

Drugs to books

By REG WHITTY

Frontenac Reporter

SYDENHAM — One of Sydenham's most historic and versatile buildings has been turned into yet another use in its long list of services to the community.

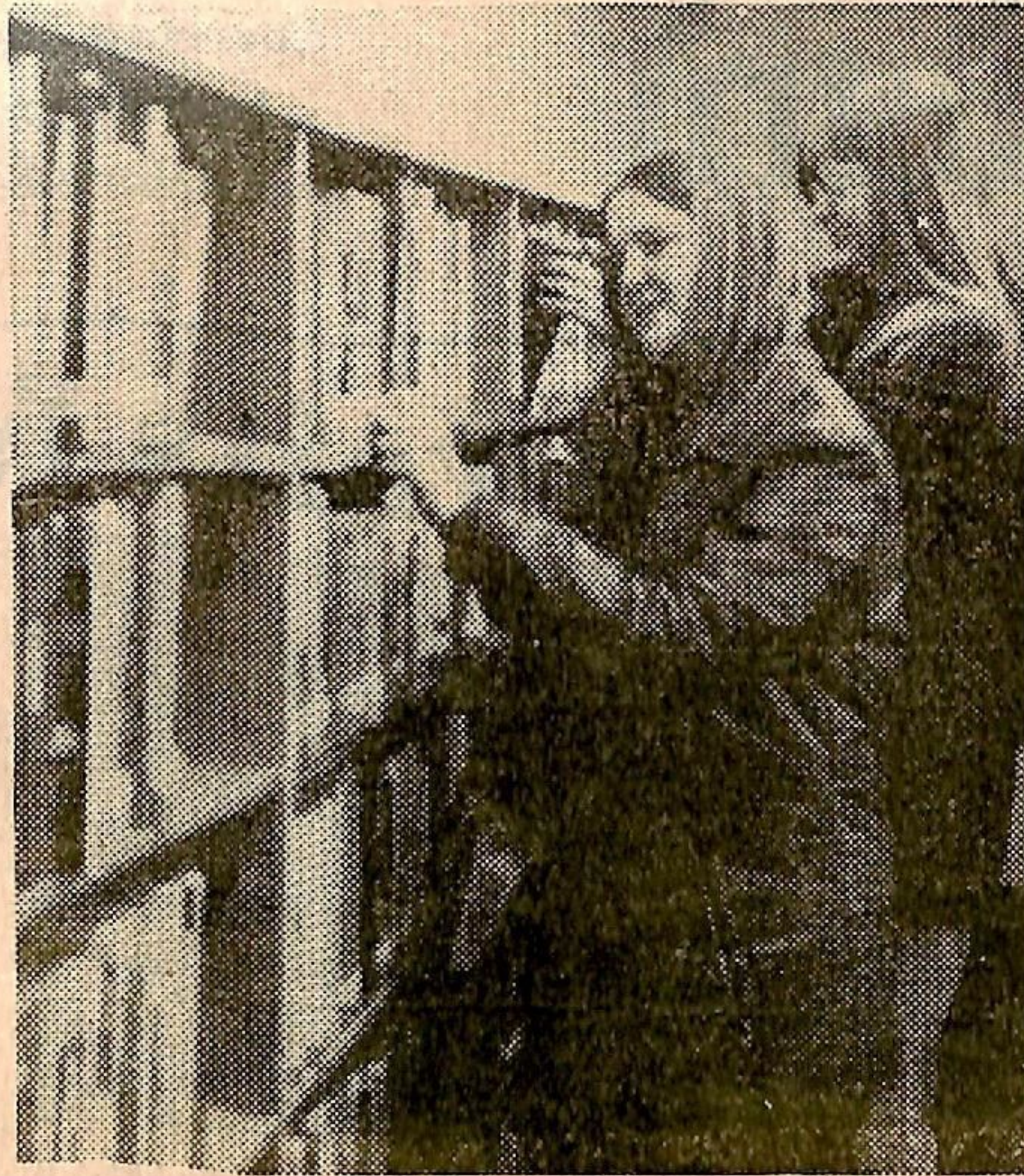
On the town square, it now houses Loughboro branch of the Frontenac County Library System.

Its tranquil atmosphere today is a far cry from earlier times when the air was filled with ringing tones of red hot iron being pounded into desired shapes on the blacksmith's anvil.

If the pioneer blacksmith, John McConnell, could return he would be surprised but no doubt highly pleased to learn of the many facilities, the old stone building has provided, over the years.

After Mr. McConnell's death some 50 years ago, Harold Boyce purchased the building and renovated it for his drug store, which he moved from across the street. It continued for this purpose until March 1, 1962.

Druggists following Mr. Boyce have been A. C. Lohead, Gordon Barclay, Muir MacDonald, A. D. Alexander, J. K. Griffin and Alun Lloyd-Jones, who took



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JUNE AND CLAUDIA PIXLEY CHECK BOOKS

Sydenham library once was a drug store

over in March, 1955 and who still owns the property.

For the past 14 years, Mr. Lloyd-Jones has been practising his profession in an adjacent and much larger building, where he now has the largest pharmacy in Eastern Ontario. Situated in a prime agricultural heartland, he stocks every conceivable drug, needed, to treat the complex diseases, with which modern livestock raisers must cope.

In the interval from 1962 to the present, the original blacksmith shop, has housed a flower shop, an art gallery and an antique showroom.

Mrs. Leonard Clark is the fulltime librarian with occasional assistance given by Mrs. Hattie Nichols.

Sydenham long had the distinction of having the only rural library in Frontenac County, until the late 1960s when the county system was inaugurated and different branches established.

The local library was established following the close of the First World War and was named Loughboro Memorial Library, in memory of warriors from Loughboro Township, who gave their lives in battle.