

Belfountain Landmark

Six Years to Build Castle Destroyed by Fire Overnight

A century-old castle at Belfountain that took six years to build was destroyed by flames in one night a few weeks ago. McLaren's castle was a district landmark, presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. D. Ross. It was owned by the McLaren family for many years and was widely known as McLaren's Castle.

This is a brief story of McLaren's Castle. In 1860 James McLaren came out to Canada from Callender, Scotland. He took up 300 acres of land on the Caledon Mountains south of the Forks of the Credit, not far from Belfountain.

He brought out stone masons and carpenters from Scotland and they embarked on a gigantic project. On a promontory they started to erect a castle that was a replica of one in Perthshire, Scotland.

Six Long Years It was a herculean task. As many as a dozen stone masons worked for six years. Granite was taken out of the nearby mountains, cut, and hauled by oxen to the building site.

The carpenters were equally engaged over the years. They brought down giant oaks and maples and formed huge timbers and boards. The main door, for instance, was solid oak and three inches thick.

The castle, while modest by British standards, was perhaps ten times as large (cubic footage) as the average Canadian house.

There were 18 rooms, some with ceilings 16 feet high.

Spectacular View

A stone tower rose to a height of 54 feet. A circular staircase led to the top of the 54-foot tower. From there Mr. McLaren could look out over miles and miles of the surrounding countryside.

Looking 40 miles to the south he could see the sailing ships on Lake Ontario as they headed into York.

When he spotted the mail packets, Postmaster McLaren knew the mail would arrive within a few days. He served as postmaster for 40 years.

When Mr. McLaren turned his gaze towards the southwest he could see the mist rising from Niagara Falls.

Secret Meetings

McLaren's Castle had an historic interest in Ontario in various ways. The great attic on the third floor served as the secret meeting place for Grange meetings in a day when this organization was not held in high regard. This later developed into the Co-op movement in this part of the country.

The castle had many fine features. In the full size basement was the well, 200 feet deep. The largest room in the castle was the master bedroom on the second floor.

The living room was about 20 feet square and the dining room was approximately the same size. There were many fireplaces.

The property remained in the McLaren family until 1937.

Municipal Life During that time it had been of considerable political importance. McLaren served on the township council, on Peel County Council and he also served as Warden.

In 1937 the property was sold to a lumber company. The lumber company was interested only in the hundred acres of prime maple trees. The company used the castle as a bunkhouse for the scores of woodcutters and sawyers.

When the company cut out all the merchantable timber, it abandoned the property and the great stone castle.

St. Clair Low of Toronto bought the property but he never made use of it. After a year he sold the 300 acres including the castle to James Day Ross.

Mr. Ross lived at that time in Oakville and had his law office in Toronto, later moving it to Brampton.

The entire building was devastated by fire early this month. Everything was lost, including all the furniture, the family's personal possessions and even their two pet dogs.

There was no hope whatever of rebuilding.

Insurance on the castle was only \$20,000. The huge stone building could not be replaced for ten times that amount.

Insurance on the furniture and other possessions was \$5,000, not nearly enough to replace the loss.

Only the stark stone walls are left standing.

During that time it had been of considerable political importance. McLaren served on the township council, on Peel County Council and he also served as Warden.

In 1937 the property was sold to a lumber company. The lumber company was interested only in the hundred acres of prime maple trees. The company used the castle as a bunkhouse for the scores of woodcutters and sawyers.

When the company cut out all the merchantable timber, it abandoned the property and the great stone castle.

St. Clair Low of Toronto bought the property but he never made use of it. After a year he sold the 300 acres including the castle to James Day Ross.

Mr. Ross lived at that time in Oakville and had his law office in Toronto, later moving it to Brampton.

The entire building was devastated by fire early this month. Everything was lost, including all the furniture, the family's personal possessions and even their two pet dogs.

There was no hope whatever of rebuilding.

Insurance on the castle was only \$20,000. The huge stone building could not be replaced for ten times that amount.

Insurance on the furniture and other possessions was \$5,000, not nearly enough to replace the loss.

Only the stark stone walls are left standing.

During that time it had been of considerable political importance. McLaren served on the township council, on Peel County Council and he also served as Warden.

In 1937 the property was sold to a lumber company. The lumber company was interested only in the hundred acres of prime maple trees. The company used the castle as a bunkhouse for the scores of woodcutters and sawyers.

When the company cut out all the merchantable timber, it abandoned the property and the great stone castle.

St. Clair Low of Toronto bought the property but he never made use of it. After a year he sold the 300 acres including the castle to James Day Ross.

Mr. Ross lived at that time in Oakville and had his law office in Toronto, later moving it to Brampton.

The entire building was devastated by fire early this month. Everything was lost, including all the furniture, the family's personal possessions and even their two pet dogs.

There was no hope whatever of rebuilding.

Insurance on the castle was only \$20,000. The huge stone building could not be replaced for ten times that amount.

Insurance on the furniture and other possessions was \$5,000, not nearly enough to replace the loss.

Only the stark stone walls are left standing.

During that time it had been of considerable political importance. McLaren served on the township council, on Peel County Council and he also served as Warden.

In 1937 the property was sold to a lumber company. The lumber company was interested only in the hundred acres of prime maple trees. The company used the castle as a bunkhouse for the scores of woodcutters and sawyers.

When the company cut out all the merchantable timber, it abandoned the property and the great stone castle.

St. Clair Low of Toronto bought the property but he never made use of it. After a year he sold the 300 acres including the castle to James Day Ross.

Mr. Ross lived at that time in Oakville and had his law office in Toronto, later moving it to Brampton.

The entire building was devastated by fire early this month. Everything was lost, including all the furniture, the family's personal possessions and even their two pet dogs.

There was no hope whatever of rebuilding.

Insurance on the castle was only \$20,000. The huge stone building could not be replaced for ten times that amount.

Insurance on the furniture and other possessions was \$5,000, not nearly enough to replace the loss.

Only the stark stone walls are left standing.

During that time it had been of considerable political importance. McLaren served on the township council, on Peel County Council and he also served as Warden.

In 1937 the property was sold to a lumber company. The lumber company was interested only in the hundred acres of prime maple trees. The company used the castle as a bunkhouse for the scores of woodcutters and sawyers.

When the company cut out all the merchantable timber, it abandoned the property and the great stone castle.

St. Clair Low of Toronto bought the property but he never made use of it. After a year he sold the 300 acres including the castle to James Day Ross.

Mr. Ross lived at that time in Oakville and had his law office in Toronto, later moving it to Brampton.

The entire building was devastated by fire early this month. Everything was lost, including all the furniture, the family's personal possessions and even their two pet dogs.

There was no hope whatever of rebuilding.

Insurance on the castle was only \$20,000. The huge stone building could not be replaced for ten times that amount.

Insurance on the furniture and other possessions was \$5,000, not nearly enough to replace the loss.

Only the stark stone walls are left standing.

During that time it had been of considerable political importance. McLaren served on the township council, on Peel County Council and he also served as Warden.

In 1937 the property was sold to a lumber company. The lumber company was interested only in the hundred acres of prime maple trees. The company used the castle as a bunkhouse for the scores of woodcutters and sawyers.

When the company cut out all the merchantable timber, it abandoned the property and the great stone castle.

St. Clair Low of Toronto bought the property but he never made use of it. After a year he sold the 300 acres including the castle to James Day Ross.

Mr. Ross lived at that time in Oakville and had his law office in Toronto, later moving it to Brampton.



ONLY BLACKENED STONE walls remain standing following a devastating fire at McLaren's castle at Belfountain early in March. The romantic-looking, English type castle was built a century ago. People went from miles around to see it.

Ladies Aid Irish Slant

Mrs. S. Fuller was hostess for the March meeting of O'Springe Ladies Aid with 14 ladies in attendance. With the president presiding, the meeting opened with the devotional, "Quietness to practice the gift of God," taken by Mrs. McKenzie, who also gave the study book on "Challenge of Tomorrow."

Roll call was answered by an Irish story. Final arrangements were completed for the tea and bake sale to be held April 10. Scripture was taken in unison.

Mrs. Aitken was in charge of the program. Community singing of Irish songs was enjoyed. A reading, "Legend of St. Patrick" was given by Mrs. McEwen. Gail Fuller contributed a number of accordion solos. A Shamrock contest was held and won by Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Fuller.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Fuller. Lovely refreshments were served by Mrs. Storey with Mrs. G. Jackson assisting the hostess.

Missionary Work in Ecuador Described to Dorcas Society

The Dorcas Missionary Society of Evangel-Baptist Church met at the home of Mrs. Wilson last Tuesday evening. Mrs. E. Presley opened the meeting with prayer after singing of the hymn "He Leadeth Me." The Scripture was read by Mrs. Presley, taken from Philippians 2: 5 to 11.

Mrs. Stan Cripps led in prayer for the missionaries and for the speaker of the evening, Mrs. Fred Lemon, prayed for the church, needs in the church and for the sick members.

After the hymn, "Encamped Along the Hills of Light," the president, Mrs. Wilson, conducted the business of the evening. The speaker, Mrs. D. Dunk, read the minutes of the previous meeting.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Mrs. Cripps introduced the speaker, Miss Joy Searle, who is home on furlough from Ecuador. She showed slides of the medical work and told how many had been won for the Lord through the Christian nurses and doctors in giving a spiritual word to the patients when caring for them from day to day. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and closed the meeting with prayer, after which a social hour was spent with Mrs. Lemon and Mrs. Wilson as tea hostess.

Forestry Club Holds Field Trip

Members of the local 4-H Forestry club enjoyed a field trip Saturday morning in a tract of land near the Guelph Junction. The trip was under the supervision of Jack Starr and Jack Brown, representatives of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests in Hespeler.

Dave Murray, the 4-H Club leader, accompanied the 18 club members on the trip that lasted from 9:30 in the morning until noon. During the trip, club members were able to collect specimens for their twig and fruit collections.

AUCTION SALES (Continued)

EXTENSIVE Auction Sale

Of Orchard and Farm Equipment

Including 2 International 700 utility tractors; 4 420 John Deere tractors; 2 speed sprayers; 1 Royal 35 sprayer; dusters; supply tanks; and 5 orchard and farm trailers. Grettie with 2 hydraulic pruners; aluminum and wooden apple picking ladders; 5,000 lb. bus boxes; 5,000 2 bus boxes; 750 bulk bins and other orchard equipment.

Will be held at the farm, 2375 No. 2 Highway, 2 miles east of Oakville business section, on SATURDAY, MARCH 30

At 1 o'clock. TERMS: Cash day of sale. All equipment in excellent condition.

ELLIOTT & HOLMES, Auctioneers, ROSELAWN ORCHARDS, 5302 B. E. Stephens.

No Flood

Ice in the school creek and lake has broken-up neatly and there is less danger of flooding this year than usual. In some places in the country roads are inundated temporarily—but the situation isn't serious.

Novelty

Rotarians did something last week that went against the grain for quite a few. They sat right down and wrote letters—some found it a novelty! They sent 40 letters to Rotary clubs throughout the world contacted during their search of unusual gifts last year. The meeting was classed as an "International understanding" meeting.

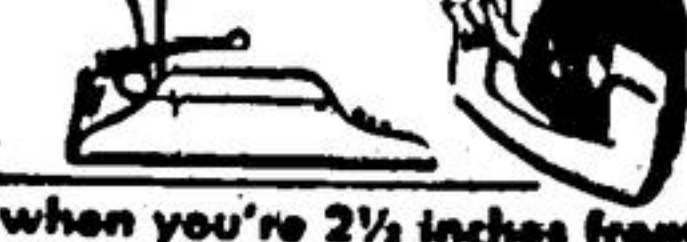
take time to remember...

Gibson Easter Cards



Little girls and boys love to send and receive Easter Greetings. We have all kinds for all ages.

WHOA says PAGE GAGE



when you're 2 1/2 inches from the bottom of the sheet!

SAVES RETYPING! INSURES NEATNESS! First time on any portable. Page Gage takes the guesswork out of page-and typing, makes typing easier than ever before. See Page Gage and 38 other wonderful features on the Smith-Corona portable typewriter. PAGE GAGE



79.50 and up

Smith-Corona World's Fastest PORTABLE See it demonstrated—

DILLS STATIONERY 56 Mill St. Acton, Ont.

Safety Council Reps Appointed

Formation of a Safety Council in Acton is evident. To date several organizations have indicated their willingness to lend support and have appointed representatives to serve on the safety council.

Chairman Paul Nielsen reports this week everything is ready to constitute the council but stressed the need for a secretary willing to devote some time. Any one interested may contact Mr. Nielsen.

To date both public school principals have agreed to assist as well as the Lions Club, Y.M.C.A., Chamber of Commerce, council, firefighters and police.

A number of programs have been outlined and as soon as other organizations are contacted and a secretary named, a chairman and directors will be appointed and the project will be raised off the floor.

Institute Holds Annual Banquet

The Bannockburn Women's Institute held their annual banquet at the home of Mrs. W. J. McDonald on Thursday evening, March 21, with 17 members present. After the banquet there was a short business period and then Mrs. W. Storey conducted a contest which was won by Mrs. Sinclair and Mrs. D. A. Russell.

Everyone enjoyed a bingo game conducted by Mrs. W. Latham. Several ladies won prizes.

LET US HELP YOU WITH YOUR TRAVEL NEEDS

- ★ AIRLINES
- ★ CRUISE TOURS
- ★ STEAMSHIPS
- ★ HOTEL RESERVATIONS
- ★ PASSPORT APPLICATION FORMS

MILTON TRAVEL SERVICE AUTHORIZED AGENT