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**80 Guests Attend Brookville Reunion**

Eighty guests sat down to supper Saturday evening, June 26, at Brookville Hall for the annual Currie reunion. After a very delicious meal, a program of sports, convened by Harold Currie of Toronto, was staged with races for the young and not so young.  
The crowd was very well entertained by the bagpipes played by Piper Blacklock and Piper Robertson.  
Following this, Russell Elliott called everyone to order and the business of the year was discussed. Officers were elected for 1955 and committees were formed for sports and refreshments. Prizes were given out for the following: oldest lady present, Mrs. J. Davidson, Guelph; oldest gentleman, Mr. M. E. Turner, Milton; coming from greatest distance, Mrs. Margaret Felack, Timmins; youngest child, David McIntyre, Acton; newest married couple, Mr. and Mrs. C. Dick, Georgetown.  
Dancing to music provided by Stewart Elliott and Crawford Douglas brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

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**Halton's Pages of the Past**

**Limehouse, Once Known as 'Fountain Green' Still the Picturesque Hidden Valley of Halton**

by GWEN CLARKE

Limehouse is the Hidden Valley of Halton County. Situated on the 5th Line Esquevas and the Dublin Side-road it nestles among stately trees and high banks of limestone rock, a short distance from No. 7 Highway between Acton and Georgetown. Because of a deviation in the road at two points—one south and one north-west of the village—strangers find their way in but have a lot of trouble in finding their way out.

As an amusing illustration of this the late William Gowdy used to tell the following story. About 12 o'clock one night there came a loud thumping at the side door of the Gowdy residence. Mr. Gowdy threw up the bedroom window, asked who was there and their business. A strange voice replied—"I want to know how to get out of this place! I've been driving around now for over half an hour." Mr. Gowdy directed the gentleman and went back to bed. An hour later he was aroused again — by the same man and asked the same question, but with a few more adjectives thrown in. There was only one thing for it; Mr. Gowdy got dressed and escorted the stranger through the village and put him on the right road to Acton.  
Limehouse has another unique characteristic. With the exception of two storekeepers none of the village folk now makes his living in the village. Their homes are there but their work is at Milton, Brampton, Georgetown or Acton. Yet there was a time when Limehouse—originally called "Fountain Green"—had quarries, limekilns, sawmill, woolen mill, paint factory, stores and hotels, all working to capacity. When the kilns were going full blast the people prospered.  
In 1819 Limehouse was owned by



Limehouse: As it was Shortly After the Turn of the Century

two pioneers, Hull and Meredith, and was known only by lot and concession number. Then in 1840 a Mr. Clendinning bought the land and a sawmill and named the settlement "Fountain Green." In 1856 a mainline section of the Grand Trunk Railway was laid down in the village. This probably added impetus to the establishment of the quarries and limekilns. Two rival companies were soon in operation — Bescoy and Worthington, and Lindsay and Farquhar.

**Popular Material**  
The limestone rock was of excellent quality, known commercially as Credit Valley Sandstone. It was used in the construction of many well-known Toronto buildings including Osgoode Hall, Emmanuel College Residence, the Catholic Church in the Kingsway, and the Basilica in Hamilton. The last burning in Limehouse was in 1915 and in nearby Dolly Varden in 1931. The quarries changed hands many times. Farquhar bought out Lindsay; Gowdy and Moore took over from Bescoy and Worthington. Gowdy finally sold out to the Toronto Lime Company but remained as manager. In 1927 the kilns were purchased by the present owners.

the Gypsum Lime and Alabastine Company of Paris, Ontario. After buying the kilns they discontinued operation. Now the quarries are idle, the kilns in ruins—mute evidence of a once thriving industry.  
But of course Limehouse still has its caves and its legends. In fact, caves and limestone rocks belong together. Why? That is the obvious question.  
Caves of various types are common throughout the world and have stirred the imagination of mankind for countless ages. Caves in limestone rock, as at Limehouse, are caused by chemical action resulting from carbonic acid in rain-water coming in contact with the carbonate of lime in the rock itself. This acid eats into the rock—funnel-wise—thus forming caves or a network of underground tunnels. As long as there is a stream of water caves increase in size. If the water drains away the dry cave remains unchanged.  
Caves, of course, are "a natural" for smugglers and in this connection Limehouse was no exception. According to local legends a number of bootleggers made use of the caves to house their whisky stills. Even horse-stealers are said to have found the caves very useful. There is even a rumour of murder connected with the caves along Jones' Creek. However, it was probably the lime rather than the caves that attracted the early settlers. Old Country people knowing very well the value of lime for construction purposes.



**The Power of Positive Thinking**

by Norman Vincent Peale  
Some people develop serious mental illness due to worry or shock. But that is just a minority. For most of us, there are simply petty discouragements and troubles that "get us down."  
The Power of Positive Thinking by Norman Vincent Peale shows how an attitude of mind can relieve a great deal of the strain in common, everyday cases of anxiety and nervousness.  
Both faith and optimism are stressed by Dr. Peale who writes simply about his methods for facing life's unlucky breaks and the troubles of everyday.  
In one chapter, he tells how to break the worry habit. Another tells how to get people to like you. How to have energy is another topic that may prove the very needed help for those who read the book.  
It's simple, and it's practical. It isn't a literary unit, but plain spoken advice to help ordinary people like ourselves.  
Do you know that a poll on happiness has shown that people are, on the whole, happiest in June and September? And the happiest age group is those in their late twenties. Wintertime is the doldrums for everybody, when an unhappiness that can be shaken off in June proves to be very depressing. So perhaps Dr. Peale's book will be borrowed from Acton library more in the winter than the summer.

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**Learn Use of Lime**  
The first log shanties had only mud and moss plugged into the crevices between the logs to keep out the draft. Later the pioneers devised means of burning lime to use as mortar or for building chimneys. This generally took place at the same time as a logging bee. For a "burning" timbers from possibly half an acre were placed in one big square pile and a frame to hold the lime built on top of it. This was filled with rock previously broken by a sledge hammer. The woodpile was then fired and allowed to burn fiercely all night. By morning only red coals remained, which, however, would stay hot for a week. Then the lime would be collected, average yield from a burning about 100 bushels of lime, enough to mortar one big log house or two smaller ones. Surplus lime, if any, was easily sold. Since this was a common practice wherever limestone rock existed it may be that from such small beginnings the quarries and limekilns in Limehouse originated. This, however, is merely supposition.  
One of the most interesting pioneer histories concerns the Nickell family. William Nickell settled on Crown Land on the 4th Line Esquevas in 1819, high on a hill overlooking the valley so his farm soon became known as "The Beacon Light." Later he bought more land on the 4th Line. Here he built a small stone house — which is still standing and in which his generations of Nickells were born.  
**First Post Office**  
None of the Gowdy family lives in Limehouse now but it is worthy of note that Mr. Douglas M. Gowdy, manager of Maclean-Hunter publications is a former Limehouse boy, the son of the late William Gowdy, who upon his retirement resided in Acton where he died.  
The first post office in Limehouse was opened in 1857 with Mr. John Newton as postmaster. It was then that Fountain Green changed its name to Limehouse.  
The first burial is indicative of the wilderness of which Limehouse was a part in those far-off days. The burial was that of little Mary Snyder—about three years old, who had wandered into the woods and died of exposure.  
More history of Limehouse will follow at a later date particularly of its churches and schools.  
Next week our story will feature — "Halton Twisters."

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**Deodorizing Firm Tags 4,000 Odors**

John M. von Bergen, an executive of the world's largest deodorizing firm, says he is able to tell the difference between some 3,000 different odors.  
His firm takes the smell out of anything from paper mills to skunk-sprayed dogs. He was in Montreal recently for the annual convention of American Pulp and Paper Mill superintendents.  
Mr. von Bergen estimates there are 12,000 recognized odors in the world of which his company has catalogued 4,000.  
To get rid of the more disagreeable of the 12,000, the company fights odor with odor on the premise that two substances that smell individually may be odorless together.  
So the company uses chemical-spraying atomizers built into smoke stacks sewers and other areas to counter-balance unpleasant odors.  
Research at pulp and paper mills disclosed their characteristic "burnt cabbage" odor came from seven offensive chemicals.  
**Deodorizing Formula**  
Technicians armed with elaborate laboratory equipment and super-sensitive noses devised a formula that neutralizes all seven components.  
A side issue was the discovery that one of their elements could eliminate skunk odor. One Saturday a church telephoned to say a skunk had been killed while in the air conditioning system and was literally kicking up a stink. Sprayed with the element, the building was fit for Sunday worship.  
Research has also brought out some odd facts about human "smellability." For instance, Mr. von Bergen said, the whiter a person's skin is the poorer his sense of smell.  
"Albinos can't distinguish odors at all," he said. "That's why they are so rare in primitive races where the use of prime importance in self-preservation."  
On the other hand Australian aborigines have been known to sniff out a man's trail like a bloodhound. In general we've found the more intelligent a person is, the more sensitive he is to smells. Uninhabited people are also more sensitive.