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Star Weekly Topic

Of Circle's Film

The Friendly Circle held its regular meeting in the Sunday School room of the United church with the president, Mrs. Stella Adamson, in charge. The report of the previous meeting was read by the secretary.

It was decided that the circle would do the work for the fall bazaar in groups and the picnic would be held at Joe Jockes' park.

Peter Wolfe played a solo on the piano and a devotional service in commemoration of Queen Victoria's birthday was conducted with hymns, prayer, scripture and reading.

A film, "A Friend of the Family", was shown; it was a description of the Toronto Star-Weekly. Pictures were also shown which were taken last Halloween by Ess Jennings

Halton's Pages of the Past

Empire Loyalists, Immigrants Among Pioneers Who Cleared Land, Built Homes in Early Halton

by GWEN CLARK

Prospective home-owners of the present day are aware that certain rules and regulations must be observed before any person can build, and the requirements of one municipality may differ from another as to the size of a lot, its location, and the type of house that may be constructed.

If the desired site borders a provincial highway the Department of Highways, as well as the local Planning Board must be consulted. But when all regulations have been observed the new home-owner is in the clear—except, of course, for that little matter of financing!

Pioneer-Prospector

Back in the days of the pioneers conditions were very different and before we can understand the growth of a district we need to know a little about how that district came into being. So it is with Halton.

The pioneer was, in a sense, a prospector—prospecting for a place to make a living; a site where he might farm and build a home, however primitive that home might be. Some obtained the desired result one way, some another. Some pitched their tents for awhile and then moved on. There were those who bargained with the Indians for a tract of land, unaware that such transactions would not be recognized as legal. And there were bona fide settlers granted Crown Land contingent upon the fulfillment of certain duties required by the Crown Lands Commission.

United Empire Loyalists, as an expression of appreciation by the British Government, and by the hap-hazard system of drawing lots

from a hat, were given free land, along with such implements and seed as were available and were also promised food and supplies for three years. There were also immigrants direct from the British Isles who, once a settlement has been opened up, were either given free land or were permitted to purchase land from the Crown.

It was customary for a Crown Commissioner to have charge of thousands of acres of land for resale to newly arrived immigrants. The terms in Upper Canada were 70 cents an acre, cash, or \$1 an acre on a time purchase plan. Before a purchaser could get a patent for his land the following settler's duties were required of him: 1. Applicant must live on the said lot continuously for at least two years. 2. Ten acres of land must be cleared and rendered fit for cultivation and crop. 3. There must be erected a habitable house at least 16x20. 4. The sum of \$4 shall be paid as Patent Fees to cover expenses. 5. Patent may be given only to the actual occupant of the land so purchased. Sometimes a settler would farm for years before applying for a deed to his property.

"Squatter's Rights"

However, even before settlement was authorized there were immigrants who roamed the country seeking a location to their liking. Once satisfied they would clear a piece of land and build a log shanty. When government surveyors came along the settlers would claim "squatter's rights" to the property.

To put an end to such unauthorized possession of land the following proclamation was published in the "Halton Journal" (August 3, 1859)

"that 'squatter' be discontinued and that no claim for pre-emption will be entertained after the first day of September, 1859." Signed by the Commissioner, P. M. Van-koughnet.

Even bona fide immigrants did not always follow the same pattern for settlement. Some would explore the territory opened for settlement and then make a request to the Department of Crown Lands—otherwise called the Canada Company—for one particular tract of land. Others would apply to headquarters at York (Toronto) and draw their lots, sight unseen. Having been given the location of the property they would then set forth to find it, in many cases their only implements an axe and a hoe; their seed a few potatoes, a small bag of wheat, and perhaps some Indian corn. Good or bad, their luck was in the lap of the gods.

Buy From Settlers

Still others would purchase property from a settler who had advertised his farm for sale. This method did not always prove satisfactory. The story is told of a family in Esqueving by the name of Carradice. David Carradice, with his wife, nine children and all his worldly possessions arrived to take possession of Lot 2, Concession 2, which he had arranged to buy from one James Lawson. In the meantime Mr. Lawson had changed his mind and when the Carradice family arrived he refused to close the deal.

Mr. Carradice had no where to take his family so they were obliged to camp by the side of the road. Neighbors who heard of their predicament said that Mr. Lawson would "rue the deal!" However, the family of Archibald MacNab, on the opposite side of the road, with true Scottish hospitality, offered the Carradice family shelter in one of their sheds. They stayed until Mr. Carradice was able to locate another farm.

Purchase Lot.

Eventually he was able to purchase Lot 1, Concession 4, Esqueving, from the Canada Company. This property is now owned by William Marshall.

There are no descendants of the Carradice family living in Esqueving today but the name of Lawson is well-known and respected—certainly not the type to "rue the deal" in any transaction. The last of the MacNabs mentioned in this story left the farm in 1920 and various branches of the family are now living in the county town of Milton.

Famed Gardens

Victoria's famous Butchart Gardens are celebrating their diamond anniversary. From an inauspicious start in a lime pit patterned plants and shrubs.



HEY, MA, I DID IT!
by Margaret Aitken, M.P. with
Bryne Hope Sanders, C.B.E.

You don't need to be a Conservative to enjoy Margaret Aitken's account of her somewhat confusing election in York-Humber riding in the last Dominion election. On second thought, though, a staunch Liberal might find some of Miss Aitken's remarks—about George Drew, for instance, more than a bit controversial.

The book is full of politics, but it's a good story, too.

Do you recall reading in the newspapers last summer that Miss Aitken was named the winner in the riding? After a recount, she was out; Thompson was in. Another recount, Aitken was in again! It was her first election—and she won twice.

The sketches and the behind-the-scenes anecdotes are good fun; encounters with Drew, other familiar names of places and people in the Toronto and Ottawa scenes intensely interesting.

Of top importance to the nomination of Miss Aitken was the question of whether women would vote for a woman. The conclusion that both men and women would vote for the person they thought best, regardless of sex, is heartening.



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Reports, Papers Given Acton W.I.

The June meeting of the Acton Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Hall. The meeting was opened with the saying of the Ode and the repeating of the Mary Stewart Collect. Mrs. Fryer, the president, was in the chair for the meeting. Roll call followed next and its subject was "how to keep cool in the hot weather".

A donation of \$10. was given to the Canadian Institute for the Blind and another donation was given to the Decoration Group.

A report of the president concerning the conference which was held at the Guelph O.A.C. was followed by a report on the activities surrounding the Old Home Week which is going to be held at the O.A.C. next week. This report was given by Mrs. Davidson.

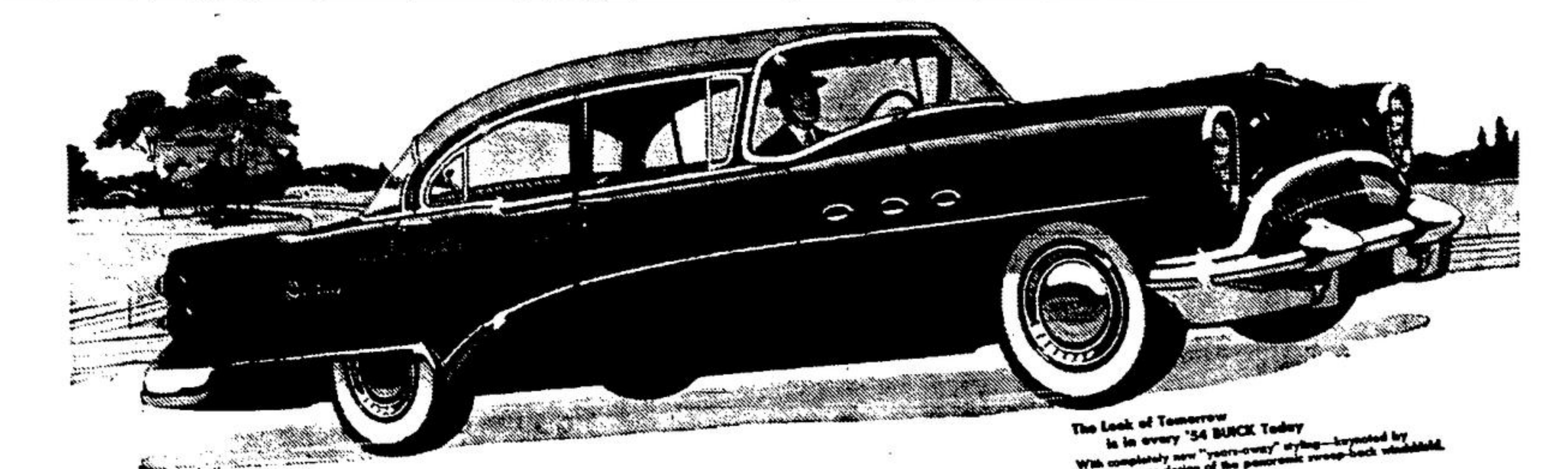
Mrs. Lantz gave a short talk on the seven wonders of the world, after which Mrs. Hamilton gave a report on the care of our children through the Children's Aid Society. Mrs. Lambert offered some household tips on cooking followed a reading by Mrs. M. M. Auley entitled Motto on Success.

Mrs. Fountain was made reporter for the Institute and plans for a picnic were discussed.

A card table was given to Mrs. R. L. Davidson. An address was read by Mrs. Holloway and presented by Mrs. Wilds.

A sing song then took place with Mrs. McKnight at the piano. Lunch was served.

The meeting was brought to a close by a vote of thanks to Mrs. Hall for the use of her home.



Take it Easy
you don't have to prove a thing!

Let's be sensible about this subject of horsepower. A champion tackle doesn't go around tackling people in everyday life.

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The better you are, the less you have to prove it.

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Of course it's a spectacular performer—a car with instantly responsive action. It has to be, for it combines a high-compression 200-horsepower V8 engine with a nimble weight of only 3866 pounds as it comes off the assembly line.

That's a power-to-weight ratio that chalks up a new record—a ratio that no other Buick has ever reached before.

It can spin your wheels on a dry pavement if you give it the gun, but why waste rubber?

If some show-off wants to get the jump on you, at a traffic light, why not let him have fun? He isn't kidding anyone but himself, when the name on your car is CENTURY.

The real pride of owning such a car is simply this: You know so well what it can do that you never have to prove it.

That lets you enjoy the tireless ease of its gait in ordinary driving, when only a fraction of its eager power is working. It gives you a quick reserve for breasting a hill—and the happy knowledge that there's still more to come in a sudden emergency.

Sure, this is more power than most people really have to have. But you can hardly call it extravagant, when you are buying more horsepower per dollar in a CENTURY than you get in any other car in Canada.

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