

Stewarttown in 1908

Mrs. Mary Bally

I have been asked to give a paper on Stewarttown as it was when I first came here in 1908, that is 45 years ago. It was rather a puzzle what to write as both people and places are interesting. So I am starting at the Railroad Crossing, up the 7th and we will come down from there. The first farm is the Bessey place. Mr. Bessey had a hop yard there and buildings for drying and curing the hops. In the spring several women from the village would go and tie up the hops. This tying was very wearying work. In the fall we took the children and went to pick the hops. It was a couple of weeks of picnics, and the children loved it. There was another family of Besseys, John Bessey, lived on the 6th Line. They had a large family, these and the Herb Besseys living with Mr. Bessey Sr., all went to the Stone School. One winter evening two of the Bessey girls were getting a ride with Mr. Bob Wright of Ashgrove. It was snowing heavily and the cutter was struck by a train crossing the road. Mr. Wright was killed and one of the girls badly hurt.

The next farm was the Devereaux place, Mr. John Devereaux is living there now.

Across from the Bessey place was the McCabbin home. Mr. McCabbin's mother lived with them. She would go and help everybody needing assistance, she was quite a character. The older people to this day will say "Belle McCabbin used to say so-an-so." The Hickens moved into the house and their garden has been famous for its wonderful roses. Mr. Hickens loved to drive his family out and they would often bring a rose bush or tree home with them. The roses were usually called by the name of the place they had visited.

Coming across the Hamilton to Georgetown railroad tracks there was a small house on the corner. Jack McConnell lived there alone. I think he was a bachelor. He had dogs, and no one bothered him. For years that corner was called Jack McConnell's corner.

The Allan Devereaux lived up the 7th Line as they do now. Mr. Devereaux was noted for the magnificent horses he owned. He walked away with all kinds of prizes at Georgetown and surrounding fairs.

The C. Nixons had the farm on the left side. The Jenkinsons first home was on that farm. Mr. Jenkinson died the same day as Mr. John Appelbe.

There were two Harrison brothers and a sister living where Col. Gordon Brown lives and the Barnes lived opposite. The Givens came to live there and one of the daughters became Mrs. Howard Bradley of Hornby. That farm has been for some years Mr. J. A. Willoughby's summer home and golf course.

In 1927 the Bunker Hill was cut to eliminate a sharp corner which was dangerous when cars became common — there were no cars when we came here. Dr. Nickell, the vet of Georgetown, owned the first car and Dr. Dick Nixon the second.

Coming down the hill, the first house on the left (the Humpreys' house) was owned by Mr. and Mrs. James Hood. Mr. Hood had a small tannery down the back. Whenever you saw Mr. Hood you saw agitated or angry dogs following, barking for all they were worth. Mr. Hood never took any notice of them and we never heard of any of them biting him. They called their son "J. D." Mrs. Alex Hume in Georgetown is a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wilson lived in the next house (Cook's). Mrs. Wilson always had the square window full of beautiful flowers all winter. She was a charter member of the W.A. and the W.I.

Old Mrs. Nixon lived in the next house (Mrs. McClean's) with her daughter, Miss Maggie Nixon. One of her sons was Dr. Alfred Nixon in partnership with Dr. Webster of Norval. Their office was in Georgetown. Dr. Dick Nixon joined with them later. The other son, Chris Nixon, was a harness maker and the adjoining building was called The Harness Shop. Mr. and Mrs. Schmales lived in the next house. They moved to Toronto in 1910. The next place was empty but was later used as a men's club. Bob Appelbe and others built a pool table and the men had a good time there.

The next building was the store (where the Community Hall is now). It was the store and the other half was an implement store. One half of this part afterwards, became the council chamber. Mr. Mitchell, who owned the store lived in Ed Sanford's house. The hall was above the store and the entrance to it was up some wooden stairs outside to a verandah. We had good times in that hall. All the Christmas concerts were held there and dances got up by the people between themselves. Mr. Goodson Appelbe playing the violin and Mrs. Appelbe the piano.

Mr. Mitchell also drove the mail. He would go to Georgetown and get two bags of mail. He would

drop one off at the store and drive on to Ashgrove with the other. The mail was sorted and put into pigeon holes waiting for the people to call for it.

Going back a little on the streets and on the other side of the road, where Mr. Sanford parks his cars, was a small four roomed house, where the Ballys came to live on September 28th, 1908. The next place was the hotel kept by Mr. and Mrs. Neil McPhail. They had one little boy, Laughlin. Unfortunately there was a fire October 5th or 6th in 1909 when the two buildings were completely destroyed. No person was hurt but the fire took some irreplaceable belongings of the Ballys. The next building was the blacksmith shop rented by Mr. Beatty who lived where Mr. and Mrs. Poulson are now living. Although so close it was not damaged by the fire.

The brick house next door was owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Tracey. Mr. Tracey was Township Clerk and the Esqueving Township Council Chamber stood on the corner of his property. Later, about 1912 to 1914 the council chamber was bought by Mr. J. E. Sanford and moved up to the ground where the fire had been. The council moved over into what had been the implement shop. Mr. Tracey died in 1925.

Going up the side street the first house was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Murray. Their lawn adjoined Mr. Tracey's lawn and was a beautiful spot.

Up the hill the same side of the road was the Lawson farm. Mrs. David Lawson, her sons Dave and Harry and daughters Mary and Hetty lived there. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lawson, the eldest son, lived in a house at the foot of the hill. This house has since been moved to the 6th Line to the Thompson property.

On the opposite side of the road was an empty house, now remodelled and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lawson Jr. The house next door was owned by Mrs. John Appelbe who lived farther round the pond.

On the right side was a farm, owned by Mr. W. D. Johnston, who also operated a sawmill there and sold slabs. A house on the hill of the same property was occupied by Captain Johnston, who also ran a coal and coke business. The railway station was there and quite convenient.

Coming back to the village we pass the Thompson farm occupied by Mr. and Mrs. George B. Thompson and family.

Crossing the bridge in the village was the flour and feed mill, owned and operated by Mr. Walter Lawson, father of the present owner. That mill has since burned down and been replaced with the present mill. It was operated with water from the pond. It was always considered a beauty spot to see the water from the pond fall over the dam and wander down the creek. The first house up the road was owned by Mr. Mitchell, the storekeeper. He and his family lived there. There was a cooper shop behind the house where apple barrels were made and 4 or 6 men were employed there during the summer season.

Across the road from the mill the first house was owned by Mr. John Gillies and his sister, Miss Mary Jane Gillies. They moved into the village September 1st, 1908, from the house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Bird near the station. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wilson owned and lived in the house next door with their three little daughters. Mr. Wilson's father lived with them.

The next piece of property is the Cemetery and then the Orange Lodge. There was a very strong Orange Lodge in those days, and the 12th of July was a very important day.

Next to the Orange Hall was a house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hiltz. This has since been taken down and replaced by the house built by John Dickenson. Next to that was a house occupied by a Logan family. It was taken down a few years after. Mr. and Mrs. McCoskery lived in the house, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Standish. Mr. McCoskery worked for Mr. Johnston in the saw mill.

Mr. and Mrs. Thurston Sr. lived in the house occupied and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Blizard. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith lived in the next house. The farm where Mr. W. Hulls is now was owned by a Col. Appelbe (Philip I think) and possibly a cousin of Mr. John Appelbe.

Coming back to the right hand side of the road. A family by the name of Dillon lived next to the Mitchell family. There was a small square house next Mr. Bill Nixon lived there. Mr. Cecil Smith's house comes next and I think the Mothersills lived there then. The lane just above there, called Baker's Lane, had two small houses up at the end. One was occupied by two sisters, the Misses Reid and A. DOG.

Above the Beatty house were

several small cottages which have since been torn down. Kellys lived in one of them and Bob Morrow lived in the corner house. Going along the side road was the school. Opposite the school lived the Shepherd family.

The next house was the rectory. Rev. Clewes Noxon and his family had just moved in. The Anglican Churches of Hornby, Norval and Stewarttown had just bought the place. It was sold in 1919 when the present Rectory at Norval was bought. The farm opposite was owned by Mr. McCandless.

Mr. Johnston was Sunday School superintendent. Mrs. Johnston taught the beginners class, Janet Noxon played the organ for church and Sunday School and taught. Mrs. Johnston was W.A. president. Mrs. Tracey was secretary. Miss Ethel Appelbe was treasurer.

The farm opposite the church was the Board farm. The next farm down was owned by the Littles. The farms on the other side were Mr. Goodson Appelbe and Mr. Newton Ruddell's.

Janet and Franklin Noxon, Joe Schoales and Cecil Wilson were the youngsters who walked every day to High School in Georgetown that year.

Surgical Plan Mooted For Medical Co-Op

L. C. Gray

Halton Co-Operative Medical Services have had a successful year, the president, Ross Segsworth, said at the annual meeting which was held on Thursday evening in Milton. With a membership of 1,100, representing a total of some 2,800 persons, and with the excellent co-operation of all the hospitals, the organization feels it should soon be able to incorporate a Surgical Plan in its coverage. The president pointed out that this can only be done when sufficient applications have been received to set up on a safe basis. The board of directors was instructed to continue efforts to set up such a plan, perhaps by co-operating with similar groups starting up in other counties.

R. S. Heatherington, gave the secretary's and treasurer's reports, which showed the organization is operating on a sound financial basis with a good surplus for the pro-

tection of the members. The total amount of net earnings for 1952 will be credited to the members as patronage loans, to be held as a reserve fund until such time as the members decide it should be returned.

The board of directors for 1953 is Mrs. J. L. Ellerby, Miss Florence Meares, Ross Segsworth, Wm. R. Hume, Mrs. Joseph Wickson, Mrs. George Atkins, Ern Batkin, George Robertson, Wm. T. Dales, Wilfred Kennedy, M. J. Brown, Mrs. Wm. Johnson. The auditor appointed was Mr. Ward.

The speaker of the evening was G. J. Beach, of the Workmen's Compensation Board of Toronto, who gave a clear and comprehensive picture of the functioning of the board. Farmers, he said, are much more interested in this service since in July, 1944, the Act was amended to allow farmers to apply for coverage, although to do so is not compulsory.

Mr. Beach pointed out that the organization is non-profit and supported entirely by some 50,000 employers. Coverage comes under some 25 classes, according to the hazard involved. The rates are governed entirely by the cost of the claims. Members of the employer's family may be covered providing they receive a stated wage. An important feature is that an employer is free of litigation which might arise out of an accident, providing it takes place in connection with the subject's employment.

"MAMMY BEA" HERE FOR PANCAKE SUPPER

For the second year, the Young Ladies Auxiliary observed Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake Supper in Knox Presbyterian basement.

Highlight of the evening was the return of "Mammy Bea" from Toronto to add some fun to the proceedings and Mrs. John Kennedy herself enjoyed the evening renewing acquaintances with old friends.

Guests were greeted at the door by the president of the YLA, Mrs. Sam Mackenzie and Mrs. Ron Kitchen, then were ushered to their places at tables where generous quantities of pancakes and bacon were supplied by the hard-working kitchen staff.

Hall decorations were in red and white.

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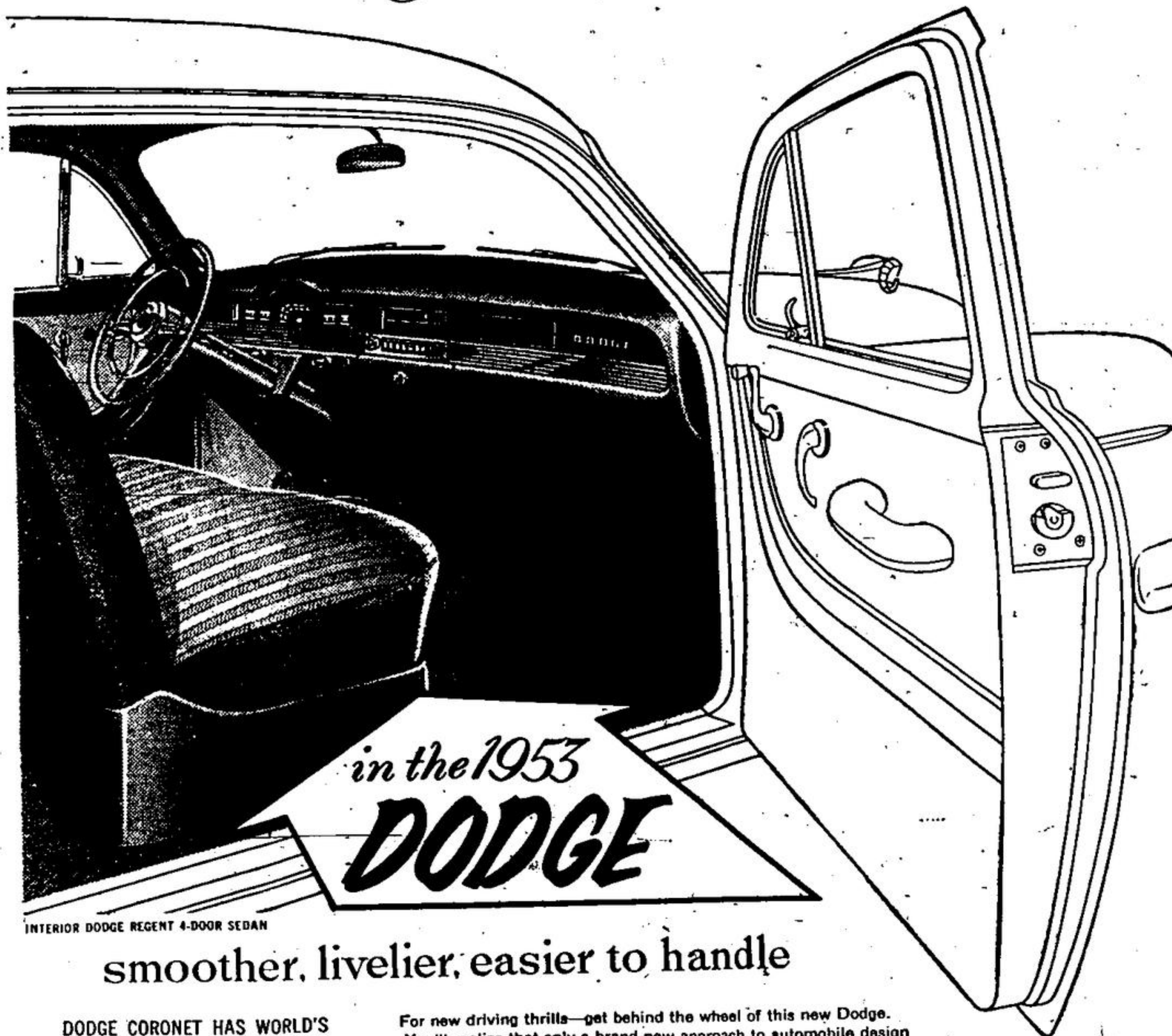
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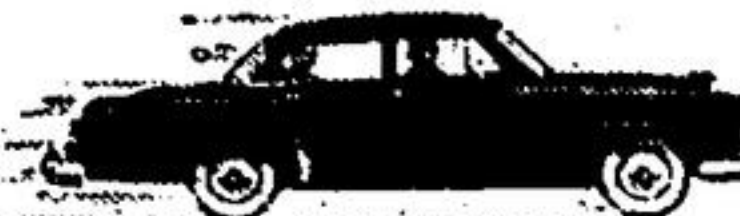
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