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Relics Lie in Dusty State in Halton's 'Museum'

Open the main door to Halton's County Offices building, step inside the weathered stone structure, and just to your left you'll discover the nucleus of a Halton County museum.

There, preserved in dust and practically painted into the shadows of this dim foyer, reposes a rectangular container, its thick glass sides encasing 26 curiosities from Halton's bygone days. This is the sole resting place for collected relics from early Halton homesteads. The only tangible symbols, linking today with the pioneer past on public view.

What are these antiques? Where did they come from? Who put them there? How long ago? Why is this embryonic museum apparently relegated to neglect?

Peculiar as the Relics
These questions intrigued this newspaper, as the same questions have doubtless prodded natives and strangers who daily pass in and out of our County Buildings. Answers to most of the queries were not too difficult to find, and when learned proved to be as peculiar as some of the relics lying in dusty state within the cracked glass case.

Inquiry at the County office revealed that an uncertain number of years ago the case was placed there by a group of District Women's Institute members. Since then, our County Office informants suggested, lack of interest seems to have assailed the case's lot and the "forgotten museum" soon drew no more attention than the gray walls standing over it.

Answers to Questions
But W.I. sources were contacted and, after assembling information given, it was established the case was put in the main building in 1926 or 1927. At the time there were about a dozen items for it, gleaned from interested contributors over the County.

Over the years the case was opened periodically to add another symbol of the past, until, five or six years ago, the original contents had doubled in number.

However, few of the present W.I. members could offer definite information about the future of this forlorn project. One source said that, from time to time, "there has been some talk" but never any action taken.

Meanwhile, the dust sifts thicker on the glass and the ink wanes fainter on the description cards behind the glass.

Inside the Glass
Look inside the glass and you'll see "to archives of County Halton where he practised 55 years", the scuffed brown leather kit of "M.

B. Campbell, Dr.". Beside this leans an ancient picture, colorfully worked in yarn "By Mary Ogg".

These two items in the left hand side of the case partially hide what looks like an oversized cabbage grater, while snug in a corner behind this stands a candle mould.

An ornate, hand-carved wall bracket, "used in the Ingelhart home", rests beside a baggy purse. Almost on top sits a 75 year-old milk bowl, "loaned by Mrs. Esther Small". Inside the bowl, flat on one side, lies a Bible dated 1826 which

"belonged to Henry J. Fyfe, first Esqueusing postmaster".

Identified as a hair wreath, an elaborate contraption of wire and colored thread, hangs in a frame and proclaims to be made by "Mrs. Wm. Newton, Limehouse, daughter of Esqueusing pioneer Abraham Neilson". Above the milk bowl dangles a somber black bonnet "donated by Mrs. Howes, Hornby". Still shining, the blonde curls "of a resident of Halton removed about 47 years ago", rests in a flat box which sits on a dilapidated old hatbox.

A Variety of Curios

There's a jar, "a sample used in canning in 1885, presented by Laura E. Ingelhart, Palermo." Then there's a "shuttle from an old loom used in weaving cloth".

Above all these curios slants a four-foot long tin horn, dented and tarnished; no card identifies it or its source.

Glass encased flowers, fashioned of feathers, painted cloth and paper with a stuffed canary under the flowers, were made during '60 and '70 years ago.

Another long odd shaped item "donated by Mrs. Ruddell", lies near a set of fire tongs. A platter, "used about 1850", rests below a scrap book, "donated by Mrs. Howes, Hornby", recalling Canada's Diamond Jubilee.

A card announces that another candle mould is "at least 100 years old and is loaned by Fred J. Brown Limehouse, who lives in the original Brown homestead."

There's bread and butter plates "125 years old and came from England, presented by Mrs. R. L. Davidson, Acton." There are three Indian relics—an arrow head and two hatchet heads—"found on F. McNiven's farm in Nassagaweya."

Time Will Tell
In the far right corner is a black velvet coat with a brown ridge twine pattern, "donated by Mrs. Cusick, Moffat, Nass." A charcoal ironer, "used in a home about 1880 and donated by Mrs. Wm. Gowdy, Limehouse, completes the case except for a photograph of Mrs. J. E. Gamble, Acton, who was for many years prominent in Women's Institute work in this county.

Future of this "nucleus of county stilted work in this county museum" is yet to be told. The District W.I. meets in annual session next month. Perhaps from this meeting shelved plans may be revived or renewed. Perhaps not.

In any event, commendation is due the Women's Institute members who, nearly 30 years ago, planned and worked to create this case around which an active County museum may some day grow.



FINAL RESTING PLACE for commendable efforts to create interest in and establish a county museum seems to be this glass case where 26 historical items are lying in dusty state. The case, three feet wide, four feet high and about seven feet long, was placed in the main foyer of the County buildings nearly 30 years ago. A large, crescent shaped crack cuts into the glass counter top.

Want Ad Page: Where Old Friends Meet



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Accept Resignation Of Three Teachers

The Nassagaweya township school area board met last week taking care of the usual accounts. George Collins was engaged to do all the repair work of the schools in the Area this summer.

The school board reluctantly accepted the resignations of Miss June Watkins, Miss Lydia Snow and Miss Lois Coulter. A number of the teachers are planning to remain with the area. Crawford Douglas was re-engaged as music supervisor. Plans were discussed re the work on the S.S. No. 10 yard.

John McDougal is in charge of arrangements to be made in the village school grounds.

Appoint Ontario Forum Secretary

Jack McPherson has been appointed Provincial Secretary-Manager for Ontario Farm Radio Forum, according to an announcement from James Bird, chairman of the Ontario Farm Radio Forum Council. He will succeed Cliff Waite who is leaving the forums in late post-graduate work in theology.

Mr. McPherson is no stranger to Farm Forum members. He was a member of the farm department of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for seven years. In addition to his regular work as farm commentator, he acted as chairman on several Farm Forum broadcasts and attended many agricultural events. From CBC, he went to the Ontario Department of Agriculture where he was in charge of publicity. Most recently he has been engaged in agricultural advertising and public relations work.

He will take over his new duties on June 1.

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Don't fear getting really fat! Stop when you've gained the 5, 10, 15 or 20 lbs. you wish. Money back if you're not delighted. Costs little. New "get-acquainted" size only 60¢. Refuse substitutes. Ostrea has given results when other tonics failed. Try famous "Ostrea" Tonic Tablets for new vigor and added pounds, this very day. At all drug stores.

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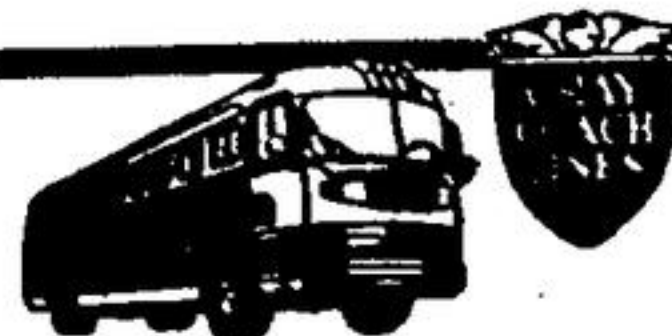
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HAROLD WILES, Agent

PHONE 207

heat the cows are not happy either in the stable or the yard and there is not enough growth yet to turn them out. The humidity in the cow stables makes the cement wet and slippery. To work among the cattle is neither as safe or as easy as it is in cooler weather.

For the "hen-house" biddies go broody or lay imperfect eggs. Pigs, if confined, are not too happy either. In fact there isn't a creature that enjoys being shut in. All outdoors is calling to man, bird, beast and all the things that crawl upon the earth.

So then what do us women do? I don't really need to tell you—I am quite sure you are as golden as I am. Didn't you feel the lovely warm sunshine was a guilty opportunity to really go to work on the housecleaning—to get jobs done that had to be left when the weather was unsettled. I went right to work even though it was Saturday. I even passed up an auction sale of antiques so I could finish my living room. But the weather wasn't as settled as I imagined. I had the scatter rugs and afghans out on the grass and was so engrossed with the vacuum cleaner that I failed to notice a thunder shower was pelting down. "My rugs!" I cried in dismay as I ran to the door. Too late—they were already soaked through.

Farmers anxious to start their delayed spring seeding were getting more hopeful. "If this weather keeps up we shall be on the land on Monday." Comes Sunday—the thermometer climbs to 80 degrees. And then Sunday night it rained again! Monday morning rain... a cold rain and the probas for tomorrow a high of 45! How changeable can it get? Oh well...

"Oh well..." That isn't my expression. I borrowed it from a young fellow who often visits here. He is married, has a family of small children and during the last few years there have been operations and various illnesses in the family one after another. After telling us the latest family news this young fellow always winds up by saying, "Oh well..." And leaves it at that. He is a terrific worker and we have never found him anything but good-tempered and optimistic. I think it must have been a person with a similar disposition who said "I felt sorry because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet."

"Oh well" can hardly be called a profound expression. Its strength lies in the implication of what is left unsaid.

I was interrupted in my typing a few minutes ago by a man who came to check the hydro meter—the first step in this district towards the change-over from 25 to 60 cycle which is supposed to take place some time towards the end of the year. I wonder will the light bulbs last any longer as a result? Last week a bulb burnt out that had been in use for eight years. Now we think ourselves lucky if a bulb lasts eight weeks.

Why the difference—that is something I would like to know? At one time bulbs were sold with the label—good for 1000 hours or 1500 hours as the case might be. Now the light bulbs leave us in the dark as to their life expectancy. Maybe that might be a little matter for the Better Business Bureau to inquire into.

STUDYING HARD

Sweet young thing—Just when I fall madly in love with Henry, I find he intends never to marry. Sweet old thing—How is that? Sweet young thing—He's studying for his bachelor's degree.