medical prevention clinic as Dr. W.B. McNaughton and Dr. Howard Box came from Armprior at intervals, and also home training classes were in this part of the Inn.

The dining room was the largest downstairs area and it held two big tables at which the boarders ate in shifts.

There was a hallway and a waiting room and, of course, a commensurate kitchen where many laborious hours in every day were spent.

There were six bedrooms for ladies--of the operators' family and also extra staff, while there were nine rooms upstairs.

The water supply was a problem and a large cistern was below, and water also had to be drawn in, and re the water Mrs. Charlie Gilmour recalls the family admonition as a tonic before supper "how about a thousand pumps?" The meaning was clear--and understood.

As far as can be checked, the Inn's tenant operators were Joe Henry, John Moore, W.J. Gilmour, Charles Gilmour, Mrs. Ethel Henderson, Gilbert Carmichael, Klaux Desjardins, Gerald Desjardins, and last occupant was a Zimmerling family.

Thus a very memorable structure passes out of existence...but surely not to be forgotten.