

BOOK REVIEWED—

written from 1972-74

Dunchurch Women's Institute wrote valuable record of their Township

"Along Memory Lane with Hagerman People"—Published for Dunchurch branch of the Women's Institute, Mrs. Pearl MacLennan, curator. 219 pages, illustrated. Herald-Gazette Press, Bracebridge, \$7.50.

funeral director's establishment to the services offered. The part a store plays in the lives of the people of the community is well described, and this account by itself gives a good description of life in a centre like Dunchurch in this part of Ontario.

There are several other parts of the book which seem to stand out as one reads the book through. There are the hardships of the pioneers of the last century, and the incidents related bring the people involved close to anyone who has an understanding of rural life of years ago.

There is, for example, the part of the book written by Mrs. MacLennan telling of how she and her husband decided to go into farming after they had run a sawmill business and had to leave it because, first, of a fire, and then in 1929 of the declining price of lumber. For 20 years they operated a farm with success—there were bad times such as when 13 of 17 of their ewes were killed by wolves—"they killed the best of our flock. We thought it best to sell the remainder, before we lost them all."

All of the family names of Hagerman Township appear in this fine book, and we cannot here attempt to list them or to describe some of the incidents about the families which adds so much interest to the story of this municipality from 1868 to 1972. It is noticeable, of course, that relationships exist between various sections of our general countryside, and some of the family names will seem familiar to Muskoka people. Certainly there is one man of Hagerman Township whose early history had to do with Ullswater, Watt Township, Muskoka.

This was Richard Albert Creasor, born in Portage du Fort, Quebec, in 1858, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Helms Creasor who came to Ullswater in 1866. Richard Creasor, when quite a young man, contracted with the government to drive the mail stage from Parry Sound to Dunchurch and from Dunchurch to Burk's Falls—a distance of about 60 miles. Mr. Creasor drove a team of horses harnessed to a democrat with a fringed top. He changed horses at Dunchurch, so he made that place his home, and soon he was operating the Temperance Hotel there as well as a livery stable, in addition to driving the stage. And when he married a young lady at Parry Sound, their honeymoon took the form of a buggy trip to Ullswater.

We believe that anyone who knows the countryside in these Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka will find in this latest book from the Herald-Gazette Press a source of good reading as well as opportunity to gain further knowledge of how these Districts developed over the period of just over one hundred years since they began to attract settlers.

We mention, too, that the illustrations have been carefully selected to add interest to the book, "Along Memory Lane with Hagerman People."

Here is a book which will be a valuable reference source for people interested in the Township of Hagerman, District of Parry Sound, as one of the well-known parts of Parry Sound-Muskoka. Dunchurch is the principal centre of the Township, Fairholme being another well-known locality. It is the ladies of the Women's Institute who have taken on the splendid work, as a Tweed-smuir history project, of giving the history of every property which has been settled.

The localities covered include Grange Hill, Dunchurch, Jordan Creek, Whitestone Lake, Farley's sideroad, Sunny Slope, Balsam sideroad, Fairholme, Shawnaga and Lorimer Lake and others.

Then the book tells of the various churches of the Township, of the schools, of those who have served in Canada's armed forces, of deaths which occurred in a tragic manner, of the organizations of Hagerman, of business and industry and other miscellaneous items.

One of the outstanding features of the book appears under the title, Story of a Store, and was written by J. A. Dobbs, more recently of Burk's Falls. Mr. Dobbs was associated with the man who founded the principal store business at Dunchurch in 1885, Arthur Buchanan, and after the latter's death took over the business and added a

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believed a woman's destiny lay in the home, so she never supported the suffragette cause. In 1897 she founded the first Women's Institute; within a few years this movement spread across Canada and around the world. Working with Lady Aberdeen, she helped found the National Council of Women, the Victorian Order of Nurses and the national YWCA. www.history.ca



Feb. 19, 1897: Adelaide Hoodless was jolted out of a comfortable middle-class life when an infant son died in 1889 after drinking impure milk. Thereafter she devoted herself to women's causes, specifically to the education of women for motherhood and household management. She campaigned for domestic science (home economics) in schools and advised the government on this subject. She

NEWS

ON THIS DAY

Adelaide Hoodless founded Women's Institute in Stoney Creek