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THE LIVING EARTH
By Sheila Mackay Russell

On the hot and dusty train joggling away up into the Canadian north, two well-dressed women realize they are going to the same place, Mud Creek. Slim, young Paula Hoodie is to be the new public health nurse there and witty Agnes Miller, breaking away from her city rut, is to be the new teacher.

In the village, the arrival of the two new people is a special event. Among the first people they meet are the area doctor, Philip Jerome, on the verge of collapse from overwork and frustration; his widowed brother David, whose outward calm hides much deeper emotions, and Carl Gundersen, a straightforward lumber mill owner who comes to call and to let Agnes know right away that he intends to marry her!

Love of their work and for the people of the district mingle during blizzards, deaths and forest fires in this engrossing novel.

Soup tureens are news these days — the real old-fashioned kind. Chafing dishes serve well, too, or use an electric cooker (the deep fryer type) to get a buffet supper off to a good start.

Halton's Pages of the Past

Ends "Pages of the Past" With This Chapter; Author Reviews Historical Wealth of Halton

BY GWEN CLARKE

This chapter brings to a close our resume of local events from Halton's Pages of the Past.

We like to think it brought a little pleasure to those who take pride in remembering the indomitable spirit of their forbears; we hope, too, fresh interest has been aroused in those who, hitherto, may have been little concerned with local background history. Perhaps in these pages they have discovered something of interest to remember through the years.

As an historical record, we realize all too well that our attempt to chronicle Halton's past leaves much to be desired. And we are well aware it is not a literary achievement. But we have tried to do something in a small way to preserve a few of the facts about Halton. Even so, much has been left unsaid. In this type of writing errors and omissions are inevitable, inasmuch as we have had to cover every school section, and every little country churchyard, deserving its own particular recognition in local history.

Seek Historians

But where we have failed we hope the task will be carried on by local historians—for there should be an historian for every pioneer family; for every village school; every church and every local organization. During the summer and fall there are many reunions. It would be a fitting time to appoint a family, church, or school historian—if such a person has not already been appointed. Too much history has already been lost. Would it not be possible to salvage what is left? Following the death of an aged person in a family old papers, letters and photographs have frequently been destroyed because no one cared enough to take charge of them. A family historian might possibly prevent this irreparable loss.

During our research for these columns time and again we have run across cases where there was a wonderful collection of family photographs but yet, quite frequently, no one knew who they were! Not a name, not a date to identify the persons in the photographs. A sweet, winsome face looks out from a picture. You realize she must be somebody's great-aunt or grandmother, yet none can claim her. Or perhaps it is a rather austere, bewhiskered gentleman who appears to regard you with stern misgiving. There is plenty of character and lines of suffering etched into his wrinkled face. Grandfather, uncle or great-

grandfather—who can say? Whoever he was he most certainly played some part in shaping the destiny of Halton.

Identify Photos

So, if you have an elderly relative in your family wouldn't it be a good idea to get him—or her—to identify what photographs you have around and then inscribe the name and approximate date on the back of the photograph? Bring down the shoe box from the attic containing the family photographs—the next reunion might be a good place to take the unknown pictures for identification.

"Let Us Forget" is generally used in connection with our War Dead; to the boys who left comfortable homes and happy families; who stepped forward gallantly into the Unknown—but who failed to return. In our history of the various localities we did not attempt to include the Honor Roll, knowing that the names of those who died are indelibly inscribed in the hearts and memories of their friends. There is also a suitable record in every church and school to perpetuate their memory.

But, in this, our final chapter, we would like to add our tribute to the officers and men, from every part of the country, who made the supreme sacrifice. But for them the passing scene might now be very different.

Let Us Forget

But we would also like to use those words—"Let Us Forget" in another way. We feel the words—and the sentiment—should apply equally well to our regard for the pioneers of this county; to men and women of every creed and nationality, including the native Indian tribes who fought with, and for, the immigrants; and to those early settlers, who, because of the rigors of pioneer life, gave their lives for their home and country as surely as the men on the battlefield.

There are some who claim that Halton County has little history; that Canada as a whole has too young to have any worthwhile traditions; and that, compared with Great Britain and Europe it has no ancient buildings—its churches and cathedrals being comparatively new. If we think in terms of buildings—of brick, mortar and stone—that is true. But Canada's history—and in this case, Halton in particular, is older than its buildings. Its traditions came with the pioneers. The ties cannot possibly be separated. Canada's traditions have sprung from the roots of the Mother Coun-

try, whatever its geographical location.

Little History

History, properly speaking, is a record of events pertaining to people. Buildings are merely the concrete evidence of the will and ambition of the people. Bearing this in mind, and remembering all we have heard or read of the peril and hardships that confronted the immigrants who crossed the Atlantic in small sailing vessels a hundred or a hundred and fifty years ago, can we truly say that Halton has little history?

Or consider the records of those who fought on the side of the British in the War of Independence. Remember the United Empire Loyalists who faced loss of property and even death for the privilege of remaining under the British flag. Remember, too, the hardships the Loyalists faced while attempting to establish new homes for themselves in Upper Canada, some of them in Halton county. Think of the infants that were born on the trail, and of the mothers, who, for the sake of the living, continued their heart-breaking journey to an unknown territory, leaving behind many a small grave hastily dug alongside a forest path. Turn back these Pages of the Past and read again the story of Janet Campbell—although it is only one of the many tragedies in the annals of Halton history.

Down to Dark

Read too, of the fortitude and courage—yes, and of the fun and merriment that the pioneers created for themselves. Remember the back breaking work of the men who, from dawn to dark, toiled with primitive weapons to clear the land and build shelters for their families. And especially remember that, in spite of all their hard work, these men took time to organize church meetings and arrange for schools; many of the rough log buildings being built by the settlers themselves.

Bearing all these things in mind is it too much to expect that this generation shall make some effort, amid the hurry and scurry of modern life, to preserve the records of the past; to care for pioneer cemeteries; to establish county museums and to keep local histories of families, churches and schools—all of which are necessary "let us forget" those to whom the county of Halton owes so much—the pioneers who built far better than they knew.

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Well, kind hearts and gentle peoples, greetings and hearty salutations. The Lanes opened up for the 1955-56 season last week and many of the local trundlers, both male and female were in trying out their bowling arms. Phil LeSueur checked in 15 pounds overweight and maybe that's why he didn't cop the Gord. McCutcheon haberdashery award. That went to the "old wheezer" Norm Morton who racked up a 726 triple. This burnt up son Ross who was sitting pretty till "Pop" decided youth wasn't going to be served this trip.

Diminutive Fay Andrews, last season's high single winner, was in form (bowling that is, the physical goes without saying) and posted a 250 single and 592 triple to win the Ledger's I.G.A. and Patricia Ann awards respectively.

Incidentally, to you newcomers in town, drop in and say "Hello." We would be very glad to meet you and make you acquainted with the rest of the bowling fraternity. Adios for now.

Brief Ceremony Makes Natural Gas Available

With the turn of a valve and the burst into flame of six purge burners, natural gas was made available to residents of Brampton last Thursday morning. A brief ceremony at which Mayor Nance Horwood made the official "turn-on" was the culmination of many weeks of preparation and hard work.

The Consumers' Gas Co. of Toronto, holders of the franchise for gas service in Brampton, had several top-level staff representatives there for the historic turning-on in front of the court house on Main St.

Parents Object To Palermo School Mud

Trafalgar School Board convened in knee-high ragweed at Palermo school grounds Tuesday morning of last week to watch a bulldozer level the playground which parents had objected to remaining a mud pool for another term.

Though no parents turned out to see the bulldozer—even off-part of the playfield, the tardy school yard clean-up followed a phone complaint to Chairman E. J. James by Mrs. James Adamson, president of the Palermo Home and School Association.

Not only did the board watch as the bulldozer, for the contractors Rolmac Construction Co. of Hamilton, completed its contract and levelled the playground near the school, but Mr. James said later that another dozer hired by the board would finish evening the entire field before school opened this week.

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