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Settling on Esquesing farmland - the family Young

their farm on the west half of Lot 29, Concession 4 in the early spring of 1919. They came on the train from the village of Utterson, 12 miles from Bracebridge.

They loaded four horses and 20 head of cattle into a boxcar and the two oldest boys. Alec and Roy, rode down in the car with the stock. They also had 20 sheep and some calves boxed up in one end of the car.

It was so cold that night that the water for the stock froze in the barrel during the trip. It was also extremely bumpy because the frost had heaved

The Young family moved to the tracks during the beginning of the spring breakup. Austin Young, 76, retired from his farm north of Highway 7 in 1963 and moved into Acton. The trip from Utterson was more comfortable for the rest of the family than it was for his older brothers. Mr. Young says how his parents, his two sisters and his younger brother didn't catch the passenger train until nearly midnight. The station agent brought them up to his home

for the evening meal and then

packed them a lunch to take on

the train. They arrived in

brothers had just arrived shortly before with their stock. When they arrived at the farm on the Fourth Line the sheep headed for the bush and stayed there right through the lambing season. They fed them rolled oats, he recalls, and they survived very well. Even the lambs all survived. A neighbour who let his sheep run loose in a shed off the barn wasn't so lucky.

"They'd get hot in the stable and then they'd get out in the shed in a draught," he says. "He lost quite a few with pneumonia that spring. We Acton just before noon and his expected trouble but I guess

our sheep were better off keeping cool all the time." While they may have survived the lambing season very nicely the sheep gave the Youngs problems of another sort later in the year. They managed to slip through a gate and the gate post and wandered down the Fourth Line and along the Acton crossroad (Highway 7) into town.

The entire flock was seen wandering along Acton's main street at 9 a.m. Friday morning and disappearing up over the railway tracks north of town. It was the following Thursday before Mr.

Young found them at a farm on hauted into the skidway. the First Line.

The Young farm was two 100 acre farms back to back running from the Fourth to the Fifth Lines. The back hundred had only been partly cleared and the Youngs went at it to finish what their predecessor had started in the winter of 1920. The previous owner had been an Amercian and cleared land the way it was done in Michigan, Mr. Young says. When a tree was felled only enough branches were lopped

Youngs cleaned up the brush that had been left behind and finished cutting down the timber that had to be removed. There was very little snow that winter and it was great for clearing land, Mr. Young says.

but the logs were hauled out and sold and they sold cordwood in Acton.

off the top to enable it to be mers could do work on the swamp but not on the high

roads in lieu of paying tax for road improvement. There was gravel to be dug and spread on the road as well as the grading so residents on the road had a choice of which task they took.

arrived on the Fourth Line it The family used the limbs for firewood the first winter was little more than a threerut track through a field. No one bothered to grade it and there were three paths where Mr. Young graded the the horses and wagon wheels Fourth Line as part of his road wore the grass. The track work. In the early days far- would be gravelled through the

The grader which Mr. Young used was constructed of iron and wood with a long runner on one side and a snow plough affair on the other, Mr. Young says. It was pulled by a team When the Youngs first and was eventually sold for scrap iron during World War

> Mr. Young says the remains of a house were found on the back half of the farm one year during the fall plowing. They ploughed up some dishes and oldtimers told them there had

been a house which faced onto an old road that passed through the bush at that point and continued north for a piece before turning west toward the Fourth Line.

It is also rumoured that there were graves near the home although Mr. Young says some of the family were supposed to have been buried in the ploneer cemetery at the Fifth Line corner. Mr. Young doesn't know the name of the family who owned the old



On the Oakville road

Robert Armstrong took this photo of the Sinclair family going to thresh on the Lindsay farm with a steam engine, separator and horses hauling the water tank to supply the steam engine. The men pictured are Jack Sinclair and his two sons Fred and Bert. Bert Kentner with the pipe and William Hitchcock driving the horses. This picture indicates how the Seventh line above the Peacock school in the early 1900s. And this was the really good road used by all and sundry for transporting goods to Oakville! Photo courtesy of Ella Harding.

No farm complete without horses, and not always just for working

complete without its horses in house and down the lane. The beef to the stockyards in see them and we weren't going the early part of the century land was completely cleared and the interest was not always confined to the heavy draught horses we normally even a woodlot.

associate with farm work. Clydesdales on the farm he gladioli around the house and owned at the corner of the down the lane. Miss Lindsay Fourth Line and Highway 7 but—says—she sometimes supplied his real pride was his flowers for weddings in Knox

hackneys. Mr. Lindsay, 78, who now resides in Acton Seniors' Residence, used to show his hackneys at fairs from London to Toronto. He used to take his horses to the Canadian National Exhibition and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Torento on the radial trains, but later he sent them

down by track. He says he would take five or six horses to the Ex and some of them would be shown in three or four classes. He would be gone for two weeks at a time because in those days exhibitors couldn't bring their stock home after the show. They had to wait until the entire show was over. They lived in stalls next to their animals and got their meals where they could, Mr. Lindsay says. Competitors returned year after year and many of them became friends over the

years. Mr. Lindsay had a way with horses and a lot of luck at picking good ones, his sister Jean says. He sold some of his prize hackneys to the United States. He even sold the Toronto Police Department the only chesnut on the force. One day Miss Lindsay saw him on the street and went over to inquire of the officer where he had come from because he resembled the one her brother had owned.

The officer told her he belonged to the inspector and was special because he was the only chesnut the force owned. Mr. Lindsay's father, Flockhart, was an uncle of Esquesing's well known clerk K.C. Lindsay. He brought his bride to the farm near Acton in 1892, and they built the present 14-room house complete with a

tower in 1911. Mr. Lindsay's father drew the plans for the house and it took over a year to complete it. The attic is large enough for another four or five rooms Mr. Lindsay says, but it was never finished.

Mr. Lindsay's parents planted all the trees which

Brown family and there wasn't retired

Mrs. Lindsay loved flowers Ninian Lindsay used and grew great quantities of Presbyterian Church in Acton.

> Lindsays originally kept Jersey cattle and shipped

No farm would have been form the windbreak around the Shorthorn cattle and shipped corner field where we could Toronto, Mr. Lindsay says He to let them beat us It was when it was bought from the had a Charlois before he crazy, but we were young

> the fields just like their cut il with a corn finder and brothers and Jean chuckles faid the sheaves against the now as she tells about a race rail fence. It would freeze with neighbors over who could there and when they needed

get the grain in fastest "We had 40 acres of grain one year," she says, "and Anna and I pitched every sheaf of it onto the wagon while Nin cream to Acton. Before World built the loads. The Mann boys they would get it down

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HOLIDAY TOURS

The Lindsays also grew corn The Lindsay girls worked in "although they had no silo. They" corn someone would go and get a sheaf or two and let it thaw before they put it in the cattle's mangers Even though it wasn't chopped into silage War Two they changed to were loading grain in the somehow, Mr Lindsay says.



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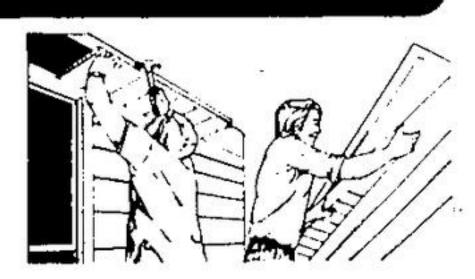
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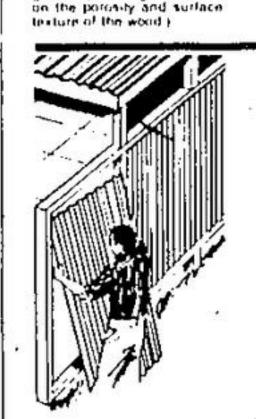
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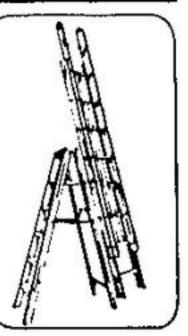
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