



Did George Kennedy know what he was starting?

George Kennedy, the man who founded Georgetown was born 165 years ago in New Jersey. As a young teenager he fought in the war of 1812 and reached the rank of Sergeant. As a young man of 22, he worked as a surveyor for the pre-confederation government in Canada, married Elizabeth Bedford and settled down in Niagara Falls.

When his surveying duties carried him to the present area of the town, known at the time as Equeusing, he bought 200 acres for 1,000 shillings, about \$1,200, built a log cabin and started farming. After two other families moved in, the settlement became known as "Hungry Hollow."

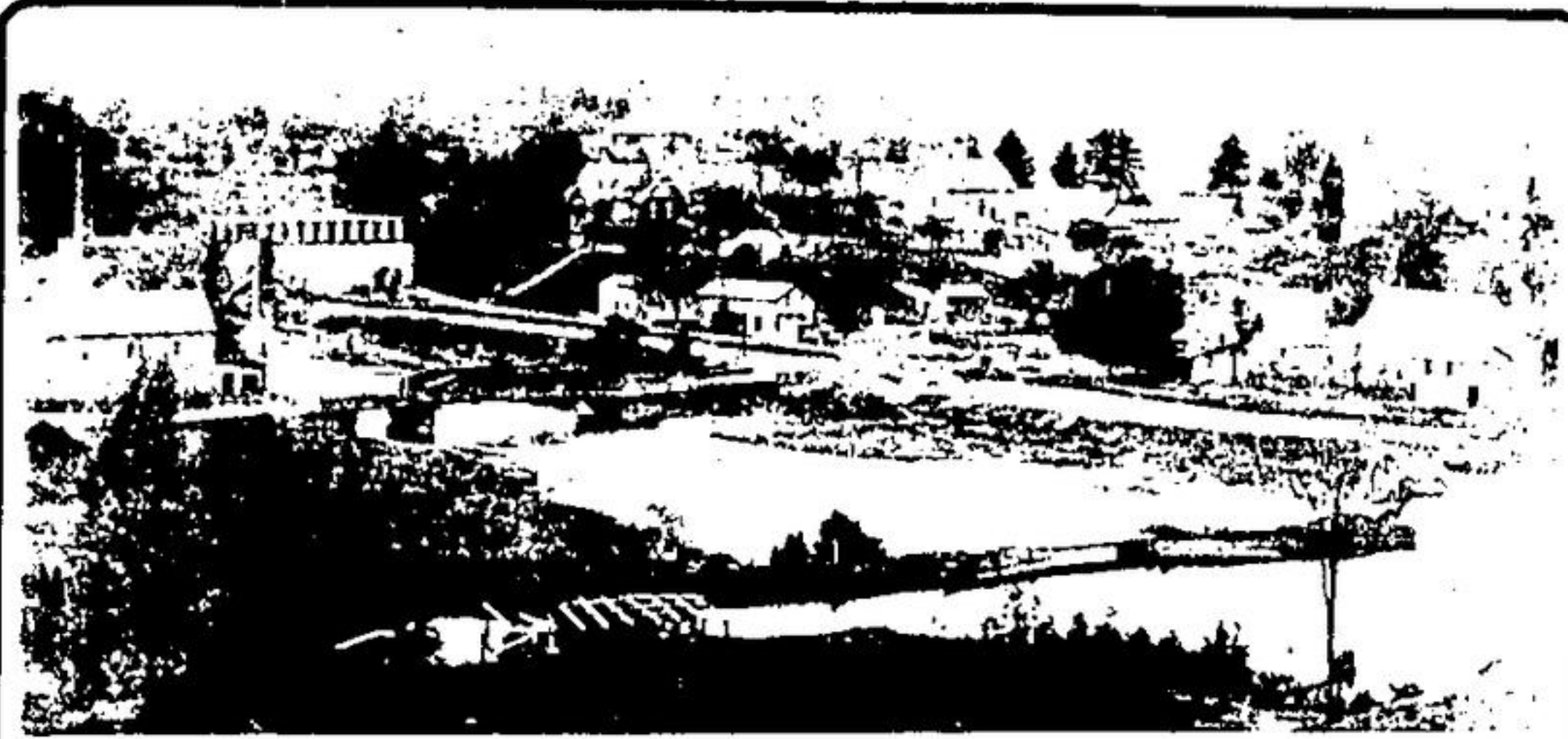
In 1924 the Kennedy's oldest daughter, Harriet, became the first white child to be born in the area. She was one of nine children in the family.

Before he died in 1870, Kennedy had built a grist mill, a saw mill, a woolen mill and a foundry.

In 1857, two sons of an Irish stonemason, Joseph Barber, moved to Hungry Hollow, purchased George Kennedy's woolenmill and started Barber Woolen Mills in a building which stands to this day on the banks of the Credit River.

According to the history of Georgetown, written by Kathleen Saunders, the Barbours kept a portion of the homespun-made from the raw wool provided by the farmers which they sold in other markets to earn cash.

When George Kennedy was 41, the two other Barber sons moved to Georgetown and established a foundry and a sawmill. During that year, too, 1840, the first general store was opened by John Sumpter



Georgetown sometime before 1908



The Bennett Hotel

who also was the postmaster, and the Wesleyan Methodist Church was built at a cost of \$5,000.

Hungry Hollow was growing so fast that by 1842 a hotel

operated in town and another general store was opened. In 1866 when the Georgetown Herald began publication, the village of Georgetown had been incorporated two years, the population was 1,200 and the Barber Paper Mills was the largest manufacturer of wall paper in North America.

In the year of Confederation the village had a dentist, two watchmakers, a druggist, a blacksmith and two lawyers.

With the coming of the railways, the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway and the Grand Trunk railway, industry began booming in Georgetown. A tannery operated by the Dayfoot family and retaining the family name until 1944 first

started in 1843, suffered fire in 1869 and was rebuilt in 1892. The town also boasted manufacture of knitting machines, envelopes, paint and paint products, carriages, brooms and beer.

As the nineteenth century came to a close, Georgetown was the site of the first electric dynamo to provide power directly to a plant—the Barber Paper Mill — the village received electric power from Glen Williams, a water system was constructed and the increased traffic generated by the railroads required the construction of another hotel.

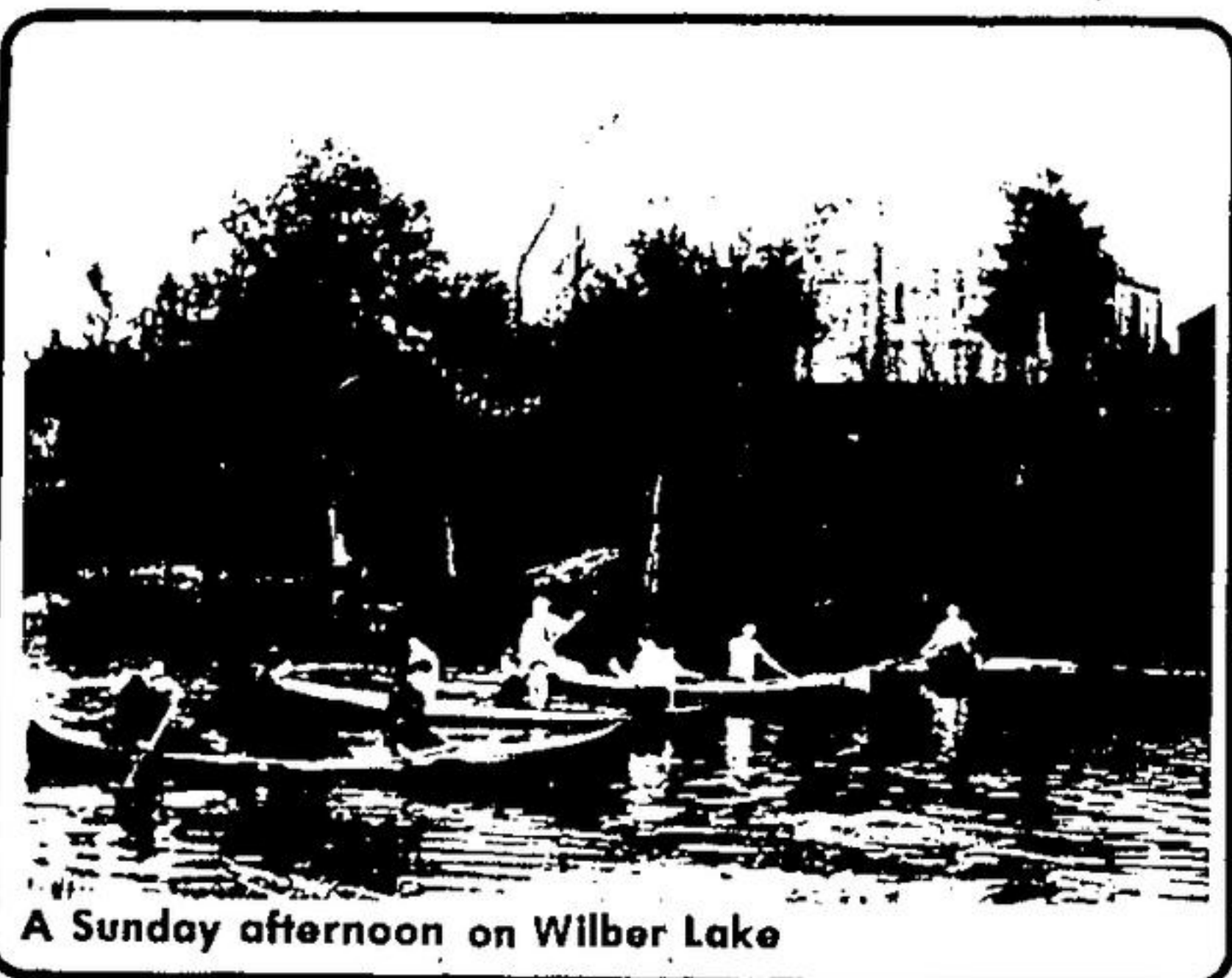
The first two decades of this century saw business and manufacturing enterprises

consolidating and the introduction of the motor car. The first traffic lights were installed at the intersection of Main and Mill Streets in 1920.

During the First World War, 24 men went overseas from Georgetown and 34 died there. Their names can be seen in a plaque at the cenotaph in Remembrance Park and at the St. George's Anglican Church on Guelph St.

The telephone, a mixed blessing, came to Georgetown 59 years ago.

At the beginning of the roaring 20's, in 1921, Georgetown stopped being a village and officially became a town.



A Sunday afternoon on Wilber Lake

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