



Mrs. Duncan Dashnay

—Nugget Staff Photo

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*Closing of Dashnay's store  
end of an era for family*  
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After 48 years of serving travellers on Hwy. 11, Dashnay's store on Algonquin Ave. in North Bay is to be torn down to make room to expand the highway.

Hwy. 11 hadn't yet been built when Duncan Dashnay constructed the store in 1927. The highway came along a couple of years later.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Dashnay remembers fondly the years she spent at the store with her sons and her husband running the store.

When the store was built, there were only a few homes in the area.

Farming, lumbering and working in gravel and sand pits were the only means of employment. With the depression on the way, there was very little money. Business had to be carried on by trade, vouchers and credit.

Mrs. Dashnay, who now lives at 939 Algonquin Ave., says the people worked hard, "but they were honest and happy."

In 1934, Mr. Dashnay became the first post master of the Gateway Post Office. For

years, Mr. Dashnay or one of his sons picked the mail up every morning and evening at the North Bay Post Office, walking there and back.

**ADD PUMPS**

Mr. Dashnay had gas pumps installed in front of the store. At that time, it was the last place to 'gas up' before reaching Temagami. The tourist business was just being developed at Tilden Lake and Marten River.

"A few years later," Mrs. Dashnay recalls, "there was a law made that you couldn't have the gas pumps along the side of the road, so my husband built a garage and service pit."

The garage and service station known as the Gateway Garage opened in 1935.

In the following year, Mr. Dashnay built the first snack bar in North Bay.

"We owned the property across the road from the store," Mrs. Dashnay says, "and my husband built a snack bar there. People who were coming into North Bay often had no place to stay, so we would let them camp outside."

This area was the beginning of the first play ground and camp site in North Bay.

A rink and club house were built by the families of the area to provide recreation for the teenagers and by that summer, a ball park was in operation.

**POLITICAL INTEREST**

Mr. Dashnay took a keen interest in politics. He became councillor, then reeve of the Township of Widdifield. While he was reeve, he and his wife were selected to meet the Queen and Prince Philip.

War broke out, and all five of their sons entered service. One son, Anthony, was killed in Ortona, Italy.

At this time, because of ill health, Mr. Dashnay sold the store to his brother, Ted.

Mr. Dashnay was born near Pembroke in 1887. In 1914 he married Mary Ellen Garant from Mattawa. Mr. Dashnay died in 1965.

At 82, until the recent news the store was to be torn down, Mrs. Dashnay walked to Dashnay's store to do her weekly shopping.

She enjoys having her family and many grandchildren visit her.



In the early 1900s, the Reverend Mrs. Howard Eaton wore this gorgeous ivory lace and satin gown on her wedding day. The gown was one of several featured recently during a "Parade of Bridal Fashions" at the Beta Sigma Phi's Apple Blossom Luncheon at St. Andrew's United Church. Lauren Tennyson models the gown which was homemade, with embroidery detail, pearl beadwork bodice and leg-o-mutton sleeves. The luncheon was a first for Beta Sigma Phi. Judy Bookalam convened the event and members of the chapter both prepared and served the food for the two sittings.