

Halton C.C.F. Association NOMINATION MEETING

TOWN HALL, MILTON, ONT.

Wednesday, June 23

8.30 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER -- STEWART COOKE

Area Supervisor of the United Steelworkers of America, Secretary of the Hamilton Labour Council, Executive member of the Ontario Federation of Labour, Executive member of the Ontario C.C.F.

If It's Need-Able It's Want-Ad-Able! Phone 174



Got those cost-of-living blues?

Most people seem to
have them these days.
Prices have gone up and up



...food, housing, just
about anything
you can think of.

But gasoline has tried hard to

keep its feet on the ground...
and with some success...

Because while wholesale prices
in general are up 119%...more
than double what they were before
the war... Esso gasolines

across Canada
are up only 42%...

about a third as much
as most other things.



Halton's Pages of the Past

Idle Stream, Wild Flowers Replace Once Busy Centre in Ravine Called 'Proudfoot's Hollow'

by GWEN CLARKE

The Dundas Bridge, spanning the Sixteen Mile Creek, is now looked upon as a menace to the motoring public. As one approaches it, from either side there is a warning sign—"Caution—Narrow Bridge." And yet, in 1921, this bridge, east of Palermo, was regarded as one of the show pieces in the County of Halton. It was the third largest cement bridge in Ontario at that time and people travelled for miles to see this marvel of construction. Today we who travel along No. 5 highway pass over the bridge unthinkingly—except to condemn it. Still less thought is given to the ravine below the bridge. And yet, that same ravine is the site of what was once the most promising village in Trafalgar Township.

Opened in 1897

The township of Trafalgar was opened for settlement in 1867. One great need of the early settlers was for more grist mills. They were so scattered a trip to the nearest mill often meant a journey of from two to five days, depending on whether the grain was taken by ox-team or on the farmer's shoulders. Knowing this and realizing the potential power of the Sixteen Mile Creek, in 1827 George Chalmers built a dam and thus was able to utilize the available water power for running a grist mill and a saw mill.

The mills attracted settlers from other districts so that in a few years industries in the Sixteen Village included a tannery, carding mill, stove and barrel factory, a brewery and a distillery—where whisky sold at fifteen cents a gallon.

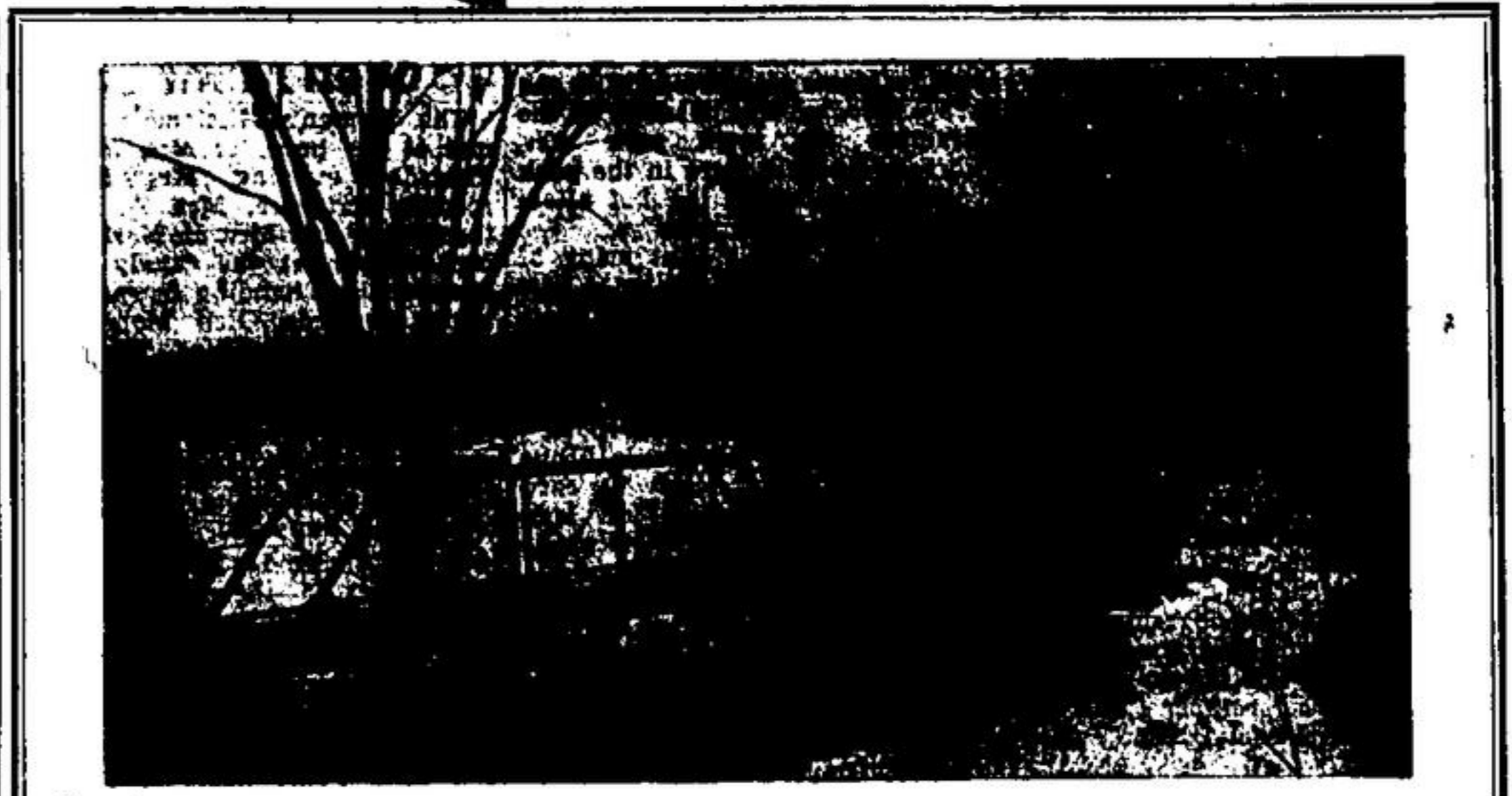
Proudfoot's Hollow

George Chalmers was a man of many parts. He was elected as a Tory member of East Halton in 1844. In 1848 he was defeated at the polls by Caleb Hopkins and soon after, in a fit of despondency, shot himself. Previous to his first election Chalmers had sold his mills, tavern and 400 acres of land to John Proudfoot. The village thrived and soon became known as Proudfoot's Hollow. It was a prosperous era for the Valley folk. Many stores were opened including a tailor's shop, blacksmith and wagon shop, general merchandise and a shoemaker. The mills were kept busy day and night. In fact the Hollow was a hive of industry, teams coming all day and every day—some drawing logs, others wheat or wool and going away with lumber, flour and household goods. A community of workers' houses came into being. Gardens and orchards were planted, and the people had high hopes the Hollow might ultimately become a city! A large, three-storey hotel was built "with at least twenty bedrooms" to accommodate stage coach passengers as this was a routine stopping place for the Stage to change horses. As well it might be

considering the roads and the hills. "Governor's Road" Soon after Governor Simcoe took office it was his expressed intention to build a road through Upper Canada running from east to west. Dundas Street—or "Governor's Road"—was the beginning of that road. And then, not many miles from York the surveyors were confronted with two major obstacles quite beyond the engineering skill of their time—that is, to bridge the ravine over both the Sixteen and the Twelve Mile Creek.

Lacking a bridge settlers had to make long detours over narrow roadways along the almost perpendicular banks forming the ravine. Along these hand-hewn roads horses, oxen and stage-coach made their way in anti-like formation for nearly 80 years.

Finally, in 1885, a bridge spanned the ravine. It was 88 feet long and the first steel bridge in the County. Dr. Anson Buck, reeve of Trafalgar, did the engineering himself and personally supervised the abutments of dressed stone. This bridge was still strong when removed in 1920. At that time Dundas Street was taken over by the Provincial government and designated as Highway No. 5. Then came the construction of the present cement bridge. It was completed and officially opened in the fall of 1921. By a Halton County by-law the old, tortuous road was declared closed on the 3rd of November 1922.



BRIDGING THE RAVINE in 1885 was this 88 foot span (shown in the upper photo) on Dundas St. east of Palermo through the once-famous, now deserted Proudfoot's Hollow. The bridge, designed by Dr. Anson Buck, reeve of Trafalgar, was followed by the structure shown in the lower photo. The new bridge was officially opened in the fall of 1921 and now it is barely wide enough for two cars to pass. It was originally one of the show pieces of Halton, and third largest cement bridge in Ontario.



Oakville Absorbed Hollow

Sections of the old road can still be seen down there in the ravine—all that is left to mark the once prosperous village of Proudfoot Hollow. History records that its prosperity began to wane after the Great Western Railway was built—and the stage coach ran no more. Oakville gradually absorbed the industrial strength of the Hollow. Business lagged and then vanished completely. Workers and storekeepers moved away; John Proudfoot went to the United States. The last building disappeared over 50 years ago. Love, laughter, and tears, common to every community, had had their day.

Now, in the spring, down in the Hollow, lilac is in bloom; sometimes an apple or pear tree. In summer a rosebush, gone wild but still struggling for existence—mute evidence of a once thriving community. Now, too, the mill-race that once turned the wheels of industry flows idly on, unharnessed. One thing only time has failed to erase—the beauty of Proudfoot Hollow. It delighted Mrs. John Graves Simcoe and it is still an artist's paradise.

Historic Flight

Incidentally, according to Mrs. Simcoe's Diary the Governor's Road was named after Henry Dundas, later Viscount Melville, one-time Secretary of State for the Colonies. The historic flight of William Lyon Mackenzie following the battle of Montgomery's Tavern is also linked with Proudfoot Hollow. At the Triller home Mackenzie took refuge in the attic while the seven attractive Triller daughters entertained with food and drink the soldiers who were searching for him. According to local legends, Mackenzie let himself down from the attic, and, under cover of darkness, made his way along the densely wooded banks of the Hollow. He made his way to the home of a friend named King where he was fed before continuing his journey.

This incident is particularly worthy of note as it is typical of the audacity for which the "little Rebel" was famous. Mr King's farm was located immediately next to that of Colonel John Chisholm, the headquarters of his political opponents.

Next week our column will feature "Boston Church". Three out of every five of Canada's hotels are located in Quebec or Ontario.

CARRADICE FAMILY

We promise not to be one hundred per cent correct in our historical findings, which is just as well, as there was a very definite error in last week's column re the Carradice family. We should have said "There are no descendants by the name of Carradice in Esqueving today." Obviously when pioneer David Carradice had nine children there must be dozens of his descendants in Halton today, although not necessarily bearing that name. In fact, some are well known to the writer of this column. We hope we may be forgiven for the error. G. P. Clarke

Church Convention Is Held at Everton

The co-operating churches of the Church of Christ (Disciples) of Ontario met during the first week-end in June in the historic Everton Church of Christ. Feature speaker of Saturday's session was Edgar Burton, president of the College Board and also the president of Simpsons-Sears. Leading the afternoon devotions were Rev. and Mrs. Porter from the Norwich street church in Guelph.

The annual meeting is for the purpose of reviewing the year's activities and planning for the coming year. Thursday afternoon's session was presided over by J. Gordon Dunn from Windmill Point, Ontario, who is the president of the Ontario Cooperation. Oliver McCully, executive secretary of the Cooperation and All-Canada secretary of the Church of Christ (Disciples) in Canada, gave his annual report noting the growth and continued progress of the churches in Ontario.

The highlight of the afternoon session was an address by Robert Tobias, a staff member on the World Council of Churches in Geneva and presently on leave of absence.

The evening session was highlighted by an address on stewardship by D. Ervin Sheets, general representative of the Disciples of Christ pension fund in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Friday morning's session began with a business session and concluded with an address by Dr. Hope Nicholson, who for nearly 30 years was in charge of Jackman Memorial Christian Hospital and Nurses Training School at Bilaspur, India. Friday afternoon's sessions were devoted to the Ontario Christian Women's Fellowship and a workshop for men.

The evening session was devoted to world missions and the convention was again addressed by Robert Tobias.

Saturday's session highlighted the work of the College in Toronto, and its principal, James Clague. The Ontario Christian Youth Fellowship was the concern of the delegates at the Saturday afternoon and evening sessions, with Miss Mary Jane Campbell of Toronto presiding.

The annual convention closed Sunday afternoon with a fellowship basket lunch and an address by Robert Tobias.

CLEANER SEED

Gus Bell, federal agricultural department official, said Saskatchewan farmers now are planting better and cleaner seed than in former years.

H. S. HOLDEN

OPTOMETRIST
EYES EXAMINED
GLASSES FITTED
7 Douglas St.
GUELPH

TO CITIZENS OF ACTON AND AREA

After successful operation of a taxi business here for nearly three years we are selling out to Messrs. Harold and Willard Dedels.

May we take this opportunity to thank our many friends and patrons whom we enjoyed serving during that period in business.

J. A. DENNY
ACTON TAXI

Citizens of Acton and District

are invited to join in

DECORATION DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

PARADE FROM STATION TO CENOTAPH AT 2 P.M.
SERVICE IN FAIRVIEW CEMETERY AT 3 P.M.

In case of rain, service will be held in the United Church

Sponsored by the Canadian Legion, Women's Institute, Legion Auxiliary, Acton Fire Brigade, Lakeside and Duke of Devonshire I.O.D.E. Chapters