

P E D L A R S (continued)

the farmer's wife. This kept the meat better than if it had been all cut up ahead. He always carried the livers and anyone asking got some free. The hearts and tongues he usually gave away to families who could not afford to buy much meat. He also had a bell which he rang as he approached each home. Mrs. Loral Wanamaker still has Grant's bell and scales.

Bread and baked goods were peddled by Frank Thompson, proprietor of the Maple Leaf Bakery in Roblin's Mills, first with a horse, later by car. Harry Bisdee entered the peddling business in 1935, having purchased the Crosbie bakeshop. He started with just bread and baked goods, then added groceries in 1937 and put a larger truck on the road, peddling 6 days a week. He operated under the name of Ameliasburgh Bakery. Truman Ferguson and Gerald Fritz drove the peddling wagon.

Arthur Stewart had a bakeshop in Rednersville and peddled bread in the early 1900's. Joseph Thompson had a bakery on Ridley St. in Rossmore and peddled bread with a horse and covered wagon. Later his son George took over the bakeshop and peddled by truck up the bay-shore, down Massassaga, up the 2nd and into Huff's Island and Mountain View.

When Alex Gilmour ran the Rednersville store he peddled groceries and other supplies with a truck.

During the 1930's Arthur Corfield had a butcher van on the road with routes to Huff's Island, Rossmore and Consecon. Henry Robinson of Rossmore also peddled meat. The White Bros., Joe and Stan, had a slaughter house in Rossmore and peddled meat by truck. Later Clarence Thompson, Massassaga butchered and had a peddling truck on the road.

In the Consecon area Bert Kemp peddled meat by car. Herman Goodmurphy also had a wagon out of Consecon carrying groceries, bread and baked goods. His son Allan came into the business and carried a much larger variety. With the Goodmurphys a truck came into use. Later pedlars in the Consecon area were Frank Brimley from Wellington with groceries and Pearsoll from Wellington with bread. There were fish pedlars too.

There were also those who travelled through the township to buy, not to sell - the Italians with their horse and wagon seeking rags, bones and bottles.

Other pedlars people remember were the Daly tea salesman from Napanee and the Ocean Blend tea salesman who came through spring and fall taking orders which were delivered later. Until fairly recent times men came door to door to sharpen saws, scissors and lawn mowers.

With the passage of time, the modern automobile and the supermarkets, the era of the peddling wagons came to an end. Many will remember them with nostalgia.