

**DRIVE IN THEATRE**  
GUELPH

Thurs.-Fri. Aug. 5-6  
**Double Feature**  
"MONTANA TERRITORY"  
Lon McCollister  
Wanda Hendrix  
"HOLD THAT LINE"  
Bowery Boys

Sat.-Mon. Aug. 7-9  
**"STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER"**  
Clifton Webb Debra Paget  
Technicolor

Tues.-Wed. Aug. 10-11  
**"SHARK RIVER"**  
Technicolor  
Steve Cochran  
Carole Mathews

Thurs.-Fri. Aug. 12-13  
**"DESERT SONG"**  
Technicolor  
Kathryn Grayson  
Gordon MacRae

WEDNESDAY EVENING  
**2 SHOWS NIGHTLY**  
Children under 12 years FREE

**Mrs. J. N. Newton**  
W.I. Life Member

The officers and life members of Limehouse Women's Institute spent a delightful evening at the home of Mrs. W. G. Ivens and Mrs. Newton recently. The ladies enjoyed an hour's chat and then Mrs. J. Ellery, in a few well chosen words, spoke of the number of years Mrs. J. N. Newton had been a member of the W.I. of her willingness to help any project, when possible and that even now, as an invalid, her cheerfulness and encouragement is enjoyed by all who come in contact with her. Mrs. E. Sanford, on behalf of the W.I. ladies, presented Mrs. Newton with a life membership pin and Mrs. J. Roughley presented the certificate. Mrs. Newton, though greatly surprised, thanked the ladies and asked that her appreciation be passed on to the other members. After the presentation Miss Ivens served refreshments. Mrs. A. J. Smethurst and Mrs. William Mitchell are the other charter and life members of this organization.

**CECIL A. CARR**  
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**Tips on Touring**  
By Carol Lane  
Women's Travel Authority

Only about one owner in 10-realizes that the blazing hot sun of July and August can damage his car as much as the sub-zero freezes of January and February.

The next time that you burn yourself on the sun-exposed parts of your car, remember these points:

- (1) Check tires carefully for worn and weak spots and be careful not to over-inflate since heat causes air to expand. That expansion might cause a blow-out.
- (2) In hot weather keep a constant check on the cooling system temperature and make certain that the water is checked every time you fill the gasoline tank.
- (3) Take the advice of your service station operator on what grade of oil to use.
- (4) It's a good safety precaution to have your car inspected and lubricated every 1,000 miles.
- (5) Always park in the shade, if you have a choice; and summertime is no excuse to leave the car exposed overnight if you have a garage.

As in winter driving, the best guarantee for pleasurable summer driving is a combination of common sense and mechanically well-kept car.

**FIGHTING COUNCIL**  
No citizen needs to worry when the council is a fighting council. Whether his pet interests are met or not, he can be assured that the juice will be drained from all measures before they are put into effect. —Napanee (Ont.) Post Express.

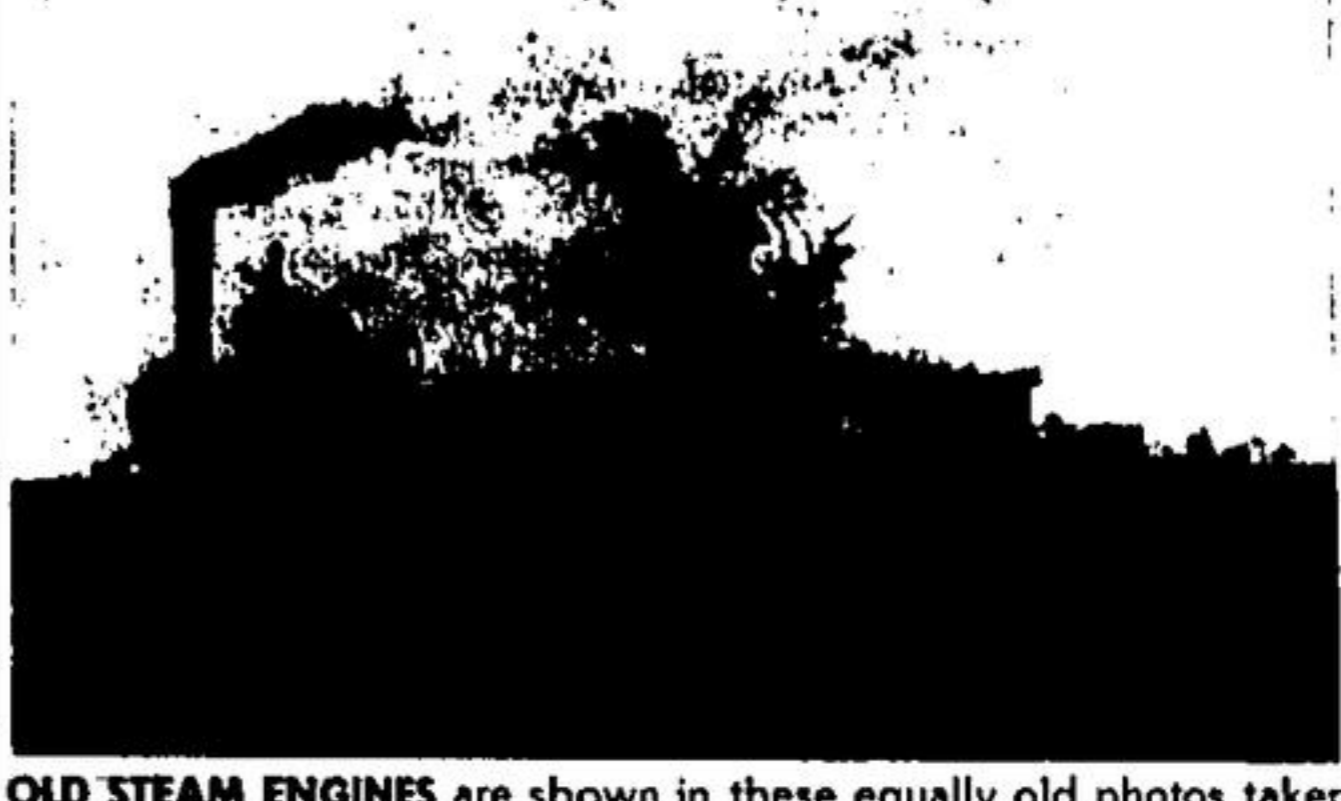
**Halton's Pages of the Past**

**Modern Combines Far Cry From Scythe, Flail Wielded by Halton Harvesters a Century Ago**

by GWEN CLARKE

Now it is harvest time. Drive along the country roads in Halton County and in many fields a combine may be seen at work. It may be one of three types—self propelled, power take-off or pull-type. In any case, one man operates the machine and as he does so the grain is cut, threshed, and in some cases the straw thrown out in bundles.

Sometimes a baling machine follows the combine and the straw is baled almost as fast as it leaves the combine. In fact, barring accidents, grain can be cut, threshed, grain taken to the barn, and straw baled in a matter of hours. Men required—three. A far cry indeed from pioneer days when grain was cut with a scythe or cradle and threshed with a flail.



**OLD STEAM ENGINES** are shown in these equally old photos taken in this area over 50 years ago. Below the gentleman in the bowler proudly poses beside an engine of early vintage while above is a larger engine drawing water and wood supply tender and wagon.



**Threshed with Flail**  
Cradling was an art. Slow going for an amateur but an expert could do from two to four acres a day, depending on the crop. Another person, sometimes his wife, would follow the cradler and tie the sheaves by hand. Threshing was generally left until winter. Then the sheaves would be spread on the barn floor and threshed with a flail—which possibly gave rise to the word "threshing" as we understand it today. Right after threshing came the winnowing. This was done by shaking the grain back and forth in a scoop until the chaff was blown away by the wind.

Next came the first mechanical contrivance—a reaper. This was followed by the first crude threshing machine. By 1860 threshing machines were thought to have reached perfection! Until 1880 power for the threshing was supplied by horses going in a continuous circle. Five teams were attached to five long poles which fitted into a cylinder having large cog wheels. A long iron rod connected the cylinder and separator and gave the necessary speed to thresh the grain.

**Threshing Match**  
Joseph Brothers of Milton was a well-known manufacturer of horse-power separators. A Mr. McDonald of Acton acted as his agent. After being with Brothers for a number of years, McDonald decided to take up an agency for the "Climax Threshers" of Fingal. This immediately

led to great rivalry. A test match for the two machines was arranged for August, 1871, on the farm of Wm. Moore, Lot 12, Concession 3, Esquimaux. Each machine threshed wheat for one hour with Robt. Shortreed and John McDougal as scorers and John McDougal as timekeepers and measurers.

A crowd gathered "equal to that of Milton Fair." The "Climax" machine came through in great style. Then time was called and the crowd just moved in and carried away the whole outfit like a toy. The Milton separator was immediately set up with John Bailey, Jimmy Downs and George Brownridge as drivers. Andy Brownridge was driver.

Five splendid teams had been selected and Andy knew each horse by name. The teams belonged to the following farmers: Andrew Henry Henderson from the Mountain, Tom Brownridge from Omagh, William Elliott and Malcolm McPherson from the Scotch Block. Andy cracked his whip just once after the cylinder began to hum. From then on he held the teams in check for

was not without its hazards to the threshers. One time Dan Neilson and his son Bill were coming along No. 5 sideway in Esquimaux. At the Manswood C.N.R. crossing Dan drove the steam engine while son Bill got down and led the horses over the crossing. The men neither saw nor heard the approach of a train. It caught the separator and smashed it to pieces. Another hazard to the threshers was slippery barn dumps over which more than one separator landed on its side. Weakened barn floors also resulted in many an accident.

**Steam Engine Appears**  
The Downs family were the first threshers in Halton. First there was James, then his three sons, Albert, Edward and Oscar. In each family threshing was carried on from father to son. Dan Neilson threshed for many years in Esquimaux and was succeeded by son William. The Blacklock family threshed mostly in Nassagaweya. J. C. Blacklock was the first and was succeeded by his sons William and Ray. When oil-burning tractors took the place of steam, William did not take very kindly to them. At one farm he had trouble in starting his tractor so he sent word home "to get the old steam engine fired up... if he was going to thresh he wanted an injun that would start!"

There were, of course, other threshers through the years. We find on record that in 1888 Thomas Cox threshed 1280 bushels of wheat and barley in nine hours on the farm of John Sprout. And in 1889 DeForest threshed 701 bushels of grain for Sam McDowell, Nassagaweya.

As time passed the steam engine was replaced by gas and oil-burning tractors and finally the diesel-type tractor. Straw cutters are a part of every separator and mechanical elevators carry the grain straight to the bin. Movable blowers blow the straw wherever the farmer wants it. Less hands are now required for a barn threshing. But today there are very few barn threshings. Most farmers either hire a combine or thresh straight from the field.

And so, for the present, ends our story of harvesting and threshing—from cradle to combine.

(Next week our feature will be the Town of Acton.)  
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**Kennedy's Book Store**  
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**Books**  
Reviews

**THE SOJOURNER**  
By Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings is a Pulitzer prize winner; you'll likely remember her novel The Yearling which was made into a moving picture several years ago.

This is her first novel in more than 10 years, and it again deals with a simple family whose everyday occurrences build up slowly shifting scenes of happiness and tragedy.

The hero of the book, Asahel Linden, is a farmer. And he is a hero, because he is a thoroughly good man. The book follows him throughout his life. He is hated by his mother, yet cares for her in his home. His brother leaves him all the work and worry to go west to seek his fortune. Asahel marries his brother's sweetheart—one of them at least—and she, while not a perfect wife, is a good manager and a simply wonderful cook. Even the descriptions of her meals are delicious. She always has lots of butter on fresh beans and raspberry tarts in the cupboard, and dear-know-what-all in the basement.

They have children who quickly grow up. Only one seems to have a complete understanding of her sensitive father, and of course her future is vastly different from that of her brothers and sisters, who are influenced by their materialistic mother.

Asahel has difficulty talking, and says very little indeed for a hero. Happily his thoughts are recorded and give some form to his character.

A strange thing about Asahel is that he doesn't realize he's eating good food. In fact, for a hero he's sometimes something of a dolt.

**Sees Bright Future For Yukon Territory**

Whitehorse, Y.T. (CP)—George Black, former member of parliament, says the future holds bright promise for the Yukon with new discoveries of tungsten and other precious materials.

Now 81 and retired from active politics, he is engaged in a busy law practice here. In August he and his 88-year-old wife, Martha, will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

Mr. Black was member for the Yukon from 1921 to 1935 and again from 1940 to 1945. He was speaker in the house of commons for five years. During the five years when her husband was ill, Martha Black was elected and served at Ottawa in his stead.

Mr. Black says he is opposed to a proposal that the Yukon be united with the southern provinces. "British Columbia is loaded with a public debt, while the Yukon has none," he said. "Union with southern provinces would bring a flood of office-seekers that the people of the Yukon would have to pay for."

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**TAX NOTICE -- 1954**  
MUNICIPALITY OF ACTON  
THIRD INSTALMENT NOW DUE

Attention is drawn to the payment of 1954 taxes, which are now payable in four instalments. Taxes are payable to the Municipal Treasurer at the:

**ACTON PUBLIC UTILITIES OFFICE**  
INSTALMENTS ARE DUE AS FOLLOWS  
THIRD INSTALMENT - AUGUST 16th  
FOURTH INSTALMENT - OCTOBER 15th

According to the Tax Collection By-Law a penalty of 1/4 of 1 per cent per month will be added on the amount remaining unpaid after the sixteenth day of August.

This penalty applies to each instalment in a similar manner.

The attention of Ratepayers is directed to the Penalties and other clauses as printed on the reverse side of every Tax Notice and explained in detail on every Tax Bill.

**MAKE PAYMENT NOW AND TAKE YOUR TAX NOTICE WITH YOU WHEN MAKING PAYMENT**

J. McGEACHIE, Collector



One-two-three HUP!

EVER GIVE a "leg up" to a knight in full armour? In a recent film about Joan of Arc the movie makers got over this weighty problem by dressing the actress who played the title part in a suit of armour made of aluminum. Result: shooting, including scenes showing Joan mounting her horse, proceeded on schedule.

Canadian manufacturers use a lot of weight-saving aluminum not only because it makes things lighter to handle and cheaper to ship but because it makes up into more products per pound. Helps them market their products for less. Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. (Akan).