

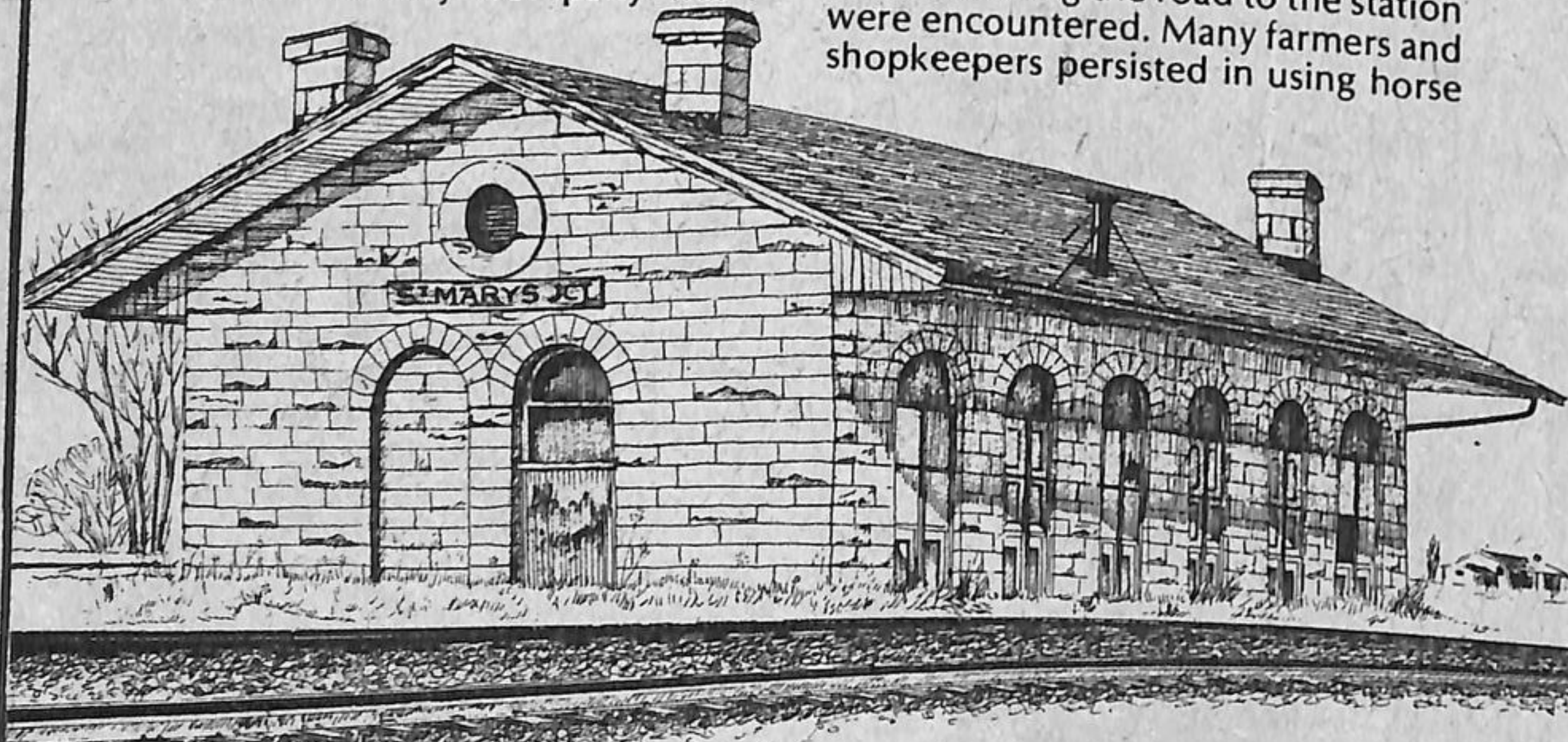
St. Marys Junction Station

In the extreme north-east corner of the town of St. Marys, a unique stone structure which once served as the town's railway station stands lonely and decaying.

Back in the late 1850's when the Grand Trunk Railway Company was

location. Charges of corruption and financial gain were levelled at some of the town politicians and business figures of the day as it was felt that an unjust profit was made by a few entrepreneurs at the expense of the community as a whole.

As time went by, further problems in constructing the road to the station were encountered. Many farmers and shopkeepers persisted in using horse



Pen and ink drawing by Colin McQuirk perth country gallery. Originals and prints may be purchased.

extending its tracks from Stratford to London through the small village of St. Marys, the site of the new stone station was the subject of much controversy.

Although the business section of the tiny community centred around the mills and shops bordering the Thames River, certain concerns promoted the idea of having the station located far from the town, a most inconvenient spot for those wishing to use the services of the great "iron horse". Alas, the station was built at "The Junction" but a short few years later the community was expressing its dissatisfaction with the station's

and wagon to haul their goods to and from Stratford as it was cheaper when the cost of the railway plus a horse and wagon from the station to town was considered. Eventually a more central station was constructed.

Today the station, still owned by the Canadian National Railways, sits forlorn beside the tracks, badly damaged by vandals. Recently, the Heritage Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation indicated that the St. Marys Junction Station is unique, not only to Western Ontario but to Canada and in fact to all of North America.

The short trip up the hill to the sta-

tion is worth the effort just to view the architecture seldom seen. A note of caution if you are adventurous, the floor in the station has suffered the ravages of time and great care should be observed if you venture inside.

The St. Marys Junction Station is unique in more aspects than its architecture. At one point, in the year 1863, Thomas Alva Edison, later to become famous for his many electronic inventions, worked as a night operator at the St. Marys Junction Station. He was 16 or 17 years of age at the time. In the past, the name "Edison" was to be seen carved in a piece of the woodwork at the station but this has since disappeared.

Edison's career with the Grand Trunk Railway was not a long one. As a check against the danger of the night operator falling asleep during the quiet hours, he was required to tap out the code for the word "SIX" every 30 minutes.

Young Edison is reported to have invented a device which would automatically send out the code "SIX" every time a crank was turned and he arranged to have the night watchman turn the crank while he slept. The arrangement worked well until one night a message came to hold a train in the passing track. For whatever reason, Edison failed to relay the message to the train crew. By good luck, the engineers on the trains saw each other in time to stop on the flat stretch between Stratford and St. Marys. During the investigation which followed, young Edison quietly put on his hat and coat and slipped away, thus ending his career with the Grand Trunk.

Pen and ink drawing by Colin McQuirk, perth country gallery. Originals and prints may be purchased.

Westover Park

Tourists looking for a place to stay overnight (or longer) in St. Marys are in for a pleasant experience if they decide upon a room at Westover Park, located on Thomas St. only a half-mile from downtown.

This lovely park was previously owned by the Scarboro Mission of Toronto. It has a large, beautiful old home occupied by an extended family group who live there year-round and share in ownership. Also on the grounds is the former dormitory which was used by visiting priests. The dormitory has been converted into a tourist home with motel-style rooms.

The grounds are shaded by a variety of enormous trees and in the spring and summer months there are colourful flowers almost everywhere one happens to look.

Several years ago, a group of 28 persons, consisting of several families decided to lease the grounds from the Church and began living there as a community.

Each family had their own private living quarters, but the main floor where the amply large and decorative living room, kitchen, dining room, and den are located was used by everyone living in the Park. The main meal of the day, supper, was a community affair with a different family taking on the cooking responsibilities for the group each day.

It was a good arrangement for busy working people. The majority of the group belonged to the same Baptist Church. In addition to families, several individuals had living quarters there, including a mentally retarded man who benefitted from having other adults living close by providing support and their pleasant company.



Westover Park

Pen and ink drawing by Colin McQuirk perth country gallery. Originals and prints may be purchased.

The original group of 28 persons has now been reduced to the three who presently own Westover Park. The 'residence' has been a tourist home for three years.

When the main tourist season ends in the fall, the 'residence' is rented out to various church, community, and professional groups who find the facilities ideal for weekend seminars and programs.

When spring returns with the annual Shakespearean Festival in nearby Stratford, Westover Park becomes a true home away from home for travellers to this area desiring relaxation from the crowded highway.

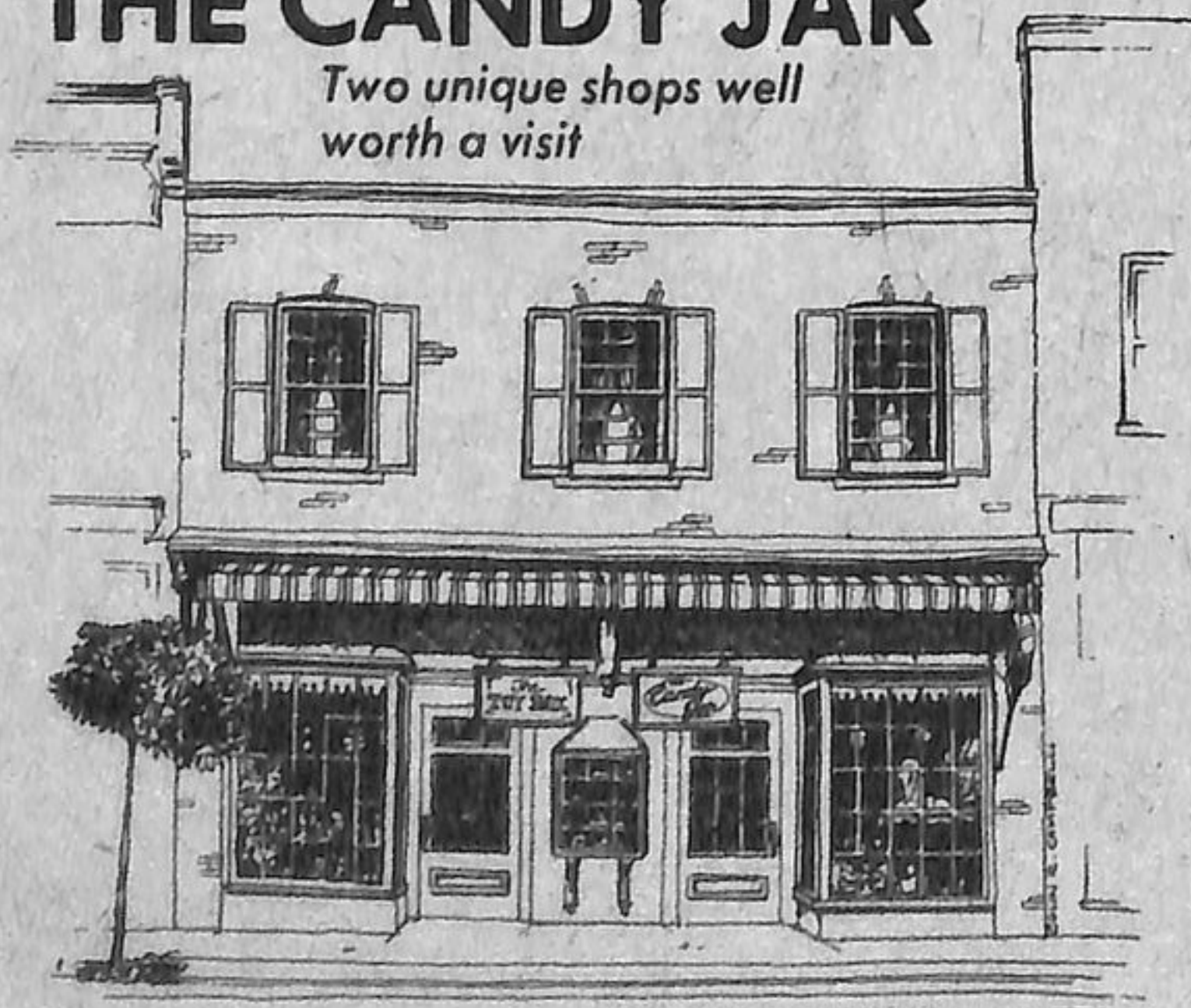
Allied Farm Equipment

For years, the name Maxwells Limited meant fine equipment to farmers across Canada. Founded in 1888, the Maxwell plant was one of the main industries in the town for many years.

Today, Allied Farm Equipment, an international company, carries on the Maxwell tradition. Allied are located in a unique stone industrial plant on James Street South, just north of Domtar Packaging.

THE CANDY JAR

Two unique shops well worth a visit



THE TOY BOX

QUEEN STREET

"22 Years In St. Marys"

SPECIALIZING IN
CHINA • GLASS • ART POTTERY

RUTH IRVINE
ANTIQUES

32 ST. ANDREWS ST., 1 BLOCK S. OF QUEEN ST.
ST. MARYS
ST. ANDREWS IS THE 3RD STREET EAST
OF THE WATERTOWER
284-2353

GREAT SNACKS AND GREAT HOURS ...

WE FEATURE

TRY OUR TASTY FRIED CHICKEN
PIZZA • HAMBURGS • FRENCH FRIES
• HOT DOGS • SUBS • PANZEROTTIS

WE'RE OPEN MON. to THURS. 9 TO 12
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 9 TO 2
SUNDAY 12 TO 12

STACEY'S PIZZA

Phone 284-1864

"You Ain't Tasted Pizza, Till You've Tasted ours!"

PLAY GOLF!

a natural and scenic 9 hole golf course located along Trout Creek.

• GREEN FEES: Monday to Friday \$4.50, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays \$5.50.

• CLUB HOUSE licensed and open to all golfers, with kitchen facilities.

ST. MARYS
GOLF CLUB

284-3704

