

Oldest Former Warden Opens New Building

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Bruce County's "Oldest Former Warden", Hon. Campbell Grant, addresses the large gathering last Tuesday prior to officially "cutting the ribbon" to formally open Bruce County's new Administrative Centre. The weatherman co-operated 100% for the outdoor event. —Crier

Many dignitaries and a large audience turned out on a sunny autumn afternoon, Monday, Oct. 25th, to witness the Official Opening ceremony and partake of a

tour of the recently completed County of Bruce Administrative Centre on Park St. in Walkerton.

About 200 people were present, including a few children. It was noted. Master of ceremonies for the occasion was Brad Davis, Chairman of the County Finance Committee. Rev. James Dookram of Trinity Lutheran Church in Walkerton gave the prayer of invocation.

Among the guest were the Wardens of the surrounding Counties of Grey, Wellington and Huron, as well as the Wardens of Simcoe, Dufferin and Perth.

County Warden Cliff Pegelo of Brant Twp. spoke of a dream that has become a reality, and said he was proud to be involved in the new energy-efficient building. He mentioned the need to bring the various County offices in Walkerton under one roof, including the Children's Aid Society, and the lack of a Warden's office in the

old building. The County Library headquarters however will remain in Port Elgin.

He conceded that had the economy been this bad a year ago they would not have proceeded. The cost of the new building is approximately \$2,000,000.00.

Mayor Jim Bolden of Walkerton spoke briefly, making a jocular reference to a bottle of whisky which supposedly decided the location of the original County Building. He mentioned that he was on the County Finance Committee when the proposal for a new building first came up.

Retired Bruce County Clerk-Treasurer Tom Alton gave an outline of the history of the County Buildings and said he regretted that he had held the post too early to be able to enjoy the new building.

Businesses Of The 1930's

Recently, we reflected on Walkerton businesses at the turn of the century, but since most of us cannot remember that long ago, here are some from our more recent past.

In the 1930's if you needed groceries, you could choose from the Dominion Store (where Stedmans is now), Damm's Grocery, Goode and Mackay, Sparlings, Ralph Kreuger's Grocery, Oberle's, or Patrick's Store on Colborne Street. Patrick's closed in 1944, when Mr. Patrick retired at 81 years of age. At the south end of town, Baker's store catered to the Station Road customers.

In that same era, you could buy clothes at Stephan's Department Store (where Adel's is now), Buckhalter's Clothing, Bremner's Fair, McBurney's Clothing and Dry Goods, and Ker & Obright's Men's Wear or Rife's Men's Wear. Mabel Raines would provide the hats for the ladies, and Rogers Fur Shop, the fur coats.

Shoes could be bought from

Cartwright's Shoe Store, or Frank Donahue, or repaired by Sewell's Shoe Repair.

Walkerton boasted three drug stores, — Lambertus', Hobbly's and Reed's.

C. A. Fox and Archie Reichenbach catered to the watch-making and jewellery needs, while Vogan's Hardware and Stennell's Hardware sold the copper wash boilers, so necessary then.

The restaurants included Erdman's, Anderson's, a Chinese restaurant, called the Victoria Cafe, where Slater's Auto Electric is now located, at the corner of Durham and Peter Streets, and the newest of the day, Lobie's Restaurant. Tanner & Pearson and Dick Schuett's were the furniture stores, and Ted McConnell ran the book store, now the Fran Shop.

If your Model "A" needed gas, there was Lettner's, Lobie's, Kain's, Harold Scott's, George Scott's and Gus Boyle's garages to choose from.

HISTORY OF CARTWRIGHT'S SHOE STORE HERE HAD 1990 AN EARLY BEGINNING

Bert Cartwright followed the trade of both his father and grandfather, and learned the art of making shoes, as well as repairing them. His home was in Yorkshire, England.

When Bert was twenty-one in 1910, he decided to head for Canada. He had saved enough for his passage and when he landed at Halifax he converted his English money into Canadian. He had twenty-five dollars.

He took the train to central Ontario and, after working as a hod carrier for bricklayers, he heard that a store in Walkerton needed a shoemaker. John Kruspe, who worked in the repair shop at Ramsey's Shoe Store, had left.

Bert took the first train to Walkerton and soon found he was running a busy shoe repair shop. In those days boots were still being custom made in the shop. Skates had to be attached to boots, leather tops had to be sewn to rubber bottoms for the farmer, as well as regular shoe repair work.

In 1914, when war broke out, Bert immediately joined the 18th battalion and was soon on his way Overseas, where he eventually became a sergeant shoemaker for the troops. During wartime leaves in England, he met his future wife, Gladys Mitchell.

When the war ended, his job at Ramsey's was waiting for him, with accumulated repairs piled high. Some busy years and long hours followed, as he saved money to get back to

England and marry Gladys, which he did in 1920 and brought her back to Canada.

During all these years, all shoe repair finishing had been done by hand, as was all sole stitching. In 1921, a shoe finishing machine was bought and this speeded up work. It was in 1929 that M. J. Ramsey decided to retire and Bert bought the business.

It was also in 1929 that the Great Depression struck. When he bought the business, Frances Ernst was clerking for Ramsey and Norbert Schnurr was working in the shoe repair shop. So tough did business become, that Norbert Schnurr had to be laid off for several months one season, and Bert returned to the shoemaker's last.

In 1937, his son Lloyd left school to learn the shoe repair trade, and after Bert's death in 1943, Lloyd operated the store in conjunction with his mother. In 1965, Lloyd's son Bruce also left school to learn the business of shoe retailing. Bruce is now in charge of the store.

Over the years, Cartwright's Shoe Store has been fortunate to have employed staff persons who stayed with the firm for many years. Most notable among these might be mentioned the late Frances Ernst, who held her position from 1926 (for Ramsey) until about 1950, and more lately Mrs. Dolores Weber, who started in 1952, and is still on the staff.