

**Pollock and Campbell**  
Manufacturers of  
**HIGH-GRADE MEMORIALS**  
MEMORIAL ENGRAVING  
62 Water St., North GALT  
Telephone 2048

**FOR CHILDREN ONLY**  
MILDMAY, Ont. (CP) — Plans have been completed for one of the first restricted fishing streams in Ontario for children under 16. A meeting of the Saugeen valley conservation authority, Mildmay council and Rotary club set May 14 as opening date. Ten junior game wardens will patrol the stream in Mildmay park to watch for adult poachers.

**Halton's Pages of the Past**

**Speyside Looks Back to Century of Activity With Sawmills, Hotels, Hop Kilns and Quarry**

BY GWEN CLARKE

Halfway between Milton and Acton on Highway 25 and No. 15 Side-road, there is a very small community known as Speyside, consisting only of a few houses, a general store and gas pumps. A century ago the picture was very different.

There were several hotels at Speyside then, a tannery, sawmills, stone quarry, two general stores, village hall, shingle mill, post office, a considerable number of houses and a log cabin. There were seven streets all told. The registered plan of the village shows the main thoroughfare as Cruickshank Street. East of Cruickshank was Ashbury Mill and Water Streets; west of Cruickshank, First, Second and Third Street. Speyside, with its little creek tumbling over the rocks, forming a miniature waterfall was named after the River Spey in Scotland.

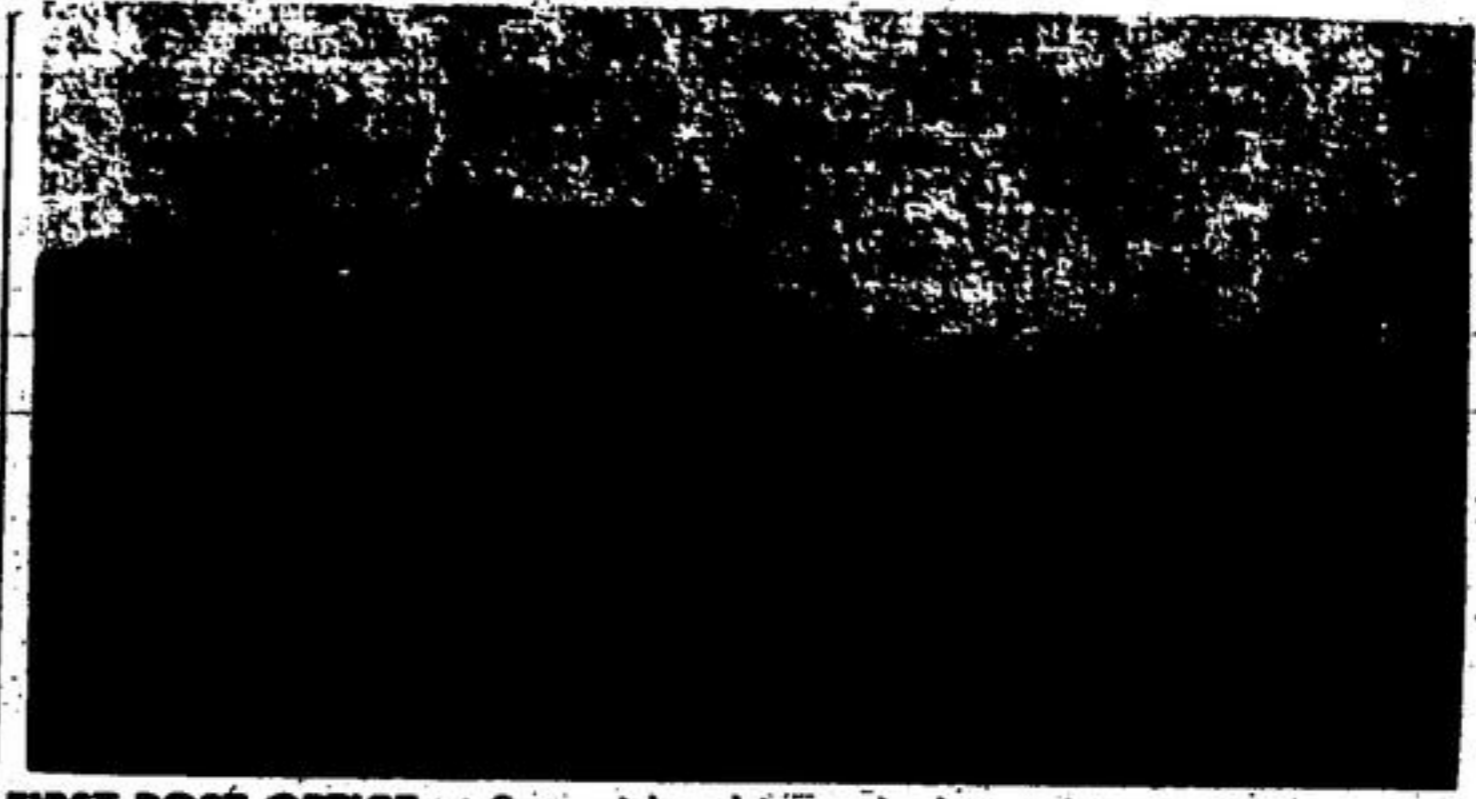
It has a high elevation and from the top of the mountain road (Highway 25) there is a magnificent view from which the countryside is visible for miles around. In fact on a clear day the blue of Lake Ontario merges with the haze of the distant horizon.

Rocky and Well-Wooded  
Speyside is still a rocky and well-

wooded section of Esqueping Township, so it is easy to believe that in its early days great pines grew in the district. Many fine timbers were sold to the ship-building trade, but only hand-hewn timbers were acceptable for this purpose, sawn logs were refused because hand-hewn timbers were known to withstand the weather better than those cut down with a saw. One of the first sawmills set up was in the woods back of the present Dufferin school. A curious little incident gave the place its name of "St. Helena".

Haggard Brothers of Brampton, makers of milling machinery, had received an order for such requirements and sent some of their men, headed by their chief engineer, William Hampshire, to look over the location. (Wm. Hampshire was the father of W. J. L. Hampshire, an octogenarian who still lives on Highway 25).

The party drove through Acton, weaving their way among the stumps on the main street of the village, and then proceeded south to Speyside. From Speyside they continued on foot through the dense forest, and after considerable trouble located a slight clearing which they presumed was the intended location of the sawmill. Looking around the wild, almost in-



**FIRST POST OFFICE** at Speyside, this early log cabin was located on the south-east corner of No. 25 highway. It was also the dwelling place of the first postmaster, Robert McPherson, who was succeeded by Connelly, Plank and James Martin.

accessible territory Wm. Hampshire exclaimed—"This must surely be St. Helena!" Evidently he could not imagine the scene of Napoleon's exile being much more desolate than this section of Esqueping.

**Stone from Hume Quarry**  
The name stuck and it has remained "St. Helena" to this day.

The mill—Tom Hume's sawmill—did a considerable amount of custom work and as a sample of the cost of lumber in those far-off days we will give one instance. James Murray, on the Fourth Line, Esqueping, lost his barn by fire. He decided to rebuild and ordered sawn lumber from Hume's Mill at the rate of \$5 per 1,000 feet delivered!

There was also the Hume Quarry bank of the present Glenspey Farms. This was afterwards owned by a man named Loby, rented to Eddy and then to Bales. Most of the stone used in the building of the Boston Church came from here and many of the bridges in Halton County were constructed from stone from this quarry. Twenty stone cutters were employed most of the time.

Many orders were received from the city of Toronto for stone curbstones, commonly used before cement sidewalks came into being. These curbstones were from 5 to 8 feet long, 5 to 6 inches wide and about two feet deep. When set into place the curbstones were embedded at least a foot into the ground.

**Sawmills and Hop Kilns**  
Hops were grown quite extensively in the Speyside district and were dried by farmers in their own kilns. Until a few years ago two of these kilns were on the property of Robert Dredge but have since been demolished to make room for modern buildings. However, there still remains on the Dredge farm, an old building, now used as a tool-shed which was once a pioneer home.

The first hotel in Speyside was owned by David Dewar who later sold out to Donald Stewart and then removed to Milton to open what is now known as the Commercial Hotel on Main Street, west. The Stewart Hotel was very popular and stood on the north-west corner of the cross-roads along with several houses. All have long since disappeared. There was a tannery, owned by Philip Drummond an Irish man, who, it is said, "was quite a character."

Another sawmill was owned successively by Cruickshanks, a Mr. Henry and Peter Sayers. The mill did a lot of custom work in barrel staves. The village smithy was a man named Taylor. The first general stores were opened by Kennedy and John Plant respectively. The present corner store, now run by

**Black Ceiling Looks Higher**

In finishing a basement, many people hesitate to put a ceiling under the exposed joists because of it emphasizing the low headroom.

A large furniture store, pressed for more space and compelled to use its basement for an additional showroom, solved this problem in a novel manner.

All ceiling beams, pipes and conduits were left exposed but painted black. Bright lights with large shallow reflecting shades above them were placed flush with the joists.

The lights concentrated vision on the brightly-colored furnishings and away from the ceiling, which was so black that none of its maze of utilities could be seen.

Mrs. William Douglas, was first opened by John Crawshaw on land bought from one of the early settlers, Ephraim Moore.

**Popular Village Hall**  
Until quite recently there was an old log cabin on the south-east corner of the crossroads. This was the first post office at Speyside. It was also the dwelling place of the first postmaster, Robert McPherson, who was succeeded by Connelly, Plank and James Martin.

The village hall, a roomy, well-constructed building, was a very popular place for many years. It was one of the first places chosen by D. D. Christie and the Hon. David Henderson, M.P. as headquarters for North-Halton political campaigns. Many of the old-timers around Speyside had a reputation for being hot-headed, hard-fisted partisans and Speyside became known as "a good place for a fight."

But the village hall had other uses. Before Waterloo and Dufferin schools were opened a community school was held in the hall for a number of years where the three R's were imparted to a greater or lesser degree according to receptiveness of the students. When the hall was no longer required for the above mentioned purposes, it was taken over by Mr. Taylor and became a blacksmith's shop, and we understand the blacksmith's forge was a greater attraction to the children than the blackboard had ever been.

**A Wonderful Panorama**

The land around Speyside, when cleared of rock and stumps, proved to be excellent sandy-loam soil, good for field crops, fruits and market gardening. This the early settlers were quick to discover and as a result good, productive farms were soon very much in evidence. Among the well-known farmers of that time we find familiar names such as Michie, McArthur, McNaughton, Moore, Hume, Dredge, Hampshire and Duff.

The four corners at Speyside now hold little interest for travellers along the way but just south of the intersection the view is just as good, if not better, than in the days of the pioneer. Here there is a wonderful panorama of the surrounding countryside from the highway that is well-worth a trip to see. Looking down into the valley "Craiglea" is plainly visible which, as we mentioned in a previous column, was the home of John Stewart, one of William Lyon Mackenzie's most loyal followers.

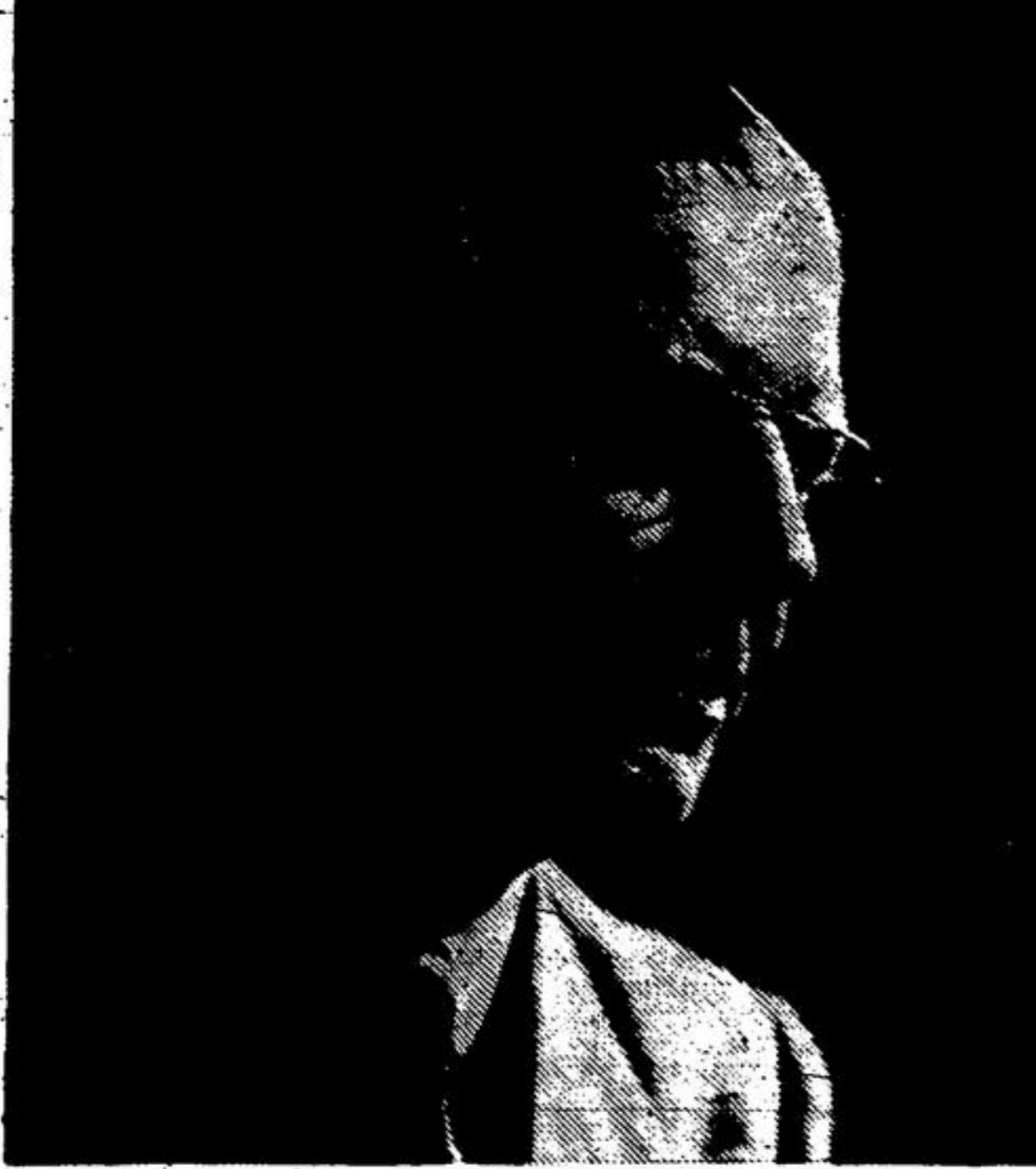
Dufferin, the little red school house, has taken the place of the village hall, but alongside the school there is still a steep, narrow and tortuous road, lying between treacherous rocks and gullies, leading to the oddly named section of land known as "St. Helena".

Reproduction Rights Reserved  
By Dills Printing & Publishing Company

**We're on a Pedestal ...**

Sure we're proud! We've got a reputation to maintain for the finest in dry cleaning service. Call us today!

**Custom Cleaners**  
MAIN STREET — 272 — ACTON



LESLIE M. FROST, Prime Minister of Ontario

**A Personal Message to You from Premier Leslie M. Frost...**

**Dear Friends:**

Your community—along with a thousand others—forms the keystone of Ontario's progress and prosperity. As your population grows, Ontario grows. As your schools, hospitals, utilities and roads improve, Ontario improves. And as you and your community prosper, Ontario forges ahead as the greatest province in Canada.

To keep Ontario—and all its people—going forward to greater progress and prosperity, I ask you to re-elect your Progressive Conservative government in the Provincial Election being held on June 9th. Give the Progressive Conservative Candidate in your riding the opportunity to carry on your government's excellent record of making Ontario a better place for you and your family. As proof of that record, look at these facts:

1. This year, government grants to municipalities amount to \$165 million, or more than 44% of all provincial revenues. This large sum of money will help build new schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, community centres and other services. All this will be done at a saving of about one-third of all the local tax bills.
2. We believe that every child in Ontario has an equal right to free education—and that Ontario should have the finest schooling in the country. In 1955, your government will spend over \$102 million on education, including the greatest school building campaign in our history.

3. Your Progressive Conservative Government has helped bring the modern convenience and comfort of Hydro to over 85% of rural Ontario. Half the cost of bringing in rural Hydro lines has been paid for directly by the province.
4. Jobs for over 175,000 people will be provided by the \$700 million construction program of the province and its municipalities, which is now underway.
5. Your provincial government was the first in Canada to make discrimination illegal. Every citizen of Ontario—regardless of his race, colour or creed—has the opportunity to live where he likes, to work at any job he chooses, and to rise as high in life as his own ability can take him.
6. Ontario's government has provided grants for 74 new homes for the aged, 25 thousand new hospital beds. We have secured Old Age Pensions for all at 70 and for the needy at 65. Ontario is the first province in Canada to provide pensions for the totally disabled and the blind at 18.

The spectacular achievements of the past three and a half years have been accomplished with no new taxes—and with some tax reductions. Ontario's taxes are the lowest in Canada.

On June 9th, I ask for your support of my government. I urge you—in your own best interests—to elect the Progressive Conservative candidate in your riding... for the prosperity and progress of everyone in this great province. Forward ONTARIO!

*Leslie M. Frost*  
LESLIE M. FROST

**Forward ONTARIO**

**June 9 Vote**

PROGRESSIVE  
**CONSERVATIVE**



**"Hello, Daddy! Coming home now?"**

At the end of the day there's nothing more exciting than Dad's voice to report when he will be home for dinner.

It makes such a big difference to little people who have waited all day for Daddy's voice. It makes a difference to your wife, too—she likes to have some warning when you have been delayed.

This is just one of the countless ways your telephone pays its way as it makes life happier, easier, more secure.

THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CANADA