

Arena renovated

200-13/95



Walter Tedford, Roger Dyer, Russell Tedford, Cecial Banks and Erwin Hawthorn are all working on the Dummer Community Centre this week.

Dummer Community Hall in Warsaw is now in the midst of a major renovation project.

Two new dressing rooms, two new washrooms, new plexiglass at the top end of the ice surface, and a new storage room are being installed in the arena.

Roger Dyer, with some help from local kids, managed to slap on more than 45 gallons of paint throughout the inside of the building.

A new ice surface flooder has arrived and is now being used.

Death

Thoughts are with the family of the late Russell Tedford, R.R. #2, Warsaw. Russell was an avid hockey fan with one son playing for the Redmen and another for the Flyers. His daughter plays on the girls' team, a son-in-law and a daughter-in-law are all coaches. Russell was also on the curling team in Warsaw and a member of the Warsaw Lions Club. He was a very active man and will be missed by all who knew him. To his family we say - Memories are ever dear.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

Dr. Donald Monro of Warsaw was said to have brought over 3,000 infants in the combined Douro-Dummer Townships into the world. Dr. Monro was active in medicine and politics there for 40 years. He was said to have kept three fast horses in his stable at all times, and "many were the major operations performed in farmhouse kitchens in co-operation with the late Dr. Alex Fraser, Sr., of Lakefield," said Nick Nickels. Dr. Monro was president of the East Peterborough Liberal Association for 28 years and also served for 12 years as president of the county association.

Leahy heads memorial committee

WARSAW (Staff) — Glan Leahy was named as head of a committee for the Dr. Donald Munroe Memorial. Others on the committee are Thomas Davis, Mrs. Barbara Bell, Mrs. Joyce Payne, secretary and Mrs. Edythe Payne, treasurer.

The committee has been given permission to place a plaque in the park in Warsaw, which will be from now on known as the Dr. Donald Munroe Memorial Park.

Anyone who wishes to donate towards the expenses of the plaque may do so by contacting any committee member.

A Dr. Donald Monroe Trophy will be presented to a fiddler who is sixteen or under who takes part in the Old Tyme Fiddlers Contest which will be held in the Dummer Community Arena, October 10. This event is sponsored by the ladies auxiliary of the Warsaw Legion.

Dr. Donald Monroe had his practice in Warsaw and the surrounding communities for over 50 years. He died in 1956.

Besides his medical profession, the doctor loved music and taught many of the men the art of fiddle playing, among them the Leahy boys of Douro, Thomas Davis, Joe Watts and many more.

John is from the old school, when men were men

It was the day after the wet snow. John Payne was catching the runoff from the eaves trough and carrying the pails of soft water down to the cistern in the cellar of his modern house on the edge of Warsaw.

"Well, are you coming in?" he asked in a strong friendly voice. Not until we were inside did he find out who we were.

John Payne was born in 1890, the great grandson of Levi Payne who came from England in 1831 and built the first house in Dummer Township. "The little old Englishman," John calls him, but a man strong enough to walk the fifteen miles to Peterborough once a week and come back with 50 to 100 pounds of goods for his family.

"Times was tough here, but 'hey was tougher in the Old Country and the settlers at least had enough to eat," said John. He's not exactly sure how his great grandfather met his death, but he thinks that he liked to drink a little too much. One day after he got into the whiskey, he fought a man who hit him a blow from which he never quite recovered. Levi was in his seventies at the time.

One of seven children, John was raised on the Payne farm on the fourth line of Dummer about four miles north of Warsaw.

As a young man he worked for a while in western Canada, there's a photograph in one of his albums of a strong handsome farm hand washing up for dinner at a farm in Saskatchewan. It's John himself in 1917. He describes himself as "a bit

of a rambler", a man who loved to travel when he had the time and who has worked at many different jobs. In the early twenties, he was worked on the road gang in Dummer; eventually he became a road superintendent. From there he went to county road work "although I was never boss there."

Then he got into the logging business, "working with other lads buying timber and bringing it out." He had to quit the timber in his eightieth year because he couldn't get around like he used to; the right knee was giving him too much trouble.

The timber business was once a big part of Dummer's industry. Tall straight pine were used to build the masts for ships in Quebec and England in the 1840s and 50s. "Most of the really good wood was gone out of here before my time," said Mr Payne.

He laughed when he told us about the big tree - a pine that was seven and one half feet wide and yielded 960 cubic feet of lumber (about 11,000 board feet).

When it was hewn it took 22 teams of horses to sled it from Westwood to the river. The horses got across the ice, but the big log broke through. "That was a big one," said John.

"My dad told me about another one they cut for a mast. It took 14 teams to haul up to Stoney Lake."

The changes in the township don't all meet with his approval, especially the decline in agriculture.

"There's a lot going to pasture and a lot not worked at all. They can't

get the men to work it and they can't pay the wages. It's not like the old days when it was work or starve; take small wages or die."

Although he talks of his ancestors from the 19th century as "the old fellows", John himself is part of an older school.

He came from a generation that "worked for 50 cents a day in the thirties and if you couldn't get 50 cents, you'd work for 25. Nine or ten hours a day, and we never thought of striking."

He loved the deer hunt, when the deer were still plentiful, and the excitement of the log jams and the

pleasure of talking with the lads at work.

Now, "my woman's gone and the three girls are married, and I'm right back where I started only not near as good a man," all said with only a hint of regret and a good dose of laughter.

Why is he saving the water from the eaves trough? It gives him something to do along with reading and his visits by car around the township and he hates to see the water go to waste and the exercise helps him keep his appetite. "A man's got to have a good appetite to eat his own cooking," he said.

