

Changes through many decades discussed around central stove in Ospringle store

By Mrs. D. G. Robertson
The essay that won first prize in the Wellington County Historical Research Society competition was written by Mrs. D. G. Robertson about the place she knows best—Ospringle store. Mrs. Robertson is the Free Press correspondent for the district and she and her husband bought the store in 1925. The store will be demolished in September.

There were 13 entries in the contest and the judges were Miss Dorothy Lighthart and Prof. Margaret Evans.
Mrs. Robertson's interesting essay follows.
One of the few remaining general stores in Erin Township, County of Wellington, is situated in the village of Ospringle, at the junction of Highways 24 north and 25. Of interest is the fact that the village was named after a village in England, by early settlers of the Anderson and Baldie families. The building, containing a store and dwelling, was formerly a hotel (one of the many between Guelph and Erin in early days). The frame of the building is of barn structure with heavy timbers.
In 1910, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Stewart (father and mother of David Stewart of the village), bought the building and 50 acres of farm land from Charles Anderson (brother of George P. Anderson, who had a house and wood-working shop on the opposite side of the road).
The Stewarts renovated the building and opened it as a general store. The post office was moved in from the former "Cun-

ingham store" (on the site of the present China and Gift Shop) and on February 11, 1910, Josiah Stewart became postmaster. Mail was carried by horses from Erin to Guelph.
A large driving shed at the rear, now long since demolished, accommodated the many horses and vehicles coming to the store.
Home churned dairy butter, farm fresh eggs, poultry, potatoes, maple syrup, apples etc., were traded for groceries and Mr. Stewart was a regular supplier of the weekly market in Guelph. On the return trip, supplies were brought back to the store, including cured meats, oatmeal, flour and sugar, and

Save now
As our centennial year approaches, interest in local history grows. This week the Free Press is publishing a history of the Ospringle store. On hand is an interesting history of Ballinacath Church written by Miss Bea Hills. We are not holding these until centennial year, since they are ready now, and by then we expect to have much more material to publish.
In 1967 there will be much valuable material to be collected by those interested in local history.
There is some thought being given to printing all centennial material together in one section of the Free Press, so it can be clipped out. At any rate, we can only suggest now that this history of Ospringle store, and the upcoming article on Ballinacath Church, and others, be clipped and saved now, in expectation of more.

caddies of chewing tobacco, this commodity finding a ready market among the farmers.
In 1919, Mr. Stewart sold the store and dwelling (retaining the 50 acres) to Robert Lindsay Gordon, who came from Arkell, where he had operated a store. During Mr. Gordon's stay, large quantities of produce still were traded for groceries, and like Mr. Stewart, Mr. Gordon sold them on the Guelph market. The Gordons were assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sims (the latter a sister of Mrs. Gordon).
In 1923, the Gordons sold to Mrs. Ada Ecclestone and son Fred, whose stay was short, as they sold May 20, 1925, to D. G. and Mrs. Robertson.

The Robertsons came from Guelph, where David, in partnership with a cousin, Lorne Matthews, established and operated "The Five Point Grocery".
Merchandising then was vastly different from the present time. No electricity and cars were not so numerous. Most farm wives baked their own bread and had their own cows' milk, and all kept a few hens.
This was a far cry from the present, when bread and milk trucks call at farm homes. Oatmeal and sugars were stored in huge barrels and bins at the end of the counter; soda biscuits, too, were sold in bulk; and each weekly order contained a need for coal oil for lamps and lanterns.
Gas and coal oil were brought in each week by a team of horses from Acton, by the late Mr. Kannawin. The gas pumps were later removed from the front of the store when the highway came through and all "curb pumps" were prohibited.

The store was heated by a huge stove in the centre of the floor, where neighbors and customers sat and lingered. Many items of state and country were sometimes heatedly discussed and settled. On a cold, blustery, winter afternoon, the odd game of checkers was played.
Interesting to note are prices paid by customers — in April, 1927, eggs were 22c a dozen and dairy butter 42c lb. Poultry prices paid in December, 1929, were — geese 22c lb., hens 20c-23c lb., chickens 23c-27c lb., turkeys 34c lb. and ducks 20c-23c lb. During the depression years of the 1930's, eggs were 8c a dozen and potatoes 30c a bag.
In 1932, the store received a face-lifting, when more modern fixtures were installed. Previous to re-opening, a dance was held, attended by a goodly number, music being supplied by the Ospringle orchestra — George P. Anderson violin, Oscar Locker guitar and Arnold Sunter, drums.
Electricity had not been extended to rural areas, and it was a morning chore, well performed by Mrs. Gertrude Sunter, clerk for over 20 years, to clean and fill all the lamps used to light the store.
One amusing incident comes to mind — ice cream was sold only in the hot summer months and was packed in ice and salt, which had to be drained off each day. This was thrown on the road to help lay the dust. Neighbors' cows, hungry for salt, used to come and lick up all they could find.
One bossy, more venturesome than others, walked through the open door and came in the store to find the source of supply — needless to say, she was cautiously ushered outside before any damage was done.
The "Gravel Road" as it was known from Guelph to Erin was taken over by the Department of Highways and paved in 1951. This proved quite a convenience as traffic was greatly increased, resulting in more business.
In 1950, electricity was installed in the store and modern store equipment was added. On October 30, 1947, the government, with a view to economizing, removed and closed the post office and patrons are now served by rural mail carrier.
After serving the village and surrounding areas for 56 years as a general store, September 1, 1966, will see the end of this era as the Department of Highways has purchased the property, which will be demolished to provide a clear view corner at the junction of the two highways.
References used — post office records; talks with former owners; and present owner's knowledge.

United church Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held at the United church for two weeks, beginning Monday, August 15. The sessions, under the direction of the Rev. Dwight Engel, will be from 9:30 to 11:30 each morning.
Special material is being purchased for the vacation school, and a volunteer staff is being assembled.
Children of any denomination will be welcome to attend the classes, which will be divided according to age.

Stone school facelifting

The former Acton continuation school, later known as the stone school, is undergoing a facelifting during summer holidays.
One room downstairs, two upstairs and a hallway are being dressed up with tile. Carpenter Pete Turkosz is laying plywood base with tile on top. He expects to lay close to 4,000 tiles before the job is completed.
The roof on the Robert Little public school is being removed and a new one applied in hopes of preventing further leaks. The same application was installed at the M. Z. Bennett school some months ago.
Tuesday's downpour of rain closed some of the classrooms where old roofing material had been removed. Caretakers were busy Tuesday night mopping up.

Fell from car girl injured

A small Rockwood child was injured Monday afternoon in a tragic accident near Acton, when she fell from an open rear window of her father's car.
Milton O.P.P. said Sharon Welsh, four and a half year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Welsh of Rockwood, was apparently leaning out the rear window when she lost her balance and fell to the pavement. The car was being driven by her father.
She was treated at the office of Dr. B. Hutchinson of Acton, then placed in a Guelph hospital for observation. She suffered severe abrasions to her back and the back of her head.
The accident happened early Monday afternoon on Highway 25, just south of the Acton town limits. Const. L. Kneal of Milton O.P.P. investigated.

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Halton warden Bert Hinton now honorary Texas citizen

One of half a dozen invited Canadian guests at the National Association of American Counties conference in New Orleans, Halton warden Bert Hinton has come back as an honorary Texan, with the keys to an American city... and with plenty of information.
He attended the five-day conference as a member of the executive of the Association of Ontario Counties.
Similar things are being done in the U.S.A. and in Europe in different ways, and Mr. Hinton felt he learned a great deal that will be of specific benefit. Particularly interesting to him were the sessions on regional government and on welfare.
County government in the states is very strong and important; representatives are elected politically.
Especially well received were the six Canadians. Mr. Hinton had taken a supply of new Canadian flags and these were much appreciated by those of the 3,000 there who received them.
In exchange, Mr. Hinton will receive a Texas flag. He was the only delegate to be made an honorary Texan by the delegation from that state! He was also one of only three at the conference to be presented with the keys to the city of Baton Rouge by the mayor of that city, Mr. Dumas, who is also the current president of the association.
This is the second U.S. conference of counties that Mr. Hinton has attended. Two years ago he was in Washington.
After the official conference, he joined a group on a post-convention tour to Mexico. They travelled by land from Mexico City to Acapulco, stopping off at Tasco, the silver mining centre, and at historic sites.
He sponsored a motion that next year the post-convention tour be to Expo 67, and this was so well received the Canadians were asked to look after arrangements.
While stockpiling information from the conference, Mr. Hinton is also involved in a program of studying European regional government. The first week in September he leaves for London for a study tour of government systems, sponsored by the Ontario Municipal Association.
"Every person has been especially asked to attend every single session in England," Mr. Hinton says. With a background of information obtained from embassies, he is looking forward to amassing a great deal more information on regional government during his weeks away. After two weeks in England the group divides to study local government. Then half go to Germany and Sweden; the other half to the Netherlands and Denmark.
Mr. Hinton is well-known as a keen collector of information. He has files which place pertinent information right at his fingertips as he attends his many meetings.
He was another who had difficulty coming home because of the airline strike in the States.
Garden vegetables are beginning to come in and many residents have enjoyed loads of fresh beans, spinach, beets and cabbage. Tomatoes are forming nicely but require plenty more sunshine and water before ripening.

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Township cleans up road but dumpers keep dumping

"It is amazing to see how much has been dropped there since Thursday night," Nassagaweya Township road superintendent Grant McMillan told council on Monday night.
Mr. McMillan, talking about the garbage dumping problem on the Nassagaweya-Esqueving

Bible school at seven homes

A five-day summer Vacation Bible School begins for youngsters five years of age and over, Monday, August 15, until the following Friday, sponsored by the Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ontario.
The annual Bible Vacation School will be conducted again this year by two missionary girls who will be in charge of the various classes held at different homes in town and Limehouse.
The classes are interdenominational and include songs, Bible stories and coloring sessions. Youngsters wishing to attend are asked to register at any of the places nearest to them.
Classes are being held at the following homes: Mrs. Charles Landsborough, Lake Ave.; Mrs. Murray Scovne, 111 Elizabeth Dr.; Mrs. Allan Ellerby, 54 Acton Blvd.; Mrs. Stan Cripps, 95 Agnes St.; Mrs. Gordon Ralston, 60 Mowbray Place; Mrs. William Rochester, 132 Churchill Rd. S. and Mrs. Carl Hill, Limehouse.

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New Policeman
Constable Bill Joyce of the Milton O.P.P. Detachment has joined the local detachment to replace constable Bruce Kressler while he is recuperating from an injury.
Constable Joyce began his duties last week and is expected to remain here for the balance of the month. At this time Constable Kressler is expected to return to duty.
MR. ERIC LADNER
Mrs. Hannah Servos, owner of Milton Department Store Ltd., is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Eric Ladner as general manager.
Mr. Ladner is married to the former Mary Davis and is the father of two children, Todd, age seven and Cobina, age four. He and his family have lived at 28 Britannia Road, East, Streetsville for the past 10 years and they are members of Streetsville United Church.
Mr. Ladner was the charter president of the Streetsville Kinsmen Club and for nine years had 100 per cent attendance at meetings. He is past chairman of the board of stewards of Streetsville United Church, a director of the Streetsville Arena Board, a member of the Citizens' Centennial Committee and an active member of the chamber of Commerce for three years.
He has 14 years experience in the clothing business working in Brampton, Georgetown and the Streetsville District. He has 12 years of managerial experience and for three years was president of Eric Ladner Limited.
He enjoys reading, playing golf, hockey as a spectator, and is looking forward to participating in activities in town and becoming acquainted with the citizens of Milton and the many faithful customers of Milton Department Store.

New regulations Must stop for school bus

Hon. Irwin Haskett, Minister of Transport, introduced in the Legislature the following amendments to the Highway Traffic Act which have been enacted at the session just concluded.
Starting September 1, motorists will be required to stop when overtaking and when approaching a school bus stopped with signals flashing.
Where a school bus is stopped on a highway on which the maximum speed limit is greater than 35 miles per hour for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children, the driver of a vehicle when overtaking a school bus on which the words "do not pass when signals flashing" are marked and two red signal lights are illuminated by intermittent flashes, shall stop the vehicle before reaching the school bus and shall not proceed until the bus resumes motion or

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