

A team of coach horses could safely run about 15 miles (depending on the terrain and road conditions) before they became exhausted. This led to a system being organized, whereby a string of first class animals were maintained at various stages along a particular route. It entailed stables, stablemen, supplies of hay and oats, provisions of water, adequate allowance for sickness of man and beast. Vehicles and harness had to be kept in tip-top shape and repairs made quickly. There was never time to waste as the team travelled from one stage to the next.

Operators of stage coaches staked their reputation on reliability and they did their best to maintain it. They had little else to sell - certainly not comfort - for stage wagons could be miserable conveyances. Sometimes the "stage" was no more than a lumber wagon with a canvas covering. The grander coaches that eventually ran on many of the main roads were still clumsy affairs and the main cushioning was the press of the passengers.

The stage stops were always convenient to an inn where travellers could be provided with a plain meal or overnight accommodation.

Early in our history, gold was discovered north of Madoc. With the Madoc gravel road being the main artery between Belleville and the northern part of the County, the stage coaches did a big business.

"Tanners" at Ivanhoe owned vehicles and maintained stables along the route. One driver's name was "Salleyca's" - probably because of the odd name that it was recalled. Stops were made at Holloway - just north of the store and at Snider's Inn - (where Mrs. E. D. Emerson lives - pt. lot 1 - Con. 8) and a third one at the junction of the Madoc Road and the 8<sup>th</sup> Concession - Lot 3. - owned and operated by Megginson. This latter inn was destroyed by fire April 17, 1971 - (See Book 1 Vol 1 for pictures)

There is no record of any stage hold-up in our area. Passengers were in greater danger of the drivers who enjoyed mastering their spirited horses. Sometimes the driver treated himself to a strong drink of whiskey and lost control of both horses and himself.

We have been told that one time the stage stopped at the Snider's Inn and the passengers were given a meal and refreshments. During the meal a baby cried quite continuously. After the stage had gone the baby was nowhere to be found.

A search was made and the child was found at Megginson's Inn. The passenger who had taken the baby had been drinking too freely.

With the coming of the railways and their greater speed, safety, comfort and punctuality the long distance stage lines gradually disappeared and 1916-15 saw the end of the coach lines.

Now a great deal of enjoyable travel is done by bus - owned and operated by bus Companies and much of our goods is transported by motorized transports.