

GERTIE DELL -The longest continuous resident of Port Elgin in 1982 was born in the rough cast house on the south-east corner of Gustavus and Waterloo (470 Gustavus St.) For many years Dr. Rushton lived there and had his office in the building for some years.



The house in which she now lives (north-east) corner of Gustavus and Stafford with one on Mill St. across High St. from Elgin Lodge was a warehouse for salt storage at the Salt works which was beside Lakeview Inn. After the Salt Works closed, the warehouse was cut in two and moved to make the two houses. It had 7" hewn timbers to make the framework as the salt was heavy.

Mr. Dell bought the lot on Gustavus street for the house. Gertie remembers seeing the house being moved up Gustavus St. "That's the house your father bought so that you will be near the school," said her mother. After the building was in place, went through it, climbing ladders. After they moved, Gertie said it didn't seem the same as they changed the stairway, pulled out partitions and made rooms different.

Gertie remembers picking strawberries and raspberries at Mitchell's and had Anne (Mitchell) Guthrie in a wicker baby carriage with her.

Gertie had a brother who was two years younger than her.

The well was dug after they were there a couple of years. It was all dug by hand by Italians. When the milkman came along with his milk can with a tap on the bottom, they bought milk (5¢) a pint and drank it right out of the measure. Eldon saw them doing it. He thought that everyone should drink out of their own cup. He never drank milk after that. His mother used to make things with milk. Gertie used to tease him and one day they had rice custard. She said, "oh, that has milk in it" so he never ate rice pudding again.

Gertie's grandfather McIntee (her mother's father) came to Saugeen from Niagara Falls, via Owen Sound and across to Southampton to the Land Office. He walked most of the way from Owen Sound. He started walking to his farm from Southampton and got as far as Rawn's on the Second of Saugeen. He went in and asked if they'd keep a fellow over night. It was a girl who came to the door and she said she'd see her parents so her mother came out and said they could give him lodging over night. In the morning he made his way to the Town Line to his farm. It was all bush. He took trees off during the summer and made himself a cabin. The girl who met him at the door at Rawn's later became his wife. Gertie's mother was born on the town line.

Gertie went to the newspaper office one day to pay her subscription. They got talking and Gertie said something about when she worked there. The girl asked her if she would like to see the files. Gertie said, "well, I'm the woman who did the first few years of those files and we did it on a stormy day in February." There wasn't any business that day. "We got the files from Mr. Burgess, the Lawyer. He saved his papers for reference for estates." One day Mr. Sayles, the editor of the paper went to Mr. Burgess' office. He saw all the papers Mr. Burgess had and wondered what he'd do with them. Mr. Burgess said that he tied them up in a bundle for each year. Mr. Sayles wanted to buy them as they had no files at the newspaper office. Mr. Sayles told Mr. Burgess, if he'd let them have them that he could go to the newspaper office anytime and check the papers.

They had an express wagon at the newspaper office to take the papers to the post office so it was used to move the old papers from Mr. Burgess' office to the Times office.

Gertie remembers going to Ebert's store to get the paper when she was about 5 years old. It was the time of the Boer War and her Mother was so excited about it that she couldn't sleep at night.

After Gertie worked at the Times office, she went to Chatsworth to work at a small newspaper. She also worked for a long time at Stevens-Hepner office in the printing plant where they made catalogues.

(Interview with Gertie Dell Dec.1982)