



What's in a name?

Noel Perry, an employee of the Picton public works department displays one of the town's street signs, brought in for repairs. Names such as Lake Street and

Albert Street have local significance. Perry said many of the signs are damaged by vandals and signs for loading zones often are taken for bar room decorations.

Meaning behind those odd names

By MARG HAYLOCK
Staff Reporter

PICTON - Book titles, such as Green Dolphin Street, The Barretts of Wimpole Street and 79 Park Avenue, suggest the color and fascination of street names.

In Picton, many streets were named for prominent local residents, active in commerce, politics or the military. The town's first mayor, lawyer Philip Low had two streets named in his honor, Philip Street and Low Street. Both are in the neighborhood of Castle Villeneuve, the unique house he constructed on Bridge Street.

Bockus Street was named in tribute to merchant Charles Bockus, who was a promoter of the Prince Edward County railway and Downes Avenue was named for Capt. John Pepper Downes, who produced the popular Downes Prints of local scenes.

Mortimer Street was a tribute to merchant Cecil Mortimer and Fairfield Street was named in honor of a member of the local judiciary, Judge Fairfield.

Several streets were named for royalty, among them King Street, Queen Street, Princess Street and Amelia and Adelaide Streets. Disraeli Street and Gladstone Avenue were named for British prime ministers.

Pedestrian names, such as North Street, South Street, Bay Street and Water Street were given to indicate the streets, locations or proximity to water. Some were apparent misnomers, among these Lake Street, which is located just off Main Street West, far from any body of water, and Hill Street, which is a flat stretch, running along Picton Harbor.

Ferguson Street was named for Arra Ferguson, a one-time member of parliament and Ross Street for Col. William Ross. Washburn Street was named for merchant Simon Washburn and Harvey Street for Picton's late mayor, Harvey J. McFarland. When he died, approx-

imately six years ago, a proposal was made to rename Main Street "McFarland Drive", but no action was taken because of the complexities involved. The name "Harvey Street" had been chosen prior to his death, because his construction company had built homes there.

Several town streets have names with no apparent local connections, among them Bowery, Head, Eyre and Maitland streets.

In Picton, certain sections of town were given nicknames that have endured. The Hill Street area was known, originally, as The Commons, a reference to the British name for unclaimed public land. Several squatters' lots were acquired in this once sparsely populated neighborhood.

The name Delhi was given to the neighborhood spreading out below the Town Hill and "over Delhi" became a colloquialism to describe the part of Picton that includes York, Union, Mill, Church, Pitt and Maitland streets, among others.

In Prince Edward County, rural road names reflect the history of the community. Christian Street was named after a group of farmers attending a barn raising at the farm of Hugh Barker refused to accept drinks of whiskey, on hand for the occasion. The barn was built in 1846 and Barker had the words "Christian Street" cut on one end of it to recall the temperance of his friends.

Other biblical names given to country roads are Jericho, Sodom and Gommorah. Another area name is Salem.

Hills in Prince Edward received colorful names, among them Chuckery Hill on Glenora Road, Mockingbird Hill, near Green Point and Fingerboard Hill in Ameliasburg.

Other unique county names for roads and small settlements are Sandy Hook, Ben Gill, Fairmount, Yerexville, Doolittle Road, Fry Road and Fish Lake Road.

Visitors to the county, often, are amused by the unusual road signing and intrigued by the derivation of the names.

Story of silver thimble

A silver thimble owned by Mrs. J.N. (Hilda) Bailey, of 57 King Street, Picton is one of a number of souvenirs in Prince Edward County which is linked to the celebration of the 100 years of operation of the Woolworth Stores, the company that invented the "five and ten."

As a young girl Margaret Morrison left the county with Jennie Creighton to learn the dressmaking business. Miss Creighton married Frank Winfield Woolworth who when he died had a chain of more than 1,000 stores in Canada, Briatin and the U.S. and his personal worth was estimated at \$65. million.

her collection of exotic husbands, one a phoney Russian prince, another a German count and a third Cary Grant.

Jennie Creighton while a seamstress gave Margaret Morrison the thimble. Then in 1952 it was given to Mrs. Bailey by an aunt of her husband while they were in California attending the Rose Bowl Parade.

Now, though she has the original box in which it was bought in Waterdown, N.Y., Mrs. Bailey wears the thimble on her charm bracelet.

It's a souvenir she thought little about until

the announcement was made that Woolworth's is 100 years old in June this year.



Silver thimble which was a gift from Jennie Creighton Woolworth.