

DOUG SCHLENKER -continued

Doug Schlenker said he sold the enterprise because the town had made no progress in its Master Harbour plan to draw tourists. He said another reason for selling the railway was to devote more time to filling orders for the manufacturing of locomotives. Mr. Schlenker said work is just finishing on a steam railway for Windsor. He said the prospect looks good for several more orders from the United States and Canada.

R.H. Stephenson- "The Old Village Blacksmith"

He set an enviable record in a lifetime devoted to his trade, had shod over 330,000 horses. Mr. Stephenson was born in Markham on Sept. 17, 1857 and came to Bruce County at the age of 6 weeks. His family settled at North Bruce. In 1872 he became an apprentice in the blacksmith shop of Dan Baker on Goderich St. South at a salary of \$30.00 a year and board. He showed such a skill in shoeing horses, making iron plows and harrows that he left the county for a short time and became a wandering journeyman.

In 1876 he came to Port Elgin and occupied the shop on Goderich St. South opposite the Curling Club Rink. His great skill as a blacksmith, he claimed was due to great strength, love of horses and the fact that he was able to handle his hammer equally well with both hands.

In his lifetime he estimated that he had shod 330,000 horses completely. His daily average was 20 but he recalled one day, with the assistance of Joe Collard, they handled 135 animals. Statistics estimate that he used a total in excess of 2,640,000 shoe nails which if laid end to end would number 84 miles.

His shop was the rendezvous for hundreds of visitors each summer who came to have a friendly chat with "The Old Village Blacksmith". He was a born teller of tales, possessed an amazing memory and a fund of humour and wit. He was famous for his saying, "Say nothing but saw wood".

Until his retirement he spent eight hours a day at his old-fashioned anvil wielding his four-pound hammers.



John James Chapman-"Perennial Clerk-Treasurer"

Councillors may come and go but Jack Chapman goes on forever. He was Town Clerk from 1923 to 1958. In that time he never missed a meeting of the Town Council.

Except for 5 years in Toronto (where he married the former Laura Trelford of Chesley) he resided all his life in "The Town of the Maples".

The assessment of the municipality was \$450,000 in 1923. He has been actively identified with every progressive movement in his town. He served under 6 reeves and 2 mayors and was a member of the Cemetery Board from the time of its inception in 1925. He was a charter member and Past President of Port Elgin Rotary Club.

His father was James A. Chapman who took up residence here in 1871, was reeve from 1894-1896 and secretary of Public School Board for many years. His brother A.W. "Wes" of A.W. Chapman & Son was born in 1877.

Port Elgin Times

John J. Chapman

CHARLES DRUMMOND

For many years, he operated the Sunoco Service Station on Goderich St. He was also very actively associated with the Rotary Club, The Chamber of Commerce, The Port Elgin Scout movement, The Port Elgin Recreation Committee-assuming sponsorship of the Sunoco Hockey Club when the Keystone Club became defunct. Mr. Drummond also championed the interest of the Senior Citizens of the town. He served on Council for a number of years in various capacities. As a councillor from 1958 to 1963, he headed the polls for 4 successive years. In 1964 he served as Deputy-Reeve and as Reeve until April 1965 when he resigned. He was a Justice of the Peace in Port Elgin for 37 years. He died on November 30, 1972.

Port Elgin Times Dec. 7, 1972.