

K.C. says Esquesing is "land of Tall Pines"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ACTON FREE PRESS

Dear Mr. Editor:

Mr. Ben Case's letter of August 20th compels me to reply and try to straighten the matter out. Don't make any mistake, Ben was and is a good friend of mine and his only fault is his misfortune, not his fault — "He was not born and brought up in the

Township of Esquesing."

The unreason in his letter stems not from him but from his authorities or rather one of them.

I apologize for not answering his letter sooner, but I was away at the time it was published and did not see it for a month, then had to check some sources of information of my own to be sure that my memory was still alright.

The letter from the Secretary of the Lieutenant Governor setting out that the

names of the three Townships should be Nassagaweya, Esquesing and Chinguacousy, being the Indian names of the principal streams in each Township, is quite all right and was followed exactly—but the late Surveyor General's list of the streams between the Niagara River and the Humber is sadly lacking and his interpretation of some of them makes one remember that at that time whisky was sold for a York Shilling a gallon.

The Surveyor General listed eight streams, including the Niagara and the Humber, whereas there were and are eleven large streams and several smaller ones in that distance as listed below: Niagara River, 40 Mile Creek, Stony Creek, Spencer Creek, Grindstone Creek, 12 Mile Creek, 16 Mile Creek, Credit River, Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek, Humber River, besides a 20 Mile Creek and Sulphur Creek.

The Surveyor General also says the Indian name of 12 Mile Creek was Esquesing and gives its meaning as "Last Out Creek." Last out from where? As I read the list, it is right in the middle having five streams on either side furthermore, as I will show later on, Nassagaweya was named after the 12 Mile Creek, just as the Lieutenant Governor directed.

The Governor directed that the three Townships be named with the Indian names of the principal streams in each Township and it would hardly be fair to give Nassagaweya the name of Esquesing and call Esquesing Nassagaweya, because while there is a small tributary of the Sixteen which rises in Nassagaweya, there is not so much as a drainage ditch in Esquesing which runs into the 12 Mile Creek. We have water which flows into both the Credit and Grand Rivers, but none into the 12 Mile Creek.

There was nothing more likely than that the Indians named the streams after the lands through which they flowed and later I will adduce further evidence on that point. Nassagaweya was the "Dividing of the Waters" or the water flowed two ways into the Grand and Lake Erie, and into the 12 Mile Creek and Lake Ontario. Esquesing was the land of the "Tall Pines," from the enormous yellow pines which covered much of the Township. And they were enormous. I personally never saw one growing but I saw a dead one that had lain on the ground for possibly half a century and it was 100 feet to the first limb. I have a picture of some half dozen or so of the last that were on the farm, and the hardwood bush below looks like underbrush. The tops of what we would today call big trees did not come near the lowest limbs on the pines.

The stumps of the original pines were the only stumps which could be used to make a fence, and there are still some stump fences remaining in Esquesing. I myself remember seeing two fields being stumped.

One on the West Half of Lot 22, Concession 7, presently owned by the Estate of Dr. George Currie, was stumped with a screw machine, a tripod of heavy timbers with a steel screw about four inches in diameter, turned by a team of horses, at the end of a long arm and with a swivel and heavy chain which was attached to the stump to be pulled. The other field was in the East Half of Lot 26, Concession 8, the present Moore Park Subdivision, and was stumped by the late Alex Livingstone with a rope and block machine which worked much more quickly than the screw machine.

My authority for the Township names came principally from three men, all of whom were raised in the vicinity and well before the rebellion of 1837. George Black, a son of Hugh Black, who surveyed the Township of Esquesing; James Leslie who was raised on the 5th Line, West Chinguacousy; and my own grandfather who, though born in Scotland, came to Esquesing in 1832.

All three told the same story. Nassagaweya meant "the dividing of the waters" or "between the two streams". Esquesing meant "the land of the Tall Pines" or "the clay Plains", and that seems a probable explanation of the Indian names for the three rivers, that the Indians called the streams after the lands through which they passed.

There is further ground for this belief insofar as Nassagaweya is concerned in the History of Nassagaweya, written by the late Joshua Norrish sometime prior to 1888. In order to confirm his own belief he wrote to Dr. Scadding, in Toronto, as the best authority, and I quote Dr. Scadding's reply.

"I settled it in my own mind several years ago from respectable authority that the meaning of the word (Nassagaweya) was between the two waters or streams. I am sorry I cannot at this moment find my memoranda on the subject.

Yours truly,
H. Scadding."

It seems to me that the case is reasonably well proved. The Lieutenant Governor specifically directed that the Township in the rear of Trafalgar be called "Esquesing" after the principal river flowing through the Township which was not and is not 12 Mile Creek, which does not touch the Township of Esquesing at any point. The translation of Esquesing as "last

creek" is patently absurd as neither the 16 Mile Creek nor the 12 Mile Creek is "last out" from anywhere, and with all due respect to Ben, I will go on believing that Esquesing means the "Land of the Tall Pines."

Now in regard to the legend that William Lyon McKenzie hid in Esquesing after the fiasco at Montgomery's Tavern, I never heard that legend, but I have a clipping from some newspaper, I don't know either the date of the clipping or the name of the paper, reporting that William Lyon McKenzie spoke at a Liberal picnic held on Murray's Flats—Lot 5, Con. 4, Esquesing—. As I say there is no date but it must have been some time after the Amnesty of 1843.

The real story which I had from the grandson of one of the principal actors was that Allan McPherson, who lived on the West Half of Lot 13, Concession 6, Esquesing, and who was one of McKenzie's Lieutenants at Montgomery's Tavern, was pursued by Government troops, as far as Norway after the battle. There they lost him, but in fact he came straight on to the house of Joseph Standish on the East Half of Lot 13, Concession 6, the same house in which the first Town Meeting was held in 1821. The Standish father and sons, who were strong loyalists, took him down and hid him in a shack in the sugar bush, and for the next two weeks spent their days hunting McPherson and prodding every hay stack and straw pile with pitchforks—and their evening gossiping with him in the sugar camp.

When the hue and cry had died down, one of the boys saddled two horses and rode with McPherson to Oakville, put him on a schooner for Oswego, N.Y., and brought the horses home. McPherson, after the amnesty, returned to his farm in Esquesing, bringing with him some of the Blue Cows which were famous in the Township for many years.

The nicest part of the story was that when Joseph Standish many years afterward was asked why he did it, replied, "McPherson would have done the same for me. He was a neighbor."

I trust, Mr. Editor, that this rather longwinded explanation may set at rest some of the unfounded speculations regarding the name of Our Township.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
K. C. Lindsay.

Let's Play Bridge

by Bill Coats

Here is a hand where a defender foils declarer's attempts to make an entry to dummy. It's not that easy to do at the table.

South dealt with North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
S-K 7 4
H-K Q 10 8 3
D-5 2
C-8 8

WEST
S-Void
H-9 7 4 2
D-K Q J 8 4 3
C-10 5 3

EAST
S-A 10 6 3 2
H-J 5
D-8 7
C-A Q J 2

SOUTH
S-Q J 9 8 5
H-A
D-A 10 9
C-K 9 7 4

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 C	2 D	2 H	2 S
2 N.T.	PASS	3 H	PASS
3 N.T.	PASS	PASS	DBLE
ALL PASS			

Opening lead — King of diamonds.

I imagine that South opened one club for convenience since he does hold five spades and only four clubs. However, the one club opening did allow West to come in with a weak jump overcall of two diamonds. North doesn't have the required ten points for a response at the two level but he didn't want to get his long suit shut out so he bid two hearts.

East has a few high card points and decided to get into the act with a two spade bid. South could double for penalty but he felt he

was being robbed of a vulnerable game so he bid two no trump. When North bids three hearts, South should pass. Unless East gets off to the spade ace lead, three hearts is likely to make.

However, South persisted to three no trump and East doubled. Declarer ducked the opening lead and won the second round. Declarer then played the heart ace followed by the spade queen. East refused the spade queen. If he wins the trick, dummy's king becomes an entry.

Persistence

Declarer persisted with the spade jack and East had quite a problem. If declarer has another heart, then he can score game with one diamond trick, two spade tricks and six heart tricks. Should he duck or shouldn't he? At the table East ducked again and now declarer has no hope. He continued with another spade, but this time East won the trick. East led the club ace and then the club queen. Declarer won and pushed another spade which East won.

East cashed the club jack for down one and exited with a black card. Declarer still had to lose a diamond trick so the end result was down two doubled and vulnerable.

Last week's winners at the Acton Bridge Club were: first, Tom Manes and Jack Coates; second, Kate Coats and Bill Coats; third, Frank Hampshire and Pat Jeffares.

50 years married

The Fellowship Room of St. Paul's United Church, Milton, was appropriately decorated in gold and white for the golden wedding celebrations for Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Lester Miller, formerly of Milton, Hornby and Nassagaweya. Two guests originally at the first wedding were Miss Lillian Packard of Windsor, sister of the bride and maid of honor for Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Harold Whewell of Hamilton first cousin to Mr. Miller and a young guest at the nuptials.

There were 150 relatives friends and neighbors who gathered on Oct. 17 to wish them

happy years ahead and to offer congratulations on 50 years of married life. Many more wrote and phoned to offer congratulations and to say they wished they could be with them.

Guests were welcomed from Windsor, St. Catharines, Peterborough, Hamilton, London, Stayner, Creemore, Glencairn, Acton, Georgetown, Glen Williams, Toronto, Richmond Hill, Jerseyville, Ashgrove, Port Credit, Guelph, Milton and Nassagaweya. An added surprise was the arrival of cousins never met before from Manitoba, who have recently made their home in Brampton.

Free Press gets around

Over the last few months, Rev. Walter Fosbury has discovered how the Free Press—and his column in it gets around the continent.

He had letters from two Montreal women agreeing with his column on pollution which he wrote in the series, The Clergy

Speak out. They had been sent the copy of the Free Press by their sister, Mrs. Bayliss, Mrs. Bayliss, from Florida. She had got it from her daughter-in-law, the former Sheila Fosbury.

And that's how the news spreads.

Prison life U.W. topic

"Rehabilitation inside our prisons is not enough," stated Mrs. Joyce Porter. "We need help from the community for our girls when they leave prison and try to integrate back into society."

Mrs. Porter shared the speaker's chair with Captain Ronald Pullar as they spoke on prison life to the University Women's Club of Milton and District at the Pineview School on November 4. They were introduced by Mrs. Margaret Willoughby.

Mrs. Porter explained the recent changes made in treatment of inmates using the move from the Mercer Reformatory to the Vanier Institute as an example. The residents of the Vanier have much more freedom than they did in the regimented routine of the Mercer.

Captain Pullar is a member of

the Anglican Church Army and has been a chaplain at the Don Jail since 1962. He explained how degrading the routine of this institution is and how no attempt at rehabilitation is made.

Pollution resolution

Mrs. June Andrews introduced a resolution on recycling garbage which will be sent to the Canadian Federation of University Women. The Federation is being asked to put pressure on the Federal Government while each local club is encouraged to tackle the municipal government. The word for 1971-72 is "action" on both the local and federal level. This club is not only working on pollution, but is also pressing for action on the Status of Women Report.

The next meeting will be December 2. Jim Dills will speak on the Near East and will show his slides.

Let's talk about horses

By Jennifer Barr

Q: What is the cure for wood biting? My horse bites the wood of his stall door and makes a funny grunting sound, kind of like burping. He does it all the time.

A: It sounds as if your horse is crib-biting. The horse places his upper teeth on any projection, arches his neck, and sucks wind, which accounts for the burping sound. This is a very bad habit because it wrecks the teeth and plays havoc with the digestion—doesn't do much good for the horse either. Provide him with a playmate, plenty of exercise and freedom. Try to remove all projections from the stall and cover the door top with wire netting. If he can't get his teeth on anything, he can't crib. A special anti-crib strap may be purchased from most tack dealers. This is a throat strap, loose enough to allow swallowing but tight enough to prevent the arching of the neck muscles. Some straps have an inner portion of metal through which projects blunt nails which punish only when the horse cribs. Sounds cruel but isn't really when adjusted correctly.

Q: What is the best breed of horse to buy for a jumper other than a thoroughbred? I had a

thoroughbred once and she was very wild.

A: It depends on the kind of jumping you wish to do. Most horses can be taught to jump obstacles up to 2'6" in height. For larger, more competitive jumps, a horse with some size, suitable conformation and lots of heart is the best bet, no matter what the breed. Many quarter horses are now jumping well and a half bred would probably suit; this is a horse with thoroughbred and some cold blood, such as draft, French Coach, or Hanoverian, etc. The horse should have a good sloping shoulder, strong pastern, clean withers, small head, and a well-muscled sloping quarter. My own favorite mare was a good jumper in her day and she is thoroughbred-quarter horse. However, there are always exceptions: another favorite mare, a thoroughbred-Percheron, is short, fat, mutton withered, heavy-legged and big-headed, yet she jumps like a stag—she's all heart!

John Steinbeck on heredity versus environment: "You can't make a racehorse out of a pig, but you can make a very fat pig."

Please send your questions to Jennifer Barr, R.R. 4, Rockwood.

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